



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

### Thursday, 3 December 2020

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## THURSDAY, 3 DECEMBER 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.

### SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

#### *Record of Proceedings, Incorporation of Material*



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, sessional orders now provide that for the address-in-reply debate and the debate on the annual appropriation bills it is not necessary for members to seek leave of the House to incorporate material into the *Record of Proceedings*, provided members have shown the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker the material sought to be incorporated and have obtained the Speaker's or Deputy Speaker's consent as per standing order 25.

Before my consent will be given, members must assure and undertake that: for a speech relative to the appropriation bills the member's total speech must not exceed that which would normally be allowed in a 15-minute speech, thus no speech should exceed 2,600 words; for a speech relative to the address-in-reply the member's total speech must not exceed that which would normally be allowed in a 20-minute speech, thus no speech should exceed 3,400 words; speeches should not include graphs, charts or other materials; members must provide the Parliamentary Reporting and Broadcasting Service and Chamber Services with their speech in electronic form prior to rising to give their speech—other members will be provided access on request to a member's speech prior to the publication of the *Record of Proceedings*; and speeches intended to be incorporated should not offend standing orders in any way such as by containing personal reflections, imputations or the like.

#### **Parliamentary Annexe, Christmas Tree**



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, it is beginning to feel a lot like Christmas. Last week, Timber Queensland installed a live Christmas tree in the Parliamentary Annexe foyer. I am sure many of you have seen it by now. The live Christmas tree is a radiata pine, or *Pinus radiata*. It is also known as the Monterey pine, which came originally from the United States. This morning at 11.30 the Timber Queensland team, led by CEO Michael Stephens, will be at the annexe conducting a photo opportunity for members with the tree. I will be joining the co-chairs of the Parliamentary Friends of Timber Queensland, the members for Maryborough and Gympie, for this opportunity.

### PETITION

The following lodged e-petition, sponsored by the Clerk is now closed and presented—

#### **Pepper Spray**

From 855 petitioners, requesting the House to amend legislation and follow the example of Western Australia where pepper spray is a controlled weapon and is legal to own and use for the purpose of self-defence [\[335\]](#).

Petition received.

### MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

#### **Coronavirus, Update**



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.34 am): Queensland has recorded just one new case of COVID-19. It was acquired overseas and detected in hotel quarantine. We are not worried about that. We in Queensland now have only eight active cases. Some

3,778 tests were conducted in the past 24 hours which once again demonstrates the commitment of every Queenslander to ensure we stay on top of this pandemic. Sydney has recorded a new case. I am advised that it is a person working in hotel quarantine and that New South Wales officials are responding as they should. Our health officials are working closely with them. The health minister has been briefed and will provide an update to the House shortly.

We are still in the midst of a world pandemic. We should expect that there will be more cases, but every day brings us closer to a vaccine. It is encouraging to hear reports coming out of the United Kingdom. We will be monitoring that very closely. We will stay on top of this pandemic by doing what we have always done: stay home if you are sick, get tested and keep up the social distancing.

### **Tourism Industry, Good to Go**



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.35 am): Queensland is good to go, and our budget backs that. Thanks to a new campaign launched by my government this week, we will share that message with an extra 8.3 million people in New South Wales and Victoria over summer. This multimillion dollar campaign is designed to help us capitalise on the reopening of our borders. Today I am proud to announce that, since going to air, the phones have been ringing hot right throughout the state with tourists from Victoria and New South Wales keen to confirm their holidays here in Queensland.

Through this week's state budget we are delivering an extra \$74 million for tourism, to help this industry rebuild and recover from COVID-19. This includes: \$20 million to deliver the Queensland Tourism Activation Fund; \$20 million to secure more events for Queensland, focusing on regional Queensland; \$15 million to support our regional tourism organisations, which we know have been doing it pretty tough; \$4 million to deliver business capability training and to futureproof our tourism industry; and \$15 million to deliver more marketing campaigns like the one that has gone live in New South Wales and Victoria this week.

The Good to Go campaign is vital to our economic recovery efforts, pumping cash back into local businesses when they need it most. I am advised that the first stage of the campaign—urging Queenslanders to holiday at home—has been one of the most successful in our state's history. Earlier this year we predicted that it would generate nine million visitor nights and around \$1 billion. The numbers are in and today I can confirm that they eclipse our first predictions—so far, this campaign has secured 11 million visitor nights and generated \$1.5 billion for local businesses. With an aggressive marketing campaign launching in our two biggest domestic markets this week, we expect those numbers to soar over the Christmas and school holidays.

No matter where you look throughout our state, Queensland boasts some of the world's most sought-after tourism experiences. These experiences play a leading role in our latest marketing blitz, including: Bedarra Island; Daintree Eco Lodge; the Museum of Underwater Art in Townsville; Manta Ray Bay and Coral Sea Resort in the Whitsundays; along with the Get Wet Surf School at Burleigh Pavilion and the Tamborine Rainforest Skywalk on the Gold Coast. I wonder if anyone will try out those on the holidays.

We know that tourism operators have done it tough over the past 12 months. We will continue to invest in this industry to safeguard jobs and support businesses to get them back on their feet. I know that the minister for tourism and the assistant minister for tourism will work very collaboratively together to ensure we give our tourism operators a fighting chance.

### **Australian of the Year Awards**



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.38 am): I congratulate Queensland's representatives in the upcoming Australian of the Year Awards. It was a great privilege to announce the Queensland winners in the four categories. Meeting all of the Queensland finalists each year is one of the most inspiring events in our calendar.

The 2021 Queensland Australian of the Year is Dr Dinesh Palipana. Dr Dinesh Palipana is co-founder of Doctors with Disabilities and a senior resident at Gold Coast University Hospital. Dr Palipana was the first quadriplegic medical graduate in Queensland and was also recently admitted as a lawyer. He is very inspiring. He helped create national policies around inclusivity in medical education and employment. He has contributed significantly to the treatment of spinal cord injuries.


The Queensland Senior Australian of the Year Award is Torres Strait Islander elder Aunty McRose Elu for her community advocacy and climate change work. Her award recognises her decades-long contribution to Queensland as a campaigner and a strong family advocate.

The Queensland Young Australian of the Year Award went to conservationists Daniel Clarke and William Clarke for inspiring young people. Daniel and William work to protect the endangered orangutans of Borneo and Sumatra, going into schools to encourage young people to help them make a difference.

The 2020-21 Queensland Local Hero is Natasha Johnston, the founder of Drought Angels which supports drought-stricken farming families. Through Natasha's hard work and dedication, thousands of farming families receive care packages and financial support.

There were four Queensland nominees in each of the four categories and they all deserve our gratitude and admiration. They encourage us after a challenging year that a brighter future is always achievable with hard work, devotion and compassion. The Australian of the Year Awards will be announced in Canberra on the eve of Australia Day and we wish all of our Queensland nominees well and all the very best.


### Coronavirus, Local Government

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) (9.40 am): Last night I was pleased to host mayors from across Queensland here at Parliament House. I conveyed to them the thanks of the government for their support and assistance throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and underlined the importance of us working together to deliver jobs and Queensland's economic recovery. This week's budget included \$180 million for the COVID Works for Queensland program and \$45 million for the Unite and Recover Community Stimulus Package program in the 2020-21 financial year. A total of \$200 million for COVID Works for Queensland and \$50 million for the Unite and Recover Community Stimulus Package is being rolled out to councils which is supporting councils to continue to drive Queensland's economic recovery.

These programs are building on the success of the Works for Queensland program. Over the first three rounds of this \$600 million initiative, 1,862 local projects are underway or completed. These are projects that improve communities outside of the south-east corner of the state. Most importantly, councils are reporting that these projects have created or supported more than 20,600 local jobs so far. From Mount Isa to Moranbah, from Thursday Island to Thargomindah, that is a fantastic result. By working with our councils we are seeing terrific outcomes such as the improvements to projects like the sports precinct in Hervey Bay, the hockey facility in Rockhampton, the red and yellow arrow walking trails in Cairns as well as swimming pools, bike paths, netball courts and tennis court upgrades for communities right across the state.

The success of the Works for Queensland program for our councils has been complemented during the COVID-19 pandemic by both additional programs. The COVID Works for Queensland program was allocated to all 77 councils, including those in the south-east. It was designed to have an immediate impact to help councils get their communities back on their feet fast. Additionally, the Unite and Recover Community Stimulus Package was aimed at assisting the 12 councils in the south-east cope with the impact of the pandemic. The Palaszczuk government is standing shoulder to shoulder with our local governments to ensure the best possible outcomes for all Queenslanders.

### Queensland Economy

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (9.42 am): This morning I have more good news for the people of Queensland about the Queensland economy. Queensland has dragged Australia out of recession and our state's economy is on the way back.

Data released yesterday by the Australian Bureau of Statistics revealed that Queensland's economy grew by 6.8 per cent between June and September. That means Queensland has the fastest economic growth rate in the country. We beat Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania, the Northern Territory, the ACT and of course we beat Victoria. But most importantly of all, there was one state that beat the New South Wales Blues, and that state was Queensland. Our cracking growth rate was the largest quarterly rise in Queensland's state final demand in 17 years. There is no stronger endorsement of our government's budget and our economic recovery plan than the nation-leading growth rate our state posted yesterday. To paraphrase respected journalist John McCarthy, Australia has roared out of recession and it has Queensland to thank. Not only did our economy grow 1½ times faster than the national average in September; Queensland is the only state with an economy larger than it was before the crisis.

While Australia's domestic demand has gone backwards by 3.5 per cent over the past year, in Queensland the economy has expanded by 0.7 per cent. In dollar terms, that means over the first six months of the year Queensland state final demand fell by \$5.86 billion, but in the last three months—

just half that time—state final demand recovered by \$5.9 billion. Just as Queensland is the only state to have recovered all of the jobs that we lost during COVID-19, we are also the only state to be producing more output than we did before COVID-19. This means that Queensland has a head start on all other states, and we are building on that momentum. The budget I released on Tuesday showed that Queensland is the only state other than Western Australia where the economy is forecast to grow rather than shrink over this financial year. Unlike Western Australia, Queensland is forecast to grow without the helpful westerly tailwind of high iron ore prices.

Beyond Queensland's stellar headline growth rate, the data released yesterday also backs in our government's pro-growth and pro-business budget. When the pandemic struck, our government provided more than \$7 billion in support to Queensland households, businesses and workers—a massive and necessary increase in public expenditure—but the handover from the public to the private sector is in full swing. Household consumption is back at the levels it was a year ago, growing by 11.6 per cent in the quarter thanks to higher spending in hotels, cafes, restaurants, transport, and recreation and cultural activities as our government carefully eased restrictions. Queensland's private investment is up by 3.5 per cent in the quarter as our recovery picks up speed.

We have heard the Leader of the Opposition say that he will support the government where there is positive action. We have also heard the Leader of the Opposition say that he wants Queensland to be the best, so for the Leader of the Opposition the national accounts released yesterday show one thing, and that is that Queensland is the best. That result, of course, has been driven by our strong economic recovery plan—a plan we took to the people of Queensland in the election, a plan that was endorsed by the people of Queensland in the election and a plan that we are now delivering in the 2020 state budget. Queensland has come a long way and we have a long way to go, but the national accounts show that Queensland is once again leading the way.

### **Budget, Worker Protections**



**Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.46 am): The Palaszczuk government has a long and proud history of backing Queensland workers. I am pleased that in the budget we strengthened worker protections by employing eight additional frontline inspectors to ensure compliance with labour hire licensing laws and to stop wage theft. Some \$6.1 million will be invested over the next four years to pursue targeted campaigns in a broader range of sectors and locations, including the construction, security and contract cleaning industry as well as regional Queensland. I am also pleased that we have committed up to \$5 million for medical research into improving the health and wellbeing of workers suffering from occupational dust lung disease.


These important initiatives build upon the significant areas of reform we delivered for Queensland workers and their families in our first two terms of government. It was the Palaszczuk government that brought in the nation's first labour hire licensing laws that protect workers from exploitation at the hands of unscrupulous firms. We also made deliberate wage theft a criminal offence and are making it easier for Queensland workers to recover lost wages. We introduced paid domestic and family violence leave by legislating an entitlement of 10 days paid leave and paid pandemic leave as well.

Worker safety is also a key priority for the Palaszczuk government. We enacted industrial manslaughter laws—the first state in Australia to do so—set new world-class safety standards for Queensland's major theme parks and the amusement ride industry, and led the nation in response to the threat of silicosis. Our government is committed to ensuring workers injured or made ill as a result of their work are provided with the support and care that they need. That is why we restored all rights and entitlements stripped away by the Newman government, including restoring the rights of injured workers to access common law compensation and many improvements to Queensland's workers compensation system.

While I am on my feet talking about our impressive record of backing Queensland workers, next week it is anticipated that the Morrison government will introduce a far-reaching bill amending the Fair Work Act. There is an obligation under the agreement with the Morrison government that federal industrial relations minister Christian Porter must meaningfully consult with states and territories on any proposed changes to federal IR laws. To date, as IR minister, I have not had any formal consultation on the content of any changes being proposed. This is not good enough. The Morrison government must honour our agreement and properly consult. Any changes must include improvements for workers and their workplaces, particularly in the area of casual employment. The Palaszczuk government has and always will stand up for Queensland workers. I am proud to serve as the industrial relations minister who will continue this important work for four more years.



### Coronavirus, Update


 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.50 am): As the Premier has indicated this morning, Queensland has recorded one new case of COVID-19 in the last 24 hours, acquired overseas and detected in hotel quarantine. That now brings our active cases in Queensland to eight. New South Wales Health has also reported a new case: a person who works at a Sydney quarantine hotel complex for returned travellers. This is their first community case in 26 days.

This morning I have spoken to the New South Wales health minister and the Acting Chief Health Officer has spoken to her counterpart in New South Wales. The government is keeping a close eye on what is happening in Sydney and our health experts are in regular contact with their New South Wales counterparts. We are aware that five immediate family members of the person who has tested positive have all tested negative and are now in quarantine, which is a good positive sign going forward.

I advise at this point that there are no proposed changes to any of the restrictions in Queensland. We ask Queenslanders to continue their good practices of hygiene and social distancing, making sure that if they are unwell they are staying home and making sure that they are getting tested if they have any symptoms that are identified as COVID-19 symptoms. We ask all venue operators to continue to make sure that people are checking in when they go to their different venues. We know that is the quickest way to contact trace to ensure that we can control any virus in the community.

With so many people coming to visit us from interstate—which we welcome, especially as we head into the school holidays and knowing how much this is going to support local businesses and tourism in Queensland—we remind venues and we remind patrons that there is an obligation on all of us to make sure we are checking in, we are following the rules—please, no handshaking—and making sure that you are staying home if you are unwell and getting tested. We want to see those test numbers staying high so that we can continue to grow our economy and keep Queensland open as we have been doing.


### Mental Health Services

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.52 am): Queensland has a world-class public mental health system that is accessible, reliable, ready and able to adapt to crisis situations like a global pandemic. There is no doubt that this pandemic is taking its toll on people's mental health around the world. In response, national cabinet has endorsed a National Mental Health and Wellbeing Pandemic Response Plan. The Palaszczuk government acted early in the pandemic to provide more than \$30 million in urgent support to Queensland's community based health and mental health and alcohol and other drug services. More recently we have included in Queensland's economic strategy for recovery an additional \$46.5 million for localised mental health community treatment and support services.

What we need to respond to are not just the mental health impacts of the pandemic itself; our health system will also need to provide mental health support for people hit by the economic impact of the global COVID-19 economic downturn. That is why the additional mental health funding provided in our economic recovery strategy will support targeted responses in those areas most affected by the economic impacts of the pandemic. It also includes grants to up to 45 rural councils, as I indicated yesterday, boosting the capacity of existing NGO alcohol and other drugs residential rehabilitation services, enhancing specialist mental health responses for people in quarantine, expanding the mental health co-responder service and establishing a new online therapy program for young people. On top of this, the Palaszczuk government has provided around \$12.54 million to organisations to support Queenslanders affected by the pandemic.

Last year's budget included an additional \$80.1 million over four years to support a whole-of-government strategy to reduce suicides in Queensland. This included an extra \$62 million for interventions like safe haven cafes and crisis support. This Labor Palaszczuk government is providing the support that Queenslanders need through this stressful time whenever they need it.

### Roads and Transport Infrastructure

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.54 am): This week the Palaszczuk government delivered a budget for Queensland that sets out our state's plan for economic recovery. The strength of our health response—of Queenslanders, our Premier and Chief Health Officer—means we can now forge a path to create more jobs, more opportunities and lay the foundation for our future. I am proud to say this budget includes a fifth record roads and transport

investment, one which focuses on regional Queensland's economic recovery plan. Our \$26.9 billion program will support 23,600 jobs with more than half of that investment—\$15 billion—to go directly to our regions and statewide programs supporting 13,500 jobs.

Over the next four years, families in rural and remote areas will see this government continue to deliver on its real \$12.6 billion jointly funded Bruce Highway plan—not a hoax, a highway—while some of the state's largest ever jobs and infrastructure projects kick off. Alongside our 33 projects on the Bruce Highway currently underway, we will deliver \$200 million to upgrade Queensland's inland freight route from North Queensland to the border: the 'Bruce 2'.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** I know it is confusing. I know a fully funded Bruce Highway is confusing for those opposite.

That builds on our existing \$125 million partnership with the federal government to upgrade the corridor between Townsville and Roma that already exists. This project will take trucks off the Bruce Highway, improving safety for motorists and boosting supply chain efficiency for our freight industry, primary producers and our resources sector, while also making sure that we are ready for cyclone season with other contingencies if the coastline is hit by cyclones.

We will invest \$100 million to seal dirt roads, build new bridges and drive safety as part of a \$4.8 billion in joint COVID stimulus funding for roads and transport secured with the federal government over the last eight months. Queensland workers will build Queensland trains in Maryborough with our \$1 billion commitment that will see the heritage city's proud history of train building continue for generations to come. That is on top of more than half a billion dollars to bolster the Mount Isa rail line and Townsville Port, backing in our minerals province and regional economy.

In the Far North we are building the \$480 million Bruce Highway upgrade between Edmonton and Gordonvale, delivering 466 local jobs—a project I know is dear to your heart, Mr Speaker. In Townsville we will build Townsville Ring Road Stage 5, Riverway Drive Stage 2 and upgrade Stuart Drive in the electorate of the member for Mundingburra with a \$46.5 million investment. In Mackay and Whitsunday the Palaszczuk Labor government will get started on the Walkerston Bypass and deliver upgrades for Proserpine's Shute Harbour Road, which last night I was glad to discuss with Mayor Andrew Wilcox. In the west we will continue to seal sections of the Kennedy and Diamantina Developmental roads, to name but a few. In Rockhampton we will build the \$1 billion Rockhampton Ring Road and in Gympie the \$1 billion Gympie bypass.

We will also see investments at our ports like Bundaberg, and we will strengthen our coastal shipping industry with a \$21 million commitment to get more local crews on Queensland ships, support a new shipping service between Townsville and Brisbane, while developing more maritime skills and training.

The Palaszczuk government knows transport and roads are vital to jobs and economic growth, especially as part of our state's economic recovery plan. We have a proud record of delivering for regional Queensland, as can be seen with more regional members of parliament in the government, and we will deliver another record investment for regional Queensland that will support jobs, support industries and support regional growth going forward.

## Social Housing



**Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (9.59 am): The COVID-19 pandemic has taught us all many things and helped us to understand just how important a sense of home is for all of us. In the face of great challenge, the communities that make up our state have continued to show their strength and resilience and because of our strong health response we are getting on with the job of recovery.

The 2020 budget delivers a job-creating economic recovery plan that also understands the importance of a secure and safe home. As announced in the budget, we will invest over \$526 million to deliver more safe, secure and affordable housing for Queenslanders. This investment continues on the delivery of this government's \$1.6 billion Housing Construction Jobs Program, which is the largest investment in social housing in Queensland since World War II. Recently we have supercharged that program by injecting \$100 million through our Works for Tradies boost. The budget will deliver the completion of a further 452 social homes, commence construction on a further 832 homes including 215 under the Works for Tradies boost, upgrade existing dwellings and purchase land for future construction. Importantly, our investment in this financial year alone will support more than 1,540 construction jobs across the state.

We are getting on with the job of delivering new social and affordable housing for vulnerable Queenslanders and supporting Queensland construction jobs through our 10-year Housing Strategy. I am pleased to share with the House that the Palaszczuk government has exceeded our first three-year target under the strategy, with 2,190 social and affordable housing projects already commenced. We have already completed and delivered 1,200 new homes across the state from the Gold Coast, out to Toowoomba and up to Cairns, putting us on track to deliver over 5,500 social housing and affordable homes by 2027.

The construction of new social housing forms an essential part of the Palaszczuk government's plan for Queensland's economic recovery, creating jobs, skills and public infrastructure. The benefits of the Palaszczuk government's social housing construction programs will continue to flow through Queensland's regional economies, creating jobs for years to come. The Palaszczuk government is delivering safe, secure and affordable homes for vulnerable Queenslanders in need while it supports jobs.

### Primary Industry Productivity Enhancement Scheme



**Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (10.01 am): The Palaszczuk government has always backed our farmers and assisted in the expansion of their businesses. One measure of support has been the Primary Industry Productivity Enhancement Scheme administered through QRIDA. The aim of PIPES is twofold. First, it is to grant loans to provide concessional finance of up to \$2 million to help people in the initial years of establishing agribusinesses. Secondly, for established farmers there are low-rate loans of up to \$1.3 million to help improve the sustainability of their business. That could cover anything from installing new irrigation systems to improve water efficiencies through to developing systems that help adapt to climate variabilities.

The PIPES program has been extremely popular. In August this year in Ayr I was fortunate to meet the Slater family who are the recipients of a First Start loan. They have used that loan to buy their own 44-hectare cane farm, where they are using their background in agronomy and agricultural engineering to introduce new farming systems. Both Heath and Fiona come from a background in cane and they believe in the industry. It is great to see that that confidence in the Queensland sugar industry is being backed by a First Start loan through the Primary Industry Productivity Enhancement Scheme.

When we came to government, PIPES was capped at \$60 million. The Palaszczuk government understood the importance of the scheme and increased the annual amount to \$100 million. I am happy to inform the House today that in the 2021-22 financial year the Palaszczuk government will back our farmers again by raising that cap to \$120 million. That is up from the \$100 million limit set for this year. It fulfils the election commitment we made to the farmers of this state.

I encourage anyone thinking about getting into farming or establishing producers needing help to improve the sustainability of their business to give QRIDA a call. When we back our farmers to grow and expand, it gives them the confidence to get on with doing what they do best: producing the clean green food and fibre that the rest of the world is searching and will pay top dollar for. Backing our farmers gives them the confidence to create more jobs. More jobs in regional Queensland is what this government is all about.

### Electric Vehicles



**Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement) (10.04 am): Queensland's economic recovery plan is underway and there are now more Queenslanders back at work than there were before the pandemic. More Queenslanders are getting behind the wheel as they get back to work on our brand new roads. Now that our roads are getting better thanks to our record investment, Queenslanders are focused on the impact that their vehicle has on our state's carbon emissions. Queenslanders also expect our government to lead by example, and that is exactly what we are doing. I acknowledge the main roads minister for delivering the electric vehicle superhighway, boosting the number of charging sites to 31, making it the world's longest EV highway in a single state.

I am also very proud to inform the House that we are on track to meet our targets under our QFleet electrical vehicle strategy. We will reduce our carbon footprint by doubling our EV fleet year on year, which has the potential to eliminate petrol fleet vehicles by 2028. With 68 electric vehicles already in service and another 10 on the way, QFleet will have 72 EVs in the fleet by the year's end. Negotiations are already underway with vehicle manufacturers to pave the way for early access to new models when released onto the Australian market. However, we will not stop there.

I am pleased to confirm that the Palaszczuk government is on track to accept five new Hyundai Nexo hydrogen fuel cell vehicles early in 2021. I am advised that the vehicle has the highest crash safety ratings available and is also a terrific looking vehicle. We will fill the fuel cells on those cars with clean hydrogen manufactured by BOC Australia right here in Queensland, in the electorate of Clayfield.

Queensland is uniquely placed for the development of a multibillion-dollar sustainable hydrogen industry, including both domestic and export use. It will deliver thousands of decent, secure jobs for Queenslanders right through the supply chain. I acknowledge that just last week, our Premier, who for many years has driven this state's hydrogen agenda, announced a landmark partnership with Japan's largest hydrogen company, Iwatani.

QFleet's trial of clean hydrogen EVs will help underpin the development of this industry for our state, playing a major role in creating domestic demand for early manufacturing facilities. With a combined fleet of more than 10,000 vehicles garaged across the state, as the minister responsible for renewables, hydrogen and QFleet I will continue to ensure the shift to electric models in order to lead the development of the EV and hydrogen sectors in Queensland. In doing so and by adopting this new technology as it becomes feasible, the Palaszczuk government will lead the way for other fleet managers, not just in Queensland but right around Australia. The Palaszczuk government's EV strategy will demonstrate that lower emission technology is cost effective, delivers value for money for taxpayers and will help ensure that we deliver the next resources jobs boom to Queensland.

### Gas Industry



**Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (10.07 am): In Queensland our gas industry continues to go from strength to strength. In this state we are doing the heavy lifting with gas production, for both the domestic and export markets. The facilities on Curtis Island near Gladstone are a sight to behold and have created and will continue to create huge opportunities for Queenslanders. We have always backed the LNG sector and we will continue to invest in the industry.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring that there is an adequate supply of affordable gas for the domestic market, which is critical for energy supply and advanced manufacturing. In August we announced a study into new gas infrastructure that may assist in unlocking reserves in the Bowen Basin. Our government will invest \$5 million into the study. If the study finds that the project stacks up, potentially there will be 1,000 construction jobs available and countless opportunities for other industries. Not only would it supercharge the development of new gas production in the Bowen Basin; it would also make more gas available for Queensland manufacturers.

Gas is an essential part of Queensland's economy and will continue to be so in the future. Despite the challenges of 2020, our gas industry has continued to perform. Just last month, Origin Energy announced record production for the past financial year. In October, Senex Energy also talked about the expansion of gas production at its Roma North project, which will see gas production from that project increase by 50 per cent. Earlier this year we welcomed Arrow Energy's commitment to its \$10 billion Surat Gas Project, with around 800 construction and 200 permanent jobs. It will be Queensland's largest gas project to start since 2011. Those projects demonstrate the importance of the natural gas industry to Queensland. Through 2020, to support the development of future gas projects, the Labor government has continued to make land available for gas exploration through competitive tendering.

In May and June this year we released 17 areas for petroleum exploration, across nearly 8,300 square kilometres of land. Five of these areas are for domestic gas only. These land releases create new opportunities for more gas projects to come online and aid our economic recovery and support jobs in regional communities.

This government's commitment to the resources sector is clear. We back all parts of it. We back the resources industry and we know it has played a key role in keeping our people in work during this global pandemic. Because of our health response, we are now able to focus on our economic recovery, and the resources sector has played a major part in this. That is why the government continues to back our resources industry.

### Free TAFE and Apprenticeships



**Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.10 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to training our young Queenslanders for free in high-priority courses that we know will lead to jobs. The Treasurer

announced on Tuesday that we will provide more young Queenslanders with free TAFE and free apprenticeships. We have already provided free training for year 12 graduates and pre-apprenticeships for Queenslanders under 21, supporting training opportunities for more than 26,000 young people. Now we are going further by extending that to Queenslanders aged under 25. That means that another 37,000 young people throughout Queensland will be able to get world-class vocational training for free.

We have been backing young people to help them prepare for the job market as part of our ongoing plan to recover from the global impact of COVID-19. Now we are committing \$21 million in funding to help even more young school leavers, apprentices and trainees. We are able to do that because our strong health response has allowed us to implement our economic recovery plan.

We on this side of the House believe that every young person deserves the same hope and opportunity as the next—that no matter where you live in our vast state, no matter who you are and what your abilities, you deserve to reach your full potential. Expanding free TAFE and free apprenticeships is not just about helping more young Queenslanders to get the skills they need for jobs; it is also about giving them an opportunity to change their lives. These are young people like 19-year-old Samantha Lee from Townsville who is an electrical apprentice with Wilmar Sugar. She does not need to worry about paying for her TAFE training. She talks about what a difference it makes that she does not have to struggle to pay for the tools she needs to do the job she has. Then there is Alexis from Toowoomba who, after leaving school, took up a certificate III in hospitality, which she has now used to get into a dual diploma in event management and hospitality management. Our free TAFE has allowed her to do the course she wants to do rather than the course she can afford to do, and she is so grateful to be able to make a start in her chosen career. She loves her teachers, too, who helped her find employment in the industry.

Free TAFE and free apprenticeships open unimagined opportunities for so many of our young people to take that first step towards a rewarding career. This investment is simply life changing. The extended program will apply to 165 priority qualification areas including health services, hospitality, engineering, age and disability support and early childhood education. This initiative is also backing our local businesses to take on an apprentice or trainee by removing the cost of training. Currently more than 26,000 young people are gaining a qualification for free under our free TAFE and free apprenticeships, and we look forward to watching that number grow.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr SPEAKER:** Question time will conclude today at 11.13 am.

### Building and Construction Industry



**Mr CRISAFULLI** (10.13 am): My question is to the Premier. What action has the Premier ordered in response to Master Builders criticism that commercial builders are in a world of pain and have no clear picture of a pipeline of work from the government?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. At the outset I thank all of those stakeholders who have been working with the Queensland government as part of our COVID economic recovery plan, including the Master Builders. They have been along with us every step of the way as we not only crafted our economic recovery plan but also took it to the people of Queensland. It is now our budget. We are seeing people investing in new home builds and construction. We also have our \$56 billion infrastructure plan over the next four years.

Today is the day. There is not long to go now—just a few more hours—until we hear from the Leader of the Opposition about his plan. He said that he would be different from the rest, so the real test will be: will the Leader of the Opposition back our strong economic recovery plan? We have heard the results today: the highest growth in the nation—

**Mr Dick:** The best in the nation.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The best in the nation: simply the best, better than all the rest.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I can use those lines, too, member for Broadwater.

**Mr Bleijie:** Sing it, like Tina!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I think the member for Kawana can sing and dance!

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Kawana, I do not think we need that sort of encouragement in the House.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We also partnered with Master Builders with our \$5,000 regional home building boost, which was very welcomed. That shows strong signs of investment, which means jobs. Building and constructing means jobs. It means jobs in regional communities. It means jobs for tradies—

**Mr Crisafulli:** Now.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am sorry?

**Mr Crisafulli:** Jobs are needed now. We have the highest unemployment—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, you have asked the question and the Premier is being responsive to the question asked, particularly related to the subject matter. I ask you to cease your interjections.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** You want to talk about jobs? We on this side of the House back jobs. The Leader of the Opposition was part of the government that sacked jobs. I will talk about jobs with every member opposite every day of the week.

I also advise the House that the value of new loan commitments to households increased by 13 per cent in September—the second fastest growth in Australia and more than double the national average—and the number of housing approvals increased by 9.7 per cent in October—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, your time has expired.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The national average was just 3.2 per cent.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, your time has expired. Premier, I need you to resume your seat once your time has expired.

### **Regional Home Building Boost**

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** My question is to the Minister for Communities and Housing. Will the minister guarantee the regional home building boost grant, which supports thousands of jobs, will not be cut?

**Ms ENOCH:** I thank the member for the question. We on this side of the House have been supporting our regions in terms of making sure that we continue to see housing supported across the state. Of course we will not be cutting that boost. We are committed to the pathways to safe and affordable housing for all Queenslanders, making renting more affordable and home ownership more achievable.

We have seen the numbers already: the increase in the number of housing applications, the increase in the number of home loans across the state and in this budget the commitment of over \$500 million to ensure we continue to build affordable and social housing in this state. That is part of our \$1.6 billion investment in social housing and affordable housing in this state. We will continue to ensure that kind of support going forward.

We on this side of the House have been supporting the construction of affordable housing and social housing in this state and the jobs that go with it. What did we see from the opposition when they were in government? We saw the plan for the wholesale privatisation of public housing in this state. How many properties did they actually build whilst they were in government? Some of the lowest numbers we had seen in decades.

We are continuing our massive investment in social and affordable housing. We are continuing to support good housing construction in this state. We will do that because that is what we do on this side of the House. We support jobs, we support construction and we support the growth of our regions and our state. We had been doing that before COVID-19, we have been doing that during COVID-19 and we will continue doing that after COVID-19.

### **Budget, Initiatives**

**Mr POWER:** My question is for the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier provide an overview of the key initiatives in the budget and also advise of any alternative views?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Logan for that question. The member for Logan has seen a lot of investment locally such as schools being built in Yarrabilba—a fast growing area of his community. It was wonderful to be down there to see that construction happening and to be there for the opening at the beginning of this year.

Our budget is about economic recovery. It is about getting through COVID. It is about growing our economy, diversifying our economy and investing in the infrastructure and the jobs that Queenslanders need for the future. We will deliver seven new satellite hospitals. We know how important it is for communities to get health care close to where they live. It will be interesting to see later today whether the Leader of the Opposition supports that initiative or whether he would cut that initiative.

We are contributing to the new M1. We are building nine new schools. Five new schools will open next year. Minister for Education, that is great news for Queensland. There will be \$6 billion in concessions to help lower the cost of living for Queenslanders. There will be cheaper water for farmers and cheaper electricity—around \$250 back in the pockets of Queenslanders. We are making sure that we look after Queenslanders. There will be a public transport fare freeze that the Minister for Transport announced yesterday. There will be \$1 billion in small business loans. We are going to keep delivering for our regions right across this state.

In less than an hour we are going to hear from the Leader of the Opposition. Will he back the strong economic plan that we took to the people of this state? Will those opposite continue with their plan for the four-laning of the Bruce Highway? Where is the money coming from for that? Will they build the \$15 billion Bradfield scheme? They took that to the election. That was a fizzer. Some \$20 million was allocated for that. Will they back our strong jobs target of 160,000 jobs over the next year? They went to the election with the target of 150,000 jobs over, was it, five or 10 years.

We saw today—yes, I read the *Courier-Mail*; I did not read it much during the election campaign—the Leader of the Opposition promising humility and dignity. I have heard all that before. The ghost of Campbell Newman comes back. He said exactly the same thing about humility and dignity and look where that got them. We have the architect of the fights with the lawyers, the member for Kawana. The member for Moggill was on the other side with the doctors around the doctors' contracts. There were the fights with the nurses and fires. It is the same old LNP saying exactly the same thing to the people of Queensland. It is hard to trust the LNP.

*(Time expired)*

### Public Service, Superannuation

**Mr JANETZKI:** My question is to the Treasurer. Before the election Labor announced a further \$1 billion raid on public servants' superannuation to pay down debt yet this week it was revealed the risky raid was scrapped after the election. Having said one thing before the election, why did the Treasurer decide to act differently afterwards?

**Mr DICK:** Can I ask the honourable member to repeat the question, please?

**Mr JANETZKI:** Before the election Labor announced a further \$1 billion raid on public servants' superannuation to pay down debt yet this week it was revealed the risky raid was scrapped after the election. Having said one thing before the election, why did the Treasurer decide to act differently afterwards?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for his question. It is false; it is incorrect. I ask him to later today correct the record. It is not true. The LNP needs to stop coming into this House and putting forward false propositions in the form of questions as if they are fact. That is against the standing orders of this place. With all due respect, I would have expected more from a man like the member for Toowoomba South. From my experience in this parliament, he has conducted himself with good grace and dignity, to quote those words. Something has changed. That is the leadership and the culture that is being set by the member for Broadwater.

That question is not true. We made it clear not in budget but last year when we announced we would be establishing the Queensland Future Fund. I made it clear before the legislation came into the parliament how we would put funds into the Future Fund, including a billion dollars from the defined benefit scheme. Do members know who supported the legislation that created the Queensland Future Fund? The Leader of the Opposition, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and all members of the LNP voted in favour of the fund as the legislation prescribed it in the House. We announced what would be in the fund before the legislation was introduced.

No wonder the member for Burnett, the member for Ninderry and the member for Gregory have their heads in their hands if this is the tactics of the opposition. I would be shaking my head too, member for Burnett. You did a pretty good job and what did they do? They sent you right up the back.

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

**Mr DICK:** Member for Toowoomba South, it is not true. We made it clear in the budget papers that we will be funding the Future Fund. Funds from the Titles Registry, equities owned by the government and the billion dollars from the defined benefit superannuation scheme, which is less than we originally prescribed, will go into the Future Fund. We will keep that fund fully funded.

We also passed legislation in the previous parliament to prescribe by law that the defined benefit superannuation scheme, which is the jewel in the fiscal crown of Queensland, will be fully funded according to law—the law of Queensland. Who voted for that? All members of this House, including those from the LNP. They have endorsed the pillars—

**Mr Nicholls:** It already was.

**Mr DICK:** Not by law it was not. I take the interjection from the member for Clayfield. We would have thought a former treasurer would have known that it was not prescribed by law and now it is. They voted for the pillars of our economic plan last parliament. I look forward to the Leader of the Opposition saying today that he will continue to support our plan.

*(Time expired)*

### Budget, Caloundra

**Mr HUNT:** My question is to the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier outline some of the many budget highlights, including in education, for Caloundra?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Caloundra for that question. Isn't it wonderful to have a Labor member for Caloundra? It is absolutely wonderful to welcome him to the House. It is great to have some Sunshine Coast seats. I can tell the House that my government will be visiting the Sunshine Coast on a regular basis. We will continue to deliver for the Sunshine Coast. That is exactly what this government does.

We opened the primary school in Baringa. At the beginning of next year we will be very proud to open the new Baringa State Secondary College. Minister Grace and I attended the site to see the early works. It has created a lot of local jobs. The people working on the construction site are excited about the jobs it has brought to the local community.

Then we have the Bells Creek road that is going to be built, opening up the corridor in Caloundra South. We are going to build a new ambulance station in Caloundra. There will be a \$3.2 million upgrade to the Caloundra State School hall. We are going to continue to invest around the region, including \$20 million for the Sunshine Coast Stadium.

**Mr Bleijie:** Thanks, Jarrod.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** No 'thank you'!

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Kawana, members should be referred to by their correct titles in this House, particularly when it is yourself.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take your advice and I say that the member for Kawana is an awesome member delivering for Kawana.

**Mr SPEAKER:** That is bordering on a frivolous point of order, member for Kawana.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** There is humility and dignity right there!

**Dr Miles:** And then there is the member for Kawana!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** And then there is the member for Kawana! The people with humility and dignity on their side are right there at the back—the member for Burnett and the member for Gregory.

**Ms Grace:** Not the member for Mermaid Beach.

**Dr Miles:** Mermaid isn't there.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am sorry, member for Mermaid Beach. I cannot put you in that category!

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** In all seriousness, let me talk a little bit about Caloundra for a moment. We know that Caloundra has been a safe Liberal seat for many years. It has been held by former Liberal leaders—Mark McArdle and Joan Sheldon. It is an absolute honour and privilege that we now have a Labor member for Caloundra who will work hard each and every day and continue to deliver for the people of the area that he represents. I have been there. Even before he was elected, people were coming up and asking him, 'Are you the member?' He will do a great job. I thank the people of Caloundra for putting their faith and trust in us.



### Satellite Hospitals

**Ms BATES:** My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. On 22 October the former health minister announced that a new satellite hospital would be built at Weinam Creek at Redland Bay. However, the budget says that it will be built over 10 kilometres away at Cleveland, where the existing Redland Hospital is located. Will the minister explain this apparent mistake?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for her question. Yes, I am aware that in the regional outlays in the budget papers it does refer to Cleveland. We have made it very clear that Redlands is the preferred site for the satellite hospital. We announced that during the election. We reaffirm that again now. That is exactly what we have committed to and that is what we will be doing.

**Dr Robinson:** It's in the capital statement.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Oodgeroo—

**Dr Robinson:** Your own budget!

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Oodgeroo will cease his interjections. He will put the prop down. You are warned under the standing orders. It is disorderly.

### Ipswich, Defence Industries

**Mr McCALLUM:** My question is of the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on the Palaszczuk government's plan to further develop our defence industries in Ipswich? Is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

**Ms Grace:** Good question.

**Dr MILES:** I thank the member for Bundamba for his question. It is a great question because one of the ways we are creating jobs in Queensland as part of our economic recovery is by supporting our defence industries. In fact, when it comes to our defence industries, the Palaszczuk government is all guns blazing—and, when it comes to our defence industries, Ipswich is literally on the front line.

Defence is one of the five growth industries that are targeted in our economic recovery plan. It is joined by aerospace, biofutures, biomedical, as well as mining equipment and technology services. In Ipswich, the defence technology industry is allowing us to create new, high-tech jobs in manufacturing—direct jobs—as well as supporting other jobs in supply chains.

Our partnership with Rheinmetall Defence Australia is allowing us to deliver a \$170 million Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence right in the heart of Ipswich. It has created 300 local jobs in construction. I am pleased to report that there are 330 people employed with Rheinmetall right now. That will increase over time to 450 high-skilled, high-knowledge jobs. It is allowing us to build and deliver the \$5.2 billion phase 2 of the Land 400 program, as well as put us into the running for phase 3. All up it could be worth \$27 billion to the Queensland economy. That means lots and lots of highly skilled jobs for Queensland centred around Ipswich.

I am advised that the military vehicles that are part of the Land 400 program can travel at up to 105 kilometres per hour—which I am sure all members would agree is quite a pace. What I was surprised to learn today is that the only thing that the Leader of the Opposition intends to do differently from Campbell Newman is to have a bit less pace. Queenslanders all remember when Campbell Newman said he would govern with humility, dignity and grace. Now the member for Broadwater is going to keep the humility and dignity but replace the grace with pace—which left me wondering what is wrong with a bit of grace? We have the right amount of grace, don't we, Grace?

**Ms Grace:** Yes, we do.

**Dr MILES:** We have the exact right amount of grace. We will learn in the Leader of the Opposition's alternative budget in just a little while how it is just the same old LNP with a bit less pace and no grace.

### Independent Public Schools

**Dr ROWAN:** My question is to the Minister for Education. Queensland's 250 independent public schools do not rate a mention in the budget. Will the minister guarantee ongoing funding for the IPS program?

**Ms GRACE:** The IPS funding program has always been part of the operational budget of the education department, and there has been no change to date.

### Budget, New South Wales Comparison

**Ms HOWARD:** My question is of the Treasurer and Minister for Investment. Will the Treasurer update the House on how the Palaszczuk government's 2020 budget compares with that of New South Wales and is the Treasurer aware of any alternative approaches?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Ipswich for her question and for her strong commitment to economic recovery as set out in the budget. I am pleased to report to the House that the 2020 Queensland budget shows that Queensland will exit the pandemic with a significantly lower level of debt than New South Wales and Victoria. That is a testament to our careful management of the COVID-19 health crisis which has meant our economy could recover sooner and stronger than New South Wales and Victoria. I heard what the Leader of the Opposition said yesterday. He said—

The Treasurer yesterday was happy to use a comparison with New South Wales for total debt. We didn't get into that argument despite the fact that the New South Wales economy is far bigger than ours.

It seems that the Leader of the Opposition does not want to do any work at all, so I got out the calculator and I did the work for him. Net debt as a share of the economy in—

**Mr Crisafulli:** How about net worth?

**Mr DICK:** You better pick up the pace, Leader of the Opposition.

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

**Mr DICK:** Net debt as a share of the economy in 2024: New South Wales, 16 per cent; Queensland, 13 per cent. Gross general government debt as a share of the economy in 2024: New South Wales, 24 per cent; Queensland, 23 per cent. This means Queensland is the best again, while the Leader of the Opposition fails again.

The Leader of the Opposition has given it a go but he has failed every time. He failed on his unemployment target. The Leader of the Opposition failed on debt. Now the Leader of the Opposition has failed to rule out cutting jobs and services. He has failed to rule out cutting jobs and services just like his mentor, Campbell Newman. The Leader of the Opposition says we should not have an operating deficit, just like Campbell Newman. The Leader of the Opposition demonises and condemns debt, just like Campbell Newman. The Leader of the Opposition will not rule out cuts to jobs and services, just like Campbell Newman.

What is the Leader of the Opposition going to do to deliver on his promise not to borrow to fund budget deficits? Will he cut 1,800 nurses and midwives? Will the Leader of the Opposition cut police, firefighters, paramedics and funding to community groups? The heat is on the Leader of the Opposition. It was all talk in the last parliament when he was undermining the member for Nanango, but the heat is on the Leader of the Opposition—and he is not up to it. He is trying to make us forget Campbell Newman, but the Leader of the Opposition uses exactly the same words as Campbell Newman. That is what Queenslanders are seeing now. It is no wonder that Campbell Newman is retweeting the Leader of the Opposition because they are one and the same. The Leader of the Opposition and Campbell Newman are one and the same. It is about time he came clean. He complains about deficit. Now he needs to tell us what he is going to do to get rid of the deficit.

*(Time expired)*

### National Parks, Tourism

**Mr O'CONNOR:** My question is to the Minister for the Environment. What KPIs is the minister going to set her department to deliver the government's plan to develop new adventure and nature based opportunities such as ecotourism accommodation facilities in Queensland's national parks?

**Ms SCANLON:** I thank the honourable member for the question. Of course, just this week we outlined our economic recovery plan and the investment that we are putting into not only protected areas but also a range of other areas to make sure that we are protecting areas like the Great Barrier Reef, all of our national parks and a range of other measures. We are also making sure that we are investing in frontline services, particularly our rangers. Some interesting information has come to light. In more recent times we have seen a 9.5 per cent increase in rangers who are doing really important work, particularly at the moment, managing fires across our region.

On the Gold Coast there has been a significant investment in the Nerang National Park, which is in my electorate and the member for Springwood's electorate. We are working alongside the tourism department to make sure we get the balance right with regard to sustainable tourism options and walking tracks. We will continue to invest in our environment while protecting it and at the same time

welcoming more people to the region. We have also invested significantly in the Mon Repos Turtle Centre, which is an area that I know many of our regional members are particularly passionate about. As I said earlier in the week, when those opposite were in government we saw a significant reduction in QPWS rangers' salaries and their workforce in particular, which meant there were fewer rangers to protect those areas.

We have also outlined the Protected Area Strategy, which was begun by the Hon. Leanne Enoch. She did some fantastic work in making sure that we lay out plans for the next 10 years. In this year's budget I was really pleased to see additional funding to ensure we are growing that protected area and protecting even more environmental assets. The Land Restoration Fund is a flagship program that we are very proud to deliver here in Queensland. I understand that round 1 has seen around 18 to 19 projects we will deliver that will drive down carbon emissions—something that is incredibly important to this government—and we will keep investing.

### **Budget, Schoolteachers**

**Ms McMILLAN:** My question is of the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Will the minister explain how the 2020-21 state budget delivers for Queensland's hardworking teachers, and will the minister advise if there are any alternative approaches?

**Ms GRACE:** I thank the member for Mansfield for the question. What a great member she is and what an even better principal she was at the Cavendish Road State High School. She turned that school around and it has continued to go from strength to strength. I acknowledge all of the teachers and principals in this House who are now members of parliament for the excellent work they have done. I know they all value the work of teachers and teacher aides right throughout Queensland, who did an absolutely remarkable job during COVID-19. They really brought home to every family the professionalism, commitment and dedication that all of our teachers and teacher aides have to our children's learning right throughout Queensland. Our teachers truly are the foundation of the world-class education system we have in Queensland. They are setting our children up for a great future.

That is why this government has employed an additional 6,000 teachers since coming to office in 2015 as well as almost 1,500 teacher aides. In the budget delivered this week we will continue this incredible investment. We will employ 6,190 new teachers and 1,139 new teacher aides over the next four years. In addition, we will deliver the Turn to Teaching internship program. It will provide 300 aspiring teachers with a rate of pay—which is under the current agreement—with financial support, mentoring and a paid teaching internship to complete their teaching qualification and take up a guaranteed teaching position. We want to see how well this works. I am really excited about this investment. This investment in teaching means that local communities get the teachers and teacher aides they need; we keep our nation-leading student-to-teacher ratio intact; and we will obviously continue to attract high-performing teachers.

The alternatives we heard during the campaign were quite farcical when you think about it. When they finally let the member for Kawana out, he announced that they would employ 3,000 teachers. No sooner did Labor announce our policy of 6,190 teachers than he went to the member for Nanango, the then leader of the opposition. He said, 'Please, I'll need to come out again.' She said, 'I'm not sure about that.' He said, 'No, I can announce that we're going to have 7,000 teachers. We're going to beat the ALP!' She said, 'Oh, all right. But promise me we won't lose any Sunshine Coast seats?' He said, 'Yeah, I'll promise you that.' The member for Kawana came out and announced 7,000 new teachers, but unfortunately there was no adjustment to the budget. Once again it was one of those promises where they announce a certain number but they do not announce a cost. They have to beat the ALP! The member for Kawana announced that but he forgot about the dollars. That is typical LNP!

### **Cross River Rail, Public-Private Partnerships**

**Mr MINNIKIN:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Can the minister inform the House what amount of the forecast increased payments to public-private partnerships, which have increased from \$12 billion to \$16 billion compared to one year ago, relate to Cross River Rail?

**Mr BAILEY:** I thank the honourable member for the question. The Cross River Rail project, which was cut by the Newman government, is 100 per cent funded by this government—\$5.4 billion—after the federal colleagues of those opposite would not contribute one dollar to this project which is absolutely crucial to unlocking the bottleneck in the middle of the public transport network. We have got on and we are getting it done. It has been a great pleasure to become the minister responsible for this project. I have been involved in some form going back to when I was an adviser.

This is an overdue project that should have been pretty much completed if those opposite had not cut the project to begin with. Can you imagine the jobs? Can you imagine the redevelopment? Can you imagine how much progress we would have had in South-East Queensland with our public transport network if it had not been cut by those opposite? They not only cut it once, but when they went to the 2017 election they said they would cut it again. They promised to cut it twice. They did it once and they promised they would cut it once again. That would have ground South-East Queensland's transport system to a halt. You cannot just keep building more roads; you need a strong public transport system. As has been well documented throughout the 2000s, you need to address the single crossing across the river in the inner city to deal with the population growth right across South-East Queensland. It was absolutely critical that that work was done. That was known in the 2000s, yet those opposite cut this project once and were prepared to cut it twice.

I have made it very clear that this project is on time and on budget. I was very pleased to visit the site at Woolloongabba, where the station box is more than 90 per cent excavated. They have excavated 30 metres down; it is a mammoth site. In coming months the big 1,350-tonne tunnel borers will be installed to begin burrowing under the river to unlock the bottleneck in the middle of this rail network—something that should have been dealt with. The Leader of the Opposition was a cabinet minister in the Newman government—

**Mr MINNIKIN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 118(b), relevance. My question was in relation to what percentage of those payments relate to Cross River Rail public-private partnership payments. It was a very specific question.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The minister has 36 seconds to round out his answer.

**Mr BAILEY:** The then federal Labor government under Kevin Rudd and Anthony Albanese went to Campbell Newman and said, 'We will get this project going. You just have to put in \$115 million a year for six years.' He said no, he would not embarrass Tony Abbott. He sold out Queensland and so did the LNP. The Leader of the Opposition was part of this. They cut this project. Let me say this to the member for Chatsworth, who is in the 51 club. It is a big club over there. It is getting bigger, Mr Speaker, with the member for Burleigh and the member for Coomera. It is on time and it is on budget.

### **Mental Health Services**

**Mr TANTARI:** My question is of the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Will the minister update the House on the Palaszczuk government's commitment to support the mental health of Queenslanders, particularly in my electorate of Hervey Bay?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for Hervey Bay for his question. I know he understands the importance of investing in mental health services in his local community. A new acute mental health inpatient unit is currently underway at Hervey Bay Hospital and this will create more than 140 construction and health jobs, and we are very pleased to be announcing this for Hervey Bay. This is Hervey Bay's first mental health inpatient facility, marking the beginning of \$39.6 million worth of investment to more than double mental health bed capacity on the Fraser Coast. For the first time, there will be mental health inpatient capacity at Hervey Bay and that is great news for the local community.

However, it is not just Hervey Bay that will benefit from the investment of the Palaszczuk government. Construction is expected to begin in this financial year on a new \$70 million multistorey acute mental health unit in Cairns. The stage 3 development of the \$124 million Ipswich Hospital will include a new 50-bed mental health inpatient facility. Planning is underway for a crisis stabilisation service at Robina Hospital. In fact, statewide Queensland Health is delivering on \$205.8 million in capital projects to establish 89 new mental health beds and upgrade existing beds for inpatient and subacute treatment.

Let me contrast that with the performance of those opposite in their chaotic three years. The LNP cut \$45 million from mental health in their first year of office. That was in their first year of office. It was the first time that mental health spending had ever been cut in Queensland—the first time. That is what they think is smart budgeting; that is what they think is a great way of making savings—that is, cutting mental health services in this state. It was the single biggest cut ever made by a state or territory government. That is their legacy. They reduced spending on mental health to the lowest per capita level in Australia, and that was reported independently by the Productivity Commission. We know they closed the Barrett Adolescent Centre. What a record that is for the LNP.

The member for Nanango yesterday stood in this place and asked about mental health, knowing that the LNP did not promise any new funding in mental health services or mental health infrastructure in this election and knowing that the Palaszczuk government has invested in a new hospital in her area.

She did not even turn up to the sod turning—that is the level of interest in significant investment in her local community. It is a Palaszczuk government that will continue to invest in mental health services in this state.

*(Time expired)*

### Social Housing Register

**Dr MacMAHON:** My question is to the Minister for Communities and Housing. The government has so far failed to release the 2020 Social Housing Register amid increased housing stress due to the COVID-19 recession and speculation that the list has blown out significantly. When will the government release Queensland's 2020 Social Housing Register, which is now months overdue?

**Ms ENOCH:** I thank the member for the question and I recognise her election to this place. I want to put on record my acknowledgement of the former member for South Brisbane, who was probably one of the most progressive women in modern-day politics. I know she will be very much missed by the people of South Brisbane.

I know firsthand the importance of social housing, given that I grew up in public housing in the wonderful suburb of Woodridge. Back then, it was a very different set of circumstances to what we see today. A housing register is a register that allows us to be able to support people very differently to when my parents first moved into social housing 46 years ago. The housing register allows us to support people in many different ways—not just into social housing but into affordable housing, into private rental et cetera. That register holds a lot of private information and, as we all know, those data files are published twice a year, in February and September.

In March this year, the Office of the Information Commissioner conducted an audit and provided a recommendation on the department's approach to preserving the privacy of individuals in the publication of open data. Quality assurance has also been provided to the department to ensure the action taken to remediate the data addresses the OIC recommendations to minimise risks and were effective. As a further control, the open datasets are provided to the digital business group in corporate services to review prior to publication. These additional controls—which are very important for people's private information—have resulted in a delay to the publication of the open datasets for 2019-20, but that will happen very soon.

The private information of people who are on the housing register is incredibly important, and we are taking the recommendations of the Office of the Information Commissioner very seriously to ensure that we take good care of people's information. The housing register continues to be an important tool to support people in this state. As I said, it is very different to what my parents experienced 46 years ago. This is a register that helps us a great deal to be able to support individuals, families and couples to secure safe and affordable housing into the future.

### Regional Queensland, Road and Transport Infrastructure

**Mr HARPER:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government's record road and transport budget will benefit regional Queensland communities like mine as part of Queensland's plan for economic recovery?

**Mr BAILEY:** I thank the honourable member for Thuringowa for the question. He is otherwise known as 'Mr Riverway Drive'. Many people talked about it; he did it. Riverway Drive is worth \$43 million. He has not only achieved the first one; he has got the second one funded too, with a federal contribution as well as the state contribution. He might have some competition from the member for Mundingburra, who might be called 'Mr Stuart Drive' because he has been here about two seconds and there is \$46 million going into Stuart Drive as well.

This is a great budget for regional Queensland. There is a record \$26.9 billion going into Queensland, of which more than half of that—\$15 billion—is going into regional Queensland, with things like the fully funded Bruce Highway upgrades up and down the coast, the trains being made in Maryborough and the second Bruce. We are seeing the stimulus funding spread right across Queensland. It was great talking to the mayors last night because they know we have backed in local governments all over Queensland with stimulus funding for regional road projects. This is very important.

This is all of course in the QTRIP. We are the only state in Australia that has a four-year rolling program of forward projects in transport and main roads and that was released when the budget was done. I table that document.

*Tabled paper:* Department of Transport and Main Roads: Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2020-21 to 2023-24 [\[336\]](#).

Last year we saw the member for Glass House start to say that there was no funding in there for the Mackay Port Access Road when there was. That was repeated by the member for Nanango in this House. They were misrepresenting what is a fact. The member for Burnett—from the wilds of the backbench of the opposition—said on his Facebook page yesterday that there was a missing \$42.5 million promise in the budget for upgrades on the Isis Highway, and I table that.

*Tabled paper:* Extract, undated, from the Facebook page of the member for Burnett, Mr Stephen Bennett MP, regarding the budget [337].

Any member can go to QTRIP. The member for Burnett has been here for four terms and he knows how it works. He knows what QTRIP is. I looked for the number of references to the Isis Highway. There were nine references to the Isis Highway, with funding all in the current financial year. He was misleading his community and misleading the public. Here they are: there were two references to Takalvan Street and then references to Park Estate Drive, University Drive, Airport Drive, Bundaberg to Childers, Kingston Town Way and Childers to Biggenden. That is all for the Isis Highway.

The Leader of the Opposition said he was going to do things differently, but what I see is the same old tricks, the same old sleights of hand and the same old deception from the member for Burnett and no doubt others. The Leader of the Opposition should be demanding standards over there—not misrepresenting the budget when all the evidence is there in QTRIP for anyone to see. The member for Burnett should be ashamed of himself.

### Budget, Health Services

**Mr BLEIJIE:** My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Given the minister has admitted the mistake in the budget wrongly confusing Redland Bay and Cleveland for the location of a new hospital contained in page 11 of the capital statement, how can Queenslanders have confidence in this sloppy and rushed health budget that was promised to keep Queenslanders safe and strong?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for Kawana for his question and his criticism of a record \$21.8 billion budget in Health and the new satellite hospitals. I can confirm for the House that initially other areas were looked at for satellite hospitals, but we have now identified our preferred sites and we have announced them. One of them is Pine Rivers/Strathpine and the other one is Redlands. We have confirmed now our preferred sites based on our election commitments. The regional documents are being updated online, so people will be able to get the updated information in relation to the preferred sites for these satellite hospitals. The public know what we announced and what we committed to.

There is criticism from those on the other side. However, if we went out during the election campaign and said we were going to deliver satellite hospitals in Redlands and in the Pine Rivers/Strathpine area, we are going to do that. Their criticism is that we are delivering on what we took to the election and what we promised the people of Queensland. We are now delivering it in the budget.

### Tourism Industry, Environment

**Mr SMITH:** My question is of the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs. Will the minister update the House on the importance of Queensland's pristine environment to regional tourism?

**Ms SCANLON:** I thank the member for the question and congratulate him on being elected to this House. It is great to have another millennial in the House. I know the member is incredibly passionate about his particular region and I am pleased to let the House know some good news today. This week researchers at Mon Repos Turtle Centre have welcomed back a female loggerhead turtle who has been calling Mon Repos home since 1977. This particular turtle hatched at Mon Repos more than four decades ago and it is an exciting moment as it returns. We know that no other turtle in the world has this level of research and documented history, so it really is a truly special moment. We know that the Mon Repos centre has the largest population of nesting loggerhead turtles in the South Pacific. The centre has been celebrating 53 years of really important scientific research. I put on the record my appreciation for everyone who works at that centre for the research they are doing.

We know that it is not just the important research but also the added benefit of the jobs that are created as a result of having this turtle centre in the region. Of course, our government has been really proud to support this centre with a \$17 million injection towards their capital redevelopment and that supported 45 full-time jobs. Of course, we know each year around 30,000 people visit the centre to experience watching some of those baby turtles hatch and dash to the ocean. It is wonderful that we can celebrate this important milestone. Whether it is southerners coming back to our state or turtles coming home to nest, Queensland certainly is good to go.

When it comes to other key tourism destinations for both international and domestic tourists, we know that the Great Barrier Reef is of great significance to the Queensland economy. Earlier this morning the International Union for Conservation of Nature, which is an advisory body to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, unfortunately found that the outlook for the reef has worsened and is now classed as critical. The report is obviously devastating and shows a tangible impact of the Morrison government's refusal to tackle the issue of climate change. We on this side of the House of course accept the science of climate change and we have been acting.

We have invested \$400 million in the last five years to protect the reef, we have introduced new reef water protection regulations to improve water quality, and we have passed tree-clearing laws and set emissions reduction targets. That is in stark contrast to the federal government, who are still refusing to put in place very clear emissions reduction targets despite the fact that many of our key trading partners have put in place those measures. This not only puts at risk the Great Barrier Reef; it puts at risk the 60,000 jobs and \$6 billion a year that the Great Barrier Reef contributes to Queensland. I urge those opposite to urge their federal colleagues to take action in this space.

### **New Acland Coalmine, Jobs**

**Mr WEIR:** My question is to the Minister for Resources. Now that the federal government has issued the last of the environmental approvals, will Labor approve the New Acland mine so hundreds of jobs can get started?

**Mr STEWART:** I thank the member for his question. The Palaszczuk government has a strong record in supporting and advancing the resource industry. Since taking office, we have supported more than \$21 billion worth of investment in resource projects, resulting in more than 8,000 jobs in the mining and gas sector.

The New Acland stage 3 project has received significant community interest and has a protracted legal history. With this in mind, the Palaszczuk Labor government went to the 2017 election with a commitment, and that was to accept the decision of the courts on the New Acland coalmine expansion. The High Court has recently heard an appeal by opponents of the mine and are still deliberating their decision. Given the commitment we made to Queenslanders in 2017 to accept the decision of the courts, we will await the High Court outcome before finalising the remaining approvals for this project.

I think it is pertinent that while we are waiting for that decision by the courts we continue to do our coal exploration because we know it is the lifeblood of our resources sector, and continuing government support for private investment will help identify new deposits to ensure long-term successes to the industry. As we look to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Queensland government is committed to ensuring the sector remains a strong and sustainable industry for Queensland.

In February this year the government released the 2020 Queensland Exploration Program, which scheduled tender releases for nearly 7,000 square kilometres of land and coal for petroleum and gas exploration through the year. This included a tender that opened on 7 May 2020 for two coal exploration areas across 108 square kilometres near Moranbah in the Bowen Basin, Queensland's premier producing region for high-quality metallurgical coal, which we know is required right around the world and is required to make high-quality steel. It is well renowned. They love it. That is why we export that high-quality metallurgical coal. It is some of the best in the world.

This tender process saw an increased focus on proponent safety performance in the tender evaluation to further this government's absolute commitment to safety in the mining industry. Following a robust evaluation process, the following companies have been appointed as preferred tenderers. They are the Winfield Group Investments, which was awarded a 35 square kilometre area located 40 kilometres north-west of Moranbah in the Bowen Basin, and Hail Creek Coal Holding, a subsidiary of Glencore, which was awarded a 73 kilometre area located 60 kilometres north-west of Moranbah in the Bowen Basin. These appointments follow on from the tender release in August last year across 458 square kilometres also in the Bowen Basin.

*(Time expired)*

### **Arts and Cultural Recovery Package**

**Ms BUSH:** My question is of the Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts. Will the minister update the House on support provided to Queensland's arts and cultural sector through the Arts and Cultural Recovery Package, announced as part of the Palaszczuk government's plan for economic recovery?

**Ms ENOCH:** I thank the member for Cooper and congratulate her on her election to this place. I acknowledge her support of the arts and I wish her all the best in this new endeavour. I think everybody in this House knows that the arts were hit incredibly hard by COVID-19. Performances, exhibitions, live venues and all the jobs that were attached to that disappeared overnight due to necessary restrictions brought about by COVID. Queensland was one of the first states to respond to the sector, ensuring we were bringing in support measures to help stabilise the sector through this difficult time. These measures have seen the Palaszczuk government invest nearly \$60 million in those support measures, ensuring that the sector not only stabilised but that new works and new ways of delivering product to audiences across the world could be supported.

This investment included the \$22.5 million Arts and Cultural Recovery Package, which has formed a down payment on our 10-year road map for arts, culture and creativity in Queensland. Close to \$13 million of this package has already been committed and announced, and we are beginning to see these funds hit the ground where they are needed the most. From our Open Air program to our First Nations Commissioning Fund, to our Live Venue Music Support program, just to name a few, more than 9,200 employment opportunities for artists and art workers will be supported as a direct result of our government's recovery package and support measures.

Because of Queensland's incredible health response we are now seeing the easing of restrictions, and the arts is rebounding accordingly. This week I joined with QPAC to announce that Queensland will be the first state in the country since the onset of COVID restrictions to hold a major production to 100 per cent audience capacity without the need for exemptions. *Shrek The Musical* will play to audiences next month, and tickets are on sale right now. I am sure there are still some opportunities for members to audition for maybe Lord Farquaad or roles like that, although typecasting might be an issue!

The arts and cultural sector is coming back because of the Queensland government's incredible response to COVID-19. The same could not be said about the federal LNP government. More than eight months have passed since the beginning of COVID-19 restrictions. While the Palaszczuk government moved quickly to support our arts and cultural sector, the federal LNP government has been sitting on its hands. It duded the arts and cultural sector in the design of the JobKeeper program, leaving many artists and art workers high and dry. We are yet to see any substantial announcements for Queensland from the federal LNP government when it comes to the arts and cultural sector.

Queensland has done the heavy lifting when it comes to supporting the arts through COVID-19. Is it too much to ask those opposite to support Queensland's efforts and lobby their colleagues to pull their weight?

**Mr SPEAKER:** That'll do, Minister. That'll do.

### Queensland Holocaust Museum

**Mr LANGBROEK:** My question is to the Minister for the Arts. When will the promised \$3.5 million for Queensland's holocaust museum be made available so that this project can get started?

**Ms ENOCH:** This was a commitment made by this government during the election campaign and there are discussions underway. When those discussions have been completed, work will proceed accordingly. The announcement from the Premier and the Australian Labor Party in the election campaign was very welcome. I think many will want to have their say on the project. We need to be able to consult and hear exactly what is required and what is wanted so that we can respectfully design and move forward together. We will take into account those conversations as any further design is developed.

### Police Resources

**Ms KING:** My question is to the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services. Will the minister advise the House of the Palaszczuk government's plan to boost the number of police personnel across Queensland?

**Mr RYAN:** You have to love a Labor budget, because a Labor budget will deliver a record investment in policing—another record police budget from the Labor government here in Queensland. What will that record budget deliver? It will deliver a record number of police. Already we have the most in history, but it will start the delivery of our historic investment—2,025 additional police personnel.

What did those opposite take to the election? What we saw at the last election and what this budget proves is that when it comes to the Queensland Police Service the LNP will cut. The LNP took a position to the last election that would mean fewer police than under a Labor government. It is only Labor that invests in the front line. Queensland can rely on only Labor for community safety.



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

## **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (2020-2021) BILL**

### **APPROPRIATION (2020-2021) BILL**

Appropriation (Parliament) (2020-2021) Bill resumed from 1 December (see p. 196) and Appropriation (2020-2021) Bill resumed from 1 December (see p. 204).

#### **Second Reading (Cognate Debate)**



**Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (11.14 am): I move—

That the bills be now read a second time.



**Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.14 am): In 1960 a man known as Frank took the biggest leap of faith in his life. At age 40 he rolled the dice and left his homeland of Sicily to head to our state without knowing a word of English. He was one of the late movers to North Queensland after a bold decision by successive Queensland governments to expand the sugar industry. Words were not his strong point but hard work was, and he found success with each swing of a cane knife, forging a future for his family. Half a decade earlier, a young man in his 30s known as Leo came to Brisbane via Newcastle after leaving his native Poland after the terrible Second World War. Leo, who had a fascination with learning but worked with his hands, was fluent in multiple languages and devoured books to improve his education. Two men, two different stories, from two different nations but with one common goal: to make life better for their lot. Today, the grandchildren of Frank and Leo face off as leaders of their respective parties in this parliament. Yes, we stand opposed in the conflict of ideas but we share a mutual legacy of those who have gone before us, who put sacrifice and their families' future ahead of themselves. It is the lesson of so many migrant families.

It is these threads that I intend to guide me in my role as opposition leader, choosing to focus on the future wellbeing of our families and our communities ahead of momentary considerations and distractions—recognition that through a bit of hard work and perseverance results will flow. The people of Queensland want a focus on them, their jobs, the economy. I promise Queenslanders that as opposition leader I will always support ideas that have merit but will strongly hold the government to account. Promises made should be promises kept. While I accept the mandate the people of Queensland have given the government, I do not accept that the election result was a blank cheque for Labor to continue the failings in service delivery across Queensland. This budget locks us into a generation of borrowing for today, not building for tomorrow. I will have more to say about that later.

Look at the challenges that face Queensland through the lens of those values. When Leo and Frank first went to work there were just 1.3 million Queenslanders, about 530,000 of whom were employees. The state basic wage in 1960 was about £13 for men and £9 for women or, in today's money, \$390 for men and \$270 for women. Back in the 1960s houses were more affordable. In real terms, workers were paid less than today but the average cost of a new worker's home was about £3,000; that is about \$90,000 in today's money. A comparison of earnings to house prices shows that housing was more affordable in 1960. They were tough times but they were rewarding times for hard work and perseverance. Jobs were in abundance.

These are just two of many stories, but they point to those things that have helped make Queensland what it is today. They set the scene against which today's policymakers have to face different and complex challenges. In an increasingly mobile and interconnected world, we face challenges that people born in the earlier parts of the 20th century never even contemplated. Some things remain the same; others change beyond recognition.

Government must ensure that Queenslanders have access to the best possible health care, the most effective education system and a fair judicial system, but we must adapt to new challenges and opportunities through technology. Throughout history, improvements to technology have delivered new jobs to overcome those sectors that were impacted, but in a global world we must be amongst the early adopters or risk being overtaken by other states or nations that move swiftly.

Queensland faces many challenges. We will continue to grapple with the impacts of COVID-19 and overcome the wreckage it has inflicted on the global economy. At a time when 214,000 Queenslanders are out of work, it is woefully out of touch to claim that this is a remarkable achievement. This is not the time to claim mission accomplished; this is the time to continue to support business and build confidence in the community.

It is against this background that governments must respond. The measure of their success lies in precisely how they respond. Last week I called on the government to ensure its election commitments were included in the budget. I also said that I wanted to see them delivered now, not on the never-never, because this is our state's hour of need. People need the jobs and they need the certainty that comes with those jobs, and they need them now.

As I said when I became leader, we will be an opposition that is constructive and we will not criticise for the sake of criticising. Where positive initiatives are introduced, we will welcome them and support them and, in turn, where there are failures, broken commitments or bad decisions we will call them out with vigour and hold the government to the account that the people of Queensland expect.

In this budget we applaud the four-year commitment to support the prevention of domestic and family violence in vulnerable populations. It broke Queenslanders' hearts to see the pain and suffering that Hannah Clarke and her young kids went through, both in February this year and before it, but her legacy and that of her kids should be something that drives all of us to do a little bit more.

I welcome the \$3.5 million allocated towards the cost of establishing a Holocaust Museum in the budget highlights. Matching federal government funds proves what can happen when different levels of government are willing to work together. The Brisbane Synagogue is located just next door to Mineral House in Margaret Street and the importance of remembering millions of Jewish people who lost their lives not only is worth doing but also is something that can help educate our public. I will be seeking guidance as to which year this funding will be paid.

I also believe the government's proposal to freeze public transport fares is a sensible measure to encourage people to use public transport after a year of reduced patronage and certainly of changed behaviours.

While I commend these initiatives at a time of our state's greatest challenge, there is nothing more disappointing than a response that overall misses the mark, and unfortunately for Queenslanders this is precisely how this budget can be categorised. Assembled in the shadows of an election and revealed only after the last vote was cast, the budget stands as a testament to this government's failures to tackle the raging economic storms, to lay out a plan for the future and provide certainty and security for the people of the state, but its biggest indictment is the breach of trust with the people of Queensland. The government went to the election having not delivered a budget in over 500 days. When the government sought a mandate from the public, it repeatedly used the figure of \$4 billion. Nowhere was a request of \$28 billion ever whispered—not once. This is a broken promise. The government led Queenslanders to believe that it would only need to borrow \$4 billion and then immediately helped itself to seven times more. Queenslanders have 28 billion reasons to feel deceived.

Since the beginning of this year, Queenslanders have been required to make significant sacrifices on all levels—personal, community, financial. They did this not because the government told them to but because it served the interests of their fellow citizens and to the entire community. That is the Queensland way. While Queenslanders do not expect rewards for their sacrifices, they do expect honesty, openness and frankness from their government. Government is a two-way street. Governments only operate with the consent of the governed and that consent can only be validly given when it is informed.

The government seems incapable of acknowledging that the seeds of the Queensland economy's weakness were planted well before COVID-19 struck. The seeds were planted in the first five years of this government's term in office. The report by Moody's yesterday belled the cat. The capacity of the Queensland government to implement measures to respond to the pandemic was limited by the pre-existing debt levels of the Queensland government. Moody's Investors Service Vice-President John Manning said—

Queensland's debt burden will remain elevated for an extended period of time.

While record low interest rates will enable the state to absorb such a sharp rise in debt, the rapid and sustained increase in the debt burden will constrain its operating profile over time, particularly in the event of future shocks.

In other words, less favourable borrowing conditions will severely limit the state's ability to respond to future economic shocks, and that should be of particular concern to a state like Queensland that has regularly experienced unforeseen natural disasters, be it cyclone, flood, drought or fire. Labor has rolled the dice on debt, but it is to put fuel in cars and pens on desks, not roads to ease congestion and dams for economic opportunity.

There can be no clearer picture painted of Queensland's economic position than in CommSec's State of the States report. The October 2020 report reveals that Queensland is now the sixth ranked economy across eight distinct indicators—equal with Western Australia, which spent most of this year

in complete isolation, and ahead of the Northern Territory. What this means is that five states and territories have performed at a more impressive level than ours, including Victoria, which has been locked down for much of 2020. Let us consider each of these eight indicators from January this year to see exactly how badly Queensland was performing under this government.

Queensland came seventh on investment in equipment, economic growth and unemployment. On three indicators Queensland came sixth of all states and territories—construction work undertaken, wages growth and even dwelling commencements. On housing finance Queensland was in fifth. Queensland did finish second in population growth, and it is in this area that we must harness the goodwill by immediately delivering job-creating infrastructure to recapture our mojo of years gone by—immediately. But I want to look beyond the statistics. The story of people's lives and livelihoods are being told in these numbers, and they deserve to be told the truth.

Right now, there are 214,000 Queenslanders who, a few weeks out from Christmas, want a job but cannot get one. Queensland should be the best place in the nation—the best, whether it is somewhere to live and raise a family or somewhere to work. I want Queensland to be the best when it comes to creating jobs—more jobs, more high-paying jobs and more opportunities for our young people. It remains disheartening that a minister can claim that there is not really much you can do about youth unemployment. This year a cohort of year 12s were the first in a generation to graduate in a recession. We must not allow them to slide into a life of underemployment. The government has given up on tackling unemployment. We will not.

However the Treasurer might want to categorise it, Queensland faces an unemployment challenge that this government appears incapable or unwilling to address. At October this year Queensland reported an unemployment rate of 7.7 per cent, and that is the highest of the mainland states. At the same time Australia's seasonally adjusted unemployment stood at seven per cent, meaning that Queensland's unemployment rate was worse than the national average.

The Treasurer has sought to make mileage by comparing Queensland on some select grounds with some select other states. It is no surprise that someone who would regard a 41-page colour brochure as an economic policy will cherry-pick statistics, but here are some numbers that cannot be disputed. At the end of this budget, when all the measures have been run and all the plans have been implemented, Queensland's forecast unemployment—that is, where we are aspiring to get to—will be 6.5 per cent. That is worse than Victoria at 5.75 per cent and New South Wales at 5.25 per cent. Jobs are the litmus test for this budget. Despite all the brochures, despite all the debt, more Queenslanders will be jobless. Queenslanders deserve a focus on supporting and delivering jobs, but the government seems willing to accept unemployment levels for years to come.

What is playing out today is not an experiment, it is reality. It impacts lives. It impacts the economic security of every Queenslanders: the ability to say that you can provide for your loved ones. The government cannot ignore the beating drums from industry bodies. We must consider what significant Queensland business and industry bodies have had to say about this budget. Regrettably, it has been defined as one of missed opportunities. Chris Mountford of the Property Council said—

Queensland's biggest competitors—New South Wales and Victoria—have adopted big thinking and ambitious budgets that focus on infrastructure, tax incentives and major reforms with the unashamed intention of spurring on private sector investment.

What we have seen today in Queensland is a budget that doesn't tackle this challenge. It's more 'business as usual' than a budget for unprecedented times.

Paul Bidwell of Master Builders Queensland responded by saying—

However, despite the Treasurer's optimistic outlook that jobs growth and interstate migration will bounce back, commercial builders are in a world of pain ...

Dr Georgina Davis of the Queensland Farmers' Federation responded that they are underwhelmed by the 2020-21 budget, noting that there were no surprises either positive or negative. She stated that this year's budget was again a missed opportunity to address some critical competitiveness and productivity issues.

The Chamber of Commerce & Industry Queensland released the following statement—

The 2020-21 state budget delivered today, fails to deliver the immediate measures needed to protect business ahead of the looming economic cliff ... CCIQ economist Jack Baxter said that despite increased borrowings, there was a missed opportunity to outline any additional immediate measures to assist small businesses over what is expected to be a tough recovery.

The CCIQ concluded by saying that the government 'hasn't produced any longer term competitive inducing reform which our economy and business needs'. These bodies would have accepted a budget borrowing blowout if it was for intergenerational assets that created wealth for their members.

I will now turn to the most damning critique of this budget. The wealth and prosperity of a state is directly reflected in the economic value of its government, the wealth and prosperity for which Frank and Leo bent their backs and blistered their hands. Sadly, this budget forecasts that the value of the Queensland government will stagnate over the next four years.

The net worth of the Queensland government will increase by 0.08 per cent over the forward estimates. This anaemic growth is despite the fact this budget will borrow an additional \$28 billion. Queensland will borrow an additional \$28 billion and yet the value of the state is stagnant. There would not be one business, there would not be one household, that would be willing to borrow so much and receive so little in return. With barely any forecast improvement in net worth of the Queensland government, it is clear that these borrowings are not going towards building a better future for our state. These borrowings are mortgaging future generations of Queenslanders to pay for today's economic mismanagement by this government.

It does not need to be this way. In line with the advice from the Reserve Bank of Australia governor Philip Lowe, governments across Australia are borrowing to invest in job-creating infrastructure projects, projects that build stronger and more resilient economies, projects that create wealth for our society and improve our standard of living. These are the projects that deliver a material return, not just to the economy, but to the government's value.

Before the election the Treasurer was fond of using the balance sheet to maximise the opportunities for our economic recovery, yet the picture painted after the election does not quite fit with that. The Premier and Treasurer have drawn many comparisons with New South Wales' borrowing, but they have been silent on how these borrowings are being spent. New South Wales is borrowing \$62.5 billion over the next four years and with this debt they will drive a 13 per cent increase in the New South Wales state net worth. That is 13 per cent compared to 0.08 per cent.

The value of the New South Wales government's balance sheet will increase by nearly \$30 billion in net terms over the forwards. This is a return on investments for its taxpayers, one that represents a 47 per cent return on the debt borrowed. Instead of mortgaging the wealth of future generations, New South Wales is building wealth for tomorrow. This is what Queensland could have done, but instead our government is borrowing for business as usual.

Queensland needs a new approach to decision-making to get the economy going. The problem is that this government, as much as it might protest, has state control within its DNA. It resents others taking decisions which might loosen its control on the economic levers. When someone with entrepreneurial flair or a willingness to invest their own money in a progressive project comes along the first instinct of the government is to throw up the barriers before seeing if the project fits within a narrow ideological framework. The government's failure to follow through on a great concept of market-led proposals is a clear example of this.

The disturbing fact is the government's own lack of courage filters through to those who seek its approval to proceed and to create jobs. After six years in office it should be clear that this is not the way things should be done. A government that is unwilling to embrace investors who do not match its own ideological straightjacket will never be able to encourage the maximum level of investment and enterprise—for example, the global tourism hubs and a litany of resource projects. It is time the government changed its approach to ensure the entire state benefits from investment.

At the same time we need to adopt a new approach to our Public Service. Bereft of a plan to manage their finances, this government will attack the decisions of an administration that will be 10 years in the wilderness by the time of the next election to scare the hardworking men and women of the Queensland Public Service into not supporting values and beliefs that many do at a federal and local level.

This is my vision for a modern Public Service: one where service levels continue to improve and wages continue to rise, one where our relentless focus will be on delivering a level of customer satisfaction to all Queenslanders regardless of where they live; a Public Service that is valued, where regions are empowered to make decisions and the culture that exists between the executive and the bureaucracy is improved beyond what it is today. I know the attacks that will be levelled at me from the period between 2012 and 2014—we saw them today—but I know the way I conducted myself with the teams I led.

The Queensland Reconstruction Authority had their budget bolstered and were empowered to work with councils to rebuild shattered communities more quickly and efficiently. They upgraded broken infrastructure, not just replacing it to the same standard only to see it washed away. As local

government minister the battered relationship between councils and the state was repaired. The only thing that was cut was draconian legislation that saw councils function as merely delivery agents for the state government.

Regional officers drove that relationship and were empowered like never before. One of the beneficiaries of that approach now sits in the chamber today as the new member for Hervey Bay. He played a role in that rebuilding process. Another strong player in the reform was the fresh mayor of Ipswich, Councillor Teresa Harding.

When I lost my seat I walked the floor of both of those departments. It hurt and it was humbling, but I did so with my head held high because of the relationship that I had formed with both sets of staff. I raise this as already those opposite have used every day in this House to stir up select ghosts of the past while ignoring that this deliberate broken debt promise is the biggest breach of faith since 2009 when the Bligh government promised not to sell assets before the poll and then hocked them in a fire sale afterwards.

I will not spend every day of the next four years reminding several of today's ministers that they were part of that breach of faith. Instead, I will look further back to find the formula to success for the Queensland that we want for our kids. It is time for this place to dream big on infrastructure, as we did in the era of the migrant success stories of Frank and Leo. It was under Frank Nicklin that state development took on a whole new meaning with the doubling of roads and the doubling of irrigated land, while mining truly found its feet. Nicklin was proof of the value of humility and his respect for the Public Service, and the standards he set for his team are a benchmark we must follow today. Over four decades later, at the turn of this century, it was Peter Beattie who backed the minds of our people and made education and innovation part of his narrative. I will be the first to question Mr Beattie's ability to roll out infrastructure in a well-planned and coordinated way, but his passion for Queensland and his aggressive interstate business migration strategy showed innovation.

It is a fair question to ask: what would the member for Toowoomba South do if he was bringing down this budget today? The first thing is transparency. You will never have a situation where information is deliberately withheld before an election—ever. I do not fear borrowing to build, but I do fear racking up \$28 billion in borrowings that barely add to the total net worth of the state. Faced with these circumstances this is what we would do: we would repair the relationship with Canberra and the nation's largest local government right here in Brisbane to immediately kickstart co-funded projects. With unemployment forecast to be the highest in the nation, the economy is crying out for stimulus now, not in two or three years time.

Today I call on the government to fast-track spending on projects so that Queenslanders can get back to work. Of course, there is a bring-forward cost in building sooner. Part of the government's strategy of pushing things into the distance is to avoid making the tough decisions, but this financial challenge can be overcome and, in fact, improved on the back of interstate migration to service the building demand. People want to be in Queensland and they will make the move permanently if there is a pipeline of work starting now. Projects such as the Coomera Connector have funding of over \$1.5 billion, but around half is beyond the next four years. We will see next to no progress for over a year.

**A government member:** Because ScoMo is not giving us the money.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I take the interjection. We hear the same tired old arguments on repeat. They have no vision and no ability to get things going. They are the same tired arguments. It is the same for the Beerburum to Nambour rail upgrade, which has around 80 per cent of construction spending delayed until at least the 2022-23 financial year. We would work with the federal government to get those projects done sooner rather than see them drift aimlessly into the forwards and beyond.

There are a myriad of other projects with federal funds attached that are stuck on the runway waiting for the state government to come to the party with funding or a plan for delivery. There are projects that have substantial funding deep in the forwards and beyond. The Townsville Connection Road in Idalia is a \$46 million project. This financial year \$20,000 will be spent. In Cairns the Western Arterial Road duplication project will see just a fraction of its budget spent in the next two years, yet the Cairns economy is desperate for jobs. It is the same in the Redlands where residents will not see congestion relief from the Cleveland-Redland Bay Road duplication until after the next election.

This is Queensland's hour of need and it is up to us to answer the call. Fast-tracking our capital expenditure and partnering with other levels of government is the only cure for a stubbornly high unemployment rate. In his budget reply contribution, the member for Toowoomba South will outline how the small cost in bringing this expenditure forward will kickstart our economy, drive revenue growth and

allow further capital investment down the track. In the months and years ahead we will forensically review the government's expenditure. Where waste is identified we will highlight it forcefully and show how those savings could alleviate the bring-forward cost of capital.

Those opposite say that their planning time frames cannot be changed. As recovery minister I witnessed how quickly infrastructure can be mobilised during a disaster. We are in the midst of a jobs disaster. It is time to mobilise the Queensland spirit to get our state back to work and it is our attitude to private sector investment that will truly set us apart. This is Queensland's hour of need and the men and women of Queensland are ready to answer the call.

We will unshackle the mining industry. We need world's best-practice environmental protections delivered in a sensible way that supports jobs and investment but preserves our pristine environment and our water assets. Queensland's resources industry is a success story and it will continue to be a major driver of jobs and investment in Queensland. I see the challenge for Queensland to take the output from the sector to enhance the broader economy. We will drive efforts to attract more onshore mineral processing and value added projects—that is right: here in Queensland. A legitimate criticism of the government has been of actions that have given rise to sovereign risk, which destroys investment in further infrastructure and squanders our future growth potential. It is vital that we support the sector and grow opportunities. While energy resources remain king, I also want to see more support given to new mineral opportunities and processing.

The war on farmers must end. I want to see Queensland's food and fibre output bolstered through a significant co-investment in education, training and support to producers to use world's best practice technological development and sustainable practices. Significant productivity benefits could be achieved and the resulting benefits to employment and production from next generation agricultural technology could be leveraged off a small government investment. We need a significant investment in agricultural research and development. The ingenuity that provided the early productivity increases that caused our export dominance have fallen by the wayside and we must fight to see that returned. We have the human capital and the knowledge industry which stand ready and able to support productivity increases in the agricultural sector, but I see a role for leadership in joining these two together.

We must build the water infrastructure this great state needs. It has been nearly two decades since we last built a dam in this state. It should cause everyone in this House pain and embarrassment to know that it is ripped down at a time when water has never been more important.

Queensland has an enviable position as the world's best natural offering for tourism. Our natural beauty is second to none. Queensland's pristine national parks are the jewel in the crown of our tourism industry, and so much more needs to be done to develop ecotourism opportunities. Much has been said about ecotourism, but little has been done by this government. We must see this change. Several decades ago we had big dreams for this fledgling industry. Our tourist facilities were the envy of the world—new products, exciting experiences and booming numbers. We need to recapture the entrepreneurial spirit and develop a new offering that harnesses our clean and green image in a post-COVID era. Our operators are up for the challenge.

It is time to treat our medical research and training industries seriously. If we have learned nothing else this year, it is the absolute importance of our health and related industries. We have to support their growth, promote private sector investment and reinforce the involvement of our universities and research institutes. Steps must be taken to start this process.

Despite the trials and tribulations of 2020, education remains a major contributor to the Queensland economy. Now is the time to start the process of restoring education to a primary position in this state. Queenslanders are entitled to ask to see the concrete plans of this government to begin the process of welcoming overseas students back to our educational institutions when it is safe to do so. We cannot wait until the borders are open to begin planning this important process.

I believe it is time to maximise the contributions of regional Queensland to our economy through regional empowerment. COVID-19 has taught us that not every worker needs to operate from the capital CBD. Regions should be promoted as significant hubs to service the industries they have attracted, whether that be mining, tourism, agriculture or anything else. We must be bold in our ambition to have businesses move here and be headquartered across the length and breadth of Queensland. We have so much to offer to attract them.


Our society is at its best when we look after our most vulnerable. Being economically strong allows us to be socially compassionate. The ongoing challenges our community faces with domestic violence, health challenges for our First Australians, protection of our children, the growing incidence of elder abuse and appropriate care for our disabled demand significant law reform and targeted spending, and we are up to work with the government on this challenge.

I have announced the appointment of shadow ministers to cover the areas of integrity in government, open data and customer service. This reinforces our intention to place the citizen at the centre of all dealings with government. Government should serve the interests of the people, whether it be through unimpeachable conduct of the government, access to information or asserting the people's interests when dealing with their government.

While we continue to face trying times, we must prepare for the time when a vaccine against COVID-19 will be rolled out. We must begin doing the groundwork for the construction of necessary infrastructure, the investigation of incentives to promote business growth and the possibility of industry relocation to accommodate changing patterns of work. This fresh approach is vital to ensure we are able to capitalise on changing circumstances.

These are the values that will drive us in opposition—values that will ensure we scrutinise every dollar spent by the government, values that see us back what needs to be backed and fight what needs to be defended, values that see us engage with stakeholders in a respectful and trustworthy way to develop policies to deal with our unemployment woes.

Queensland is now a different place from the Queensland of 60 years ago, but what is not is the hand we have been dealt. We still have the best land waiting for agricultural expansion. We still have the best minerals waiting to be mined. We still have the best rainfall waiting to be harvested. We still have the best environment waiting to be enjoyed. We still have the best minds waiting to research. The Queensland we want is one where we return to our rightful position as the economic powerhouse—for us, for our children and for the next generation of Franks and Leos waiting to take that massive leap of faith.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) (11.56 am): There you have it. How disappointing! It was the member for Broadwater's first big chance—his premiere, his opening night, his chance to define himself and the tone of the opposition for the next four years. He had a chance to come up with a new approach, to make the headlines true, to actually consign Campbell Newman to history like he said he would. He had a chance to turn his back on the philosophy of austerity, a chance to turn his back and reject the ideology of cuts. Did he do that? He did nothing of the sort. He just doubled down on the same old LNP. I listened to his speech perhaps more intently than anyone on the other side of the chamber, and I reckon that speech was more Campbell Newman than even Campbell Newman could have been.

In the context of a global economic crisis, the opposition leader comes in here and critiques us for running deficit budgets. The logical conclusion of that is to demand the equivalent of those deficits in cuts. That is the only way it can add up. I think there was only one line in his speech that was truly honest. That was when he outlined that he would have a new approach to the Public Service. I think we all know what that means. It means that the public servants of Queensland have nothing to be concerned about. Isn't that what that means? It is almost word for word.

You could tell what everyone opposite thought of that performance. Never have I seen this opposition so quiet. In fact, never have I seen any opposition so quiet, even when we had just seven members there. He spoke for—oh, it seemed like forever. He spoke for a long time.

**Mr Dick:** And said nothing.

**Dr MILES:** He said nothing. There was barely a 'hear, hear'. There was a lot of looking down at the feet, a lot of drinking of water and a lot of playing with phones but very little interest in what the new Leader of the Opposition had to say. No wonder the LNP executive have called a meeting to talk about what they stand for! I guess the opposition leader has to wait until that meeting has happened before he can come in here and tell us something new that they stand for.

There was a lot of delusion from the Leader of the Opposition but none greater than when he reflected on his time as the local government minister. I think the member for Hervey Bay deserves an apology for how that was characterised. I spent last night with the LGAQ and mayors from right across Queensland. They had a lot of opinions, but not a single one of them was harking back to the great era of Crisafulli. None of them were talking to me about the heady days of David. Not a single one of the mayors who were there—

**Mr Hinchliffe:** There is an ex-mayor who speaks highly of him.

**Dr MILES:** This is true. Not a single mayor there wanted to return to the \$60 million of cuts that the now Leader of the Opposition delivered as local government minister.

He said that we should dream big on infrastructure. It is not good enough to dream big on infrastructure; we actually have to build it. We cannot just dream about it. They went to the election with dreams—a dream of a Bradfield; a dream of duplicating the Bruce—but no dollars and no plan. I want to turn to and take head-on the great big lie at the heart of the opposition's response to our budget.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker. The member is using unparliamentary language. He used the word 'lie', if I need to clarify it for you.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mrs Gerber): Minister, I ask you to withdraw. That was unparliamentary.

**Dr MILES:** I withdraw. The great big untruth at the heart of the opposition's response to our budget is the claim that our budget includes a greater level of debt than we committed to in our costings and in our economic recovery plan. That might work well for them as spin, but it has no substance. We can tell it has no substance because no-one out there is picking it up and no-one out there is believing it. It is worse than poor economics; it is actually poor math.

In our economic recovery plan and our costings we outlined how we would borrow to invest in the jobs of Queenslanders over and above the baseline. That is over and above the forward estimates. If in the context of a revenue collapse we are not going to aggressively cut services and jobs, clearly those deficits will be added to the borrowings of government.

I make this point: that was not just implicit in our costings but also implicit in the costings of those opposite. Who could forget that the then deputy leader of the opposition agreed that they would run deficit budgets in years 1, 2 and 3? The then leader of the opposition said they would run deficit budgets in years 1 and 2 and then said also in year 3 when she found out that the deputy leader had said a deficit in year 3 as well. Their costings only indicated an intention to return to balance in year 4. Implicit in that is that they would have borrowed to fund those deficits—borrowed an amount greater than the borrowings they outlined for their costings.

If the Leader of the Opposition is demanding we return to balance now, he is demanding massive cuts—unheard of cuts, greater cuts than even Campbell Newman inflicted on us, and we all know what the result of that was. The Leader of the Opposition would have us believe that that deficit really just pays for pens on desks. Well, no, our public spending pays for teachers in classrooms. It pays for nurses in hospitals. We cannot achieve balance in the context of a revenue collapse unless we are willing to cut those vital public services. The Leader of the Opposition's argument is even more ignorant once we look at the budget papers and discover that our budget is only in cash deficit in year 1. The operating position in the forward years—the deficits in those years—is all on infrastructure and depreciation.

The health and economic response in Queensland is working. Our plan is working. It was roundly endorsed by the people of Queensland at the election. It is now being roundly endorsed in the economic data. As the Treasurer outlined for us this morning, the Queensland economy is dragging the Australian economy out of recession. Our economy grew 6.8 per cent between June and September according to the ABS. We beat every other state. Our economy grew 1½ times faster than the national average in September. While Australia's domestic demand might have gone backwards by 3½ per cent over the past year, in Queensland our economy expanded over the past year by 0.7 per cent, making up all of those COVID caused losses. Private investment is up by 3.5 per cent in the quarter as our economy picks up speed.

Elections and budgets are all about choices. This year the choice was clear for Queenslanders. We went with a clear plan to borrow more money to create jobs and borrow more money to keep our services running. We cannot build all of the initiatives that we have outlined—some of which the Leader of the Opposition demanded we build faster—without those borrowings unless we are willing to cut and cut deep. The whole world is suffering financially due to this economic crisis. Europe has gone into lockdown and the US is facing a bleak and dangerous winter. There are no jobs in lockdown. They cannot be on a path to economic recovery when they are experiencing a second and third wave. That is why we have consistently said that our health response is the foundation of our economic response.

Not only are the results clear in the economic data, but our plan was solidly endorsed by Queenslanders. We went to them with a clear and honest vision and an ambitious plan to deliver more public services and more opportunities and create more jobs. Queenslanders, some of whom have never voted Labor before, put their trust in us, and we will not let them down. This budget delivers on those promises. It is a budget focused on one thing, and that is Queensland's economic recovery.



With the great news that the borders are now open to New South Wales and Victoria, our economic recovery will be even a bit easier. We have a long road ahead of us and we need to invest in our people, in our communities and in job-creating projects. In my previous role as minister for health and ambulance services I had the humbling opportunity to help lead Queensland's health response. I always said that our health response would be the first stage of our economic response. I did not know at that time how closely I would get to work on both. I now have the equally humbling opportunity to help lead Queensland's economic recovery as Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning. As I have said, when times are tough it is critical that government invests to support its people. That is exactly what we are doing and what we will be doing with this budget.

Allow me to briefly turn to what this budget means to my own part of the world, the electorate of Murrumbidgee. I am pleased to see that this budget delivers on all of our election commitments and will allow my local community—the people I have the honour of representing—to continue to get back to work. There is new money for road upgrades, making our communities safer and delivering more jobs. Works continue at the Redcliffe Hospital thanks to this budget, with more money to deliver the MRI machine that the member for Redcliffe and I have been working on and money to begin planning for a larger hospital expansion. We have secured funding for the Mango Hill station park-and-ride to allow us to get on with the job of delivering more car parks and generating more jobs for locals.

Our schools are the real winners in this budget. As a local MP, working with our schools has always been what I enjoy the most. Kallangur State School is getting more classrooms as well as a bigger and much deserved new hall. Mango Hill State School will continue to get even more new classrooms and a brand new hall. That school keeps on growing, as does Griffin State School. All of that is funded in this budget. Undurba State School and Dakabin State School will receive upgrades as well, allowing us to improve facilities for our students, delivering more local jobs in construction as well as, in those cases, new facilities to run out-of-school-hours care. This is very welcome.

This budget is all about one thing: jobs. In Murrumbidgee this investment will continue to build our community while delivering more jobs for Queenslanders. In my portfolio responsibilities, this budget delivers funding to programs like COVID-19 Works for Queensland, which has done just that—invested in regional communities to create jobs. In July, we announced that the \$200 million program would support 520 projects, which councils report will support or create more than 4,600 jobs.


South-East Queensland councils are also benefiting through the \$50 million Unite and Recover Community Stimulus Package, \$45 million of which is expected to be paid out in this financial year, fast-tracking shovel-ready projects. These projects are ready to deliver jobs. Now they will have government backing to get started. More than 1,500 jobs are expected to be created or supported by this program across the 12 South-East Queensland councils.

This is a very strong Labor budget that delivers precisely what we went to the election saying we would do: borrow money to get the Queensland economy back working, to get people back into jobs, to keep businesses open, to allow businesses to create more and more jobs. The most dangerous thing that we could do is rush to a balanced budget, as the Leader of the Opposition outlined we should do. That would deliver billions of dollars worth of cuts. It would have a devastating effect on our state and local economies, just like it did the last time they tried that when they did it without an economic crisis facing us. To have those cuts in the face of an economic crisis really would be devastating.

Debate, on motion of Dr Miles, adjourned.

## PUBLIC HEALTH AND OTHER LEGISLATION (EXTENSION OF EXPIRING PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (12.11 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Justice and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Amendment Act 2020, the Mental Health Act 2016, the Public Health Act 2005 and the Public Health and Other Legislation (Public Health Emergency) Amendment Act 2020 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Health and Environment Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2020 [338].

*Tabled paper:* Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2020, explanatory notes [339].

*Tabled paper:* Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2020, statement of compatibility with human rights [340].

As we all know, COVID-19 has sparked an unprecedented global health crisis. As of 3 December, Johns Hopkins University reported more than 64 million cases of COVID-19 worldwide. This number continues to grow, with over half a million people now contracting the virus each day.

The Palaszczuk government has been a global leader in the health response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are the envy of the world. A large part of our success can be attributed to our Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young. By following Dr Young's advice, and giving her the emergency powers she needed, the Palaszczuk government has been able to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in a swift and decisive manner. If we did not provide emergency powers to the Chief Health Officer to issue directions to limit, and respond to, the spread of COVID-19, I have no doubt that many more Queenslanders would have contracted the virus.

If COVID-19 ran riot in Queensland, like it has elsewhere in the world, we would have risked our hospital system being overrun and overwhelmed. We have seen this happen in other parts of the world such as Europe, North America and Africa. Only days ago, the Governor of California, Gavin Newsom, warned that California's health system was being overrun by COVID-19 cases, with California projected to run out of available ICU beds before Christmas Eve. The fact that this can happen in a place like California—which, if it were an independent nation, would have the fifth largest economy in the world—demonstrates that we should never take Queensland's success in tackling the COVID-19 pandemic for granted.

In stark contrast to the carnage unfolding across the world, Queensland now has eight active COVID-19 cases. We have been able to flatten the COVID curve because of the rapid response undertaken by the Palaszczuk government, Queensland Health and other government agencies to limit and contain the spread of the virus. We saw this firsthand with the containment of the outbreaks in the south of Brisbane and Ipswich.

Even though we continue to have more and more days go by without community transmission and restrictions continue to ease, we must not become complacent or think that the pandemic is over. Our Chief Health Officer continues to carefully consider the public health measures required to ensure that people returning from interstate hotspots or overseas do not present a risk to the community. Measures such as hotel quarantine are so important in allowing people to return to Queensland in a way that does not put the community at risk.

Throughout 2020, the Legislative Assembly passed several pieces of legislation to amend the Public Health Act and the Mental Health Act to support the Palaszczuk government's response to COVID-19. Due to the rapidly evolving situation, amendments were made either through urgent bills or amendments during consideration in detail. Sunset clauses were included so that the amendments were not permanent and would expire after a set date—generally 12 months after commencement.

This bill will allow the current legislative response measures implemented by the Palaszczuk government to continue for a further six months—until 30 September 2021. The bill will continue the amendments made by the Public Health and Other Legislation (Public Health Emergency) Amendment Act 2020. These provisions give emergency powers to the Chief Health Officer and emergency officers to make directions to limit, and respond to, the spread of COVID-19 in Queensland. These powers have been critical to the success of the Palaszczuk government's health response as they allow for the implementation of requirements to restrict the movement of people and for people to enter hotel quarantine.

The bill will also continue other amendments made to the Public Health Act to require people to pay the costs of their hotel quarantine and also allow the Governor in Council to extend a declared public health emergency for up to 90 days. The bill provides for the continuation of the amendments to the Mental Health Act. These provisions allow for an authorised mental health service to be declared through an expedited process—that is, without gazettal—and to allow mental health patients to be granted leave to comply with public health directions.

Given the current risks, we must continue to exercise caution, remain vigilant and respond quickly to any emerging risks of COVID-19 entering and spreading through Queensland. The extension of the current legislative framework will allow us to do that. As many will be aware, there has been significant news coverage of the development of a vaccine and the potential dates these vaccines may become available. Queensland Health will monitor any progress made in the development of a vaccine and review its public health measures as a vaccine becomes available across Queensland, Australia and internationally.

I would like to thank all of the staff in Queensland Health, particularly the Director-General, Dr John Wakefield, and the Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young, for their fantastic leadership as part of Queensland's health response to COVID-19. Everyone has worked tirelessly throughout 2020 to keep Queenslanders safe and allow our businesses to reopen in a COVID-safe way.

I would also like to thank all Queenslanders for their efforts—listening to the public health advice, taking action to make Queensland safe by washing their hands, wearing masks and practising social distancing where appropriate to do so. These measures have been critical to the success of our health response and have allowed our economy to reopen and recover quicker than many other parts of the world—some of which have been required to enforce lengthy lockdowns on multiple occasions. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (12.17 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.


Bill read a first time.

### Referral to Health and Environment Committee

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mrs Gerber): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Health and Environment Committee.

## NATURE CONSERVATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION (INDIGENOUS JOINT MANAGEMENT—MORETON ISLAND) AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (12.18 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Aboriginal Land Act 1991, the Nature Conservation Act 1992, the Recreation Areas Management Act 2006 and the Torres Strait Islander Land Act 1991 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the State Development and Regional Industries Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Indigenous Joint Management—Moreton Island) Amendment Bill 2020 [341].

*Tabled paper:* Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Indigenous Joint Management—Moreton Island) Amendment Bill 2020, explanatory notes [342].

*Tabled paper:* Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Indigenous Joint Management—Moreton Island) Amendment Bill 2020, statement of compatibility with human rights [343].

I am pleased to introduce the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Indigenous Joint Management—Moreton Island) Amendment Bill 2020. This bill was previously introduced during the last term of government and lapsed upon dissolution of the Legislative Assembly. There have been no changes to the bill. This bill will deliver on commitments made by the Palaszczuk government to support the native title consent determination on 27 November 2019 that recognised the Quandamooka peoples' native title rights and interests over Moreton Island—or Mulgumpin, as it is known by the Quandamooka people.

This bill will amend the Aboriginal Land Act 1991, the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and the Recreation Areas Management Act 2006 for joint management arrangements between the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation, also known as QYAC, and QPWS to protect Mulgumpin for generations to come. Joint management arrangements will ensure that QYAC will hold the land in trust for the Quandamooka people and the land will continue to be managed as part of Queensland's protected area estate.

QPWS will work with the traditional owners and incorporate their knowledge and skills into the management of Mulgumpin. They will record Aboriginal cultural sites and values to provide for the protection and conservation of significant cultural and natural values. This also means that the

traditional owners will be able to drive and enhance visitor experiences for all Queenslanders on Mulgumpin to enjoy. Joint management practices have already been successfully implemented on Minjerribah, or North Stradbroke Island, where we see Quandamooka practices, knowledge and expertise in land and sea management in place.

The transition to joint management arrangements with QYAC has already begun, and this bill will formalise the next steps in recognising the First Nation peoples. This is a fantastic opportunity for the future of the Moreton Bay region, not only for best-practice land and sea management with the traditional owners but also for the whole community to have this iconic region recognised for its remarkable cultural significance.

This bill is part of the Palaszczuk government's continuing commitment to work with First Nation peoples to facilitate greater self-determination and provide opportunities for the economic, social and cultural aspirations of traditional owners to be achieved over their lands. I am proud to introduce this important legislation into the House today as the next step in recognising the Quandamooka people on Mulgumpin. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (12.21 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

### Referral to State Development and Regional Industries Committee

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mrs Gerber): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the State Development and Regional Industries Committee.

## WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING (PLASTIC ITEMS) AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction



**Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (12.22 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and the statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Health and Environment Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020 [344].

*Tabled paper:* Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020, explanatory notes [345].

*Tabled paper:* Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020, statement of compatibility with human rights [346].

I am pleased to introduce the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020. This bill was introduced in the previous term of parliament and lapsed upon dissolution of the Legislative Assembly. No changes have been made to the bill.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to reducing plastic pollution and the devastating impact it has on our environment. Last year our government released the Plastic Pollution Reduction Plan with the commitment to ban the supply of single-use plastic items, starting with straws, cutlery, plates and stirrers. This bill will deliver that positive next step and also makes it possible for other plastic items to be banned in the future following a consultation process.

During the consultation period—the plastic items covered in this bill—we saw strong community support from across the state with nearly 20,000 submissions received; 94 per cent of these submissions supported the introduction of the ban. Across Queensland we have seen small businesses and communities embrace sustainable alternatives to single-use plastics. Whether it is the Straw No More campaign in Cairns and Townsville or the Boomerang Alliance's work with the Plastic Free Places program in Noosa, Townsville and Cairns, Queensland is embracing a sustainable way forward. This bill will continue their great work and reduce the impact plastic has on our waterways, marine life and the environment. This is the next step in our war on plastic waste.

Single-use plastic items often end up as litter in the environment or as landfill. That is why this bill introduces a ban on some of the most common single-use items in our community. The bill also recognises that continued access to a single-use plastic item such as a straw is important for some members of our community with a permanent or temporary disability to meet their healthcare needs. Exempt businesses, including pharmacies, hospitals, schools and medical and dental clinics, will be able to continue purchasing and providing single-use plastic items to those who need them.

We are also looking ahead, because during the consultation period there were many submissions for other items to be banned, including expanded polystyrene takeaway containers and cups. During the recent state election our government made a commitment to undertake consultation on including polystyrene in this first tranche of single-use items to be banned. I am pleased to inform the House that this public consultation has commenced, with a survey now available for people to have their say until 15 January 2021.

In recognition of the fact that this has been a difficult year for many small businesses in the hospitality sector, the ban's start date will be no earlier than 1 September 2021. We will confirm the start date once the bill passes in early 2021. This date recognises business recovery from COVID-19 impacts, providing sufficient time for impacted sectors and businesses to source alternative suppliers and use stock on hand. I note, however, that many businesses have already made the shift away from these single-use plastic items.

The Palaszczuk government has a strong history of taking action to reduce plastic waste and pollution. First was the ban on lightweight single-use plastic shopping bags in 2018. Then we introduced the very successful container refund scheme, which has seen more than 2.5 billion containers returned and over 700 jobs created across Queensland. I am pleased to introduce this bill, which builds on the Palaszczuk government's exemplary record in reducing plastic waste. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (12.25 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.


Bill read a first time.

### Referral to Health and Environment Committee

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mrs Gerber): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Health and Environment Committee.

## CHILD PROTECTION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (12.26 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Adoption Act 2009 and the Child Protection Act 1999 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Community Support and Services Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Child Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020 [\[347\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Child Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020, explanatory notes [\[348\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Child Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[349\]](#).

The bill introduces, with no changes, the Child Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020 that was introduced by my predecessor on 14 July, as reported in the *Record of Proceedings* at pages 1554 to 1556, and which lapsed with the dissolution of the 56th Parliament on 6 October 2020. The previous Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee completed its inquiry and tabled its report on 28 August 2020.

The Queensland government is committed to strengthening and improving the child protection system to support children and families now and into the future. Significant reforms to the system have been implemented since the final reports of the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry

were delivered in 2013. We are now in the final stage of the Supporting Families Changing Futures 10-year reform program, which has built a responsive and flexible family support system. As the new Minister for Children, I will continue to prioritise these reforms and build on the significant work that has already been done to keep our children safe.

On 2 June 2020, the Deputy State Coroner released the findings of the inquest into the death of Mason Jett Lee. The death of any child is a tragedy, and the circumstances of Mason's death and the treatment he experienced in his short life are truly heartbreaking. Significant reforms and practice improvements have been implemented by our government since Mason's death. Although these reforms were recognised by the Deputy State Coroner, the findings showed that more could be done. The Queensland government's response to the Deputy State Coroner's report was tabled 17 June this year and accepted all six recommendations.

The bill implements recommendation 6(b) of the Deputy State Coroner's report by enhancing permanency under the Child Protection Act 1999 and clarifying that adoption is an option to be considered for children who require long-term care as part of the suite of long-term care options available. The bill also proposes unrelated minor and technical amendments to the Adoption Act 2009 to enable an application for a final intercountry adoption order to be made for a number of children placed with prospective adoptive parents by the Commonwealth Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs.

Major reforms to improve stability and permanency for children in care in Queensland came into effect in 2018. The Child Protection Act defines permanency to include three elements: relational, physical and legal permanency. Currently, section 5BA of the Child Protection Act contains a hierarchy of preferences for determining whether an order or action best achieves permanency for a child involved in the child protection system. The hierarchy provides that the first preference is for the child to be cared for by their family. The second preference is for a child to be cared for by a person who is a member of the child's family, other than a parent, or another suitable person.

The bill proposes amendments to this hierarchy by providing that adoption is the third preference for achieving permanency for a child who requires long-term care, other than for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander children. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, the bill provides that adoption is the last preference for achieving permanency. I acknowledge that many of our stakeholders have raised concerns about these proposed amendments, particularly in relation to the suitability of adoption and the impacts of the bill on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. The bill seeks to strike a balance between meeting the Deputy State Coroner's recommendation and responding to stakeholder concerns.

Adoption is already available as an option for achieving permanency for children in care. The proposed amendments intend to clarify that adoption is an option for children who require long-term care, as part of a suite of other long-term care options. The department must always consider the individual circumstances of each child. These decisions are based on the principle that the safety, wellbeing and best interests of a child, both through childhood and for the rest of the child's life, are paramount. This bill does not change that requirement. Adoption will not be pursued if it is not in the best interests of a child.

Further, the bill does not preference adoption above a child being reunified with their parents or being cared for in the long term by a member of their family or another suitable person. If the department believes that adoption may be a suitable option for a child who requires long-term care, the processes under the Adoption Act must be followed. This includes obtaining the consent of the child's parents and applying to the Childrens Court for adoption orders for the child.

As Minister for Children, I would like to take this opportunity to make it clear that, on behalf of the Palaszczuk government, I remain committed to addressing the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the child protection system. I look forward to continuing the great work of my predecessors and progress made to date in partnership with the Queensland First Children and Families Board and other valued stakeholders, including the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Child Protection Peak, to implement the Our Way Strategy.

The Child Protection Act promotes the safe care and connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children with their families, communities and culture. The provisions in the bill that make it clear that adoption is the last preference for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are consistent with the Adoption Act, which recognises that adoption is not part of First Nations custom and tradition and should only be considered if there is no better option available.

The proposals build upon the existing safeguards in the legislation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and children. These include requirements to apply the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle in decision-making. In the event adoption is considered an appropriate option for an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander child, the director-general will review this assessment before the adoption process is progressed.

The bill also includes a new requirement for the chief executive to review the case plan for a child who is subject to a child protection order granting long-term guardianship to the chief executive, 24 months after the order is made. The purpose of this review is to consider whether permanency for the child would be best achieved by an alternative arrangement under the amended order of priority.

The proposed amendments will be complemented by operational reforms. I am pleased to advise the House that, since the bill was previously introduced, this work is well underway. A new chief practitioner was appointed in September of this year, with a major focus on improving long-term outcomes for children in care. The department has commenced reviewing the case plans for children in care under three years old on both long- and short-term orders to ensure the most appropriate long-term outcomes are being pursued. We are undertaking a review of the implementation of the 2018 permanency reforms, including the implementation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle.

I am also acutely aware there are still concerns around some aspects of this bill, and I want to reassure those concerned that we will continue to work in partnership with them to ensure Queensland continues to have the most compassionate and responsive child safety measures in the nation. It is essential we continue the important work of improving our child protection system to make it as safe and supportive as it can be. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (12.34 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

### Referral to Community Support and Services Committee

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mrs Gerber): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Community Support and Services Committee.

## COMMITTEES

### Estimates Hearings



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (12.34 pm): by leave, without notice: I move—

That—

1. in accordance with standing order 177(5), each portfolio committee report to the House on the annual appropriation bills by 12 February 2021, and
2. the motion agreed to by the House on 26 November 2020 setting hearing dates and times for portfolio committees be amended to omit the hearing times for the Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs and insert the following times:

'Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (Children and Youth Justice):

3:30pm—5:15pm

BREAK: 5:15pm—5:30pm

Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (Multicultural Affairs):

5:30pm—6:15pm'

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.



## MOTION

### Amendment to Standing Orders



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (12.35 pm): by leave, without notice: I move—

That Schedule 7 of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly be amended in accordance with the amendment circulated in my name, effective immediately.

#### SCHEDULE 7—CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

In accordance with Standing Order 181(c), the following table lists entities to which direct questioning of Chief Executives at Estimates is to apply.

##### Entities to which direct questioning of Chief Executives at Estimates is to apply

Building Queensland	QIC Limited
Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service	Queensland Art Gallery
Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service	Queensland Audit Office
Central West Hospital and Health Service	Queensland Building and Construction Commission
Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service	Queensland Bulk Water Supply Authority (Seqwater)
CleanCo Queensland Limited	Queensland Competition Authority
Coordinator-General	Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority
Crime and Corruption Commission	Queensland Electricity Transmission Corporation Limited (Powerlink)
Cross River Rail Delivery Authority	Queensland Family and Child Commission
CS Energy Limited	Queensland Human Rights Commission
Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service	Queensland Institute of Medical Research
Electoral Commission of Queensland	Queensland Mental Health Commission
Energy and Water Ombudsman	Queensland Museum
Energy Queensland Limited	Queensland Performing Arts Centre / Queensland Performing Arts Trust
Family Responsibilities Commission	Queensland Productivity Commission
Far North Queensland Ports Corporation Limited (Ports North)	Queensland Racing Integrity Commission
GasFields Commission	Queensland Rail
Gladstone Ports Corporation Limited	Queensland Reconstruction Authority
Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service	Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority
Gold Coast Waterways Authority	Queensland Theatre Company
Health and Wellbeing Queensland	Queensland Treasury Corporation
Land Access Ombudsman	Racing Queensland Board
Legal Aid Queensland	Residential Tenancies Authority
Mackay Hospital and Health Service	Resources Safety and Health Queensland
Metro North Hospital and Health Service	Screen Queensland Pty Ltd
Metro South Hospital and Health Service	South Bank Corporation
Motor Accident Insurance Commission	South West Hospital and Health Service
National Injury Insurance Agency, Queensland	Stadiums Queensland
Nominal Defendant	Stanwell Corporation Limited
North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation Limited	State Library of Queensland / Library Board of Queensland
North West Hospital and Health Service	Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service
Office of Inspector General Emergency Management	Sunwater Limited
Office of the Governor	TAFE Queensland
Office of the Health Ombudsman	The Public Trustee of Queensland
Office of the Independent Assessor	Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service
Office of the Information Commissioner	Tourism and Events Queensland
Office of the Integrity Commissioner	Townsville Hospital and Health Service
Office of the Queensland Ombudsman	Trade and Investment Queensland
Office of the Work Health and Safety Prosecutor	West Moreton Hospital and Health Service
Port of Townsville Limited	Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service
Prostitution Licensing Authority	
Public Safety Business Agency	
Public Service Commission	



**Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (12.36 pm): This motion is with respect to the entities to which direct questioning of chief executives at the estimates is to apply, and I thank the Leader of the House for circulating this motion before she moved it. I have just spoken to the Leader of the House. With 2020



being the way it has been with the global pandemic, I would like the committee to have the opportunity to directly question the Queensland Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young. Standing order 181(c), which the motion refers to, states—

... a Chief Executive Officer, (as set out in Schedule 7) is to be present at all times for the entity for which the Chief Executive Officer, is responsible is under consideration ...

Looking at standing order 181(a) to 181(g), technically the Chief Health Officer would not naturally fall into any of the categories—that is, she is not the ‘responsible minister’, the ‘director-general’ or ‘a chief executive officer (as set out in Schedule 7)’. Standing order 181(d) states—

... a committee member may ask the Minister, Director-General or Chief Executive Officer questions ...

Standing order 181 states—

- (f) advisers may answer questions referred to them by the Minister, Director-General or Chief Executive Officer; and
- (g) a member may ask any question which is relevant to the examination of the Appropriation being considered.


We have concerns that the Chief Health Officer is not on the list, which would ordinarily allow the committee to ask her direct questions, but, as per our conversation, the health minister is able to ask the Chief Health Officer to answer particular questions. I am still concerned that the questioning to the Chief Health Officer is not able to be direct questioning by a committee member. Those questions have to go through the minister, and the minister in any of these committees can say no. That is concerning.

I hope the health minister would not do that, and she has indicated to me that she will make the Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young, available for the entirety of the health committee. I would prefer to see the Chief Health Officer on this list. There are a plethora of groups and organisations on the list, including all the budgetary ones as well as the Queensland Art Gallery, the Audit Office, the Building and Construction Commission, the Competition Authority and the Curriculum and Assessment Authority.

With the way that 2020 has unfolded, I suspect members will have lots of questions not only to the minister but also to the Chief Health Officer because she is best placed to answer those questions. I do take the conversation that the Leader of the House and I have just had—in that she will make the Chief Health Officer available all day, albeit not through schedule 7 and not being able to be directly asked the questions.

With the estimates process we have and due to the seriousness of the issues of 2020 and the global pandemic that the ministers continually reminded us about today, I hope in good faith that the Chief Health Officer will be able to freely answer questions. I would like the minister to consider—because this is in her power—that on the day of the estimates hearing she allows direct questioning from members of the committee, be it government members, crossbench members, visiting members or opposition members. They should be given the opportunity to ask questions direct to the Chief Health Officer, who I think in the circumstances is best placed to answer them.

On the condition that the minister has assured me that she will make the Chief Health Officer available, I am not going to oppose the motion relating to schedule 7. As I said at the outset, I would like to see the Chief Health Officer on the list, being able to be asked direct questions. I do hope the minister allows the Chief Health Officer to be asked questions directly because the minister can in fact do that on the day during her estimates process.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (12.40 pm): In responding to the issues raised by the Manager of Opposition Business, I have advised him that the Chief Health Officer will be made available for questions during estimates, pursuant to the standing orders of the House during the session set aside for health—not necessarily for the whole day but for health. Certainly the Chief Health Officer will be there. On each and every occasion the government have stood up publicly and made comments about COVID-19 we have had the Chief Health Officer there and available to directly deal with questions.

In relation to the process, as the Manager of Opposition Business pointed out, the role of the Chief Health Officer does not fall within any of the descriptions under the standing orders and schedule 7. However, the Chief Health Officer will be there and will be able to respond to questions under the standing orders of the House. I will give consideration to the issue raised as far as direct questions are concerned. However, I should point out that no other deputy directors-general will be able to be asked a question directly; it is always through the chair, and that process will continue as it always has. We have every intention of making sure the Chief Health Officer is available and able to respond.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

**MOTION****Order of Business**

**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (12.41 pm): I move—

That government business order of the day No. 1 be postponed.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

**DISABILITY SERVICES AND OTHER LEGISLATION (WORKER SCREENING)  
AMENDMENT BILL****Second Reading**

Resumed from 2 December (see p. 284), on motion of Mr Crawford—

That the bill be now read a second time.



**Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (12.42 pm), continuing: In continuing my contribution to the Disability Services and Other Legislation (Worker Screening) Amendment Bill, I would like to not only address some of the concerns that were raised through the committee inquiry but also raise direct feedback I received during my time as the shadow minister for communities, disability services and seniors.

It has been acknowledged that, whilst important, pre-employment screening processes can be a barrier to entry for workers in this sector. Accordingly, concerns were expressed by the Queensland Human Rights Commission regarding the potential barriers that may be encountered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons in regional and remote communities. Specifically, the Queensland Human Rights Commission has stated that the proposed dual system, that being both a disability worker screening check and a blue card check, will serve to add further impediments to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons in this sector and, what is more, have additional negative impacts on already thin markets for disability service providers in rural and remote communities. I note that the committee, in its tabled report, did recognise the concerns as expressed by the Queensland Human Rights Commission and welcomed the advice from the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors that specialised processes for individuals in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities as well as remote communities will be developed.

It is incumbent on the recently appointed Labor Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and his department to ensure that such processes are well established and in place prior to commencement. The last thing that we would want to see—and certainly cannot afford to see—is a shortage of NDIS accredited workers, especially in Queensland's remote and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, where thin market issues are already highly prevalent due to unnecessary barriers.

Another significant concern and barrier that has been raised by stakeholders is the potential cost that will be borne by applicants undergoing worker screening before they commence employment. On page 12 of the parliamentary committee report, the Queenslanders with Disability Network has expressed such concerns stating that there will be a financial barrier created for those who are on income support yet are applying for worker screening approval in order to gain employment as a disability support worker. Consequently, the QDN urged the Palaszczuk state Labor government to keep the cost of screening applications low in order to attract more workers into the disability sector. The Liberal National Party certainly supports these sentiments, especially in view of the current economic environment and associated impacts of the COVID-19 health pandemic, which I note was also raised by the QDN.

In implementing an NDIS worker screening program for Queensland, the Palaszczuk state Labor government must ensure that it is fair, consistent and established with reference to other jurisdictions. This includes individual applicant costs and the associated fee structure. Unfortunately, the Palaszczuk state Labor government has an abysmal track record when it comes to imposing higher taxes, fees and charges on Queenslanders as well as being less than cognisant of the impacts its decisions can have on vulnerable Queenslanders and the ever-growing cost-of-living pressures they face.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the associated concerns relating to the right to privacy, information sharing and confidentiality of applicants through the NDIS worker screening process. Both the Queensland Law Society and the Queensland Human Rights Commission were quite vocal on this issue, with emphasis on the need to ensure an applicant's privacy is given priority as this screening

process is implemented. Given the sheer scope and significance of developing and implementing Queensland's nationally consistent NDIS worker screening system, again it would be appreciated if the minister could respond to such concerns on behalf of the Palaszczuk state Labor government.


Still on the subject of cost, there is another issue that should concern all Queenslanders greatly and one which has been specifically raised by LNP members of the committee in their statement of reservation. It was revealed during the committee inquiry that a new ICT database is currently being built by this government in order to appropriately store private and sensitive information of NDIS worker screening applicants. The Palaszczuk state Labor government and the delivery of ITC projects simply do not mix. More than half a billion dollars has been wasted by Labor on over-budget ICT projects— and some projects ultimately had to be scrapped altogether.

Such is their contempt for the taxpayer's dollars and incompetence in project delivery that the Liberal National Party holds grave concerns that the Palaszczuk state Labor government will simply deliver another ICT project that is not fit for purpose and will be over budget or, worse, has to be abandoned. The Palaszczuk state Labor government cannot afford to not get this right. A rigorous, secure and properly tested ICT database must be delivered by the Palaszczuk state Labor government. As this is also essential in ensuring a nationally consistent approach to NDIS worker screening, our state's finances and reputation depend on it.

In concluding today I say that, as the NDIS continues to roll out across our state and our nation, it continues to completely transform the lives of so many for the better. Recently Australia had the incredible milestone of seeing the 400,000th participant join the NDIS, and 150,000 of those participants are receiving supports for the very first time. As I said at the start of my speech, such significant reform takes time because we simply must get it right. We owe it to the 400,000 people who have already joined and the many thousands more who will continue to join to ensure that they are part of a national disability insurance scheme that can deliver those quality outcomes that are consistent across jurisdictions and that ultimately has the best protections, safeguards and worker screening systems put in place.

I thank all members of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee of the 56th Parliament for their examination of this legislation, the committee secretariat for the support they provided as well as all organisations and stakeholders who submitted to the inquiry.

Finally, can I say it was a pleasure to serve as the shadow minister for communities and shadow minister for disability services during the 56th Parliament. I met so many wonderful Queenslanders and engaged with many organisations supporting Queenslanders with various disabilities. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their support and for the opportunity to advocate for them, to hold the Palaszczuk state Labor government to account on relevant state government initiatives and funding as well as to participate in the development and implementation of evidence based policy initiatives to support the disability sector at both the state and federal levels of government. I wish my colleague the member for Surfers Paradise all the best given his recent appointment as shadow minister for seniors, communities and disability services.

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (12.49 pm): I rise to speak in support of the worker screening bill 2020. The Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee of the 56th Parliament considered the Disability Services and Other Legislation (Worker Screening) Amendment Bill 2018. As the former chair, I thank and acknowledge those members of the former health committee for their consideration and note that a single recommendation was made: that the bill be passed. I take this opportunity to thank particularly the former deputy chair, Mark McArdle, who probably has his toes in the warm waters around Caloundra—hopefully with something in his hand and observing the new member for Caloundra, with great interest I am sure. I worked with Mr McArdle for five years on the health committee of the 55th and 56th parliaments, and now I look forward to working with the new deputy chair over the coming term.

This bill was introduced in the 56th Parliament and lapsed on the dissolution of that parliament. It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the former minister and former member for Mundingburra, Coralee O'Rourke, and her department for all of their hard work on this bill in supporting Queensland's transition to NDIS worker screening.

The National Disability Insurance Scheme is transforming the way Australians with a disability obtain support services and, once again, Queensland is leading the way in being the first state to sign up to the scheme. It is ambitious, major national reform jointly governed and funded through a partnership between the Commonwealth and the state and territory governments. Put simply, we want the best people looking after those with a disability in Queensland.

This bill is substantially the same as the lapsed bill. Minor amendments have been made to ensure the bill operates as intended. This includes, for example, clarifying provisions in relation to notifying NDIS participants in relation to screening outcomes, ensuring review rights are clear and clarifying transitional arrangements that apply to yellow card holders and blue card holders. The previous bill set the wheels in motion to see a nationally consistent standard of worker screening to ensure those with a disability had the certainty that those who provide care for them had the appropriate background checks and that there were safeguards in place.

In July 2019 the NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework and the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission commenced operation in Queensland. NDIS worker screening was proposed to commence but was delayed because of policy and operational issues. In July 2020, again worker screening was due to commence but was delayed due to the impacts of COVID-19. Transitional arrangements under the NDIS worker screening rules continued as yellow and blue card are acceptable checks.

The date of 1 February 2021 is the nationally agreed date to commence worker screening. With the passing of this bill Queensland will retain separate, state based disability worker screening for disability outside the NDIS. However, Queensland must implement the national policy as outlined in the Intergovernmental Agreement on Nationally Consistent Worker Screening for the NDIS, signed by the Premier in May 2018. For this to occur, legislative amendments to the Disability Act 2006 are required. Amendments are also required to the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 to ensure the blue card system operates effectively and efficiently with disability worker screening.

This bill strengthens safeguards for people with disability by expanding the scope of people who require screening, broadening the range of information considered as part of the check, expanding the disqualifying framework for serious and disqualifying offences, implementing ongoing monitoring of national criminal history, and strengthening the decision-making process and clearances and exclusions recognised in other jurisdictions. This bill also streamlines the disability screening system in Queensland by establishing an online application process, improving information sharing with Blue Card Services and strengthening and streamlining the identity-checking process and the portability of clearances across jurisdictions.

In relation to the scope of screening and exemptions, there will be no exemptions to NDIS worker screening except for secondary school students on work experience. The bill and regulations propose to implement new requirements for the application process—no card, no start. Workers must have a clearance before they can start working.

I am pleased to support this bill to support Queensland's implementation of nationally consistent worker screening under the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The broad objective of NDIS worker screening is to help safeguard people with disability from risk of harm by establishing a scheme to screen workers who provide NDIS supports and services.

In addition to introducing a new NDIS worker screening check, the bill will continue existing state disability worker screening for services that are outside of the jurisdiction of the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission. The bill, as I said earlier, will amend the Disability Services Act 2006 and enhance safeguards already in place under our existing systems to screen people working or volunteering with people with disability. The bill will expand the scope of screening that occurs. The bill will also strengthen the identity-checking process and streamline the application process by allowing individuals to make an application for a clearance which must be verified by their employer. I commend the bill to the House.



**Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (12.56 pm): I rise to address the Disability Services and Other Legislation (Worker Screening) Amendment Bill 2020 and acknowledge that today, the International Day of People with Disability, is an appropriate day for it to be debated. As the LNP shadow minister for communities and shadow minister for disability services and seniors, I acknowledge the work of my predecessor shadow minister, the member for Moggill, Dr Christian Rowan, not only for his guidance in passing over to me details of the portfolio but also for his contribution to my speech preparation. Having just heard his contribution, I acknowledge that many of the elements of my speech are similar.

I confirm that the LNP will not oppose this legislation, but there are some important matters that, as the shadow minister for this area and also shadow minister for multiculturalism and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships, I wish to bring to the attention of the House. After the then minister for communities and minister for disability services and seniors, Hon. Coralee O'Rourke, introduced this legislation into the Queensland parliament in June last year, it was referred to the Health,

Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee for consideration. I note that the member for Thuringowa just spoke about that, having been the chair of that committee, and he acknowledged people I will mention in a moment.

On 3 August this year, the committee tabled its report to this parliament and recommended that the legislation be passed. I acknowledge and thank the committee for its considered review and assessment of this legislation, including the deputy chair and former member for Caloundra, Mark McArdle, the former member for Nicklin, Marty Hunt, other members of the committee and all who made submissions, including Carers Queensland, Queensland Advocacy Inc., the Queensland Human Rights Commission, Exercise & Sports Science Australia, the Queensland Law Society and Queenslanders with Disability Network.

There is no doubt that the National Disability Insurance Scheme provides one of the most significant opportunities for economic and social policy reforms that Queensland and Australia have ever seen. One in five Queenslanders is recognised as having a disability; however, as at September 2020 only 81,138 Queenslanders were receiving support as part of the NDIS. This leaves a significant portion of vulnerable Queenslanders dependent on the state government for support, yet the current budget allocates less than 10 per cent to social protection, housing and other community services. These people and their families are desperate for the support they deserve from the NDIS—help that is truly transformational for those citizens. The impact on their quality of life cannot be underestimated. This major reform has been supported by the LNP since the scheme's inception. We continue that support.

On 9 December 2016 the Council of Australian Governments agreed to the NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework, known as the NDIS QSF. The bill's explanatory notes state—

The NDIS QSF provides a nationally consistent approach to ensure NDIS participants receive high quality supports with appropriate safeguards in place.

Debate, on motion of Mr Langbroek, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

## APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (2020-2021) BILL

### APPROPRIATION (2020-2021) BILL

#### Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed from p. 319, on motion of Mr Dick—

That the bills be now read a second time.



**Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): There were 539 days between Queensland budgets. On 11 June 2019 the former member for South Brisbane delivered a budget that she said was all about choices. Then the Labor government chose to squeeze over a billion dollars more in tax from the Queensland economy, the Labor government chose to cut spending on infrastructure and the Labor government chose to increase debt to \$90 billion. On Tuesday the Treasurer rose in this House to deliver what should have been one of the most important budgets in Queensland's history. It should have been a budget that rebuilt Queensland's economy after a year without precedent—floods, fires and a virus that has shut down the world's economies. It should have been a budget that restored confidence, created jobs and built a future for Queensland families. It was not.

It should have been the kind of budget that has been delivered by the federal Morrison government and the New South Wales Berejiklian government—once-in-a-generation budgets that were ambitiously setting the foundations for future prosperity. Rather than kicking Queensland's economy into gear, this budget has left our state to continue idling. Really, it is just a continuation of the Palaszczuk Labor government's visionless leadership. Even before COVID this approach had led Queensland to have the nation's worst unemployment, most bankruptcies, highest state debt and lowest business confidence.

Instead of reform, Labor has raided over \$12 billion from public servants' superannuation and government owned corporation balance sheets: \$3.4 billion raided from the government employee long service leave scheme in the 2015-16 budget, \$2 billion from suspending the government's contribution

to the defined benefit scheme in Labor's 2015-16 budget, \$2 billion raided from the defined benefit scheme surplus in Labor's 2016-17 budget, and over \$5 billion raided from government owned corporations in the 2015-16 and 2016-17 budgets. Instead of growth, Labor has taxed more than \$4 billion in just two terms—\$2.2 billion plus in its first term and \$1.8 billion in its second term. Instead of responsible fiscal management to steady the balance sheet before a macro-economic shock, for six years Labor has broken nearly every one of its fiscal principles as it borrowed, taxed and recklessly spent.

Before COVID, the economic management of those opposites pushed Queensland's debt to be the highest in the nation. Labor had cooked our budget long before COVID hit, and I do not just mean the six years of the Palaszczuk Labor government. Who could forget that when the member for Clayfield became treasurer in 2012 it was on the back of fiscal deficits? When the member for Clayfield became treasurer in 2012, it was on the back of fiscal deficits since 2006-07 totalling \$45.3 billion. For some of that time the Labor cabinet included the Premier and now Treasurer. In 2005, as Labor's massive debt binge really began, a Queensland school leaver did so with a state debt burden of \$3,900. By 2024, it will be nearly \$24,000. That is Labor's legacy. Labor's debt racked up on the credit card long before a global pandemic.

As our state went backwards this year, Labor spent big on advertising promoting a document that had fewer pages than the number of local governments in Queensland, a document that was a continuation of 'business as usual'. In fact, at the same time that Labor released its business-as-usual plan, the government's own Productivity Commission issued a stark warning that a return to pre-crisis economic growth will leave the economy running below its potential, limiting growth in the living standards of Queenslanders. This stark warning from the Queensland Productivity Commission has fallen on deaf ears. In fact, instead of listening to the Queensland Productivity Commission to spur growth, the Treasurer has revoked the commission's independence by dissolving it into its own department.

Labor refused to deliver a budget before the election. Instead of being honest with Queenslanders before they went to the ballot box, Labor shamefully hid the true state of the budget. It was planning on borrowing seven times more than the \$4 billion for its election commitments, it was planning on cutting the Queensland Health budget during a pandemic, it was planning on cutting the department of agriculture budget during a drought and it had cut \$1.3 billion from the state government's infrastructure program, worsening our state's recession. As the Property Council of Australia has stated, this budget is a missed opportunity to attract job-generating investment. The Property Council's statement on Queensland's budget rightly states—

Queensland's biggest competitors—New South Wales and Victoria—have adopted big thinking, and ambitious budgets that focus on infrastructure, tax incentives and major reforms with the unashamed intention of spurring on private sector investment.

The Property Council went on to say—

What we have seen in Queensland is a budget that doesn't tackle this challenge. It's more 'business as usual' than a budget for unprecedented times.

While the New South Wales budget has provided record stimulus and major new infrastructure projects, Queensland's budget has delivered a record amount of debt with no tangible change in government net worth. Labor's \$28 billion of new debt will increase the Queensland government's net worth by only \$150 million. That is a return of less than half a per cent. Only the Palaszczuk Labor government could invest \$28 billion of debt to get a return of less than half a per cent. Contrast this to the New South Wales government, which is investing to build, investing to grow and investing to build back stronger post COVID. Over the same four years the net worth value of the New South Wales government will increase by \$30 billion, delivering a 47 per cent return on borrowings—not less than half a per cent but a 47 per cent return on borrowings. That is what can be achieved by a government that has ambition and is able to manage the economy appropriately.

This budget blows out Queensland's borrowings to a record \$130 billion in four years. Unbelievably, Queensland debt is on track to rise nearly \$60 billion in just six years, and that was off a base of \$75 billion at the start of the Palaszczuk Labor government. Most of this debt is being run up simply to manage the government's everyday operations. Too little is being invested in state building infrastructure that would underpin our economic growth for the generations ahead. In this regard, Master Builders Queensland described the budget as leaving commercial building with a 'blurred vision of the future'. What infrastructure projects are on the agenda must be delivered as soon as possible to deliver a surge to the economy. Master Builders calls on the government to 'actually get on with spending this money, particularly on public buildings, and by further investing in social housing'. With

Queensland's debt-to-revenue ratio due to increase from 104 per cent to 172 per cent across six years, S&P and Moody's will be taking a very close look at the structural limitations of our budget and there are now legitimate concerns about Queensland being placed on a negative outlook in the medium term.

Never forget the legacy of the Labor Party. They lost our AAA credit rating in 2009 before the storms and before the cyclones. They ran dry the rivers of gold from the mining boom long before anyone knew what 'GFC' stood for. They built the path to increase debt and our credit rating downgrade in those years, and the Treasurer and the Premier were in the thick of it as Bligh cabinet ministers.

The Treasurer is forecasting that at 6.5 per cent Queensland is still likely to have the worst unemployment rate in the nation in 2024—a whole 1.25 per cent higher than New South Wales is forecasting and higher than Western Australia and Victoria. With unemployment stubbornly high, Pradeep Philip, head of Deloitte Access Economics, noted that 2021 needs some heavy policy lifting to change that forecast.

In the last financial year, the size of our state's economy declined for the first time in recorded history and this decline was the second largest in Australia. Queensland was the only state in Australia to record a negative nominal growth rate. The private sector, with all its entrepreneurship and risk taking, must lead us out of this economic challenge. The Chamber of Commerce & Industry Queensland has rightly labelled the Treasurer's first budget as a rear-view-facing budget that fails to deliver immediate recovery measures. The CCIQ stated—

The Palaszczuk Government continues to rely on previously announced measures and hasn't produced any longer term competitive inducing reform which our economy and business needs.

As the CCIQ rightly states—

As it's crucial to remember business confidence was at all-time lows before COVID, we fear that we are falling back into old habits by remaining negligent to what is truly needed by the small-business sector to recover and thrive.

Instead of rising to the occasion to chart a course for a new and more prosperous chapter for Queensland, this budget maintains Queensland's status quo at the bottom of all national economic indicators. There are also obvious downside risks to revenue forecasts with GST, royalties and state taxes, including payroll tax and duties, down \$12.3 billion over four years. The assumptions relied upon in the budget come with downside risks too. Who can forget that previous Labor governments relied on figures, including 14 per cent year-on-year income growth from transfer duty, when there was simply no chance of ever recording such a result, or their ever outlandish wage growth assumptions under the Bligh Labor government which often turned out to be two or three times under the actual wages growth number?

This week the Palaszczuk Labor government was the last government in the nation to provide a significant budgetary response to COVID and now, as the last state government in the nation to deliver a budget, the Palaszczuk Labor government has failed to deliver an economic plan that will rebuild our state. What we heard from the Leader of the Opposition this morning was a vision for the future, a vision to begin laying the groundwork now for the construction of necessary infrastructure and the process of incentivising business growth. Over the past two terms of government before COVID an average of just 3.6 per cent of annual government revenue was spent on infrastructure, compared to 8.1 per cent in New South Wales and 7.6 per cent in Victoria. This underinvestment in the necessary infrastructure required for Queensland to grow is holding us back. As stated by the RACQ—


Ultimately, failure to address this gridlock now will lead to much higher costs in the future. If we don't act, we'll struggle to stymie the flow on effects of lost productivity.

If the Queensland government continues to underinvest in infrastructure we will fail to meet the new demands created by a growing population and this will come at a cost not only to the state budget but also to our way of life. That is why as a priority Queensland must work with the federal government to bring forward infrastructure projects and build them as soon as possible.

Queensland cannot afford four more years of having the worst unemployment rate, the worst business confidence and the most bankruptcies in the nation. Queenslanders deserve a government with ambition—a government with ambition to have the lowest unemployment rate in the nation, not one that is satisfied being the highest; a government with ambition to invest in nation-building infrastructure projects, not one that is too afraid to deliver big capital works across the state today; a government with the ambition to grow the value of our state, not one that is happy to allow state net worth to flatline.

This budget should have been the budget that laid the foundations for a decade of prosperity, but this budget has no new major infrastructure projects, no new major job programs, no new reforms and no new relief for Queensland households. It is the 'business as usual' approach that the Productivity

Commission warned will result in the economy running below its potential, limiting growth in the living standards of Queenslanders. That is a fail mark for the Treasurer's first budget and for the Palaszczuk Labor government, and all Queenslanders will be worse off because of it.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (2.15 pm): It is interesting that during the election those opposite had nothing and once again the Leader of the Opposition and the shadow Treasurer have nothing—absolutely nothing—to add in terms of any figures that they are going to borrow, how they are going to meet revenue decline or how they are going to arrest the unemployment rate. In the last two speeches we have heard nothing more than a pile of statements cobbled together that to me look like a shopping list where one would write down what one would like to see—a great environment, more people employed, no unemployment, world peace—without any strategy or pathway to get there.

It is extraordinary that the members of the opposition, who had nothing during the campaign—that is why the people of Queensland overwhelmingly rejected them and why they are in opposition for four more years—stand in this House today and give nothing but misleading statements, half-truths and half-baked ideas without any substance. In fact, when I closed my eyes I almost felt like I was listening to the Greens during the election campaign with all their grandiose plans—but the LNP did preference them and got them elected in this House. When one thinks about all care and no responsibility, all care and no plan to deliver, one thinks of the Greens and now one thinks of the LNP as well. Those opposite have just proven that.

I have not heard anyone talk Queensland down so much since Gus Gould commentated on the State of Origin or since the member for Nanango talked us down during the election—and we know where that got her. At the end of the day, it was nothing more than bagging Queensland. When everyone in the world is wanting to be just like us, those opposite talk Queensland down. What is their remedy? They are going to ring up Mr Morrison! Even Campbell Newman called him 'Scotty from Marketing' in the paper the other day because he has not delivered anything for Queensland in the money he has put in the budget.

What is the remedy of those opposite? They say, 'Hey, Peter Dutton, it's the Leader of the Opposition here, mate. I need some money. Can you help us here in Queensland?' The answer is, 'Yeah, sure, mate.' In Queensland the relationship with the Brisbane City Council is good. Adrian Schinnerer is doing a great job. Those opposite are also going to rely on Adrian Schinnerer: 'Adrian, mate, we need your help. We need to get Queensland moving.' Those opposite have nothing. They have to talk to the Prime Minister and the Lord Mayor because they have nothing. The speeches today have clearly demonstrated that. Yesterday Mark Ludlow from the Australian *Financial Review* tweeted—

The LNP line on Qld budget—Labor said they would only borrow \$4b more—is laughable.

What we have heard today is laughable. He tweeted—

The ALP didn't say that.

We did not say that; it was printed in the *Financial Review*, which is a respected paper in this country. He tweeted—

The \$4b was to fund election commitments.

That is exactly what we are doing and what this budget is delivering. He also tweeted—

If that's the best David Crisafulli has got it's going to be a long four years.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order! Minister, you will refer to members by their correct title.

**Ms GRACE:** I was quoting from the *Financial Review*.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. I will take some advice. Minister, even in a quote you should refer to members by their correct title.

**Ms GRACE:** I am sorry. My mistake. I did not realise.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I appreciate the apology.

**Ms GRACE:** If that is the best that the Leader of the Opposition and member for Broadwater can do, I repeat, it will be a long four years. There was no recognition that revenue is dropping, which the budget papers have outlined. We are looking at \$12.4 billion of revenue drop and GST. We have reductions in forecast revenue because of what we have had to deal with in Queensland and that we have dealt with better than anywhere else, which is driving the Australian economy, I might add. Of course, I refer to the manner in which we have handled COVID-19 in this state.



Over Christmas, people from New South Wales and Victoria can come to Queensland and they are welcome because it is safe to do so. They are coming, but if it is as hard as it was for me to get accommodation—anywhere in this state—it is going to be pretty hard for them unless they already have somewhere to stay. Even by contacting hotels and booking sites that serve the tourism industry, you cannot find a place to stay. I ended up getting one of the last one-bedroom units available at Rainbow Beach. Towards the end of January I will be spending a few nights in that beautiful part of Queensland. It was a struggle to find that accommodation. In order to book that unit a number of phone calls were made to confirm whether or not someone was coming.

Those opposite say that we are not doing anything for small business, but look at all of the investment that we are making in this state in infrastructure, schools, small business and the arts industry. Ministers have been making speech after speech outlining what was done during COVID-19, yet all those opposite can say is, 'Isn't New South Wales great!' If it is so great, why don't you go and live there? That is all I can say to them all. Why are you a member of this parliament? If it is so great, then go to New South Wales and take your chances down there! That is what I say.

I am reminded of the folktale *The Emperor's New Clothes*. The emperor is walking around saying, 'Look at me, I have a vision for Queensland! We're going to do all of this stuff.' This feels a little like the emperor has no clothes. I have said it before and I will say it again: they had nothing during the election and they have nothing now. It is no wonder that the people of Queensland overwhelmingly rejected the LNP opposition and returned the Palaszczuk Labor government with an even greater majority.

What we say is what we do. The people know that what we do is balanced and that we do what we say. What the Premier and the Treasurer said during the campaign is exactly what we are delivering. To say that we somehow misled, did not tell the truth or broke our promise is laughable. It is also laughable that they have no alternative plan whatsoever other than 'if we get in we are gonna do this and we are gonna do that', but the 'gonna' attitude does not get you anywhere. It will be four long years for their backbench members. The only one who knew about the budget was the member for Burnett and they have put him back there. I would be worried if I were a member opposite.

As Minister for Education, I am very pleased to have a \$14.2 billion record education budget. There will be \$1.9 billion for infrastructure, including five new schools to open next year and three new schools to open in 2022. We are looking to build a new school in Brisbane's inner west in 2023. We will spend an additional \$1 billion over the next four years to deliver new classrooms, halls, performing arts complexes, refurbishments, renewal projects, shovel-ready projects for playground upgrades, improved security fencing and better amenities. Of course, we are linking with the VET sector in schools to improve facilities. I look forward to working with the Assistant Minister for Education, the member for Keppel, on that project. I will work with her as she steers that course through the next four years.

We are investing \$180 million in the non-government sector. The Catholic and independent schools are very much in favour of the additional money that they will be getting to build the infrastructure that they will need into the future. They are very pleased with what we have said.

We know that schools are not just bricks and mortar. Although that helps of course, they are really about the teachers, teacher aides and other staff. Through our health and wellbeing programs, professionals will work in schools to help young people with health and wellbeing issues. Psychologists, social workers and counsellors will be employed directly in schools. They will be there to assist and relieve teachers, who will be able to concentrate on the front line, that is, teaching in the classroom. That is a fantastic program.

Our funding will create homework hubs and provide for extra teacher aides and teachers. Those opposite complain that New South Wales is better than Queensland, but I have not seen anything at all like that in its budget. We are investing in the teacher workforce. We want to make sure that we have enough STEM teachers. I am very excited about the internship program. Three hundred interns will come on board. They will be paid under the industrial agreement, which provides for internships. They will be paid while they study. I look forward to the internship program providing 300 aspiring teachers with the opportunity to shape their careers for the future.

**Mr Last:** Send a few out my way.

**Ms GRACE:** I take the interjection from the member for Burdekin, who is a very good member. I am happy to send some his way, as well as throughout Queensland. I am hoping that no-one will miss out.

Industrial relations is another area in which we will be investing. We will provide for additional inspectors to make sure that our labour hire licensing and wage theft laws are being adhered to. I am pleased to commit \$5 million in funding for medical research into the terrible affliction that is dust lung

diseases, particularly silicosis. As Minister for Education I am very proud that we are leading Australia in that space. Indeed, that is recognised throughout the world. When international doctors come to Queensland, they cannot believe what we have done in that area. Our model is used worldwide.

I am very proud to have the racing portfolio back. Our continued success in the country racing package—

**Mr Bleijie:** Two hundred amendments to the racing bill.

**Ms GRACE:** I take the interjection from the member for Kawana. He talks about the amendments to a bill that I did not introduce into this House and he knows that to be the case. I have never seen an industry happier to have me back, although of course the member for Sandgate did a fantastic job. That might be because perhaps my tips are a bit better than those of the member for Sandgate, but I am not sure. We have committed to the country racing package and the Gold Coast Turf Club. We will commit to infrastructure projects. Racing is very happy to see this happening. The member for Lockyer has told me that his local club is putting together a package for some infrastructure spend in Lockyer. I look forward to visiting that racetrack with him at a later stage.

In the electorate of McConnel schools are growing exponentially. We are spending money to make sure that we have the classrooms we need to accommodate growth in student numbers. There will be upgraded funding for Brisbane Central and New Farm state schools. Stage 2 of Fortitude Valley State Secondary College will be opened by 2023 with another \$40 million injection for the indoor sports complex and the senior school as part of the staged approach to delivering that education infrastructure.


Turning to our healthcare workers, we will employ more nurses and doctors in the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, which is one of the top tertiary hospitals in Queensland. The research capacity of the Herston precinct is unmatched. I am looking forward to the new hospital opening there soon.

I am also looking forward to the expansion of the Spring Hill Loop bus service. At the moment the service operates only on Monday to Friday, but it will be expanded so that Spring Hill residents can access that bus service on weekends. We will trial that over the next two years. It has been fully funded and we will deliver it.

We are also putting more police on the beat. Our safe night precincts are going to be looked after when it comes to alcohol fuelled violence. The piece de resistance, which I am very happy to be finally delivering, is the Ballymore redevelopment, a \$15 million injection. We have the women's team coming up. They will be housed at Ballymore. The upgraded, state-of-the-art facilities will be open to the public. The public will have access to the grounds and will be able to use the facilities. On this amazing project we are partnering with the federal government. We are each putting \$15 million into that project to deliver \$30 million-plus. The club will also be putting in money for this great Ballymore redevelopment. I know that a lot of residents are very happy with the design and with what we will deliver.

This is a budget that supports business. This is a budget about jobs, jobs, jobs. This is a budget that is delivering in a world health pandemic. This is a budget that will get the economy going. I predict that over the next four years Queensland will be the economic powerhouse of Australia, and that is because of the Palaszczuk Labor government.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (2.30 pm): It is a pleasure for me to follow the honourable member for McConnel in any debate. At this juncture in this day, it is time for that minister and the Labor government to hear some home truths in terms of 'Labornomics' in the state of Queensland and also to look at the history of broken promises by successive Labor governments. The deliberate debt broken promise in this budget is the biggest breach of faith since 2009, when the Bligh Labor government promised not to sell assets before the poll but then hocked them in a fire sale immediately after. The Bligh Labor government permanently increased the cost of fuel in Queensland by 9.1 cents per litre. They sent Queensland broke in a boom. They lost the AAA credit rating. We know that the heart of the Bligh government beats in the Palaszczuk Labor government.

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This is the 2020 budget, not the 2010 budget. I bring the member to—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order, members! I will hear the point of order in silence.

**Mr BAILEY:** He is drawing a long bow to go back more than 10 years.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will take some advice. There is no point of order. It is a very wideranging debate—

**Mr Millar** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Gregory, you are warned. I am trying to rule on a point of order and you are interjecting across the chamber. It is a wideranging debate. Members are very free to compare budgets from one budget cycle to another.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** We all know that the heart of the Bligh government continues to beat inside the Palaszczuk Labor government, because so many Bligh figures are in the cabinet of the Palaszczuk government. The Premier, the Treasurer, Minister Hinchliffe, Minister Grace and Minister Ryan were all in the Bligh cabinet. Of course, many served the Bligh government behind the scenes as trusted advisers and departmental leaders. The Deputy Premier was then treasurer Andrew Fraser's key adviser, Minister Linard served in the then premier's office and Minister Farmer was a departmental director. We see so many of the same faces with the same old economic mismanagement and deception when the chips are down.

If you want to see an example of hubris and arrogance, you only need look at the Treasurer of Queensland. That is epitomised in him—in his character and that weird, fake smile he has on TV every day that he gets up. He is obviously auditioning for the leadership of the Labor Party and trying to come across as not the man we all know he is, so he has this weird, fake smile whenever he appears on TV.

Let us not forget that the Treasurer who delivered this budget was subject to an Ethics Committee investigation. It should be concerning to members of this House that the Treasurer, who was once responsible for SPER, is again responsible for SPER, because there was an Ethics Committee investigation into the Treasurer. That investigation concluded—

On the information before the committee, the committee finds that the minister's answer to question on notice 2254 without additional explanation was misleading.

That is because—

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am aware that this is a wideranging debate, but Ethics Committee deliberations hardly seem relevant to the current state budget that is before the House, and I ask the member to come back and be relevant to the topic.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** There is no point of order.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I recall this because I was the one who referred the Treasurer, the then attorney-general, to the Ethics Committee. He put in a counterclaim and the Ethics Committee concluded that there was only one who was possibly misleading and that was the then attorney-general, Minister Dick, and not me. I remember it well.

This is the man who in his time as Treasurer has been overwhelmed by fumbles and bumbles. Who could forget the train wreck interview on *Today* with Karl Stefanovic in which he did not know the debt numbers? He essentially said to Karl Stefanovic, 'Well, I don't know. Debt is a tool. I don't know what the answer is.' Well, we know that he did.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): The members for Miller and Mudgeeraba will stop arguing across the chamber.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** At the time I said that it was just incompetence that he did not know the debt level, but it turns out that he would have known the debt level. He had the intention of bringing down this budget with \$28 billion more in debt than he was telling the people of Queensland—and he knew it at the time, and that is why he did not tell Karl Stefanovic the truth when he was on the television.

Then the Treasurer went on ABC Radio and denied that the government was going to hand down a budget under Jackie Trad in April of this year. He said that that was never the case. When corrected by the ABC, he then had to apologise again. He has form with respect to apologising and misleading. He said—

I made a mistake on radio. I made a mistake, and I am big enough to acknowledge when I make a mistake.

Then he said—

I have spent my whole life acknowledging when I make errors and apologising to people.

He has spent a lot of time doing that, I have to say—a lot of time apologising, not knowing the debt level. It is concerning that he has delivered his first budget and debt is out of control. We have a debt bomb in Queensland.

From time to time he has been caught short on the facts. He is steering Queensland through the biggest economic crisis in almost a century, without a budget or an economic plan. He wandered around Queensland during the election with a pretend budget pinned to his chest for a few weeks, grinning like a Cheshire cat until someone in Peel Street obviously intervened. You would describe the Treasurer as full of self-confidence, lacking in detail and absolutely underwhelming in delivery.

Those opposites gave a mistruth to the people of Queensland at the election. The Labor government went to the people of Queensland at the last election and said, 'We are going to borrow \$4 billion.' They made out that the \$4 billion was on top of the \$102 billion debt. That would get them to \$106 billion. They never mentioned \$28 billion in additional debt. This debt is not going on job-creating infrastructure.

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** The minister wants to compare New South Wales. The Treasurer cherry-picks what to compare with New South Wales. The other afternoon when he was interviewed on 4BC, on Scott Emerson's program, he was cherry-picking again in relation to New South Wales. When he was questioned on the expenditure of the New South Wales government in terms of infrastructure, he did not know the figure. He seems to forget. He seems to cherry-pick figures because he does not want Queenslanders to know the truth.

The truth is that New South Wales are spending \$107 billion on job-creating infrastructure. They are not going into more debt to keep the lights on. They are not going into more debt to put pencils and pens on the desks of public servants. They are going into more debt in New South Wales to create jobs. At the end of it their unemployment rate will be lower than Queensland's. The New South Wales government also say that at the end of their forward estimates they are actually looking at a plan to reduce their debt and reduce their borrowings.

The other day the Queensland Treasurer said that we just have to wait to see what happens with the economy. It is scary that the Treasurer of the state is just waiting to see what happens with the economy. There is no plan, no forward planning, just a wait-and-see approach. We know what is going to happen because it is in their budget figures. Unemployment will still be one of the highest in the country. Debt will be one of the highest in the country. There will be no plan to pay down the debt. There will be no plan to create jobs.

On the Scott Emerson show the other day the Treasurer was talking about—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I can only quote the Treasurer's own words because he was on the program. He talked about migration. He said, 'All these people are going to be migrating to Queensland.' He then blamed those people for the high unemployment rate in Queensland. Would we not want to be a state where we encourage people to move here and say that there is a job here when they get here and not blame the migrating New South Welshmen or Victorians for the high unemployment rate?

The only government that can be blamed for the high unemployment rate is that of the Labor Party. The Labor Party is responsible for the economic mismanagement. They are responsible for the biggest con job in not advising the Queensland public about the debt level going into the election, and they know it. Since April this year the LNP was questioning why the Labor government was not handing down a budget. We now know why they did not want to hand down a budget before the election.

They did not want people to know the truth and they are ashamed of it. They are ashamed of the infrastructure cuts in the portfolio of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. They are ashamed of the cuts in the Health portfolio. They are ashamed and that is why they hid the budget. They cannot tell me that they can hand down a budget within 30 days of an election but they could not hand down one before the election. That is absolute rubbish. That is what happens when we have a Treasurer who is arrogant, out of touch and incompetent. He tries to fool people with his fake smile that we see on the TV every night. Queenslanders absolutely see through it.

We saw a classic black-and-white photo of JFK and his brother RFK in the Oval Office and one of the Treasurer sitting in the Bernays Room upstairs. He retweeted a classic black and white photo pretending he is like JFK in the Oval Office. As rightly pointed out during the week, people would see JFK and RFK—he was the Attorney-General—looking out the window in the Oval Office and then Treasurer Dick looking out the window and say, 'Cameron who? Who is this?' Why on earth would he use a photograph of such significance when he is the Treasurer of Queensland? It is unbelievable. The arrogance of this man to be able to do that!

My electorate of Kawana completely misses out again other than in terms of the stadium which I campaigned for and promised. Premier Palaszczuk had her national cabinet meeting cancelled so the campaign office said, 'Goodness, we have a morning free, what do we do?' They rushed up to the Sunshine Coast and they announced \$20 million for the stadium which the LNP had announced a month earlier. I am very glad to see the member for Kawana delivering on his commitments in delivering the stadium upgrade.

We have the delivery of additional classrooms that I have been campaigning for for Buddina State School. It is great to see that I have succeeded in achieving those objectives. I have been working with the P&C of Meridan State College to get their security fence. It is great to see that in the budget. The Sunshine Coast Public University Hospital is meant to open in 2021 with over 700 beds and it is still sitting at 450-bed capacity. There was nothing in the budget for increasing bed capacity at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital from 400 to over 700 beds. Where is that?

The Minister for Transport talked about the fact that he is giving money to the Sunshine Coast Council for light rail. There is huge concern on the Sunshine Coast with the mass transit plan that Mayor Jamieson and the councillors have. To get a tram from Mooloolaba to Caloundra will take 25 to 30 minutes when people can do it in a car in 15 to 20 minutes at the moment. There are huge concerns about the money that will be spent on light rail going from the heart of—

**Mr BAILEY:** I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. I claim to be misrepresented by the honourable member. He has quoted me as saying a certain set of words about there being light rail on the Sunshine Coast. There is a mass transit study to look at modes of public transport on the Sunshine Coast. He has misrepresented my comments and I ask him to withdraw them.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Minister, you need to take personal offence for them to be withdrawn.

**Mr BAILEY:** I take personal offence at those comments and I ask that they be withdrawn.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I withdraw. Here it is. Contained in the budget is \$7 million for the business case for mass transit and the mass transit is light rail. That is what it is.

**Mr Bailey:** That is not true.


**Mr BLEIJIE:** Really? Look at Mayor Jamieson's press conferences where he is talking about mass transit and light rail. I know why the minister is interjecting. He knows there is huge concern on the Sunshine Coast about the mass transit plan and the destruction of people's livelihoods and small businesses along Nicklin Way. I will do what I can to ensure the community knows about it, is aware of it and is properly consulted. Mayor Jamieson voted against community consultation on the mass transit plan. We will make sure the community are fully involved in that process.

The Minister for Transport was supposed to hand down the business case for the Mooloolah River interchange. Where is the business case for the Mooloolah River interchange? My understanding is that the money is now for next year. The business case for the Mooloolah River interchange was meant to be finished this year. There is no fix for that.

Where is the Caloundra Road-Nicklin Way roundabout upgrades? The longest car park on the Sunshine Coast is Caloundra Road. There is no fix. The minister put some traffic lights in. In his answer to my question on notice the minister even admitted that with the traffic lights he put in some of the time frames have blown out. Putting the lights there was meant to bust congestion. It has done the opposite.

This budget is a complete breach of faith for the people of Queensland. They misled Queenslanders. We now have a huge \$130 million debt bomb in the state. We have the highest unemployment rate. We have the most incompetent Treasurer. The only way to turn it around is to have an LNP government in four years time.

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism Industry Development and Innovation and Minister for Sport) (2.47 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker Kelly, I commence my contribution by congratulating you on your appointment to that office.

During these uncertain times it is important that we have sound direction. The global COVID-19 pandemic has dominated 2020, bringing death and dislocation to too many parts of the world and too many people of the world. This year, our government, led by the Premier, has put Queensland and Queenslanders first in providing support and protection to our great state. That is why the Palaszczuk Labor government has provided more than \$8 billion in support to Queensland companies and

Queenslanders to help them get through these devastating times. On Tuesday we saw the Treasurer take the next step in building on this steady progress for 5.2 million Queenslanders with the delivery of his first budget. I congratulate him on that.

This budget is a budget for difficult times, as it must be. It honours the election commitments made by the Premier and her whole team. The Queensland people backed our direction and backed the Premier's leadership at the 31 October election. They backed the nature and the core element of this budget at the election.

I want to reflect briefly on some of the remarks made by the previous speaker. There is a big mythological line that the LNP are desperately trying to get up, saying that Labor said before the election that they would only borrow \$4 billion more. I will quote Mark Ludlow, the senior economic journalist for the *Australian Financial Review*, who tweeted just yesterday—

The LNP line on Qld budget—Labor said they would only borrow \$4b more—is laughable. The ALP didn't say that. The \$4b was to fund election commitments. If that's the best David Crisafulli has got, it's going to be a long four years.

We heard the member for Kawana say a lot about shame. He was trying to cast shame around the place. That is primarily the LNP's problem—they have a lack of shame. They do not get that people have passed judgement on them and they need to move on. Queenslanders saw through them. He was making all sorts of suggestions that people saw through this budget and the Treasurer. People see confidence in the leadership of this government. They see capability. They see what they want. During the election they saw through the LNP.

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order, member for Mudgeeraba! You are on the speaking list next.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I want to move on to more positive elements about this important budget. In reflecting on the budget, it is also an opportunity for me to reflect on it being a great honour to be appointed by the Premier as the Minister for Tourism Industry Development and Innovation and Minister for Sport and to be asked to work alongside all of my colleagues on this side of the House and with industry on Queensland's COVID-19 economic recovery plan.

As I said, this year has been a very challenging one—one of the most challenging in more than a century for so many in Queensland, Australia and across the world. This budget is designed to get the state moving again and to create and restore the jobs and industries struck by COVID-19. The tourism industry has been one of the hardest hit by the necessary restrictions to curb the spread of COVID-19—the restrictions that have been put in place internationally by national governments and by our government here in Queensland. From meetings I have had with tourism industry leaders and stakeholders, these challenges continue, but it is encouraging to see signs of recovery.

With summer approaching and the border reopening on Tuesday, 1 December on COVID health advice, Queensland tourism is rebuilding—we are good to go. That is why a further \$74 million will be invested in the 2020-21 budget to help fast-track the restoration of jobs and economic recovery for our tourism industry right around the state. Right now, we are seeing those encouraging signs of recovery across some of our tourism regions. We have seen the securing of new flights to help drive visitation and bookings for summer. Queensland's strong health response and the budget's \$74 million investment will help boost jobs and boost tourism's economic recovery.

Our strong health response to COVID-19 has kept Queenslanders safe and puts Queensland in pole position to generate new tourism initiatives to grow visitor numbers, particularly in our regions. More visitors mean many more jobs, growth and opportunities in the industry because Queensland is good to go. I note that the Queensland Tourism Industry Council Chief Executive, Daniel Gschwind, welcomed the \$74 million in election commitments delivered in the budget. He said—

The funded initiatives are aligned with the QTIC election priorities ... The focus is on stimulating investment, attracting airlines, events and visitors. It also delivers substantial additional support for Regional Tourism Organisations (RTOs) and an element of capability building, which is close to our work. In addition, there is support for additional Great Barrier Reef initiatives with direct relevance to tourism.

He went on to say—

It must be acknowledged that the Queensland Government did provide considerable crisis support for tourism operators over this year which made an enormous difference to the viability of thousands of businesses in our industry.

The budget will also make a record investment in sport and recreation infrastructure to keep Queenslanders active and support jobs for local tradies. We are committing \$20 million, contingent on matching funding from the federal government, to stage 1 of the Sunshine Coast Stadium. I heard the

member for Kawana talking loudly earlier today about his contribution to that outcome. He needs to back it up by calling on the federal minister and the federal government to keep their end of the bargain as well. I do see that as great news for construction jobs on the Sunshine Coast and additional capacity for the NRL, A-League and Rugby Union events—and, indeed, concerts and other things that the stadium will be designed to be used for.

The budget also invests \$15 million into a partnership to transform the historic Ballymore into a high-performance centre and a new home of women's rugby and the Wallaroos. I acknowledge the remarks that the member for McConnell made in relation to that earlier. Ballymore's elite upgrade is set to fast-track 150 new jobs as well.

The Palaszczuk government is also putting \$2 million into new broadcast quality flood lighting at Redcliffe's Dolphin Stadium to turbocharge their NRL bid and attract new events. It is timely and appropriate that I note that Dolphin Stadium will be the home of the A-League's Brisbane Roar for the 2021 season.

Also, there is \$4 million for the Townsville Sailing Club to refurbish their building and to buy land to create an aquatic sports precinct on The Strand, bringing together some 20 different clubs. From stadiums to community clubs, this budget has allocated more than \$111 million for sport and recreation over four years.

The \$50 million Local Community Sporting Infrastructure Fund will see lots of great smaller projects make a big difference in the 2020-21 financial year, supporting Queensland's economic recovery by keeping tradies and their suppliers in work, as well as delivering the benefits that good community participation in sport brings.

The budget also commits \$36 million over four years to Surf Life Saving Queensland in their ongoing quest to save lives on our beaches. This is a significant increase on past funding and it is timely as we fast-track the economic recovery of our tourism industry and make sure that not only Queensland is good to go but also the famous Queensland beaches are good to go.

The Palaszczuk government will continue to invest in the state's innovation economy through the Advance Queensland initiative and the Ignite Ideas program. The \$10 million we have provided to the University of Queensland to explore the viability of a COVID-19 vaccine highlights the strength of Queensland's ingenuity. It is genuinely one of the most prospective vaccine candidates. This innovation might see that vaccine save lives and world economies from COVID-19 and it would be proudly stamped 'Made in Queensland' as a consequence.

While speaking about the Palaszczuk government's investment in innovation, I want to address the Leader of the Opposition's comments in his budget reply speech this morning that there has been no support for the private sector under this government and that, if someone comes forward with a good idea, government just comes up with barriers. That was one of the key points he was trying to make.

I want to point the Leader of the Opposition to the Palaszczuk government's \$628 million of investment since 2015 to more than 7,200 recipients through our highly successful Advance Queensland program, supporting close to 25,000 jobs. For example, the \$42.5 million Ignite Ideas Fund has supported 334 Queensland businesses to scale up their operations, contributing to a stronger Queensland economy and creating jobs of the future.

Recipients include Go1, which is a homegrown start-up success story and an example of the robust innovation ecosystem thriving in Queensland. Launched in 2015, Go1 is a marketplace with more than 500,000 courses and other learning items created by local and international experts. Since joining the Advance Queensland ranks as recipients of the Ignite Ideas Fund and the Business Development Fund, the success of that Logan based company has continued to soar. By 2018, Go1 had already raised \$10 million in series A funding and merely 10 months later went on to raise another \$30 million in series B funding. This series B funding, led by Microsoft's venture capital arm, M12, and Seek, saw Go1 become the first ever company to secure investment by M12 in the Asia-Pacific region. What a great success! What a great example of a local company taking on the world.


Today Go1 is recognised as an established leader in the online learning and education sector. They are working alongside some of the largest companies in the world and cover a wide range of industries and international markets, but they are just one example. There are so many other Ignite Ideas recipients, including: two-time recipient BIVACOR, the Queensland company that has gone global with an artificial heart device designed to take over the complete function of a patient's failing heart; founded by two brothers in 2013, Queensland startup Gilmour Space Technologies is now one of Australia's leading space companies, pioneering new and innovative hybrid propulsion technologies

that offer lower cost access to space; and the female founded Lilley Place, a Queensland business committed to providing the best client care and mental health services no matter where using remote therapy services via video and phone consultation.

Those are just a couple of examples of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to supporting Queensland businesses as they scale up to compete in global markets and create jobs. There is a mythology that what we do as a government is create barriers, but we provide assistance. We provide incentives and we provide the backbone to allow people to be successes here in this great state.

While I am on my feet I want briefly to mention a couple of items in the budget that relate to my own electorate, Sandgate. There are two that I particularly campaigned for and engaged with the community about that I am very proud to see included in the budget, alongside so many other good things that are in the budget for the Sandgate electorate and the north side more broadly. One is \$5 million over four years for the Sandgate District State High School for a new performing complex. It is important that this is delivered, as it will be one of the first big new investments in that school for many years. This is a great opportunity for the very talented students at that school in particular so they have the facilities they need to allow them to shine as much as they can.

I also know that the people of Bald Hills will be particularly grateful for the \$5 million that has been allocated to replace and improve noise barriers on the Gympie Arterial Road. That is something that my colleague, the member for Aspley, and I will make sure that the people of Bald Hills get the best outcomes from. On that point, I do want to congratulate the member for Aspley on his return to this House and his great success. He certainly has been in touch with the community and been responding to them. He engaged and campaigned in the community. He did not just sit back and expect it to happen to him, like some others who may have been candidates in Aspley.

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (3.02 pm): The work of our health heroes in keeping the health system at a highly responsive and highly functioning level in 2020 has been nothing short of heroic. They are a large group of Queensland workers who continually put their dedication to their profession ahead of their own personal safety. As a registered nurse and someone who has worked in hospitals and the health industry for many years, I take my hat off to them. It is also one of the reasons why I was so disappointed by this year's budget.

Despite the work of our health heroes in being ready to get Queensland through this pandemic, several HHS budgets are going backwards. It is effectively a cut to operational funding. When these health services need more support, particularly in the middle of the global health pandemic we are still in, these services deserve more funding, not less. They also deserve a health minister who is across her brief and understands that we are dealing with people's lives here. There is a reason why the health portfolio is one of the most important, and that is not because of the size of the budget. It is because the outcomes of service provision can mean the difference between life and death. It is because cutting operational budgets for health services in the middle of a global health pandemic is effectively asking our nurses, doctors, paramedics and midwives to do their jobs with both arms tied behind their back. There is no excuse for it other than poor economic management.

Building a stronger economy means governments can invest in the frontline health services a growing state needs, but Labor's record on managing the state's economy is appalling. Before COVID our economic indicators were all heading in one direction, and that was not good. Under Labor, Queenslanders suffered through higher taxes, infrastructure cuts, high unemployment rates, a massive drop in business confidence and worsening economic conditions. Managing the state budget is about the fiscal levers available to government to kickstart the economy, and before COVID Queensland's economy under Labor was on life support. Queensland was at the bottom of the economic ladder, and Labor was only focussed on playing politics and blaming everyone else.

This budget was not only a budget of broken promises and debt deceit; it was also a missed opportunity for Labor to kickstart the economy, because the federal government's JobKeeper lifeline will not insulate Queensland Labor's economic incompetence for much longer. True to form, Labor will do what they always do: play politics. While we welcome the increased capital expenditure in health—after a \$203 million cut last year—we do not welcome the cuts to the HHS budgets, the biggest of which is to the children's health HHS—our sickest kids. Following the Lady Cilento renaming debacle two years ago, you would think Labor would have learned their lesson.

The budget revealed that, despite still being in a pandemic, the budgets in the following hospital and health services are being cut: Cairns and Hinterland HHS, \$5.401 million; Central Queensland HHS, \$4.951 million; Central West HHS, \$2.358 million; Children's Health Queensland HHS, \$17.919 million; Mackay HHS, \$9.335 million; Metro South HHS, \$8.247 million; North West HHS,



\$9.9 million; Torres and Cape HHS, \$12.291 million; and West Moreton HHS, \$12.914 million. Despite being in a pandemic—the need for supporting medical research is probably the highest in a century—funding for medical research has been cut by \$10.545 million. At a time when medical research is more crucial and at least in more focus, there should be more focus from government, not less.

Regional maternity services are not even mentioned in the budget, which shows that Labor does not care about the regions. So much for the task force and summit before the election when the bush baby crisis was exposed. The minister needs to come clean and explain her plans to restore maternity services because, after all, Queenslanders deserve a world-class public health system no matter where they live, and that is not happening under Labor. You should not have to settle for second best because you live in a regional community. Unlike Labor, the LNP will not stand for it.

One thing we could not compare is health staffing across each HHS because, unlike other years, they are not being reported. Queenslanders will make of that what they will. Speaking of transparency, it is time for Labor to come clean and start publishing the Queensland Health hospital performance data. We know that Queensland Health is still collecting the data—or were, at least—and the excuses have run pretty thin. Queenslanders deserve to know how our hospitals are performing. After all, they are paid for by their taxpayer dollars.

With respect to mental health, domestic and family and sexual violence and child safety, a lot more needs to be done. While we will welcome positive initiatives, as an opposition our job is to hold the government to account. I would say to the government that Queenslanders want to see solutions and action to fix the problems, because again the excuses have run dry. The policy failures of these portfolios are also a matter of life and death. While you cannot protect every life, these are policy areas that deserve a lot more proactive focus over the next four years.

We will continue to call out the failures, but we will also offer positive alternative ideas that can help improve the system and protect vulnerable Queenslanders and their families. When it comes to the government's election commitments, we will hold the government to account for each and every promise on behalf of every community they impact.

It has been a tough year for residents in Mudgeeraba. We have had locals who have needed to travel interstate to get their children life-improving surgery, only to hit roadblocks at every turn thanks to the heartless Palaszczuk Labor government. We have had residents who have had additional stress on their plate because they have had to deal with the destructive and intimidating actions of hoons throughout the night. We have had business owners who were not about to take jobs just 30 minutes down the road because the Palaszczuk Labor government made it so difficult to get across the border. The people of Mudgeeraba have shown remarkable resilience during this time, and I feel so honoured to represent this mighty community. That is why I am furious.

I am furious on behalf of my community, who are being treated like fools by the Palaszczuk Labor government. This year's budget is proof. Labor has shown us their glossy budget papers, but there is nothing shiny and new in there for Mudgeeraba locals. It is full of recycled announcements, and there is nothing that has my community excited and inspired for 2021 and beyond. We have been blindsided by a \$130 billion debt bomb by Labor. Whilst we are expected to pay it back, we are getting nothing in return. In fact, there is no new funding west of the M1 in my electorate.

Let me take the House through the projects Mudgeeraba locals fought for but missed out on in Labor's budget. I will begin with our community organisations that are the beating heart of the Mudgeeraba community. We missed out on vital funding to keep My Community Legal afloat. My Community Legal provides free legal advice to those who cannot afford a lawyer. Rob and the team have worked tirelessly to support survivors of domestic violence and vulnerable people, and I extend a massive thanks to them on behalf of our community for the work they do.

While they are providing this important service, My Community Legal also trains the next generation of lawyers through its volunteer program. My Community Legal does much for our community, but it does not receive funding from the state government to deliver these important services. That is why I was proud to announce \$600,000 in funding for My Community Legal during the election campaign, and I received much support for this announcement. In fact, I want to read a Facebook post outlining the importance of providing funding for My Community Legal. It states—

Like any community support organisation, they—

meaning My Community Legal—

are struggling to acquire regular funding to maintain a core work team to keep up the great work. We need to make sure that regional communities get the support they need—

This is a Facebook post from Labor's own failed candidate in Mudgeeraba. I table the post.

*Tabled paper:* Extract, dated 30 October, from the Facebook page of the Labor candidate for Mudgeeraba, Maxim Otten-Kamp, in relation to election promises [350].

Labor are not even listening to their own candidate, who agrees that My Community Legal needs funding. I hope to see Annastacia Palaszczuk and Labor come to the table and provide funding to My Community Legal to ensure this organisation can continue to provide legal advice to those in need.

We also missed out on more female changing facilities for grassroots sports clubs. Those opposite can trumpet on about the advertised funding for the Robina Raptors and the Gold Coast Dolphins but, really, the funding was announced a long time ago and construction has already begun. Meanwhile, the Mudgeeraba Redbacks, the Mudgeeraba Soccer Club and Magic United have missed out on funding for much needed female change facilities. This might not mean a lot to Labor MPs or the Treasurer, but it means that female players at the Mudgeeraba Redbacks would not have to get changed under one of my marquees while volunteers hold towels up for privacy. It means that these women and girls could have the same opportunities as the men without worrying about how they will get in and out of their gear.

We know that Labor's track record on sports funding is riddled with blatant pork-barrelling by the former minister for sport. An Auditor-General's report found that Labor's sports minister overruled his department's expert advice on 33 occasions and Labor seats were favoured in the allocation of funding. This was Labor's chance to rectify their legacy of sports rorts, but they have failed budding female sports stars yet again.

Whilst girls and women in the Mudgeeraba electorate are waiting for the facilities that would allow them to train in comfort, residents are continuing to wait for a train in Merrimac. That is right: we are no closer to having a train station at Merrimac. This is one of the missing pieces of the public transport puzzle in our area that was announced three years ago at the last election. How can Labor expect residents to use their cars less if there is no other way to get out and about in our area?

While we missed out on improved public transport infrastructure, Labor have put salt in the wound by making it more expensive to own a car. They have increased the cost of rego above inflation again. This is just another sneaky money grab from Labor, and it is locals who are paying the price. Indeed, we are spending a lot of time in our cars, and there are so many roads and infrastructure projects that are in dire need of funding in our area. Unfortunately, we have missed out on so many vital road infrastructure projects in Labor's budget too.

I cannot count how many times I have written to the minister and the main roads department about the state of Worongary Road. Bizarrely, Labor have resurfaced only a portion of the road—and they are about to start another bit—and we have received countless complaints at my office about this lazy shortcut of a solution which attempts to improve this dangerous road. We need a proper upgrade and not a bandaid temporary fix.

We also have not seen a cent towards ripping up the roundabout at Gooding Drive and putting in a signalised intersection or to dual lane the westbound section of Gooding Drive from Bourton Road. The Carrara roundabout is a dangerous roundabout. I cannot tell the House how many accidents I have seen there as traffic banks up and people try dangerous manoeuvres to try to get onto the roundabout. Even my own kids have been T-boned there. After an overwhelming response to my postcard campaign to signalise Gooding Drive, I was proud to stand with the LNP team to announce that we would deliver the project, so now it is time that the Labor government came to the table and funded this important upgrade to improve road safety for Gold Coasters.

Other projects that we missed out on were raising the Austinville Causeway, the dangerous Tallai Road and Mudgeeraba Road intersection and, sadly, the Springbrook footpath. The City of Gold Coast have committed to funding half of the construction of a footpath along Springbrook Road to ensure that students at Springbrook State School are not forced to walk on the road to get to school. This is a dangerous, busy road. One resident told me he felt like the kids were forced to play Russian roulette with cars. He asked, 'What's the cost of a child's life?' and he is absolutely right. The Labor government need to provide their portion of funding so we can get this footpath constructed as a matter of urgency. There is nothing more important than the safety of our children, and I will continue to fight for kids in our electorate.


That is why I am sad to say that we have missed out on a new state high school west of the M1. So many people want to move to the Mudgeeraba electorate, and who can blame them. We live in the best place in the world. Enrolments at our local schools are skyrocketing. Robina State High School is almost at capacity and is landlocked for any future development. That is why the LNP announced

planning for a new state high school to cater for growth and create local jobs. It is vital that Labor commits to planning a new state high school west of the M1 so that local families can remain in the area from the time their child is in prep to when they are prepping for their final exams.

While families are flocking to the Mudgeeraba electorate and our fabulous schools, I also want to see them enjoy our unique tourism experiences. Labor like to talk big about tourism but they have not delivered anything for Mudgeeraba in this budget. This is an important reminder for the Labor government, who gather at a Gold Coast beach for their press conferences about tourism then jet back off to Brisbane. On the Gold Coast our tourism offerings do not start and finish at the sand; we also have the gorgeous hinterland. We have Natural Bridge, the Mouses House and fantastic hiking tracks, but what we are missing is tourism signage at Springbrook, which the LNP was proud to commit to during the election campaign. Tourism signage is a simple and effective way to ensure that tourists can enjoy all that Springbrook has to offer and not turn around and head back down to the Numinbah Valley.

The green behind the 'Gold' is also found at Mudgeeraba Creek, which is located just across the road from Somerset College. I was proud to have the Leader of the Opposition visit the creek with me, and it is clear that he is serious about embracing our natural waterway assets as part of our tourism recovery in Queensland. He met with locals Ange and Reg who live just up the road from the creek and have never seen it in such a bad state. It constantly floods, which leaves them concerned that their home will be impacted when there is a downpour. Years ago, the Mudgeeraba Creek was a thriving ecosystem and locals knew the excitement of spotting platypus in the area. Sadly, the platypus have not returned to the creek. The LNP committed to giving Landcare \$100 million to rejuvenate the creek, but unfortunately that has not happened under this government.

In his budget speech, the Treasurer talked about travelling the road together. Well, if we are judging by the state of the roads that the Labor Treasurer refuses to upgrade in Mudgeeraba, it is going to be a bumpy ride. In fact, I would go as far as to say that the people of Mudgeeraba are being taken for a ride by a Palaszczuk Labor government that is lumping us with a huge tax burden with nothing in return locally.

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (3.17 pm): Whilst there were lots of thing that I disagreed with in the member for Mudgeeraba's budget reply speech this afternoon, the thing I most disagreed with was when she said that Mudgeeraba is the best part of the world. I have to disagree with her on that and say that the electorate of Keppel and the southern Great Barrier Reef region in my view is the best part of the world.

I rise to speak in support of the appropriation bills. In doing so, I first congratulate the Treasurer, the member for Woodridge, for the delivery of this budget, his first budget, in very challenging times. I also congratulate the Treasury officials who have worked on preparing this budget, together with the government, across all of the departments. To do this so swiftly after the election has been quite a feat, so congratulations goes to the Treasurer and the entire Queensland Treasury for all of the work they have put into this budget.

I am very proud that consistently the Palaszczuk government has delivered the bulk of spending on new job-creating projects outside of Brisbane. Budget after budget, the bulk of spending on new job-creating projects is outside of Brisbane in our wonderful Queensland regions, and that is our job as regional members of this place. Regional members on this side of the House consistently fight for and stand up for regional investment and job-creating projects in regional Queensland. We have seen over the past year in particular that regional Queensland has once again demonstrated its resilience and ingenuity during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is the strength of sectors such as agriculture and the mining of coal and other minerals that has protected and fortified our economy from some of the worst effects of the COVID-19 downturn.

While I am on my feet, I want to thank the workers of regional Queensland—not only the frontline workers who have helped keep us safe this year from this COVID-19 pandemic but also the workers right across the sectors. The essential workers right across regional Queensland—and all over Queensland really—have been keeping our economy moving and keeping our state moving. They have kept the trucks delivering food to our supermarkets and they have been at the checkout so we could pay for our groceries. They have been working in our hospitals and our schools. Right across our economy, regional workers and workers right across this state have helped support our economy and helped us get back on our feet.

Our government knows how important the ongoing growth of Queensland's regions is to our continued economic prosperity. Our government is committed to backing regional projects that will drive private sector jobs growth. By creating skilled job opportunities in these regional centres, we will support more investment and boost economic prosperity for all Queenslanders.

Queensland's regions offer a diverse range of industries and investment-ready opportunities. I would invite anybody looking to invest in Queensland to consider investing in regional Queensland, particularly now that we have so much more of a COVID-safe economy here in Queensland and in regional Queensland. Attracting people and investment to the regions where and when they are needed is not only an essential part of effectively managing Queensland's future population growth but it is also essential to giving regional Queensland the keys to unlock its full potential.

We must support more jobs in regional Queensland and more private sector investment in regional Queensland, and that is what this budget and this government are all about. This budget is about continuing to deliver the economic plan which we put in place prior to the last election so that regional Queensland, including Central Queensland, can continue to recover. We are supporting small businesses, growing manufacturing and building the infrastructure for our communities, which creates jobs during construction but also builds upon the foundations already laid down for our regions.

This budget supports more jobs, improves transport and communication links, expands our social and community services and enhances the livability and vibrancy of our regional communities. We want to see substantial new investment in the development of Queensland's critical minerals sector. I am proud that the Palaszczuk government has released an investment prospectus for the North West Minerals Province which Trade and Investment Queensland will use globally to attract capital to unlock these vast opportunities. We want the world to know that Queensland is open for private sector investment and in particular that regional Queensland is open for private sector investment.

I am taking it as my role in this place in this, my third term, to make it a priority to attract that private sector investment to Central Queensland. I have worked hard with the government to fight for our fair share in Central Queensland, and this budget really does deliver the capital and the job-creation projects that we need in Central Queensland. However, we need the private sector to come on board as well. That is why I am going to be working closely with Trade and Investment Queensland and the Deputy Premier in his role in State Development to attract even more private sector investment to grow jobs in the Central Queensland region.

There have been some really strong health decisions that have been made this year. In Central Queensland we are lucky that we have not actually had a case of COVID-19 for many months now. That is as a result of all of the hard work of Central Queenslanders and as a result of Central Queenslanders taking the advice of the Chief Health Officer and also the leadership of the Premier and the Deputy Premier, who at the time was health minister. As a result the Central Queensland economy is booming.

Andrea, who runs Oshen Yeppoon, a hotel in Yeppoon, will tell you they could book out their hotel twice every night. All of our hotels on the Capricorn Coast and in Rockhampton are booked out consistently. People need to book well in advance. Airbnbs are not even available. Our cafes, restaurants and retail boutiques are all experiencing great trade as well. People just have to talk to Tanya and Grant Lynch at Vue Yeppoon, who tell me that they have had people from all over the state eat at their restaurant over the last couple of months and now people are booking from all over the country as well.

We actually have an unemployment rate of 5.5 per cent in Keppel to the June 2020 quarter whereas the Queensland unemployment rate is at 6.4 per cent. We have consistently had an unemployment rate in Keppel that is at or below the state average for almost five years now. It just goes to show that the hard work of the Palaszczuk Labor government in Central Queensland is starting to pay off. We are also starting to see youth unemployment dropping. In Central Queensland youth unemployment decreased by almost seven per cent over a 12-month period to October 2020, so it fell from 17.9 per cent to 11.1 per cent. That was the single largest decrease in youth unemployment over that period for anywhere in the state.

We have consistently seen a low unemployment rate, below the Queensland average, for years now and we are also seeing a significant decrease in the youth unemployment rate. House prices are up. House sales are up. New builds on new homes are up and the rental vacancy is now below one per cent in both Rockhampton and Yeppoon. It is at an historic low in Rockhampton. Master Builders are saying that they are excited and their tradespeople are very busy. We also had a little bit of a stimulus earlier in the year with a hail storm. Now we cannot find a roof labourer anywhere in Central Queensland because they are so busy fixing all the roofs in our region.

There is so much to talk about in terms of the Palaszczuk government's budget highlights for the Keppel region for the 2020-21 financial year. I will highlight some of them. There is a \$1 million commitment to the Emu Park Surf Lifesaving Club, and I am very proud to have already cut the ribbon

on the first stage of that project, and the second stage is \$339,000. Graeme Crow and John Phelan at the Emu Park Surf Lifesaving Club are very pleased to see that refurbishment underway. There is almost \$800,000 towards the Cooberrie Park Wildlife Sanctuary dinosaur themed tourist attraction, which is all part of improving our tourism infrastructure in the region. I am sure there will be plenty of young people right across Australia who will be very excited to see the 35 new life-size dinosaurs, the dinosaur dig, minigolf, picnic, playground and new entry and kiosk worth almost \$900,000. I know that the Smedley family, who runs—

**A government member** interjected.

**Ms LAUGA:** The member for Cairns will have to make a trip down. I know there are many young people who will be very excited to see that.

There is over a million dollars in disaster recovery and reconstruction funding. That comes after the Cobraball, Gracemere and The Caves fires over the last few years. There is \$6.7 million towards Skilling Queenslanders for Work, and I know organisations like Jobs Queensland and MDA will be very keen to continue their wonderful work helping skill people up and get them into work. There is \$4.2 million towards Project Booyah and the Respect program. I am very proud to have played a role in establishing Project Booyah in Central Queensland several years ago and to see so many of those young people graduating from that program and continuing on to lead productive and happy lives free of crime in most cases. I know that Constable Joe Ramsay and the team at Project Booyah will be pleased to see a continuation of their funding.

In terms of Transport and Main Roads, in this budget year there is \$1 million of a total \$5 million towards the strengthening of the pavement of the Rockhampton-Yeppoon road. A lot of local people are very pleased to see the work on that road starting. Over 11,000 vehicles per day use that road. There is \$1.1 million towards the Taranganba State School pedestrian signals and bus set-down area, and I know principal Susan Beatty will be very pleased to see the work on that project commence soon.

Importantly, there is the final \$4.8 million towards the new 42-bed residential alcohol and other drug rehabilitation and treatment facility in Rockhampton and work on that has now started. I know Debbie Ware from the ICE Affecting Families Capricorn Coast with whom I have been working closely for years now and to whom I introduced the Premier—and this is how this project was born—will be very pleased to visit the site with me in the next couple of weeks to see that work underway. We are expecting that facility to be open in August 2021.

There are millions and millions of dollars in terms of education commitments in Keppel and right across Queensland. I am very pleased and proud to be part of a Palaszczuk Labor government that is delivering yet again another record education budget. I would like to congratulate the Minister for Education, Grace Grace, on all of the work she has done to ensure that we deliver a record education budget year after year. We know—and certainly this is what I am very passionate about—that all Queensland children, no matter where they live, deserve a quality education, and this year we are delivering a record \$14.2 billion in education funding in this state budget. That includes a record \$1.9 billion in infrastructure spending, which means that Queensland students and teachers will benefit from world-class facilities at school.


This investment builds on the \$5.2 billion spent on school infrastructure by the Palaszczuk government since 2015. That investment has created new schools, new classrooms, school halls, libraries, performing arts centres, playgrounds, amenities blocks, security fencing and facilities. It will also mean more jobs for Queenslanders and will help drive economic recovery from the global pandemic. This infrastructure investment will support more than 3,100 construction jobs.

Building world-class schools and facilities is only one part of the job, though, in terms of giving our students a great start. The welfare of our students and staff is also vitally important. That is why I am really proud that this budget includes \$100 million over three years for a student wellbeing package to ensure every Queensland primary and secondary state school student has access to a psychologist or similar health and wellbeing professional. They will be able to go to school—and we are trialling this pilot with GPs—and see a doctor or a psychologist to get the help and support they need. I am so excited to see how this rolls out, because I know that it is going to be a game changer for student wellbeing in Queensland. As part of this \$100 million, more than \$4 million will go towards establishing this pilot for GPs.

At the election Labor committed to giving students free access to sanitary products. We are delivering on that commitment with \$2½ million being invested to provide pads and tampons at 120 state and non-state schools across the state. We are partnering with Share the Dignity to deliver this program.

Queensland's fantastic teachers, teacher aides and school staff are the backbone of schools right across the state. We will employ more than 6,100 teachers and 1,100 teacher aides over the next four years. That is building upon the over 6,000 teachers and over 1,000 teacher aides that we have employed in the last four years. We are doubling down on our investment over the next four years. We will also invest in a new Turn to Teaching paid internship program to attract aspiring teachers from other fields of work. I am really keen to see this roll out, because this program will give 300 aspiring teachers financial support and real-world teaching experience to complete their teaching qualification and guarantees a permanent teaching role at a state school upon completion.

A great start to education should be accessible to all children, no matter where they live. I am very passionate about working together with the Minister for Education in my role as Assistant Minister for Education to help build upon the work that we have done in the last four years and to continue to deliver a world-class education for students in this state. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (3.31 pm): Broken promises and delayed infrastructure are hallmarks of the appropriation bills before the parliament. Industry representatives really nailed it when they received and studied the budget, looking forward to seeing what it would hold in these times of uncertainty caused by a world pandemic that still requires strong leadership and timely actions to address a very uncertain landscape. Their comment was that the budget is a missed opportunity to attract job-generating investment, that the pipeline of works is not clear and that there is blurred vision as a result. The Property Council said—

Today's Budget represents yet another missed opportunity for Queensland to attract the private sector investment the state desperately needs to create new jobs and facilitate new revenue streams.

That is a very important statement, because not only do we need government stimulus expenditure but also we need it to be spent in the right way. We also need to look at how we engage with the private sector, which is keen to invest if it adds up. Unfortunately, that is a real failing of the appropriation bill before the parliament. That is so disappointing, because at a time of great uncertainty we need strong and appropriate action, which has been missing from this Labor government. It did not deliver a budget going into an election but a few weeks later said, 'Look at us: we have a budget. How hard we have worked!' That is a load of baloney. They had already done the work but did not want to take Queenslanders with them and trust them by releasing the budget they were working on. They said that there would be only \$4 billion in additional borrowings. 'Only \$4 billion' is a lot of money! It is amazing how such a large amount seems to have shrunk. Then on the other side of the election, only a few weeks later, in this budget that they 'just' put together—allegedly—there is \$28 billion extra in borrowings! This is a seven-times increase. Do those opposite really want people to believe that they did not have a budget and forecasts and knew what they were going to borrow before the election? Pigs might fly—and fly backwards. They knew exactly what they were up to, but they did not trust Queenslanders.

It is a breach of trust. It is also a missed opportunity to do something meaningful. There is obviously a place for borrowings when they build the right infrastructure in a timely way that generates jobs and leaves a legacy. As we heard from the Leader of the Opposition and my colleague the shadow Treasurer, there has not been a substantive net increase in the value of Queensland's bottom line with this huge increase in borrowings of \$28 billion. Master Builders said—

... builders still don't have a clear picture of the pipeline of work for the next 4 years, despite the Palaszczuk government confirming its planned ... capital works spend.

Why is a pipeline of works important? For those who do not deal in the area of infrastructure and construction, a pipeline is about having some certainty as to what works come on when. It is about being able to provide advice to industry so that it can train and employ people and have them ready to go when they know what works are coming to the market in what time frame. That pipeline is not there. That comment comes from industry representatives, who I think know a little more than the union hacks who trot out their PR lines—government paid media operatives who work within the offices of this government.

This is a lost opportunity. It is such a shame, because we need the stimulus infrastructure in a timely way. We need clear road maps for industry to be able to employ people in the right areas in the right time. I refer to not just the first tier operators—the overseas internationals that can pick up the big jobs. We want to see Queensland and Australian based industry given procurement opportunities as not just subbies but head contractors.

We need to ensure we are growing the second and third tiers of those industries and not giving out massive contracts just to tier 1 internationals that then sub out to the locals but do not give them an opportunity to share in the IP and the opportunity to be the lead contractor. That is very important. If we

want to get the best bang for our buck, we need a pipeline that is transparent and fair dinkum. We should not tell the market mistruths. We need to ensure we allow people in the market to tender—not just the big tier 1 internationals. We should de-bundle and provide opportunity for joint ventures. Certainly for tiers 2 and 3 we need to build the capacity in our state to use Aussies, particularly Queenslanders, in that value chain. That is also a missed opportunity by this government.

Let's look at some of the figures that have come out. We know that in New South Wales—I know that this government gets a bit into the weeds in talking about New South Wales and does not want to look at the bottom-line figures—they are borrowing to build infrastructure and are increasing the state's net worth. They have about double the amount of infrastructure coming online as Queensland. They are a bigger state but not twice as large as Queensland. Queensland is a state that needs to see timely investment.

Queenslanders have been let down by this Palaszczuk Labor government that promised so much and is delivering so little at a time when there should be a ramping up of the infrastructure spend with a pipeline of small, medium and large projects coming online sooner rather than later, whereas many of the projects we have heard about are coming on board later. It is a terrible lost opportunity. We know that in Queensland before COVID there had been a huge decrease in what should have been the relative infrastructure spend. There had been a \$3 billion a year reduction in infrastructure spend. That has accumulated. That is not even talking about the maintenance underspend here in Queensland. Some have even said that it is bigger than a \$9 billion underspend in infrastructure and closer to \$12 billion.

I will outline some of the regional infrastructure reductions in the budget, on actuals from the last year to the capital purchases and capital grants that are outlined in this budget: Brisbane North, \$65.379 million; Brisbane West, over \$11 million; Ipswich, \$93 million; Darling Downs-Maranoa, \$63 million; Mackay, \$32 million; Central Queensland, \$21 million; Sunshine Coast, \$37 million; and Townsville, \$192 million. I could go on.

The Queensland Auditor-General's report into major infrastructure projects found that Building Queensland failed its legislative role while spending a massive \$15.5 million on external consultants. According to the Infrastructure Association of Queensland's investor survey, under Labor Queensland was ranked significantly below the Australian average for economic stability, the ease of doing business and transparency when dealing with infrastructure investment. Of all the times we need it, it is now. This is the time to reform the way government operates to cut the regulatory burden to enable people to invest in the private sector and through the public sector with the timely expenditure of the right infrastructure, but this is a missed opportunity and members across the House will be hearing from my colleagues about specific portfolio areas.

I want to address some of the issues in my electorate. Time is short. I was going to address a range of the integrity failures we saw under this Labor government over the last term and particularly over the last five years—and there is quite a long list—but time is running out and I must address the matters pertaining to one piece of infrastructure that is very important in my electorate—that is, the Mooloolah River interchange. This issue highlights the very issue that I have just outlined—a desperate need to bring infrastructure forward—but what are we seeing? This government is getting slower and moving backwards. Is it possible? Yes, it is. I table a statement from the transport minister dated 20 June 2018 which says that the 'funding over two years for the Mooloolah River interchange would support the development of a detailed business case for the project, currently scheduled to be completed by mid-2020'.

*Tabled paper:* Media release, dated 20 June 2018, by the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Hon. Mark Bailey, titled 'Funding for Mooloolah River interchange flows thanks to budget' [\[351\]](#).

Goodness me! What is the date today? It is 3 December. It is certainly not the middle of 2020. What does this government do in its budget papers? It has pushed that business case finishing date out now until 2021-22—way beyond the original deadline—and that started before COVID hit.

**Government members** interjected.

**Ms SIMPSON:** It might be funny to members who do not talk to families who have had loved ones killed at that interchange and who do not talk to people caught in congestion, but it matters. It matters hugely. My colleague the member for Kawana has already addressed it. I know the member for Buderim will also address this issue as it is at the intersection of our three electorates, but it affects the whole Sunshine Coast. If the government wants to save lives and stop people being caught in traffic, this is a significant issue that relies on that business case being completed. When we were in government we acquired the majority of the houses, as I understand it, underneath the proposed




corridor and then this government got in. It said that it would do a business case and said that that would be finished by the middle of this year, and it is off in manana. It will be 2021-22 before the business case is finished. What a missed opportunity to build the infrastructure that our state needs, to build the job-creating infrastructure and to literally save lives.

I also want to address issues relating to schools in my electorate. I am pleased to see funding for the Mooloolaba State School. However, we need to see master planning of these schools. Some of these schools do not have a proper disability plan and buildings are being built in a way that takes away public space and playing ground space from those schools without any master plan to address the future of maintaining open space, playing space and sports areas for the kids. This has meant that we have lost the opportunity to build infrastructure that enables disabled kids to be able to access a wider range of the school, with more flexibility for training staff and teaching staff. That is a shame. I would urge the education minister and this government to do some master planning around schools so when the opportunity comes to build buildings you get more bang for your buck whilst also enabling a better utilisation of that space so that disabled kids who need mobility access are not caught within a very limited range of buildings.

I also want to acknowledge the outstanding work of Maroochydore State High School in that it is now one of the leading state schools in Queensland. It is an independent public school that took the opportunity that was provided when we were in government to have more say over its choices, but full credit to the teachers, the parents and everyone involved. With outstanding decisions, that is now a showcase award winner here in Queensland for its curriculum development as a high school, so full marks and a shout-out to it. To its credit—and I acknowledge it—the education department has worked with that high school on a master plan, and that is smart. We need to see more of that happening across more of our schools in terms of infrastructure, and that school needs it now. That high school needs more buildings to meet today's needs and tomorrow's needs, but we need the right infrastructure built. We need to see more of these schools with master plans so that the buildings are built with a much better integrated approach. That is something that I certainly support and cheer on, but good on the teachers, the students, the parents and the families and the community who have done an outstanding job at that high school.

I also want to address the issue of transport and reiterate the comments of my colleague the member for Kawana. With regard to the issue of the business case that the government is funding in consultation with the council in terms of mass transit, there is a real concern in our community that this is a Trojan horse for high density and foisting one preferred option—being light rail—through this corridor, but that is not what the majority of the community wants. We do need an integrated public transport system, but be honest with people and release all of the information. Do not foist one option on them. The preliminary business case that the council did included much higher density than the appetite our community has. We need to have the right infrastructure and the right planning to serve our area.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (3.46 pm): I begin by congratulating the Treasurer, Cameron Dick, on a budget that delivers not just for my electorate of Ipswich West but for all of Queensland. This budget delivers on the Labor Party's 2020 election commitments and we have kept faith with the people of Queensland. This is a strong Labor budget and one that delivers for all Queenslanders. The Palaszczuk government's 2020-21 state budget makes record investment in infrastructure and frontline services that backs jobs for Queenslanders. The budget has met the needs of Queenslanders and what we see is record investment in education, transport and main roads, fire and emergency services, agriculture and fisheries, local government and the Queensland Police Service.

As part of the \$17.5 billion commitment by the Palaszczuk government to education and training, the budget provides for substantial infrastructure spending at a number of schools in my electorate of Ipswich West. With regard to Amberley District State School, which is located at Yamanto, the budget provides a \$500,000 contribution for a badly needed \$1 million multipurpose hall. At Haigslea State School there is a provision of \$750,000 to replace the amenities block—long overdue for replacement—with the new facility having full disability access. At Rosewood State School the budget provides \$150,000 for drainage rectification.

With regard to Ipswich State High School, as previous Palaszczuk government budgets have done since I was first elected in 2015, this budget provides for the ever-expanding student population. Since 2015 the number of students at Ipswich State High School has risen from about 1,500 students to almost 2,000 students. The 2020-21 Palaszczuk government budget provides \$5.6 million for a \$7.17 million project to build a general learning space building. The budget also provides \$80,000 of a total \$700,000 contribution for a sports field upgrade. This budget delivers for Ipswich State High



School, just as previous state budgets have done, with funding for construction of classrooms for students with disabilities, an expansion of the young mothers facility and a \$9.9 million performing arts centre, which was completed in 2019. The Ipswich State High School catchment takes in all of the northern suburbs of Ipswich. It is a great school with a suite of programs that puts it in a class of its own. Today I wear the school tie of Ipswich State High School with pride.

The Deputy Speaker has reviewed my budget speech for incorporation and as such I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated in *Hansard*.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): In accordance with standing and sessional orders, that will be incorporated.

*The speech read as follows—*

The 2020/21 Budget provides for improvements in road safety right with provision for \$6.3 billion for roads and transport infrastructure projects right across Queensland. In the Electorate of Ipswich West, the Budget provides for: \$650,000 in 2020/21 of a \$800,000 commitment towards the Warrego Highway Haigslea Amberley Road Interchange Planning; \$729,000 for further planning for the proposed upgrade of the Warrego Highway and Mt Crosby Road Interchange; \$1.127 million in 2020/21 of a \$3.29 million total commitment toward widening of the pavement and installing guardrails on the Warrego Highway at Brassall between the Pine Mountain Road junction and the Pine Mountain Road Overpass; \$1.1 million in 2020/21 of a \$3.26 million total commitment toward widening the pavement and installing guardrails on the Warrego Highway at Tivoli between the Mt Crosby Road Interchange and Holdsworth Road; and \$929,000 in 2021/21 of a \$3.26 million total commitment toward widening the pavement and installing guard rails at various other location on the Warrego Highway in the Electorate of Ipswich West.

At Rosewood, the budget makes provision for funding of \$588,000 of a \$2 million total commitment for construction of a new Fire and Rescue Station, to be located in Albert Street. The Station is expected to be completed by mid-2021. Funding to continue the battle against Fire Ants in the Electorate of Ipswich West is guaranteed, with a commitment in the Budget for \$16.1 million in 2020/21 out of a \$43.2 million total spend to eradicate this serious pest, which impacts on agriculture, the environment and social amenity.

The Palaszczuk Government has shown its support for the Ipswich City Council in the Budget by funding five projects in the Electorate of Ipswich West through the COVID Works for Queensland, Unite and Recover Community Stimulus Package and the 2019/21 Local Government Grants and Subsidies Programs. These include funding of \$1.1 million in 2020/21 out of a total spend of \$1.2 million to upgrade the existing skate park at Sutton Park, Brassall. Works include a new skating facility, shade, seating and landscaping. The Budget also provides for funding a wide range of Police programs and initiatives in the Ipswich Police District, including \$5.441 million funding in 2020/21 to permanently fund Major and Serious Organised Crime operations.

With regard to public housing the Budget provides funding of \$6.53 million in 2020/21 to complete construction of a 30-unit accommodation block at The Terrace at North Ipswich. It also provides \$584,000 to commence construction of a 12-unit public housing accommodation block. Mr Speaker, I am pleased to be part of a government that is committed to world-class education facilities, not just in my Electorate of Ipswich West but all other public and private schools in Queensland. It is also a government committed to improving Transport & Main Roads Infrastructure, better Health Services, improved Fire & Emergency Services, supporting our Police Service, funding to the Ipswich City Council projects and providing increased public housing. I am pleased to be part of a government committed to improving the Queensland economy, supporting workers' rights, creating jobs, providing safe work conditions and providing hope for the people of Queensland. Mr Speaker, this is a great Budget for my Electorate of Ipswich West and for all of Queensland. I am pleased to commend the budget to the House.



**Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (3.50 pm): I rise to address the debate on the Appropriation (Parliament) (2020-2021) Bill 2020 and the Appropriation (2020-2021) Bill 2020. The Palaszczuk state Labor government's budget for 2020-21 is one that is built entirely on a broken promise by Labor and also a failed commitment that was given by Labor to the people of Queensland at the most recent state election. At the 31 October 2020 state election Labor sought and were granted a mandate to borrow \$4 billion. However, in the Queensland Labor state budget that was handed down this week that figure has now blown out to \$28 billion, an amount that is seven times what the people of Queensland were told would be borrowed by the Labor state government.

Average unemployment for Queensland in 2020-21 under the Palaszczuk state Labor government is forecast to be 7.5 per cent and by the end of the forward estimates Queensland will still have the highest unemployment rate in the nation. The Labor state government's own figures have operating deficits over the next four years equating to \$16.8 billion, including \$8.6 billion in 2020-21. The critical question that must be asked is the following: is the Palaszczuk state Labor government really borrowing to primarily invest in infrastructure to improve Queensland's net worth? The answer is no. Despite borrowing \$28 billion, Queensland's net worth will only increase by \$150 million.

The economic mismanagement by this Labor government is absolutely heartbreaking. Labor is mortgaging the wealth of future generations of Queenslanders. In contrast to New South Wales—I note that the Palaszczuk state Labor Treasurer is fond of comparing Queensland to southern states—it is indeed a fact that New South Wales will be borrowing \$62 billion and at the same time be increasing its net worth as a state by \$30 billion in just four years. It is clear that the Palaszczuk state Labor government is predominantly borrowing to pay for recurrent expenses, including its ever-expanding Public Service wages bill. This is simply unsustainable for Queensland and our future generations.

As I have said in previous budget-in-reply contributions, the Palaszczuk state Labor government's ongoing economic strategy is strictly one that is an exercise in smoke and mirrors. We have seen this all before when the Palaszczuk state Labor government raided \$3.4 billion from the funds set aside for public servant long service leave entitlements, as well as Labor loading general government debt onto government owned corporations.

As the Liberal National Party shadow minister for education I now wish to turn to the \$14.2 billion that has been allocated in the 2020-21 budget for education funding in Queensland. A centrepiece of the Palaszczuk state Labor government's education budget has been its very problematic Cooler Cleaner Schools Program. For two years Labor repeatedly denied the benefits of air conditioning in state school classrooms and it was only thanks to the Liberal National Party's long campaign in collaboration with Queensland parents that we were able to force the Palaszczuk state Labor government to take some action. On this side of the House we will continue the campaign on behalf of Queensland families, students and teachers to ensure that Labor delivers air conditioning to every state school classroom on time and on budget.

The Palaszczuk state Labor government's installation of air-conditioning units is extremely problematic, with reported instances of air conditioning either not working or not being able to be turned on. Indeed, there are schools which currently do not have the network capacity to run air-conditioning units, with one school on Brisbane's north side reporting that ceiling fans were taken out to make way for air-conditioning units that cannot even be switched on. If Labor had acted sooner, instead of denying there was a problem, our students would have had appropriate air conditioning in their classrooms just as we are about to face further scorching temperatures across Queensland.

No-one denies that Queensland students deserve a world-class education system. Indeed, that is what Labor has promised Queensland families time and time again, yet under Labor we are also seeing student results in critical subjects such as English and maths in Queensland going backwards. Queenslanders now know why Labor wanted to scrap NAPLAN in favour of other standardised testing models: because by the state Labor government's own budget papers we find that in 23 out of the 24 targets in 2019 the only target met was in year 3 Indigenous student reading. Quite frankly, the Palaszczuk state Labor government is failing our next generation of students.

I note that within the allocation of funding for Queensland education \$1.9 billion has been allocated for infrastructure spending, including \$258 million over four years to deliver 26 new multipurpose school halls and performing arts centres. It is imperative that there must be absolute transparency with both school communities and, more broadly, the people of Queensland on the criteria when determining where such school infrastructure will be built given that many schools are in desperate need of this investment. Even in my own electorate of Moggill, Kenmore State High School, which I have written to the Labor Minister for Education about previously and which for too long has been in desperate need of an upgrade to its dilapidated school hall, has long been forgotten by Labor.

In this state budget there is also an allocation of \$20 million over four years for the planning of new schools in Queensland, as well as additional funding for land acquisitions for future schools. In the absence of an independent schools planning commission, again it is entirely incumbent on the Palaszczuk state Labor government to be completely open and transparent with regard to the decisions that will be taken and the approval processes of all new schools and associated land acquisitions that are made. This is even more important during the 57th Parliament given the previous terms of the Palaszczuk state Labor government which saw two new high schools announced in inner-city Brisbane in the seats of McConnel and South Brisbane and the less than transparent reasoning behind the prioritisation of these particular schools.

Further, such transparency and accountability is required given the broad circumstances pertaining to new school selection and location to ancillary services, all matters which have been well canvassed by the Crime and Corruption Commission as well as in the Queensland parliament and in the public domain. This is even before we come to appointment of school principals, given the myriad matters, including contact by senior elected Labor members of the Queensland parliament with ministers and departmental officers involving matters which had to be independently examined with respect to questions of probity, alleged inappropriate corrupt conduct and those aspects of alleged impropriety which had to be formally examined and investigated by the Crime and Corruption Commission.

In the portfolio of education \$100 million will also be spent on a student wellbeing package, with \$4 million to be allocated towards a pilot project that will see general practitioners placed in 20 secondary state schools. With regard to this pilot project, the state Labor government will have to be

mindful of how the health screening and clinical care that is provided by such general practitioners will be coordinated with other health service providers, whether they be treating clinicians or clinical service entities. It is also unclear from the budget papers what infrastructure will be included as part of this student health and wellbeing package, including what provision will be made for physical spaces, health equipment and clinical information management systems.

I have also noted the Palaszczuk state Labor government's \$8 million over four years for after-school homework centres and \$45 million over three years for enhanced training facilities in schools and I look forward to receiving further detail and seeing how this will be implemented over the forward estimates. Also the Labor state budget appears to have no clarity or certainty in relation to independent public schools. This will be of grave concern to many school principals, parents and teachers across Queensland. The minister's response in commentary to date, even today in the parliament, has been less than reassuring.

Turning now to the arts portfolio, as the Liberal National Party's shadow minister for the arts I have noted that the Palaszczuk state Labor government has allocated \$290 million in the 2020-21 state budget. Much of this funding had already been announced and allocated earlier this year, given the announcement in June of the Arts and Cultural Recovery Package, a package which many stakeholders believe did not go far enough to support this vital sector. Given the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on our arts and cultural sector, the delivery of a new performing arts venue and theatre at QPAC must be delivered on time and on budget. This will be critical to revitalising our vibrant and diverse arts and cultural sector here in Queensland given the impacts of COVID-19.

With respect to health and the allocated funding of \$21.8 billion in the state budget, \$1.6 billion is included with respect to infrastructure spending, with \$265 million for seven satellite hospitals in South-East Queensland. I note that one of these satellite hospitals will be located in Ipswich. There needs to be methodical and careful consideration as to how the clinical services framework and the provision of patient care within these satellite hospitals is coordinated with other secondary and tertiary hospitals and primary care providers. There is also funding for hospital redevelopment projects in Emerald, Thursday Island, Atherton, Blackall and Proserpine. With such hospital capital redevelopment projects, there also needs to be ancillary workforce planning in order to maximise clinical health service provision in these communities. To that end, given this year's specific allocation of funding of the hospital capital redevelopment program, the Palaszczuk state Labor government must look to also further expand Queensland's rural generalist pathway.

Over the past 15 years, this significant medical workforce program has undergone a gradual development and evolution, and there has been a further enhancement at the national level of the principles of the program under the leadership of National Rural Health Commissioners including Professor Paul Worley and Professor Ruth Stewart, as well as various Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine presidents including Dr Ewen McPhee, Dr Sarah Chalmers, Professor Dennis Pashen, ACRRM CEO Marita Cowie, RDAA presidents including Dr John Hall and Dr Adam Coltau, Vicki Sheedy and many others.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge Dr Denis Lennox, the founder of the Rural Generalist Pathway in Queensland, as well as the contributions to rural generalist training of Dr Dan Manahan, Dr Tarun Sen Gupta, Dr Neil Beaton, Dr Cameron Bardsley, Dr Katie Mills, Natalie Taylor, Deanne Bond, Graeme Wainwright, Cathy Kirkbride, Dr Dan Halliday and many others. I acknowledge their direct contribution to rural generalist training over many years. I add that Dr Victoria Brazil has made a tremendous contribution in her former role in Queensland Health as Director of Medical Education and Training, QMET, and now in her academic appointment as Director of Clinical Simulation at Bond University and as a senior staff specialist in emergency medicine at the Gold Coast University Hospital.

I now wish to highlight some issues on behalf of local residents in the electorate of Moggill as they relate to the Palaszczuk state Labor government's 2020-21 budget. From the Palaszczuk Labor government's own budget papers it is abundantly clear that traffic congestion issues across the western suburbs of Brisbane are set to continue. After years of my continued advocacy, during my last parliamentary term combined federal and state government funding was secured for upgrading the Kenmore roundabout. However, the Palaszczuk state Labor government is further delaying that vital upgrade. Labor is also continuing with its go-slow approach to the duplication of the Centenary Highway bridge.


I have consistently advocated for funding solutions to urgently address cyclist safety in the electorate of Moggill. After years of delay and inaction with the Palaszczuk Labor government's Moggill Road cyclist access improvement study first announced in 2016, \$600,000 has been allocated in this

budget over the next two years for Moggill Road cycle planning from the Rafting Ground Reserve to Centenary Highway. However, again Labor's budget is light on detail. Labor must be transparent and open with local residents as to how this will align with the study and planning work already completed by the Palaszczuk state Labor government.

Once again the vital school infrastructure needs of many state schools in the electorate of Moggill have been overlooked. Labor cannot have any excuses for not investing in local schools in the electorate of Moggill. With \$258 million set aside for new multipurpose school halls and performing arts centres in schools across Queensland, the Palaszczuk state Labor government must specifically allocate funding to Kenmore State High School to fully upgrade its school hall. That project has been continually ignored, year after year, by the Palaszczuk state Labor government. With regard to state funding set aside for planning new schools and additional land acquisitions for future schools in Queensland, it is also incumbent on the re-elected Palaszczuk state Labor government to immediately prioritise a new high school to service families in the suburbs of Bellbowrie, Moggill, Anstead, Mount Crosby, Karana Downs and surrounding areas.

On another matter, prior to this week's state Labor budget I wrote to the newly appointed Labor minister for communities and stressed the need for dedicated community facilities to service local community groups in the western suburbs of Brisbane. With funding of \$18.9 million set aside in 2020-21 for neighbourhood and community centres, Labor should allocate dedicated funding for a new or improved community facility in the electorate of Moggill.

In conclusion, after five years of inaction local residents should not have to endure four more years of delays by the Palaszczuk state Labor government to address traffic congestion, provide better public transport, enhance our local school infrastructure, provide more support for local jobs and small businesses, and reduce cost-of-living pressures. Labor's economic management and continued failed approach to our state's finances will be devastating for Queensland's future generations. All Queenslanders and constituents of the electorate of Moggill deserve better than what Labor has announced in the 2020-21 state budget.

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (4.03 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the debate on the appropriation bills. From the outset it is important to acknowledge that the city of Cairns and our region were first impacted by COVID-19 when our traditional Chinese tourist numbers failed to materialise in February of this year. Since that time and until we see the return of our international visitors, Cairns remains heavily impacted as a result of COVID-19 in every sector of our community. That is why we need this budget to continue the ongoing investment in our community and to stimulate further private sector investment. I thank the Treasurer for ensuring that that is exactly what we have received.

Cairns is not just the tourism mecca that we all know and love. In addition, we have an extensive marine sector, a growing manufacturing industry and an ever-growing need for the essential services that our beautiful tropical city needs. This budget delivers in key areas.

First and foremost, we continue to invest in the education sector with Edge Hill State School receiving \$5.2 million to renew the administration building for school and student hubs. Cairns State High School, where an \$11 million hall is currently being built, will receive \$5.8 million to add to the completion of that construction and the refurbishment of a teaching block. Trinity Bay State High School will, over this fiscal period, receive \$1 million out of a \$13.5 million total spend over four years to refurbish its industrial technology and design facilities and to construct a new performing arts centre. I know that the principal of that school has been very keen to see that happen, as have the students. We see funds going to Parramatta and Balaclava state schools for essential shading materials. There is over \$250,000 for minor works for schools in the Cairns area. We know how important our children's education is and that is why we continue to invest in Queensland's future, our children.

We continue to fund the ever-important road infrastructure in and around our city. On the Cairns Ring Road, on the Cairns CBD to Smithfield section we will see the construction of additional lanes.

**Mr Crawford** interjected.

**Mr HEALY:** I acknowledge that that is the minister's and thank him. It is fantastic that there is \$2.9 million in this budget period out of a \$359 million total spend to increase capacity on the Captain Cook Highway between the Bruce Highway and the Kennedy Highway. The Cairns Western Arterial Road project will receive \$60 million to duplicate lanes between Redlynch and Kamerunga, which the minister and I also share. I use that road frequently, as do a lot of my constituents. The Smithfield Bypass will see \$42.4 million invested in this economic period out of a \$164 million total spend. A much needed upgrade to the intersection of Anderson and English streets in Cairns will receive \$124,000.

For the many bike-riding residents of Brinsmead, \$43,000 has been allocated to design a shared pathway between Brinsmead and Freshwater. Those are just some of the major road projects that are happening in and around Cairns, contributing to our region's growth.

Many in the seat of Cairns have asked for economic diversity. To support our need for economic diversity, the Queensland government will invest \$30 million to upgrade the Cairns Marine Precinct and fund a business case for the future development of the precinct.

**Mrs Frecklington:** Oh!

**Mr HEALY:** Some people came up to Cairns and were going to give \$20 million to one company for one piece of equipment and said that that was going to grow the industry.

**Mrs Frecklington:** Touchy about that subject, are we?

**Mr HEALY:** I believe it is important to highlight the significant opportunity that this business case presents. The Palaszczuk Labor government has seen how it is going to help everybody, not just one little business. To rekindle a ship-building industry in Cairns would provide secure jobs, apprenticeships and further investment in our marine sector. I cannot register strongly enough the vast potential that this business case may bring. Who knows: if the federal member for Leichhardt, Warren Entsch, ever achieved any of the many promises he has made to the people of Cairns about grey boats, that could only be a good thing by increasing the demand for our marine precinct.

The upgrade includes two new wharves for the Port of Cairns. The funding will deliver 150 new jobs during construction, pay for an upgrade of services and expand Cairns' capacity to carry out in-water maintenance on vessels used not only by the Australian Defence Force and Border Force but also potentially our ever-growing superyacht sector. The Queensland government is working in partnership with Ports North to deliver that infrastructure upgrade. The precinct may require total capital infrastructure expenditure of up to \$150 million and future contributions will be sought from the Australian government.

The Deputy Speaker has reviewed and approved my budget speech for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated in *Hansard*.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): In accordance with standing and sessional orders, your speech will be incorporated.

*The speech read as follows—*

The Queensland Government is also investigating the potential reshoring of commercial vessel manufacture required for servicing the region, which has the potential to support local economic activity and create employment. This work will inform the business case and will also assess the feasibility of capitalising on the existing skilled workforce, contractor base and infrastructure within the Cairns Marine Precinct, which has a legacy of significant ship building over many years.

Speaker, transforming Cairns Hospital into a university hospital with research centre was a commitment we made to the people of Cairns and I'm happy to report that Queensland Health is investing \$67.9 million to kickstart the transformation of Cairns Hospital into a university hospital for the city, including \$15 million to acquire land for a research, education and innovation precinct, fully integrated with the hospital. Working in partnership with James Cook University, this investment will provide better health care for the Far North and attract the future generation of health professionals to Cairns.

The Cairns Hospital will get an expanded emergency department and a new endoscopy suite and operating theatre, helping to meet the health needs of a growing and ageing population. These upgrades will deliver world-class health facilities for the region and support a further 150 construction jobs to underpin our economic recovery. And our Cairns Ambulance station and Operations Centre expansion and refurbishment will continue with a further \$800,000 invested during this budget period to continue the over \$10 million dollar much needed upgrade.

As I indicated from the outset Speaker, our region's vitally important Tourism Industry has been ravaged by the impact of COVID-19 and as a result we have seen millions invested into our region by the Palaszczuk Government in the form of fee waivers and payroll tax deferrals, in addition to direct capital injections for large operators and those seeking assistance with new products.

At a State level we understand the challenges being faced by our Tourism industry and that is why this budget will invest \$74 million to fast-track tourism recovery and restore tourism jobs through our Rebuilding Queensland Tourism initiative. In assisting the industry we have established the \$20 million Queensland Tourism Activation Fund to partner with the tourism industry and councils to develop existing and new Queensland tourism experiences.

A \$20 million events boost to attract more events for Queensland. This investment will include \$14 million for major events and \$1.5 million a year for business events, and we know how important Events are to our regional economies. In addition, \$15 million dollars will be provided to Tourism and Events Queensland for a marketing blitz to encourage travellers to experience Queensland and a \$15 million Regional Tourism Organisation Fund to provide a special one-off funding injection to regional tourism organisations and \$4 million to deliver business capability training and contributing to future-proofing the industry.

After providing a rent free period for almost all of 2020, Ports North will seek an independent review in rate discussions as promised by this Government to our Marine Tourism tenants at the Cairns Marina.

Small businesses are the backbone of the Cairns economy and the Queensland economy. This Budget continues to support small businesses which represent more than 97 per cent of all businesses in the state and employ around 42 per cent of all private sector workers.

Small businesses across the state have been among the hardest hit by the economic impacts of COVID-19. In response to the pandemic the Palaszczuk Government implemented a number of programs and initiatives to support small businesses, their employees and the communities they serve. These programs included:

\$1 billion in concessional jobs support loans, interest free for 12 months, to support businesses to keep Queenslanders in work. More than 6,900 Queensland businesses have drawn down loans from the scheme supporting over 86,000 local jobs. Almost 90 per cent of businesses accessing loans were small, having 20 employees or fewer

Substantial State Government tax relief across the 2019-20 and 2020-21 years through payroll tax refunds, payment waivers and deferrals; up to \$196 million in Small Business Adaption Grants of up to \$10,000

\$100 million in electricity bill relief for small businesses; along with \$54.5 million to support the transport industry as well as support for Far North Queensland ports and related businesses.

I note with great enthusiasm that the Treasurer has announced the Backing Queensland Business Investment Fund which will have a war chest of \$500,000 million to target investments in businesses that are based in Queensland and will create Queensland-based jobs. This fund will provide excellent opportunities for a number of small businesses who fulfil the criteria. The fund will be managed between Queensland Treasury and QIC.

Speaker in the regional Development area we are investing a \$100,000 in the Advanced Fibre Composites Maintenance and Repair Facility in this budget period for the Cairns Aviation Skills Centre to develop a business case for an advanced fibre composites maintenance and repair facility at Cairns Airport. We see a very bright future in this sector and this investment continues our broader investment in our regions aviation industry.

From an environment perspective Speaker the Great Barrier Reef will benefit from an additional \$40 million worth of support. This includes \$10 million for a Reef Assist Program and \$6 million over four years for the GBR Island Arks project to deliver ecotourism in the region.

An additional \$200 million will be provided to the Works for Queensland program to support local governments outside South East Queensland. Growing our regions and supporting key industries such as tourism, agriculture and mining is essential and will remain ongoing.

Providing more Queenslanders with access to the skills and training they need for rewarding careers. \$100 million has been provided over three years to upgrade TAFE campuses.

Providing concessions and easing the cost of living with an estimated \$6.3 billion in budget period, we will continue to provide Queenslanders with concessions targeted discounts, fee waivers, rebates, and subsidies.

And as promised to the people of Cairns we will have more police, doctors, nurses, teachers, teacher aides and allied health staff.

Speaker I'd like to finish by congratulating the Treasurer on delivering an economically responsible budget, as we on this side of the chamber are well aware, in these unprecedented times, what is needed is a measured and calculated response ensuring investment in essential services and job creating enterprises, whilst stimulating private sector investment, unlike those on the other side of the chamber who were proposing reckless economic populism.

Speaker, I will continue to work closely with all sectors of my community to advocate for them and our communities interests while ensuring our voice is heard as we continue to face the challenging days ahead.



**Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (4.09 pm): Today I am pleased to rise to respond to the Palaszczuk government's 2020-21 budget. About 10 minutes into the Treasurer's budget speech I thought to myself that this was not about the Queensland economy; it was all about the former member for Greenslopes, now member for Woodridge, positioning himself for a tilt at the Premier's job in a couple of years. That sentiment was obviously picked up by others, including a prominent state political reporter. When I saw the pre-budget-delivery social media image of the Treasurer trying desperately to channel his inner deep-seated desire to be thought of as JFK like, I cringed. This Treasurer is more delusional and vain than I thought possible and he is certainly no Keith De Lacy nor Terry Mackenroth. The Treasurer in terms of media perception will be forever associated with his embarrassing 'debt is a tool' interview.

As I stated last year, throwing ever increasingly large amounts of money into key government areas such as transport and main roads, health and education is not in itself a real measure of success. It is about the effectiveness of the outputs, not just input efficiencies. Simply put, it is about what you actually do with resources rather than just throwing borrowed money at an issue time and time again.

Given our state debt level will now blow out to \$130 billion, this budget fails future generations by avoiding the tough decisions required to be made by this generation. Unfair intergenerational debt will continue under Labor—absolutely. There is nothing wrong with borrowing for income-producing assets. This is basic finance 101. Given that marketers define a generation as 25 years, any piece of infrastructure that lasts for, say, 100 years will obviously have four generations of taxpayers derive economic utility from its use. It is extraordinary, however, that billions are being borrowed for recurrent expenditure rather than capital expenditure, state-building assets.

Despite promising only \$4 billion in additional borrowings at the state election, as we all now know debt is set to blow out by \$28 billion across the forward estimates, over the next four years. Before the election Labor told Queenslanders that debt would go to \$106 billion. Just four weeks after the election it has been revealed that it will reach almost \$130 billion. That is a sevenfold increase in borrowings from what Labor promised, and in just four weeks.

Before the election Labor told Queenslanders that they were borrowing to protect jobs, yet despite racking up the biggest debt in our state's history—this is extraordinary—unemployment is still forecast to be the worst in the nation in four years time. What about that mantra of 'jobs, jobs, jobs'? Let's compare the states. Queensland's unemployment rate is forecast to be 6½ per cent; Victoria, 5¾ per cent; and New South Wales, 5¼ per cent. We now know why Labor is not interested in an unemployment target. Certain members of the government have simply given up on jobs.

Labor's excuse that revenue is collapsing and that they need to borrow to pay for deficits and to protect jobs does not wash. Revenue is forecast to reduce by \$12.3 billion, yet Labor are racking up an additional \$28 billion in state borrowings. Operating deficits over the next four years only equate to \$16.8 billion, yet Labor are racking up an additional \$28 billion in state borrowings. Very simply, we are borrowing for recurrent expenditure, not just capital expenditure.

Queensland's debt-to-revenue ratio—our capacity to pay off the debt measure—will increase over the six years from 104 per cent to 172 per cent. For this reason, Queensland faces the real likelihood of being placed on negative outlook watch by credit rating agencies, according to Queensland Economic Advocacy Solutions.

We know that Labor and the JFK-wannabe Treasurer like to compare Queensland with New South Wales, but New South Wales and Victoria are actually building income-producing assets. The key difference here is that Queensland's net state worth has gone nowhere despite borrowing \$28 billion. The Treasurer was rabbiting on with a figure during question time a couple of days ago, but would he even know the basis of the accounting method the state accounts are produced with? I doubt it. The other states have borrowed for growth, not to keep the lights on and fuel in the government vehicle fleet. That is the real comparison. Queensland is the last state in the nation to release a budget in 2020, and we now know why.

I will now comment on the budget in my capacity as the shadow minister for customer service and the shadow minister for transport and main roads. When you break it down, as I mentioned last year the *raison d'être* of the transport and main roads portfolio is all about delivering an efficient and responsive statewide transport system that will connect people right across our vast state, both now and into the future. Yet again, Labor's incompetent approach to the 2020-21 budget, particularly for this key portfolio, means that this worthy goal is still a long way off. The government want to talk up their transport and roads budget. They tell us that it is a record spend. In effect, it is more a smoke-and-mirrors exercise than a credible financial document for the future. For the last two terms under Labor, the Queensland Transport and Roads Infrastructure Program, QTRIP, which outlines the current transport and roads projects, resembles a lay-by agreement—outlaying a dollar today and a few more next year, with the rest going off into the never-never.

Labor has neglected Queensland roads for five years, cutting infrastructure spending and allowing, as at November last year, a \$5.4 billion maintenance backlog to build up. This figure, according to the Queensland Audit Office, will reach \$9 billion over the next seven years. Thanks to Labor, our roads are more congested than ever and less safe. Just \$12.887 million has been allocated this year for a second M1—stuck in the slow lane under Labor. Under Labor's watch, the second M1 will take years to build and meaningful construction will not commence for at least another 18 months. The Bruce Highway Trust, promised at the 2017 election to charter a 15-year vision for the Bruce Highway, has spent hardly a dime as at June 2020. Labor has no vision and no plan for the Bruce Highway, the biggest road in Queensland.

Labor's Inland Freight Route upgrade, or so-called second Bruce Highway, only has \$30 million of funding across the forward estimates. This is the Clayton's approach to funding where you allocate a minuscule amount for show when you really do not want to fund it in the first place.

Cross River Rail spending is \$275 million behind budget, proving Labor cannot deliver large infrastructure projects. There are also several questions over the budget and final scope of the project following the recent ninth variation and issues with the proposed new Boggo Road station. To add insult to injury, carriage of this project now resides with the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, who was the architect of 'rail fail' and described as foolish by the CCC.

The Palaszczuk Labor government cut infrastructure by almost \$9 billion in their first term. They are trying to play catch-up tennis and it is not working. The Auditor-General's report No. 4 says that Labor's road maintenance backlog—this is serious—risks the sustainability of the transport network. The Palaszczuk Labor government has increased registration fees above CPI over the past five years, lifting them by just under 20 per cent since it gained office. Labor presided over one of the world's worst public transport failures in our national history, resulting in 470 fewer rail services for commuters each week. Labor promised to build the Sunshine Coast rail duplication back in 2009, yet a decade later commuters are still waiting at the platform.

Labor's solution to the Bruce Highway involved setting up the Bruce Highway Trust. Then it took them almost three years to hold its first meeting, and then with no representatives north of Gympie. Now the incompetent transport minister is scrambling to have more regular meetings and, lo and behold, with some representatives from outside South-East Queensland. Who could forget another train wreck TV interview in which he said that the original trust members were very knowledgeable and because of that they could cover the whole of the state? Incompetent!

Labor has no plan and no budget to deal with Queensland's transport challenges or to invest in the new roads and upgrades that we desperately need. After years of neglect and underfunding by Labor, many sections of the Bruce Highway are run down and truly just unsafe. Only three months ago I drove from Cooktown to Coolangatta, the majority of which was the Bruce Highway. Sections of this key economic artery are a disgrace. I invite the transport minister to take up the challenge and emulate the drive to see the road surface and supporting infrastructure firsthand—not from 30,000 feet away in air-conditioned comfort. He should drive it himself and experience every bump.

Congestion on our roads continues to worsen. In fact, journey times have surged across South-East Queensland in the past decade. Brisbane drivers now spend an average of 67 minutes a day travelling to and from work. That only just trails Sydney, whose average is 71 minutes. Infrastructure Australia predicts that road use in South-East Queensland will rise by another 21 per cent over the next decade, costing the region's economy \$6 billion a year.

When it comes to infrastructure projects, Labor has a demonstrable track record of budget blowouts and delays, costing taxpayers millions. We have always acknowledged the need for a second rail river crossing, but what we have a distinct problem with is the lack of transparency in relation to this project. Is it any wonder that the cost-benefit analysis was not supported by Infrastructure Australia?

Past behaviour is indeed the best way to predict future actions. It does not seem to matter which Labor Party members come or go, they all share in their DNA an absolute inability to understand what expenditure containment and debt control is really all about. They have past form and a proven record of year-on-year expenditure growth. Labor's prodigious appetite to borrow and spend knows no bounds.

I have always said that the role of opposition is to hold the government to account, but not to criticise just for the sake of it. In this spirit, I would like to congratulate the Department of Transport and Main Roads in relation to their Service Delivery Statements which outline their customer service expectations. I am very honoured to be appointed the first shadow minister for customer service by the opposition leader.

We all know that all politics is local. In relation to my electorate of Chatsworth, the traffic congestion along Old Cleveland Road will continue and residents can ruminate this fact as they sit in peak-hour traffic. The Eastern Transitway is desperately needed to reduce congestion. This budget contains a vastly inadequate \$30 million which will not go very far as all it is providing is bus priority measures along Old Cleveland Road at the Creek Road intersection. The government has only spent \$3.3 million and a third of this project's expenditure is not scheduled to be spent until 2023. This is another example of a shiny bauble and trinket being rolled out just before the election so that the unite and recover bunting could be displayed.

It was obvious that the blow-in candidate against me recently was simply playing catch-up with any social media announcement I made, but I am pleased that the pressure I put on the government resulted in \$5 million towards the health and welfare centre at the Clem Jones Centre. I note, however, that only 50 per cent of the funding is allocated in this budget so this is an item I will continue to monitor.

I am pleased that my local lobbying for improvements to Gumdale State School has resulted in \$6 million, although only \$2.4 million is allocated in the 2020-21 budget. Again, I will closely monitor this line item to ensure the balance is forthcoming. It is encouraging to see that \$400,000 has been allocated to my old primary school in Carina for equitable access to classrooms and playgrounds. I am




bitterly disappointed that the \$500,000 funding for the Camp Hill State Infants and Primary School, which was promised by the Labor candidate, is missing. I quote from the failed Labor candidate's Facebook page on 28 October—

The Palaszczuk government will invest in our local schools like Camp Hill State Infants and Primary school to deliver greater capacity at the outside school hours care.

The associated image in front of the school gate read '\$500,000 for Camp Hill State Infants and Primary School'. Despite poring over section 3.4 of the Capital Statement, Budget Paper No. 3, I cannot see an allocation at all. This is another great Labor con.

In closing, this budget is disappointing on multiple levels. Yet again it lacks any form of vision. It has no appetite for true economic reform. It is more of an interview and vanity statement—look at me, look at me vanity speech—than a responsible document in relation to the finances of this state. If the Treasurer wants to continue his comparisons with other states, then compare the daring of New South Wales Treasurer Dominic Perrottet with his stamp duty reform proposal. This budget is as bereft of visionary reform as the Treasurer is of humility. If the cut-and-run failed former member for Greenslopes and now member for Woodridge wants to dream about being a famous US president, he should heed the sage words of a real leader: 'You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today.' That was Abraham Lincoln.

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (4.23 pm): Isn't it great to speak in the debate after the member for Chatsworth? Do new members of this chamber remember the member for Chatsworth and tough love? Remember the tough love: 14,000 public servants losing jobs and waiting lists at hospitals blowing out, but Queenslanders need this tough love. I have a message for the member for Chatsworth: on 31 October Queenslanders did not want your tough love. They rejected it. You talk about losers. Let us talk about the 50-odd LNP losers who did not make it into this chamber. If you want to talk about losers—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Member for Maryborough, could you ensure you address your comments through the chair, please.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** I am sorry, Mr Deputy Speaker, but when you are talking about the member for Chatsworth you lose it a bit. It is not hard to do.

Let us talk about the budget. Today we have learnt Janetzkis economics. Remember Roger economics. Now we have a new set of economics coming through.

**Ms Bates:** Called 'Labornomics'.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** I will take the interjection from the member for Mudgeeraba. Labor economics are good. Let us talk about that. Look at a seat like Maryborough. Maryborough is alive now thanks to the Palaszczuk Labor government. I will go on to my favourite subject. Everyone on my side of the House knows what I am talking about. I am talking about trains. There is a \$600 million investment in trains.

I really felt sorry for the LNP candidate for Maryborough because on the Thursday night when the LNP released their costings there was not a thing for trains. He had been spruiking on the campaign trail for months: 'We are going to be building trains in Maryborough.' I have never in my life seen a more defeated candidate on that Thursday night pick up his water bottle and walk away after he read the costings of the future LNP government.

Maryborough did not buy it, as we know. Let us talk about the \$600 million investment in trains. Some 690 jobs will be created in Maryborough thanks to the Palaszczuk Labor government. These are Queensland trains. When everyone in Brisbane rides the trains—this is why I love Cross River Rail—they will be sitting on seats made somewhere in Queensland. They will be sitting on a train that is made by Queenslanders for Queenslanders. They will not be sitting on a train made in India for Queenslanders—trains that had to come to Maryborough to be fixed because they did not comply with disability standards and they leaked. Do members want me to keep going? I could spend 12 minutes speaking without getting out of the first carriage. We have another five carriages to go. That is what I am talking about. The people of Maryborough understood and the people of Queensland understood that we are building trains for Queenslanders in Queensland—in Maryborough, the train capital.

What about the comments of the New South Wales Premier? What a gem she was during the election campaign. She said, 'We don't build trains in Australia.' I have a message for her. I sent a message to the New South Wales Premier. They are always saying how good the budget is in New South Wales and what they are going to do. I sent a message to the New South Wales Premier. I said, 'Come up to Queensland when the borders are open. I will invite you up to Maryborough and show you

that the best trains in the world are built in Maryborough.' I would pay for the bus trip up. I notice she never accepted the invite from me, the member for Maryborough, to come up and have a look at the best trains in the world which are built in Maryborough. Some 690 jobs will be created in Maryborough. Those opposite talk about no jobs being created. There are 690 jobs I can talk about straightaway.

There is \$692 million for the Health budget. That is a budget increase of \$8½ million for the Maryborough, Hervey Bay and Bundaberg hospitals. It is absolutely brilliant.

**Ms Boyd:** You're more lively now than when he was giving his speech in reply.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** I will take that interjection from the member for Pine Rivers. Those opposite are a bit lively. Look at them over there. No wonder Queenslanders rejected them. Have a look at them. They have no plan for Queensland. The last time they had a plan for Queensland, what did we lose? We lost 14,000 public servants and hospital waiting lists blew out. We got the pooper scooper. Pooper scoopers went well. They sold well for the former premier.

We are talking about this budget. This is a good budget.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Members on my left.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I do not need protection from lettuce leaves. This budget is good for rural and regional Queensland. Fifty-eight per cent of this budget is going to be spent in regional Queensland—on roadworks and on manufacturing jobs to build trains in Maryborough and jobs in the supply chain in Townsville, Rockhampton, Cairns and Ipswich. They would not even think about making sure that we had Queensland trains for Queenslanders to sit on. That is the problem. We have an incompetent opposition over there. There are no other words to describe them.

**Mr Millar:** Where's the cane from Maryborough going to go now?

**Mr SAUNDERS:** I hear the member for Gregory talking about the canegrowers. We have been working with the canegrowers.

**Mr Perrett** interjected.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** I take the interjection of the member for Gympie. I will give an invitation to the member for Gympie: every time you come to Maryborough my vote goes up, so would you like to come next week? I love it when the member for Gympie comes to Maryborough. The member for Gympie comes up and tells Maryborough people how they should live and how they should work. The member for Gympie should come back to Maryborough. He is welcome any time.

The budget is a good budget for Maryborough. There is investment in schools, the TAFE college, roadworks, health care and building trains. The Works for Queensland budget is money that councils cannot afford. I hope the Assistant Minister for Local Government will come up next year to open the water park. This is a \$3 million investment from the Palaszczuk government to the Fraser Coast Regional Council for a water park in Maryborough—something that we have all been fighting for. This is what Labor governments do. Labor governments invest in their communities. They put money in their communities. They do not take money out. They do not posture and talk about what they could do or should do. We deliver for regional Queensland. We deliver for our communities.

In the budget my community is getting a new fire station. This fire station is a \$12 million investment. Not only that; the timber for the fire station is coming locally from the Hyne's glulam factory. How do you beat that? We are producing the timber. We are keeping jobs at the glulam factory. We are building a new state-of-the-art fire and emergency service centre in Maryborough.

This is what Labor does. We make sure that everyone is looked after. We do not leave anyone behind. We are not the white-shoe brigade who walk around and look after their mates. We make sure that no-one in our community is left behind. That is what this budget does.

In all the years I have been in politics I have never seen an opposition as bad as the one we have now. Look at what happened on 31 October. Have a look at those opposite. They do not even take up half the chamber over there anymore. That is because the Queensland people have had enough of the negativity. They have had enough of the politics of hate. They are talking about services that this government and this budget is delivering.

We are delivering for regional Queensland. We are making sure that every child in the Maryborough electorate has an opportunity to go to school and to study because we know that education is crucial to lifting people, to making sure that they can get jobs and travel not only around Queensland but around the country and the world.

This budget continues the great spend in education in Maryborough. It continues the upgrade of Maryborough State High School. It continues the upgrade of Sunbury State School. It continues the upgrade of St Helens State School. It continues all of the upgrades to the schools in my electorate, and that will enhance my electorate.

When it comes to road upgrades, people in my electorate are pulling me up all the time complaining that there are now too many roadworks because we are making sure that the roads are of a good standard, and I congratulate the minister. We only have to look around Maryborough to see the upgrades to intersections on state controlled roads and to the highway. There is money set aside for the road to Howard. There is money in the budget to start the Tiaro bypass.

**Mr Perrett:** Four lanes.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** I hear the interjection about four lanes. That was one of the big things that the LNP took to the election—‘We want four lanes.’ I do not want to be rude to the member for Gympie, but we won Tiaro—and he is talking about four lanes! People know that if we waited for the federal government to commit money for four lanes it would never happen. The minister has taken action. We are getting a bypass around Tiaro—something that I have fought for since I have been elected. We are getting the new bridge over Saltwater Creek Road. We are getting upgrades to all of our intersections. We are getting an upgrade to Pialba Burrum Heads Road. These things are happening because of a Palaszczuk Labor government—a government that is for the people. We are not a government just for the few, like those opposite.

There are so many other things that we are doing in my great electorate of Maryborough. I keep going back to the building of trains. This has given our community a lift. This has made Maryborough a hive of activity. People are wanting to come and open up businesses in Maryborough. New shops are opening.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** I take the interjection of the member for Nanango, the former leader of the LNP. They did not want her in Queensland. The vote was that low it was below basement level. They did not want you or your policies, through the chair. They did not want the member for Nanango or her party. They did not want them across Queensland. That is why you are still on the opposition benches. You have not learnt anything yet. You have not learnt what people want. People want services. People want schools. People want road upgrades. People want jobs. They do not want cut, sack and sell. They do not want the Campbell Newman era. They do not want tough love. They do not want to go to a hospital and have to wait for hours because of the cutbacks. That is what happened under Campbell Newman.

**Ms Boyd:** Waiting lists for the waiting lists.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** They had waiting lists for the waiting lists. We know what they got up to. We know what they hid during their term in government. Sometimes you have to take these bitter pills. I know it is hard. Sometimes you have to sit back, reflect and have a look at yourself and say, ‘We want to go back to basics. We want to understand what the Queensland people want.’ On this side of the House, we know what Queensland people want. They want health care. They want jobs. They want education. That is what they want. That is what they voted for on 31 October. They did not vote for the Janetzki new economic plan. They did not vote for that, and they will not vote for that because they know how important education is to them. They know how hard it is to go to hospital. They know how important it is to go to hospital. They also know how great the Premier was during the COVID-19 pandemic.


**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** They think that is funny. That is why they are on the opposition benches. That is why they are going to stay there. That is why the former leader of the opposition could not lead them. That is why she has been dropped from being the leader. They do not understand Queenslanders. They have no understanding of Queenslanders.

This is a good budget for the Maryborough electorate. This is a good budget for Queenslanders. This is a very good budget. I thank the Treasurer because he has done a great job in very difficult times. It is easy to sit back and throw rocks when you have nothing to offer. We will make sure that no-one gets left behind in our community. This is what a traditional Labor government does. We make sure that we look after health care, education and jobs and that no-one gets left behind.

We know that we are heading for some tough times as we come out of COVID-19. Queenslanders voted. They know who they want behind the steering wheel of this car as we come out of these tough times. They wanted the Treasurer. They wanted the Premier. They wanted a Labor

government to steer them out of these tough times. That is the difference between us and them. The Queensland people know that a Labor government always puts Queenslanders first, before our mates. We do not put public money into public profits. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (4.38 pm): That was 15 minutes of my life that I will never get back! The Labor Party put the people of Queensland before their mates! Seriously? Do we need to rattle off a list of Labor mates who have been helped out by the Queensland Labor Party? Jim Soorley, for instance, is in a lot of trouble at the moment. He is the chairman of CS Energy. That is helping out Labor mates, I would say.

There is a long list of Labor mates who have been helped out by this government. That is the problem with Labor governments: if they do not like history they reinvent it or change it. We just heard a train wreck of a speech from the member for Maryborough. Who seriously thinks that the Labor Party can build trains? Let's wait and see what happens. Those of us who have been here more than five minutes remember what happened with the trains. The Bligh government could not find anybody in Australia who wanted to build the trains so they basically left the incoming government with one company. The LNP signed the contract that was left behind by the Bligh government, but that does not—

**Mrs Frecklington:** The now Premier was the transport minister at the time.

**Mr HART:** I will take that interjection from the member for Nanango. The now Premier was the transport minister at the time. The Labor Party does not like that story. They do not like the fact that it was actually their fault that we ended up with trains coming from India that did not quite work so they try and reinvent history. That is exactly what they have done with this budget. This budget is all smoke and mirrors. In fact, there is a lot of smoke because I think there is a fair bit of fire there as well.

The health minister was caught out a little bit in question time this morning. She had to admit that a satellite hospital was in the wrong location in the budget papers. That would indicate pretty clearly to me that the budget papers were actually written back in March or April sometime, and since then for the purpose of the election the Labor government has been trying to hide the fact from the people of Queensland that this state is going down the gurgler. We heard from the former treasurer of this state, the member for South Brisbane, that she was going to hold a budget in April. Then all of a sudden it was shifted back further and further.

**A government member:** I think we were having a COVID lockdown then.

**Mr HART:** COVID came up and that was an ideal excuse for the Labor Party to shift—

**Government members:** Ha ha!

**Mr HART:** No, it is an ideal excuse. Members opposite can stand here and tell us that they won this election fair and square on their policies, but it was purely about COVID. Madam Deputy Speaker, I can tell you that in Burleigh during the election the only thing the Labor Party put forward was, 'We saved you from COVID.' That was the only comment they had to make. Unfortunately, the people of Queensland fell for that.

How could this government be surprised that revenue dropped during a pandemic? How could they be surprised that GST took a hit when businesses were closed? There was no turnover. Gold Coast businesses have been smashed. In fact, businesses on the Gold Coast are telling me that one in three businesses will not survive next year. You would think that if you are going to put out a budget—this is what the LNP would have done—you would put out a stimulus package to keep businesses going. Where is the stimulus package this government has come up with? I cannot see it. Businesses on the Gold Coast cannot see it because it does not exist.

They have again tried to hoodwink the people of Queensland by telling us that we are going only to be \$102 billion or \$106 billion in debt. It now appears that we will be \$130 billion in debt. It should not be a surprise to the people of Queensland that the Labor Party does not tell them the truth, it hides the facts from them, and it purely was about the election on 31 October. That is what it was all about. If we are going to end up with \$130 billion worth of debt and we are going to spend over \$28 billion of that on something, wouldn't we be increasing the net worth of Queensland? After all, if this was your house and you went out and you borrowed a lot of money then you would put in a kitchen, garage or swimming pool to increase the value of your property. This government is not doing that. They are purely borrowing this money to pay for their increased Public Service and to put pens and paper on desks and fuel in cars. That is all they are going to do.

Let's talk about the Public Service for a second. The Public Service is now at 238,000, which is up 33,133 public servants, or 16.6 per cent, since 2015. The cost of the Public Service will increase from \$26.47 billion in 2022 to \$28.96 billion in 2023—\$2.5 billion a year. Over four years there is

\$10 billion of your \$28 billion lost. It is not like your front-of-house service has picked up, is it? When people try and ring the government the phone rings out. You do not get an answer. If you go to the transport department and line up to get your licence renewed or your car registration, you are lined up out the door standing there for two or three hours wasting your time because there is no frontline service available.

There is no massive stimulus package like the LNP was putting forward with our new Bradfield scheme, which was a great plan. There are no bold plans. There are no dams being built. The only dam that is being built in Queensland is the Rookwood Weir, and they have lowered the size of that. This is now going to be a puddle inside of a swimming pool. The people of Rockhampton do not deserve that. They have pulled down the Paradise Dam. They are reducing the number of dams.

Earlier today the member for Chatsworth asked about Cross River Rail. If my memory serves me correctly, in the budget a few years ago there was \$700 million for Cross River Rail. The rest of the \$5.4 billion that is supposedly fully funded is actually coming from the private sector. This is going to be another train wreck. Cross River Rail will blow out completely. We will just have to wait and see.

The government put out a number of fiscal principles before the election and they said they would stick with them. They have gone straight out the window. Let's just have a quick look at their fiscal principles. Principle 1 states that they will 'target ongoing reductions in Queensland's relative debt burden'. We have pretty well failed that one, haven't we? Twenty-eight billion dollars have gone out the door with nothing in return. Principle 2 states—

Target a net operating surplus that ensures any new capital investment—  
in the general government sector—

is funded primarily through recurrent revenues rather than borrowing.

That one has failed. Out the door. Principle 3 states—

The General Government capital program will be managed to ensure a consistent flow of works ...

Well, is that happening? Who knows? Principle 4 states they will 'maintain competitive taxation'. The Treasurer has promised there will be no increased taxes. I do not believe him for a second. Let's wait and see. Principle 5 states—

Target full funding of long-term liabilities such as superannuation and WorkCover ...

The Treasurer tells us that is going to stay in place. Again, I do not trust him. He does not have a very good history when it comes to raiding the superannuation funds of the Public Service. Principle 6 states—

Maintain a sustainable public service by ensuring overall growth in full-time equivalent employees, on average over the forward estimates, does not exceed population growth.

Well, that is a complete failure, isn't it? We have six principles here. They are completely out the door. They told the people of Queensland before the election that they would stick with these things, but they absolutely have not.

I will speak about my local electorate of Burleigh for a minute. I would like to thank the people of Burleigh for re-electing me for my fourth term. It was a close thing; it was a lot closer than I am comfortable with but we got there in the end. We are getting some money for Palm Beach State School. That is a pretty old school and it needs some new classrooms so I am grateful for that. Palm Beach-Currumbin State High School is getting a multimodal sports facility. Strangely enough, my competitor in Burleigh, Rabbit Bartholomew, put out a Facebook post the night before the election stating that there was half a million dollars for Burleigh state school, but that is not in the budget. I will be following up on that to make sure that is there for Burleigh state school. Apparently, he rang the principal and told him there was half a million dollars coming for the Burleigh state school. I table a copy of that for the information of members.

*Tabled paper:* Extract, dated 31 October, from the Facebook page of the Labor candidate for Burleigh, Mr Wayne 'Rabbit' Bartholomew, in relation to funding for Burleigh State School [\[352\]](#).

We have stage 3 and stage 4 of the light rail which is coming to Burleigh and beyond. Stage 3 is happening, and my job in the future will be to minimise the impact that will have on businesses in my electorate. I am really concerned about stage 4. The government have done a multimodal transport study on the Gold Coast to see what the best options are. They put out a glossy brochure which tells us that the best option is to go straight down the coast through the middle of Palm Beach. I am completely opposed to that and I have been calling on the government for quite a while to release that full report of the multimodal study. I would again ask the transport minister to make that available so we

can see whether what the minister is telling us is in fact true. If this does go down the coast through Palm Beach where a number of people have just built new buildings and new houses, those buildings and houses will possibly be resumed. Transport and Main Roads do not know anything about light rail going down there, and they have not told anybody that their businesses and houses could possibly be impacted in the future.

I have been fighting for a long time for a bus service through Old Burleigh Town. There are 800 people there and they do not have a bus service. I noticed during the election that the member for Gaven, who is a very close friend of the transport minister, was able to announce that she was having a bus service that would go directly to people's houses, pick them up and take them where they wanted to go. The member for Gaven apparently can get a private bus service—

**Mr Stevens** interjected.

**Mr HART:** I will not take that interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach because that is not something I want to do, I can tell you. Pork-barrelling is one of the big things that this government does. I want to go to a couple of things that were mentioned in ministerial statements earlier today.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Bush): Pause the clock. Will the member for Mount Ommaney please resume her seat. We are not able to loiter in the aisles.

**Ms Pugh:** I am sorry. I would have to step in front of the member to do that, but I am happy to do that. It also breaks another standing order.

**Mr HART:** The housing minister told us this morning that they were increasing public housing by 5,000 extra buildings by 2027. There are 25,000 people on the long wait list for public housing at the moment. That is 25,000 families who cannot get public housing so 5,000 extra buildings is just not going to cut it. The government has to do more than that.

The Minister for Innovation told us that Advance Queensland have been doing a fantastic job and that there have been lots of grants for that. I gave a speech on 18 June this year outlining a number of programs that were axed by this government because they failed to deliver what they were supposed to deliver. I table a copy of that speech.

*Tabled paper:* Private member's statement, dated 18 June 2020, by the member for Burleigh, Mr Michael Hart MP, titled 'Ignite Ideas Fund' [\[353\]](#).

Most of those grants were for companies that were based overseas. They came to the country, took our money, did not provide what they were going to provide and then disappeared out of the country. Advance Queensland has been a massive failure and it needs to be rectified.

The Minister for Energy told us today that they were going to have 72 electric vehicles by the end of the year. In a fleet that has 10,000 vehicles, that is not good enough either. As a member who has an electric vehicle, I would say to the government that the first thing they need to do is put an electric charger in Parliament House so I can charge my car. That would be very nice. This budget is a complete failure.



**Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (4.54 pm): I rise to speak in support of the 2020 budget we have before us. I start by addressing a couple of issues that the Leader of the Opposition raised in his speech earlier today. He spoke about the public sector and said what he would offer their 'customers' if he were premier. These are customers that they are talking about—the people of Queensland—not voters, not residents, not citizens, not mums or dads, but customers. The government's relationship with Queensland is not transactional, which is the way the LNP see it. They see it as transactional—that these people come together, obtain something and then just go. That is not the way the people of Queensland see their government. The relationship is ongoing, mutually beneficial, constantly changing, renegotiated. Queenslanders have an ongoing stake and interest in what their government does. They do not see themselves as the government's customers.

Secondly, in regards to borrowing, one of the only lines the Leader of the Opposition had was that this budget has increased our net worth and that the borrowing has delivered 'so little in return'. Queensland is not a corporation; we are a society. I question it when they say 'so little in return'. They need to talk to the businesses in North Lakes that got one of our small business grants during the COVID-19 lockdown—such as the Fernwood gym, the 24/7 Breathe gym and Latitude Coffee roasters. Those grants kept the lights on, they kept the doors open and they kept Queenslanders in jobs, and that is a big return for ordinary working Queenslanders.

The remarks from the opposition leader today reveal a lot about what they think about Queenslanders and how they actually regard them—that is, they are a customer and a recipient of an investment to make a return. Only Labor treats Queenslanders like Queenslanders. We see them as

members of a society, not as members of a corporation. Only Labor looks after Queenslanders and knows how to keep them safe. Only Labor delivers kids the education they need, delivers protections to workers as they go to work every day and delivers to those Queenslanders later in life the care that they need. And we do that without expecting a return.

I will talk a bit about what we will deliver to the people in Bancroft in this budget. In terms of state roads, I am very excited about the start of the process to deliver the Moreton Connector road. That will upgrade the Gateway Motorway between Bracken Ridge and Pine Rivers and help improve the Bruce Highway between Pine Rivers and Dohles Rocks Road and between Caboolture and Steve Irwin Way. These were all part of a \$56 billion capital works program, and that is \$14.8 billion being delivered this financial year to support 46,000 jobs in Queensland.

In terms of local health, I am very pleased to see we are continuing to fund the new MRI machine which is going into the Redcliffe Hospital. That is very much wanted and needed. We will also deliver funds for the construction of a new operating theatre at Redcliffe Hospital and we will start the business case to refurbish, reconstruct and rejuvenate the Redcliffe Hospital. There is an extra \$360 million to keep support services going in Queensland Health—those support services that have kept us safe. I want to commend the government for that \$1.2 billion plan we delivered during COVID. Our COVID response plan has kept Queenslanders safe.

In terms of local infrastructure in this budget, I am very pleased to see that we are funding a range of council projects in Deception Bay, Burpengary East and North Lakes under Works for Queensland and the community stimulus package. For example, we are funding park and playground upgrades in seven parks—like Skye Blue Park in Leonie Street, Felicity Court and Endeavour Boulevard South Park. We are delivering funds to fund the first stage of construction of a new community facility at the old DPI fisheries site in Deception Bay. We have been chasing that for years.


Funds have been provided for an electrical and mechanical upgrade at the Deception Bay pool, and they are generally hard to fund. They are the funds that go into the things that people do not see: what is done underground and in the sheds. That is hugely important. We are investing and reinvesting in those facilities in our outer urban areas. We are also funding council to install a new toilet block at Uhlmann Road boat ramp. It is a very expensive one but we are pleased to do it. I want to commend our local councillor Mark Booth for pushing for that. It would not have happened otherwise.

I also want to talk briefly about the fact that this budget shows how well the Palaszczuk government is doing in terms of economic performance. I do believe—and it is very clear in this budget—that we are on the right track. The total number of employed people in Queensland is back to pre-COVID-19 levels. We have more people participating in the workforce and looking for work than any other east coast state. The September quarter retail sales in Queensland were 11 per cent higher than they were last year. Dwelling approvals are now higher than the pre-COVID-19 level. New loan commitments for owner-occupiers are the highest in 18 years in Queensland. I think this shows the confidence that Queenslanders have in their state and in the economic management of the Palaszczuk government. We will keep on creating more jobs in this term of office. Our economic recovery plan is supporting 55,000 jobs and our election commitments will support another 50,000 jobs.

I think this contrasts rather well with the woeful alternatives offered by the LNP. Their position on debt is unsustainable and hypocritical. They have been talking about how well New South Wales has done. Why do they not just get it over with and put on the blue jersey and parade up and down all day? I point out, as the Treasurer said, the net debt in New South Wales is \$93 billion; in Queensland it is \$68 billion. The net debt to revenue ratio in New South Wales is 112 per cent; in Queensland it is 77 per cent. The total debt including government corporations in New South Wales is \$191 billion; and in Queensland, \$130 billion. However, who are the big performers when it comes to debt? That is the federal coalition government; they are the monsters in the room. It will get to \$1.1 trillion. That is over \$1 million million. We have heard the LNP say this week, 'That's JobKeeper and JobSeeker.' However, in that case, that is borrowing—in their own terminology—to keep the lights on, the very thing that they have been accusing us of doing. The federal debt is going to do exactly that.

They have also said, 'They're borrowing a lot of money in Queensland. That is a lot more than we thought.' However, as the former federal finance minister Mathias Cormann said, what choice do we have? The LNP position is that it is okay for the federal government to build up this massive debt but not for Queensland Labor. Once again, it is hypocritical and their position is unsustainable.

I am very pleased with this budget. It delivers enormously for all the people of Queensland and the people of Bancroft. I commend it to the House.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (5.03 pm): It is well known that the Labor government are famous for their ability to do nothing, particularly in terms of infrastructure development. Not only can they do nothing; they can do nothing for impossibly extended periods. Top of mind for me are the empty agricultural colleges in my electorate or the lack of investment in our vital road networks. As a result, over the last five years Queensland has fallen further and further behind New South Wales and Victoria.

It is clear to me that a big part of the reason the Labor government has allowed this to happen is that Queensland under Labor has lacked any economic leadership. We have lacked it for half a decade. The government spent most of a year trying to recruit a chief economist without any success. Apparently no-one wanted the title 'Queensland chief economist' on their CV and it was not seen as a real career booster. The joke around the pubs was that we did not need a chief economist anyway because we did not have much of an economy left, having attacked our own agriculture, mining and tourism industries.

After this long game of musical chairs we have a new Treasurer and a new Under Treasurer. All those who love Queensland—and I love Queensland—must hope they bring something more to the job than their predecessors did in the last two Labor administrations. We speak this week in response to their first budget effort. This is a budget Labor would not release before the election, but I cannot really see what the issue was. This is a budget of no surprises and, therefore, very little new hope.

Up-front I must say that I do welcome the recognition of the importance of the regions in the budget strategy. It says the regions will play a critical role in driving Queensland's recovery from the impact of coronavirus. Unfortunately, I have concluded that this is mostly cheap flattery in the case of Central Queensland as west of Rockhampton and Mackay there is not a single extra dollar being invested to back that up. All the funding announced in departmental budgets was previously announced or has been given a quick rejig or freshen up before being wheeled out again. Even the Blackwater manual arts announcement is in that category; that was announced a long time ago. In fact, the press release was out eight months ago.

Yesterday I tried to find out when agricultural freight will be able to use Labor's promised inland freight route, but the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development did not seem to know. Yesterday I also listened with great intent to the ministerial statement by the Minister for Employment and Small Business and the Minister for Training and Skills Development. The minister spoke of the \$1 billion investment in training. The minister said that this would include—

\$200 million over four years for the Building Future Skills Fund including the \$100 million rollout of new and improved TAFE facilities across Queensland which will position Queenslanders in every region to take up the jobs of the future, including in renewable energy, agriculture ...

Let me highlight that. The minister said it will position Queenslanders in every region to be able to get the training they need to be job ready and have the skills they need for meaningful employment. Guess what? There is not one dollar of investment for Central Queensland west of Rockhampton. The Longreach Pastoral College sits empty while the Labor government sits on a detailed proposal from the Remote Area Planning and Development Board, or RAPAD as it is known, to use the facility to provide skills training in the west. In the budget there is not one extra dollar of investment.

Likewise, on the Central Highlands the Emerald Agricultural College campus sits empty and the TAFE campus falls into disrepair. We have lost and continue to lose valuable teaching staff due to that. Essential courses are closed down even though our biggest employers are the mining industry, the agricultural industry, and tourism and hospitality.

Only this week I was approached by an Emerald mother whose 15-year-old son enrolled to do his electrical certificate II through the VETiS program at the CQU Emerald campus. The course was cancelled as there is no electrical teacher at the campus. In desperation she tried to enrol him in Rockhampton, although this would entail her driving him on a six-hour round trip to attend classes. Both Rockhampton courses are full.

In Blackwater one of my constituents has returned to TAFE as a mature age apprentice to gain qualifications in the specialised field of high voltage electricity. They lost their teacher last year. Between mining, Powerlink and the electrified coal rail freight network, there is high demand for these qualifications in Blackwater. However, in order to receive the training, our children have to leave their homes and leave their region to have a chance. One of the advantages in living in a mining or an agricultural town is that you should have an opportunity in terms of training and employment in those industries, but this is simply not happening. So excuse me if I take offence at the minister's boast that every Queenslanders in every region will have that opportunity. Under this government and this budget, they do not have that opportunity in the Central Highlands and they do not have it in the Central West.



I also noted with interest yesterday's ministerial statement by the new Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and the Minister for Science and Youth Affairs. The minister highlighted the investment of \$5.5 million over four years 'to expand our air quality monitoring and management system'. For most of the last parliament I have been trying to get the minister's predecessor to engage with my constituents in the town of Bluff, which is 20 kilometres east of Blackwater. They have been suffering major dust issues from a mine which was approved far too close to their town. I heard crickets.

When I heard the ministerial statement yesterday, I hoped for a minute that the department would be monitoring air quality in all of our Bowen Basin towns—Blackwater, Bluff, Emerald, Capella, Tieri, Dysart, Glenden, Moranbah, Clermont, Nebo and others. We know that there has been a return of black lung but, even addressing that, the government has chosen not to measure air quality in our mining towns—or at least not in the public and transparent way that might show any problems and allow GPs to manage vulnerable residents. Unfortunately, the government having announced the expansion of air quality monitoring, the minister did not go on to say where this would be done and whether it would be done on permanent monitors or portable monitors. Instead, the minister merely stated the obvious in that air monitoring is 'a crucial source of information for governments and the community during extreme weather events like bushfires'. You have to be kidding! Our mining communities have the right to permanent air quality monitoring before we worry about air quality during weather events.

Yesterday afternoon I spoke of the drought and mental health crisis on the Central Highlands and across the Central West of Queensland. As I said, Gregory claims a spot in the top five areas around Australia for suicides. This has everything to do with drought and despair and with the closure of the essential small businesses and trades that make our communities viable. It has everything to do with the hollowing out of our populations and the loss of the frontline public service. I am grateful for the continuation of the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme, but the proposed axing of the fodder subsidy would be vicious, short-sighted and just plain wrong. I am pleased to see funding allocations for the council programs—Building our Regions and Works for Queensland—confirmed, but it is not new hope. We need much more from this Labor government.

I welcome funding for infrastructure investments at Capella State School, Blackwater State High School, Woorabinda State School, Longreach State High School and Longreach State School, but Gregory accounts for a quarter of Queensland's land mass—there are over 55 schools—and this should be reflected in a much larger investment. There is also a real need to provide families across Central Queensland west of Rockhampton with large investments in special needs education in regional schools. This is a very important subject for people in the Central Highlands and the Central West. We have people whose children have special needs, yet we do not have the resources. Families move away to try and get a better opportunity for their children who need those services. We need to put special needs front and centre for rural, remote and regional Queensland. They are just as important in rural, remote and regional Queensland as they are in the south-east, and we need to invest in those children and families who are so valuable to our communities. We need to put more effort into special needs. I call on the education minister, the Treasurer and the Premier to take this up for rural, remote and regional Queensland. It is desperately needed.

There is a desperate need to improve our access to trades training. In the Labor seat of Rockhampton, the Treasurer is giving \$8 million towards stage 1 to rebuild the TAFE facility. I am asking the Treasurer to consider the huge need for this west of Rockhampton as well.

During the election Labor promised renal dialysis services in Longreach. I have spoken in the House about how urgent the need is for both Longreach and Emerald. Less remote centres have been promised it. People need this. People are dying for the lack of it in Central Western Queensland, yet I see no funding allocation for Longreach and certainly none for the larger towns such as Emerald, which services a shire the size of Tasmania. I call on the Labor Party and the Treasurer to show some leadership in health, which has clearly been lacking, and to allocate this funding for renal dialysis for Longreach—Labor promised it—and to ensure renal dialysis funding is also moved into the Emerald area so that people can access this necessary service.

Similarly, transport is about more than the needs of the South-East Queensland commuter. As Minister Bailey made massive commitments in South-East Queensland transport, including freezing the price of tickets, regional drivers' registration costs spiral and roads fall apart as the maintenance budget is robbed for the flash and dash. Registration costs are going up. A lot of people in Gregory need to register work vehicles such as trucks, semitrailers and road trains, but the roads are starting to deteriorate very badly. If you use the road between Emerald and Alpha, you are sometimes lucky to


survive. That road is falling apart and is being used more and more as we see the opening up of the Galilee Basin and we see more transport—road trains transporting cattle from the west to the east because of the drought. We urgently need to upgrade that road.

I am also calling on the Treasurer to show some economic leadership and enforce some fiscal accountability on the use of funds in the Department of Transport and Main Roads. The Treasurer will already be starting work on his next budget, due in about six months. Between the south-east corner and North Queensland is the beating heart of our state: Central Queensland. It makes a massive economic contribution to Queensland through the mining industry—whether it be the Bowen Basin or through the opening up of the Galilee Basin—and the agriculture industry on the Central Highlands. The minister for agriculture knows very well that it is a fantastic place to see agriculture grow, be it in cotton, wheat, cattle or citrus. It is the salad bowl of Queensland and it is the beating heart.

In the western part of Queensland, in the Central West, we are seeing an increase in sheep numbers because of cluster fencing. I commend the Premier on her investment in cluster fencing in Western Queensland. I think that is a fantastic idea—an idea started under Andrew Cripps and continued on by the Premier and by agriculture ministers including Minister Furner, who has committed more funding to cluster fencing. We are starting to see lambing rates, which used to be about 15 per cent or even less, around 90 or 95 per cent. We are actually seeing 110 per cent lambing rates where we are seeing twins hit the ground. That is yield increase in the wool industry. The more lambs we put on the ground, the more opportunity we have for a wool clip. We need to rebuild the wool industry out there. We also need to put an effort into making sure our beef industry continues to survive. Reef regulations and vegetation management do not help that industry whatsoever.

I am calling on the Palaszczuk government to invest in agriculture as it will get that back—big time. The same applies to the mining industry. We need more effort put into regional Queensland. That is why I said that between South-East Queensland and North Queensland is the economic beating heart of Queensland: Central Queensland. From Rockhampton and Mackay, all the way out to Boulia and down to Birdsville, you have a massive industry. The biggest beef herd in Australia is in the Central Highlands, going all the way up to Mackay and east to Rockhampton. We need to invest in that. I was hoping that this budget would invest more in agriculture.

I am concerned about the slashing of the agriculture department's budget of \$44 million. We need to invest in agronomists, extension officers and R and D. Finally, we need to reopen the Emerald Agricultural College and the Longreach Pastoral College. There is a great plan from RAPAD to start working with the big pastoral houses to do induction courses there, to start reopening the Longreach Pastoral College. With the Emerald Agricultural College there is interest from the Cotton Growers Research Development Corporation and the Grains Development Research Corporation, who want to invest in R and D in northern cropping on the Emerald farm. That will see us adapt to better varieties, whether it is cotton, wheat or chickpea. We need to invest in those sorts of R and D projects so we can grow our trade to our overseas neighbours, especially in South-East Asia. There is a great opportunity. Invest in these agricultural colleges and let's see this happen.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (5.18 pm): I rise to speak in support of the appropriation bills and start by congratulating the Treasurer and his team on their tremendous efforts. It is inspiring to see a budget that will, in my opinion, provide confidence to Queenslanders during a time of great uncertainty. This is a budget that Queenslanders should feel a part of and should feel proud of. It is only through the efforts of our people that we have been able to deliver a budget that strikes a balance between stimulus and fiscal constraint.

In October, Queenslanders delivered their verdict on the government they wanted to navigate us through the health and economic recovery. This budget is a reflection of the trust they put in us, with an unashamed focus on jobs and ensuring that our frontline services are maintained and strengthened, including a record investment of \$21.8 billion this financial year in Queensland's health system. As we move through the health crisis, Queenslanders will want the certainty of employment in jobs that offer meaning and continuity.

There are nearly 2,500 small businesses in my electorate across a range of sectors including finance, construction, health care and retail. These businesses bore the brunt of the COVID-19 downturn. In his budget speech the Treasurer stated that adversity drives innovation, and we have all witnessed that innovation across Queensland, but particularly from our business sector. Business owners are resilient and creative and during this time of adversity they have quickly found ways to adapt their service delivery. Eat-in restaurants like Naim in Paddington—one of my favourites—quickly developed a takeaway option that, thanks to swift regulatory reform, could also include a takeaway bottle of wine.

I spoke to many people right throughout Brisbane who changed their spending patterns with a focus on shopping local and eating out more to support local business. Many said to me, 'If I'm able to work through this and keep my job, I feel a sense of duty to support those who are struggling to stay open.' We have lost businesses in Cooper—there is no denying that—and my heart aches for those owners, their families and customers. That is why it is critical to get the support for small business right in the budget not only in this financial year but throughout the remainder of our term.

Queensland was the first Australian jurisdiction to provide wideranging payroll tax relief at the onset of the global pandemic, supporting more than 16,500 Queensland businesses affected directly by the impact of COVID-19. We backed small business with \$1 billion in 12-month interest-free loans, with more than \$1.3 billion in payroll tax and land tax relief and close to \$200 million in small business grants. I have had the pleasure of meeting with local business owners and recipients of these grants.

Bree from Paddington Pups, a wildly successful dog-minding and grooming service, successfully applied for a COVID-19 adaptation grant to provide targeted business coaching for her team—coaching that will have a lasting legacy on this business and any other future endeavours Bree turns her mind to. Minister Fentiman, in her capacity at the time as minister for small business, and I met with John from Milk cafe in Ashgrove—a family owned business that has developed and manufactures its own soft-serve ice cream that is used solely in its milkshakes and thickshakes. John used the grant funding to replace and upgrade kitchen machinery, expanding its output and setting it up for future growth.

These are two of the over 220 stories of Cooper businesses that have already accessed this grant funding. It is investments like this that give the business sector the confidence to grow their business and employ additional staff. The appointment of a dedicated Small Business Commissioner will enable us to work even more closely with business, assisting them and us to identify and seize new opportunities to both innovate and to expedite any regulatory reforms that will better support this sector.

As I outlined last week in my first speech, the people of Cooper are spoilt for choice in terms of the high performance schools we can choose to send our children to. Many of these schools will benefit even further with over \$1 billion invested—a record investment for Queensland—over four years through the Great Schools Great Future commitment which will see the construction of new classrooms, school halls and administration buildings in addition to funding for infrastructure renewal in schools.

Students in Cooper will benefit through over a \$10 million investment for the Ithaca Creek State School for a new building with six new classrooms and two specialist learning centres, along with a further \$450,000 to upgrade the school's swimming pool amenity block which will benefit not only the students of this school but many students in surrounding schools who access this pool, as do the members of our fantastic Ithaca Sharx swimming club.

We are committing \$10 million for the building of 12 new classrooms at The Gap State High School and a further \$500,000 for tuckshop upgrades, an important refurbishment that will enable The Gap State High to increase its own revenue and fundraising. We will provide \$1.8 million for a new building for Petrie Terrace State School, adding an additional four classrooms.

There is a \$200,000 investment to modernise and upgrade existing classrooms at Ashgrove State School; \$200,000 to renovate the Hilder Road State School prep classrooms, which is great news for our preppies; and \$156,000 for St Joseph's Primary School in Bardon for a new playground and tennis court resurfacing.


This equates to a funding envelope of over \$23 million in schools throughout my electorate and I know our students, their families and members of the broader community who access these facilities will celebrate that. But of course the creation and upgrade of learning spaces is only half the story. Our budget is also prioritising funding to frontline services, including 6,190 new teachers and over a thousand new teacher aides across Queensland. As a mother of four daughters, two of whom are still in school, I am really excited to know that this government is committed to providing a world-class education system.

We know that growing our economy and protecting our environment is not a zero sum game, that it is possible to achieve both outcomes. The Palaszczuk government is committed to protecting the environment and the jobs that rely on it. Our economic recovery plan continues our commitment to Queensland's natural wonders like the Great Barrier Reef and local icons like the Walkabout Creek Discovery Centre in my electorate. We have a strong track record of protecting Queensland's environment, and that is why we are investing \$989 million this financial year to support our natural assets and drive economic growth.

Something that I know my electorate will care about is our government's commitment to our war on waste and we are taking the next steps to ban single-use plastic items, starting with straws, cutlery, plates and stirrers. We are also asking Queenslanders to have their say on including polystyrene containers in the ban.

Locally in my electorate we are investing \$974,000 to upgrade visitor infrastructure in D'Aguilar National Park as well as \$250,000 to upgrade visitor infrastructure and wildlife facilities at the Walkabout Creek Discovery Centre at the Enoggera Reservoir. Both commitments form part of the \$8.9 million national parks works. We know that if we can attract more people to visit these wild spaces then more people will see and appreciate them and care about their future protection, and I look forward to welcoming visitors to this area.

In his budget speech the Treasurer said that budgets are always about choices. The Labor government, through this budget, has made the choice to invest in Queenslanders at this time when we all need it most, and I commend it to the House.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (5.26 pm): I rise to speak on the 2020-21 budget. The government has twisted, ducked and weaved. It used every excuse not to deliver a budget before October. Last year we were told a budget would be delivered early so the electorate would know what was in it before the election. Then the new Treasurer was caught out saying that the budget was delayed because Queensland always waits on the federal budget. It was always scheduled to be brought down before the federal budget. The government keeps changing the spin because it only sees the budget as a cynical PR exercise in political manipulation. It has done everything to avoid revealing the brutal truth about the government's mismanagement of the state's economy. It did not want attention on its financial incompetence.

Labor's new spin is that the electorate overwhelmingly endorsed the budget. The government has not explained how the electorate overwhelmingly endorsed something that was delivered on Tuesday. It is cloaking the budget in a mantle of retrospective approval. Queensland is the last state to deliver a budget in 2020. Labor has been flying blind through the biggest economic crisis in almost a century. We are in a mess because Labor cannot manage the economy. It is addicted to putting everything on the credit card, crossing its fingers and hoping problems will disappear. Labor has already smashed the Queensland economy with nine new or increased job-destroying taxes, ripping almost \$4 billion out of the economy. Even before the coronavirus, we were at the bottom of the economic ladder. We had the highest unemployment rate, the highest number of bankruptcies and the lowest business confidence.

On any measure, the government has failed every man, woman and child in this state. Almost 214,000 Queenslanders are unemployed. That is more than the total population of Toowoomba, Townsville or Cairns. From November 2017 to January this year, we had on average the worst unemployment rate in the nation. At 15.5 per cent, we have the highest youth unemployment rate in the nation. We have the second highest number of long-term jobseekers. More than 10,943 bankruptcies have been declared since December 2015—the most in the nation.

Labor treats taxpayers' money with contempt and siphons it off for political and self-interest purposes. It wasted \$1.3 billion in the last three years, and that is what we know about. There was a \$527 million blowout on IT projects and hundreds of thousands were spent on changing the name of a hospital. It spent half a million dollars for a disgraced former Labor Party operative to advise it on how to campaign and conduct internal opinion polls. In June it changed the election campaign rules to rig the election. It will cost an additional \$23 million in public funding. The government believes that there is not one electorate or one frontline service that could better spend that \$23 million on health, transport, police, law and order, small business, ambulances, roads, fireys or education. It is showing breathtaking contempt for taxpayers.

Gympie residents still talk about how a Labor government casually wasted \$500 million on the failed Traveston Dam. After six years of power the government is putting more on credit, more borrowings, more debt, highest jobless figures—a forecast that our jobless rate in three years, in 2023-24, will be the highest in the nation. That is cold comfort for the 2,048 unemployed in Gympie in the June quarter. Our unemployment rate of 9.4 per cent is three per cent above the state average.

Our state debt is headed for \$130 billion. The government promised only \$4 billion in additional borrowings. Now it is borrowing an eye-watering \$28 billion. Despite this, Gympie did not even get crumbs from this budget. It is as though Gympie does not exist. The government scraped the bottom of the barrel to find two things to put in its glossy brochure. To make matters worse, the state

government is only a bit player in both those projects. The state government is only making a small part-contribution to the Cooroy to Curra section D Gympie bypass and the upgrade of the Imbil sewage treatment plant.

In a glossy brochure the government announced a \$94 million commitment towards the Gympie bypass. It must be one of the most recycled announcements ever made. It has been announced, re-announced and used in endless photos and media opportunities. Only two months ago the roads minister was in Gympie for a sod turning photo opportunity. The government is announcing a project that was committed to three years ago—in November 2017.

What is more contemptible is that it is claiming credit for a project that is principally funded by the federal government. The major portion of the Gympie bypass is funded by the federal government—\$94 million out of a total spend of \$1 billion is less than 10 per cent of the project. Canberra is doing the heavy lifting and the government is claiming credit. The minister even announced and re-announced it in a press release issued in the department's budget. The only reference to the federal government was in brackets as an afterthought saying the project is jointly funded. Jointly implies equal contributions. Nothing is further from the truth. It was the LNP that kickstarted the Bruce Highway upgrade.

The only other announcement for the Gympie region was \$128,994 for the Imbil sewage treatment plant upgrade. The major portion of the upgrade will be funded by local ratepayers. In previous years we used to get 80 per cent of the funding from the Small Communities Assistance Program. It was removed by Labor's Bligh-Fraser government. When existing projects become the highlight there are big problems. There is a lack of vision. Meanwhile, Gympie residents will cough up more in future debt repayments while choking on the crumbs. We did not even get a decent slice of the cake.

Gympie is a growing region which needs investment into upgrades and new projects. It is a high-growth commercial and residential corridor in a strategic location. Local real estate agents are reporting a tight property market, properties sold sight unseen and rentals snapped up. The budget has no vision for Gympie's future. It is not like those opposite do not know. I have written to ministers and the Premier numerous times seeking support for local projects. This budget provides next to nothing for state controlled roads, bridges, local schools and health care.

The police minister boasted in a press release about a record police budget and capital works program. Rainbow Beach needs a properly designated police station. The Cooloola Coast's permanent population of 6,500 swells by thousands during the peak tourist season and on weekends. The current police beat is not a police station and does not provide the same level of service.

**Mr Ryan:** You've never raised it with me before.

**Mr PERRETT:** I have raised it now, Minister, and I look forward to seeing it in next year's budget.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Lui): Direct your comments through the chair.

**Mr PERRETT:** Patients on the coast are forced to travel significant distances for many basic healthcare treatments and services that are available in towns with populations of only 2,000. The Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service's review of health needs on the coast was due in February this year. The master clinical plan was scheduled for completion by the end of this year. Phase 1 was due back in March. That review was undertaken before COVID. It will provide some guidelines on the health and medical facilities needed on the Cooloola Coast.

Planning also needs to start on a new Gympie hospital. It is on a constrained site at the top of a steep hill and parking is poor. The private hospital has closed and it is putting additional pressure on the public hospital. Cooloola Coast Medical Transport needs support. It takes patients to out-of-town medical appointments when patient transport is outside the scope of local ambulance services.

Glenwood was new to the electorate in the last term. It was previously in the Maryborough electorate. Locals tell me that the Labor member ignored their requests for an ambulance station. More than 6,000 people live in Glenwood and the surrounding region. They must wait for up to 40 minutes for an ambulance to come from Gympie or Maryborough. The stretch of Bruce Highway going through the region is notorious for serious accidents. Glenwood needs an ambulance station to help save lives.

Our local high schools are under pressure. Enrolments at James Nash and Gympie state high schools are almost at capacity with private schools picking up the slack. We should plan for significant growth. Gympie West State School needs funds to help upgrade playground equipment, with the main play area for prep and year 1 in urgent need of improvement. Investigation and work needs to start on raising Borumba Dam to provide water security. The government can no longer ignore Gympie's need for a new fire and rescue station. The land was bought in 2014 and is ready for a station.

We need to improve train services from Gympie North to the Sunshine Coast and Brisbane. The government needs to get behind volunteer and community groups such as the Tin Can Bay Fishing Club and Sporting Shooters Association, Rainbow Beach Surf Life Saving Club, Lake Borumba Fish Stocking Association, Gympie Army Cadets, our Show Society, Historical Society and the Lower Wonga Hall and Gympie's karate, cricket and pistol clubs. The government needs to consider funding projects such as Imbil Rail Park, Mary Valley Rail Trail and to support the Men's Sheds in the Mary Valley, Tin Can Bay and Glenwood.

We need substantial funding for our road and bridge infrastructure. There has been increasing pressure on local state controlled roads. The minister knows about these issues because I frequently raise them: overtaking lanes on the Tin Can Bay and Rainbow Beach roads; upgrading bridges on Glastonbury Road including the Eel Creek Bridge; upgrading the Mary Valley Highway or Gympie-Brooloo Road; and improving lighting at the intersection of Rainbow Beach Road and Queen Elizabeth Drive, Cooloola Cove.

Instead of blaming everyone else and using misleading spin the government should do its job and fix our bridges and upgrade our roads. Ministers are quick to complain that Canberra is not spending enough in Queensland, yet Canberra is constantly having to pick up the tab on things that are state responsibilities. This year a stretch of the Bruce Highway on Gympie's northside was dug up and repaired only six months after completion of a \$17 million job. They said they did not know the condition of the underlying pavement. They were not forging a path over the Blue Mountains in the 1880s! The section would be one of the most documented roads, with more than 50 years of records of countless jobs, products used and weaknesses in the substructure. It would be one of the most dug up, patched and re-patched stretches of the Bruce Highway. Truckies know it is notorious as a mishmash of repairs.

The transport minister who is usually quick to shift blame was suspiciously quiet when this was raised. The same minister used the upgrade of the Coondoo Creek Bridge as a political football. Before the 2017 election I announced a \$10 million commitment to upgrade the bridge and approaches to a one-in-50-year flood height immunity. Despite local Labor smugly claiming it was on their radar there was nothing in the 2018 budget. The minister blamed Canberra throughout 2018—for a state road! The minister said nothing when federal member Llew O'Brien secured a \$5 million commitment in August 2018. Thanks to Llew's instigation the upgrade was opened only two weeks ago. Responsibility stops here in Brisbane, not Canberra.

Despite eye-watering state budget borrowings, the budget of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries is going backwards—backwards in funding and staff. DAF's budget is cut by \$44 million compared to last year's expenditure. There is nothing for the department, no expansion in services, and it has budgeted for nine less staff—a drop from 2,124 to 2,115. That is less staff when the government's employment solution is a Public Service led recovery. There are 30,000 more Brisbane bureaucrats and DAF is cutting.

The minister is overseeing a decline in the department while other departments grow. Front-of-counter services are cut, DAF offices closed, extension of services have all but disappeared and research and development are ignored. The minister's budget press release could only find \$6.4 million of commitments to announce. It was an embarrassment. The Queensland Farmers' Federation calls DAF's budget 'underwhelming' and stated it was 'a missed opportunity to address some critical competitiveness and productivity issues and exciting growth opportunities for the sector which would benefit all Queenslanders.'

There is much more to standing up for agriculture than wearing a hat and boots and racking up frequent-flyer points. DAF's budget is cut at a time when two-thirds or 67.4 per cent of Queensland is in drought. Parts of the state are into their eighth consecutive year of drought. Labor demonises the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors. It stops them from managing their businesses and creating jobs.

When we next face the ballot box Labor will have been in government for 30 of the past 35 years. Our debt will be \$130 billion at a minimum. Our unemployment is forecast to be the worst in the nation. That is the sort of longevity of government and economic data you see in a banana republic. We risk becoming a one-party state, with government arrogance and incompetence glossed over by entrenched elites and party acolytes. There is more than a generation of governments stacked with union officials and political machine operatives destroying our state and running up the credit card. Gympie deserves its fair share and agriculture, fisheries and forestry must rank higher than a poor cousin to other areas of this budget.



**Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (5.40 pm): Madam Deputy Speaker Lui, I must say how impressive it is to see our first First Nation Queensland MP sitting in the Speaker's chair. It is an impressive sight and one that I am very proud of given you come from my patch or I come from yours.

Today is the International Day of People with Disability and this year's theme is 'Building back better: toward a disability inclusive, accessible and sustainable post COVID-19 world'. On this day I ask all Queenslanders, especially members of this chamber, to think about how we can make Queensland more inclusive and accessible for people with disability.

I rise in support of the Palaszczuk government's 2020 state budget. This year has brought not only unprecedented challenges and changes but also opportunities. We have all been impacted in some way by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the Palaszczuk government's 2020 state budget is paving the way for our economic recovery. The budget delivers a solid plan to create jobs and deliver infrastructure. However, just as important is our commitment to support the emotional recovery of Queenslanders and to help our state's communities to thrive. This is a budget that is about empowering people and communities, promoting local leadership and decision-making, and investing in the infrastructure and services that Queenslanders need.

In 2020-21 my department's total budget is more than \$2.8 billion which will go towards supporting people with disability, seniors and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders to thrive. Throughout this budget we are providing funding that will enable Queenslanders of all ages, abilities and locations to participate in our state's vibrant economic, social, community and cultural life. The budget recognises the important cultural contribution and invests in supporting the needs and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders.

This budget supports the Palaszczuk government's commitment to reframing the relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Our new way of working with First Nation peoples through meaningful, community-led solutions is supporting real change and real outcomes at local, regional and statewide levels. We have risen to the challenges of the global COVID-19 pandemic, including by keeping remote communities safe, and we have reached historic milestones such as legal recognition of traditional Torres Strait Islander child-rearing practice through the bill that you introduced into this chamber, Madam Deputy Speaker.

This year's budget is about ensuring that even more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, children, families and communities can access opportunities to thrive. We recognise that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples must play the lead role in the decision-making that affects their lives and communities. That is critical to closing the gap across whole-of-life outcomes. The state budget includes \$9.3 million over four years in support of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, including investment in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled sector.

A further \$6.6 million in additional funding over two years, including \$3.5 million in 2020-21, will be invested to implement the Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa (Torres Strait Islander Traditional Child Rearing Practice) Act 2020 to legally recognise Torres Strait Islander traditional child-rearing practice. Additionally, there is \$3.4 million over three years, including \$1 million in 2020-21, to continue work on Path to Treaty to support self-determination and promote healing and reconciliation, with the ultimate aim of treaty making with First Nation peoples. I am proud that, through this budget, my portfolio is leading whole-of-government efforts towards reconciliation through responsive and community-centred programs and policies.

Although the state's role in disability service has changed significantly since the NDIS rolled out, our commitment to support Queenslanders with disability is as strong as ever. We have an important role in providing advocacy for people with disability and oversight of the NDIS. The 2020 state budget enhances safeguards for people with disability, with \$8.9 million to implement a nationally consistent NDIS worker screening system. There is \$1.974 billion for Queensland's estimated cash contribution to the NDIS to provide essential supports and help build the economic and social wellbeing of people with disability. There is additional funding of \$2.6 million to continue services that support people with disability. That includes support for All Abilities Queensland, NDIS performance monitoring and approvals for guide, hearing and assistance dogs.

We want to ensure that Queensland's seniors can live their lives free from physical and emotional abuse, financial abuse and scams. That is why we have invested \$5 million to raise awareness of elder abuse, and assist victims and at-risk seniors. That investment supports 11 seniors' services across the state, including legal and support services, seniors' financial protection services and the Elder Abuse Prevention Helpline.


Lastly and significantly, the state budget includes \$449 million for energy, rates and water concessions and rebates that are primarily aimed at supporting seniors and eligible Queenslanders to manage the cost of living. I am pleased that around 89 per cent of eligible older Queenslanders have a Seniors Card, which helps them access a range of concessions and business discounts. The 2020 state budget is creating more opportunities for all Queenslanders, including people with disability, seniors and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders.

I am also proud that this budget is delivering for locals in my electorate of Barron River. This year's budget provides \$42.4 million to help complete the Smithfield Bypass project. The project, together with other significant investments in local road projects across Barron River, demonstrates how seriously the Palaszczuk government takes our commitment to improving local roads in Far North Queensland.

In this budget I have also secured funds towards the \$60 million needed to duplicate the Cairns Western Arterial Road from one to two lanes between the Redlynch Connector Road and Kamerunga Road. I am also delighted to see \$2.9 million allocated for the Cairns Ring Road to improve traffic flow from Smithfield to the Cairns CBD. I thank the Premier for delivering upon her commitment to upgrade the Barron River road network, to free up congestion and improve commute times to and from work for my constituents.

The budget is also delivering significant investments in our local schools for new buildings at Smithfield High School as part of its new state-of-the-art facilities for students. There is also \$1 million for the Young Animal Protection Society, YAPS, which is an incredible local not-for-profit organisation that cares for animals. Our local community is very passionate about that cause. Ecotourism plays a big role in the Far North and it is fantastic to see \$9.2 million in funding for the construction, which will help to continue to support local jobs. That investment sends a clear signal to our local tourism operators that Far North Queensland tourism is coming back bigger and better than before, thanks to the support of the Palaszczuk government.

This budget is a win for Cairns and Far North Queensland. It is a budget that will deliver fantastic new infrastructure and capital works projects estimated to support around 4,000 jobs in our region, including projects such as work on the Cairns University Hospital, the expansion of the Cairns Convention Centre, funding for the Ellis Beach Surf Life Saving club and the expansion of our important Indigenous land and sea ranger programs. Through this state budget we will continue to build upon our efforts to support communities right across Queensland. From the Torres Strait to Cape York, Cunnamulla and Coolangatta, we want all Queensland communities to thrive.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (5.48 pm): I rise to speak on the appropriation bill. I add my congratulations to you, Madam Deputy Speaker Lui, on your appointment to the panel of temporary Speakers. It is a great honour. This budget has proven one thing: this Treasurer is absolutely delusional.

**Mr Minnikin:** And vain.

**Mr MANDER:** I will come to the vanity aspect later. Let us talk about how this Treasurer is delusional. For him to think that the Labor government was re-elected on its economic record and its so-called plan for the future is totally and utterly delusional. The new members in this House have already admitted the reason this government was re-elected. The government was re-elected because of COVID—firstly, secondly, thirdly, fourthly and fifthly. It was because of COVID that this government was re-elected and because it began the mother of all scare campaigns, which it should be embarrassed about. We have proof of that. There were recordings made of Labor's volunteers ringing vulnerable older people and telling them that if they did not vote Labor they would probably be dead. That is disgraceful! That is how delusional this government is, thinking it has been re-elected because of its economic record.

Let's talk about the government's coronavirus economic statement: the 40 glossy pages of its so-called road map to recovery—the one the Treasurer held so closely to his chest, like *Peanuts*' Linus clings to his blanket for security. Out of those 40 pages, there is one page of dot points. That is this government's economic strategy—one page of dot points. Most of those dot points had already been delivered. In fact, one of them was the LNP policy of FairPlay vouchers of \$150. We introduced that policy back in 2012.

What new member had a prospective voter come up to them and say, 'We are voting for you because you are giving \$500,000 in grants for art workers'? What new member can say that somebody came up to them and said that was the reason they voted for the Labor government? What prospective voter came up to a new member and said, 'We are voting for you because you are giving \$900,000 to



support vulnerable multicultural communities'? That they think they were voted in because of their economic record shows how delusional they are. It is COVID that won them the election this time. It is the mismanagement of the economy that will lose them the election in 2024.

The Treasurer is also delusional if he thinks the current budget is a road map to economic recovery. This budget has no vision, no imagination, no idea and no ambition for Queensland. He said himself before he delivered it that this is a boring budget, that there would be nothing new. There is nothing closer to the truth than that statement.

Businesses in this state have had it with this government. They have had it. They are nice on the surface. They have to grit their teeth and go to press conferences and nod their heads because they know that they cannot upset the government of the day, because they know how vindictive this government can be. If you get businesses behind closed doors they laugh at this government because they know it has no idea. They have had enough. They know how damaging these policies are going to be to the Queensland economy over the next four years. The Property Council and Master Builders—all those interest groups—have said that it cannot be business as usual in these unprecedented times. That is all this budget is. It is a bland, blah budget that will not produce the return that we require in this state, which is jobs.

The Treasurer proudly boasts that we have returned to the same levels we had pre COVID. Pre COVID we had the worst unemployment, during COVID we had the worst unemployment and, congratulations, we are going back to the highest unemployment level—as well as the highest number of bankruptcies, as well as the lowest business confidence. We have debt as well.

This Treasurer is also delusional about debt. He does not understand good debt and bad debt. He has no understanding whatsoever. He wants to compare us with the other states. As has already been spoken about by previous speakers, when you borrow an extra \$28 billion you expect to get a return. That is like me having a \$500,000 house and spending \$200,000 on renovations but when it is finished the house is valued at only \$501,000—really smart economics. This Treasurer is delusional about the reason this government was re-elected, delusional about the so-called economic recovery plan that this budget is, delusional about debt and delusional about his own credibility as Treasurer.

This is a treasurer who is not really good with numbers. They do not come naturally to him. This is a treasurer who mixes up deficits and surpluses in response to a Dorothy Dixer; in answer to a question from his own team he could not get it right with regard to deficits and surpluses. This is a treasurer who did not know the debt level when he appeared on television. This is a treasurer who has an incredibly high opinion of himself. Those excruciatingly embarrassing black-and-white photos taken in his office are downright embarrassing. He is channelling presidents of the United States—JFK or Obama. Can you imagine him staging that and going through rehearsal after rehearsal: 'How does this one look? What about this one? Is this one better?' I can only imagine that he has an official personal photographer who follows him to get him in those poignant moments of reflection.

**Ms LAUGA:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order about the relevance of the topic the member is talking to. Could I ask that he return to the bill.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Lui): There is no point of order.

**Mr MANDER:** We are seeing what is happening. We have the auditions for who will take over the Premier's role when she retires a year out from the election. Will it be the member for Woodridge or the member for Murrumba—the left and the right fighting each other? It is going to be great to watch over the next couple of years, watching these guys go for it as they—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr MANDER:** No, there are only two of them. I am sure there are only two of them. By the way, they have one thing in common: they both abandoned their electorates. They cut and ran to safer seats so they could have this battle they are going to have now.

We have a treasurer who is totally and utterly delusional. We on this side of the House will keep this government accountable over the next four years, because I see a Bligh government tsunami coming again over the next four years. It will be so bad that people will be waiting with baseball bats once they have got rid of the cover they have had over the last 12 months.

In this new parliament, I am proud to be the shadow minister for housing and public works—I was once minister—and the shadow minister for sport and racing, for which I was once the assistant minister. These are great portfolios and I am very appreciative of having them. There are many issues in those portfolio areas that we need to be looking at. I will mention a couple of those. With regard to

social housing, what has happened over the last five or six years is a disgrace. When I left that portfolio in 2015, we had brought the social housing waiting list down to 16,546. By May that had blown out to 25,613. I suspect the number is a lot worse than that now.

Those opposite are the people who say that they look after those who are marginalised and the working class and yet they have abandoned them and failed to give them their most basic need which is housing. How can someone have a job if they do not have a house? How can someone have security if they do not have a house? They have whacked the property investment market, whether it is through the rental reforms that they will try to bring in which will make it difficult to be a landlord or whether it is through new property taxes. That has affected investment in housing and that affects the supply of housing for those who want to rent. That is important because home ownership has fallen. Now we have over 33 per cent of Queenslanders who rent their homes.

As well as that we have issues around procurement. The biggest issue with procurement is making sure that small and medium sized businesses—local Queensland businesses—get part of the \$16 billion to \$17 billion of government spend every year. We want a fair dinkum support local policy not the facade of this government. Under Labor, \$1.2 billion in government contracts have been awarded to companies based outside Queensland. We want small and medium sized businesses to benefit from government procurement but it is too complex, it is too bureaucratic, it is too time consuming, it is too costly. We have to make it easier for these businesses to benefit from this procurement.

As I said, I am also the shadow minister for sport and racing. I am very passionate about sport. It has played a major part in my life. We want to make sure that we get as many young people involved in sport as possible. The healthiest pastime one can have is to be actively involved in sport. We need to promote that and do whatever we can in that regard.

We need to know what is happening in terms of the Gabba. The Gabba naming rights were announced about two years ago and there is still no money. In the meantime, we missed out on the first test. Imagine missing out on the first cricket test. It is outrageous. It is un-Queensland like for that to happen. Those things need to be looked at.

The racing industry has lost all confidence in this government. This government does not treat the racing industry with respect. It is a \$1.2 billion industry. Is it any wonder that trainers, owners and jockeys are going down south and staying away from here when we do not have a government that promotes what is a very important industry in this state?

I turn to my electorate of Everton. Surprise, surprise, there is nothing in the budget for my electorate.

**Mr Minnikin:** What did you get?

**Mr MANDER:** Nothing! Zero! We have two projects that are ongoing, but nothing new. Everton Park Link Road only happened because I promised it at the previous election. The government came in three hours after my announcement and said it was going to do the same thing. Everton Park State High School is in the process of being upgraded. They still worship me for making sure that the school remained open. The statue is being commissioned for the front of the school.


The big thing that is missing in the budget is the \$100 million that is needed to upgrade the intersection at South Pine Road and Stafford Road where my big sign is. Every day everybody has a long period of time to see my sign.

**Mr Minnikin:** You're starting to sound like the Treasurer.

**Mr MANDER:** No. I take the interjection from the member for Chatsworth. Quite seriously, \$100 million is needed for the upgrade of that intersection. It is a stage 2 upgrade after the Everton Park Link Road which is stage 1.

Also very close to my heart are a couple of community groups. The Nest Community is a centre for women and it has done a great job over the last five or six years. They receive no government funding whatsoever. They do not fit into the box. They are not a neighbour centre and because they do not fit into that box they receive no funding. It is a real shame. They have more engagement than any other community group I know. It is a really good group. The other group in my area that I would love to see funding for is the ORCA Project. It operates in the seat of Mansfield as well as in my seat. It provides employment opportunities for disabled people. It is really important. They receive no government funding.

This budget is an absolute failure. It is an embarrassment. It shows how delusional this Treasurer is and by association the Premier and the rest of the Labor team. If they think they have been re-elected on an economic platform then they have a lot to look forward to in four years time when we see it all come home to roost.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (6.04 pm): It is always a pleasure to sit through one of the member for Everton's blustering and bumbling efforts. It had very little substance as usual. He talks about people being delusional. The only deluded people here are the people sitting on that side of the House. When will they finally get through their heads that Queenslanders voted for Labor because they know we have a good economic plan that we will deliver. It is already in place and it is already delivering. I would not be trusting my economic future with the likes of those on that side of the House because he is a gentleman who cannot even count to six. Let us not talk about that.

The year 2020 has been a year we will not forget. We have all faced a worldwide pandemic and a global recession. For Queenslanders and people all around the world, it has been challenging. At times it has been frightening. When the going gets tough, the tough get going. That is certainly what I saw in my community. When the seriousness of COVID-19 sank in, people stepped up. Baysiders joined the Care Army, looked after their family and neighbours, supported local businesses and helped me make phone calls to check in on vulnerable people. They were genuinely checking in on them and not, as the member for Everton outrageously alleged, threatening them. That is a disgraceful allegation. Most importantly, Queenslanders followed the expert advice and did the right thing in our fight against the virus. They worked together and we always work best when we work together.

This budget is based on that principle. It is unashamedly pro growth and is about working with communities and industry across the state to drive job creation and continue our recovery. We just have to look around the world to see that the pandemic is not over. We cannot be complacent. Thanks to our strong health response and the efforts of Queenslanders, we have had no community transmission in nearly 80 days. That means we can stay focused on the economic recovery and our plan for jobs.

Queensland's future economic prosperity depends on having a skilled workforce, and that begins in the classroom. Giving every child the best possible education is something I am passionate about and this government is passionate about. A record \$14.2 billion in education funding has been allocated by the Palaszczuk Labor government, including a \$1.9 billion infrastructure spend so that all Queensland children will benefit from world-class facilities at school.

In Lytton, we have shovel-ready commitments for local schools, including upgrades at Wynnum State School, Brisbane Bayside State College and Moreton Bay Environment Education Centre. World-class school facilities are important, but, most importantly, world-class teachers can change lives. My son is a high school teacher at Aviation State High School. I am very proud of him and the great work that he does in that sector. The bayside's teachers and teacher aides always inspire me, but their efforts, particularly during the height of the pandemic, were especially extraordinary. To them I say thank you. Our government will employ more than 6,100 teachers and 1,100 teacher aides over the next four years to make sure every Queensland child gets the education they deserve.

I am thrilled to deliver the \$40 million allocated for the upgrade to Lindum station combined with the \$5 million park and ride facility. I look forward to the scoping and planning work beginning in 2021. This will deliver on the recommendations of the Lindum precinct technical report. I particularly look forward to the next stage of the Lindum precinct study which will deliver a detailed pre-investment planning and costing document that will include technical advice for the Brisbane City Council on upgrading the precinct's BCC controlled roads.

Small businesses are the engine room of our economy, and I want to pay tribute to the shopkeepers, the cafes, the hairdressers and every other business owner. I myself have been a small business owner. I grew up in a family of small business owners, with my mother owning and running a small business. I understand some of the challenges of running a small business, but I also know that nothing compares to what business owners have faced this year.

Through the COVID-19 pandemic, we have provided \$2.3 billion in tax relief, grants, electricity rebates and loans that have kept 334,000 Queenslanders in work. In Lytton, more than 130 small businesses received grants of up to \$10,000 including South Passage, The Collective Store, Fun Fit Play, Keid In Electrical and Cambridge Lane cafe. We back small business which is why we have introduced a target of 25 per cent of all government purchases to be from Queensland small and medium size businesses.

Many small businesses and larger business owners actually came to me and said thank you for the great work that the Palaszczuk Labor government has done in supporting them. Unlike the member for Everton, who is claiming that no-one came up and said that, I can state categorically that I had a

significant number of people who came up to me and said, 'Please pass on my thanks to the government for the great support that you have given me.' It was not a one-off occasion. That happened often. Many of them actually made an effort to come to my mobile offices and say to me how fantastic it is to have a government that is actually helping out small businesses.

This budget builds on that work, with a \$140 million Big Plans for Small Business Strategy. To create Queensland jobs, we are investing in businesses that have significant growth potential to help them expand and turbocharge our recovery. We are making the Small Business Commissioner permanent to ensure small business owners always have someone in their corner. We will help manufacturers innovate and expand across traditional and new industries, such as Marine Composites in my electorate who specialise in state-of-the-art fibre composite marine piles.

I do not want to damage the member for Everton's glass jaw, but perhaps he might need to look at the chess board a little bit more. He is moving from side to side, backwards and forwards, in his shuffle to make it to the front row. Maybe he needs to watch *The Queen's Gambit*—it is a great Netflix series—to give him some strategies about how to play the game of chess, particularly in this chamber.

The Deputy Speaker has reviewed and approved my speech on the budget for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated in *Hansard*.

*The speech read as follows—*

This is a Budget of no major surprises. We told Queenslanders our plan before the election, and now we're putting it into action. We're following the crystal-clear advice from the Reserve Bank: Invest to create jobs and boost the recovery. The \$56 billion capital works program is the largest in over decade, with a \$14.8 billion infrastructure spend this financial year supporting 46,000 jobs. The Budget delivers on our election commitments, invests in frontline services, and will help our manufacturing, tourism and small business sectors bounce back stronger than ever.

But the economic plan contained in this Budget isn't just about creating jobs, it's also about giving Queenslanders the skills and training to secure those jobs. On the Bayside, our Government's programs like Get Set for Work are already making such a difference. This Budget goes even further, delivering an investment of more than \$1 billion for training and skills initiatives to prepare Queenslanders for the jobs of the future. I'm especially proud that this Budget extends Free TAFE and Free Apprenticeships to Queenslanders aged under 25 and delivers \$100 million over three years to upgrade TAFE campuses.

This pandemic has proved beyond a doubt just how vital our frontline workers are, and this Budget delivers on our commitment to boost those services. Over the next five years an additional 2,025 police personnel will be hired, and an additional 25 police beats will be established. An extra 357 firefighters will be employed to keep Queenslanders safe from bushfires and other emergencies.

Queensland's health workers have been our heroes this year. They've helped keep us safe from the deadliest pandemic in a century and I know every Queenslanders is grateful. If this year has demonstrated anything it's how vital a strong, well-resourced health system is to Queenslanders and the economy. The Palaszczuk Labor Government will keep investing in the health system, to maintain our strong response to COVID-19 and ensure every Queenslanders can access quality public healthcare. Over the next four years, we'll hire an extra 9475 frontline health staff including 5,800 nurses, 475 paramedics, 1,500 doctors and 1,700 allied health professionals. This budget also allocates \$50.5 million for a major parking upgrade and new ward fit-outs at Redland Hospital which so many Baysiders rely on.

This Government is laser-focused on creating jobs for Queenslanders. We have a clear plan to maintain Queensland's strong health response and continue our economic recovery and that's what this budget reflects.

I'm ready to roll up my sleeves and help get it done. I commend the Bill to the House.



**Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (6.11 pm): I will start my contribution by talking about the budget measures within my opposition portfolios of environment and the Great Barrier Reef, science and innovation, and youth. Queensland is the most ecologically rich and diverse part of our country. We have the best beaches and natural beauty, from the outback to our rainforests and out to the reef. With that comes a massive responsibility to protect and enhance what we have to conserve these natural wonders for generations to come.

That is why it came as quite a surprise to me to hear across the chamber minister after minister proclaiming record spending and record budgets but not when it comes to the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef. The minister has clearly drawn the short straw because there has been almost \$9 million in cuts to her department's budget compared to last year. For once, I certainly hope this straw is of the single-use variety to make sure this arm of government has the resources it needs. That is particularly relevant this week as we see almost half of K'gari, or Fraser Island, lost to devastating bushfires with serious questions raised over preparedness.

I acknowledge that with the machinery-of-government changes arts has now been moved, but with the addition of youth affairs to the Department of Environment and Science it really is unclear why such a cut in funding has occurred. Where has this funding been cut from? Which part of our environment does this government no longer think is worth spending money on? Is it fewer trails for

families to walk through our beautiful bushland? Did it lead to a decrease in the maintenance and management of campgrounds in national parks so that they are not prepared for Queenslanders? Is it less investment in the protection of our endangered species? I would welcome clarification from the minister.

Going through the list of environmental projects the government has considered worthy, close to \$16 million has been allocated for the acquisition of land to designate it as protected area. How much does \$15.8 million buy? What is the ambitious target the government is trying to hit this year, alongside the introduction of the Protected Area Strategy 2020-2030?

We have heard a lot of cherry-picked comparisons to other states on other matters, so let us have a look around Australia first. In New South Wales, they have over nine per cent protected. Victoria has over 17 per cent protected. Western Australia has 23 per cent of its land protected. The Northern Territory has 24 per cent protected. South Australia has over 30 per cent protected. Tasmania has over 42 per cent protected. The ACT has over 55 per cent protected. The budget shows Queensland lists our current percentage as 8.24 per cent of our land area. What is Labor's aim to increase this figure to in the next year? The answer is 8.25 per cent—an increase of just 0.01 per cent. We will still remain the state with the lowest percentage of protected area in the nation. It is an extraordinary lack of ambition from the government, especially when you consider our international obligations require us to get to 17 per cent as a minimum.

The 2019 report put together by the National Parks Association *Selling nature short: Queensland's failure to invest in protected areas placing wildlife at risk* is supported by the Wilderness Society, the WWF, the Queensland Conservation Council, the Australian Conservation Foundation and the PEW Charitable Trusts and is scathing on the government's progress. It states—

Queensland's exceptionally slow progress on protected area establishment is not a result of any fundamental barrier, but rather a reflection of a puzzling lack of government interest in making the necessary capital budget measures ...

Our Living Outback's commentary on the budget noted that it would actually take 127 years to reach that target at the government's current rate of increase. The minister and I may be the two youngest members of this House, so we could be optimistic about how long we will have the honour of serving here, but I think it might even be pushing it to think we will still be here in 127 years.

I welcome the spending on projects for the Great Barrier Reef rejuvenation and water quality. The Great Barrier Reef is an important asset both environmentally and for our state's economic recovery as a tourist destination. I want to work constructively with members opposite to see it protected and enhanced with funding for adaptation and resilience programs.

The budget measures appear to have merit but they are nothing if they do not achieve their targets. There needs to be more detailed KPIs each year for what is being achieved so that we can assess whether they are working or not. It is a similar story with the regularly touted 'flagship' Land Restoration Fund. Here is what Mike Guerin, CEO of AgForce, recently said of this program—

The Land Restoration Fund in our view is great in theory, but has been a disaster in practice ... We've had producers going to workshops over the last few years keen to understand how they can apply for grants and make some of these changes, but what they've left with a huge PowerPoint deck of information, which is so awfully complex ... Often they get to the end of that process and they are none the wiser. So the consultant has made the money and the producer is left behind again ... It could help landholders and others contribute to better biodiversity and support better climate outcomes, but in practice it is another bureaucratic nightmare.

In reality, less than a fifth of \$500 million available has been allocated since the program began in 2018. The balance of that funding—over \$400 million—does not even rate a mention in the budget, even in the forward estimates. These programs only work if their aims are actually achieved. The Land Restoration Fund could work and be a benefit to our agricultural sector, but some of the problems in accessing it need to be fixed urgently. We need to go beyond the rhetoric and get the outcomes for our environment to ensure we protect the natural beauty we have in Queensland for generations to come.

On the science front, there is not a lot to say because there is nothing particularly inspiring in the budget. I would have loved to see—after a year of a global pandemic in which people have arguably been more engrossed in, engaged with and in many cases ruled by science and evidence—real investment in science and research, but there is precious little new to see. In the SDS, its aim for science would be to increase the value, participation, contribution and impact of science, to strengthen the capacity, resilience and preparedness of the Queensland community. This is not reflected in the budget. There are no meaningful measures to ensure this happens.

Locally I have been advocating for a science centre on the Gold Coast for some time now. We are the only city of our size across the country without an educational facility of this type. The state government supports them in many other places across Queensland. The minister is a proud Gold

Coast MP and should take the initiative to investigate this for our region, to use all of the resources of her department to prepare a business case. I am happy to show the minister where I think it should go—in the middle of the Gold Coast next to Griffith University, where there is even an empty state owned building left over from the Commonwealth Games. I will even introduce the minister to the Science on the Go leaders and do whatever else I can to make this project a reality.

We need to dream big if we want Queensland to truly prosper. Innovation is about ideas and creativity. We need to not be limited by what side of the chamber those ideas come from. After the year we have had, we need to look for every opportunity for new infrastructure, projects, strategies and ways to forge a new future for Queensland.

Another project that I think would be worthy of state investment is the Advanced Design and Prototyping Technology, or ADaPT, initiative of Griffith University. They have the land, they just need a financial contribution from the state to help get it built. For youth, while there is an objective to enable young people to have a voice and provide opportunities to lead and contribute, there needs to be a bigger vision than just the youth advisory panel. Youth unemployment in our state is woeful. It is the highest in the nation at 15.5 per cent.

The mental health of our young people is also an area where we need more investment. Just this week we have seen two stories in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* about youth suicide rates and the number of young people on medication for anxiety and depression.

It is the greatest honour of my life to stand in this place as the re-elected member for Bonney and to continue representing the community that I love and that I call home. Unfortunately for the Gold Coast, it seems like the government has been more interested in political considerations rather than directing money to where it is needed. Many of the funded projects are in the marginal seats they threw the kitchen sink at to try to pick up—unsuccessfully, I might add—or in the one seat they hold on the Gold Coast.

I will start with what we did get from this budget for Bonney. It will not take too long because it is not much. It was good to see the mid-2019 commitment to build an expanded mental health unit for the Gold Coast University Hospital, although it was disappointing that only \$290,000 of that was in this budget. We finally got a long overdue upgrade for the Southport Special School's entrance to incorporate a bus and taxi set-down, which is something I have been working to get since 2018. I have actually been on the Southport Special School bus for one of their runs to see firsthand the nightmare that drivers, staff, parents and students face in getting into this school. They often have to drive all the way up from towards Pimpama and Ormeau down to Southport. Often the bus has to go around the block three or four times to get into the school. This causes issues for the neighbouring Musgrave Hill State School, Musgrave Hill Community Children's Centre and the Southport Flexi School, not to mention local residents.

I could not find the \$700,000 committed by Labor for a new fence at Coombabah State High School, so I will keep onto that to make sure it is delivered, although it is quite a lot for a fence. The money for the Health and Knowledge Precinct has been in the budget for some time. There is nothing new here, just like there is nothing new facilitated by the government happening at the precinct. Not a single project within this precinct has been started. It is basically just a big empty carpark. This is a monumental missed opportunity.

One of the biggest disappointments is the second M1, or the Coomera Connector. For years and years the second M1 has only ever had planning money, and after six years Labor has not even finished that planning. Of \$1.531 billion, only \$12 million was allocated to the project in this budget for 2020-21. That is less than one per cent of the total funding for the second M1 being delivered this year. Next year the \$115 million is only 7.6 per cent of the total funding. In fact, almost half of the funding is not allocated until 2024 or later.

The government has had more than five years to get this road built, but all they have been able to do is plan, blame others and make excuses. At this rate, it is likely that Gold Coasters will not be driving on the second M1 until at least after the next election. We are sick of sitting in traffic, and this road is what we need to fix much of it.

I worked hard during the last term to assess what was most needed in my area. I spent countless hours at schools, community and sporting groups talking to those in my part of the Gold Coast about what is most needed in our area and getting around to every corner of the electorate. As a result, I came up with this plan for Bonney to take to the election. I would like to table that now because it is a list of all of the items I will continue to advocate for. I would love to say that many of these things have been picked up and are reflected in the budget, but not a single one has been.

*Tabled paper:* Newsletter, dated October 2020, from the member for Bonney, Mr Sam O'Connor MP [\[354\]](#).

For yet another year there is very little for the state schools in my area from Labor. Labrador State School celebrates 100 years next year. What it needs is a fully refurbished multipurpose community hall. The current one has not been touched since it was built 40 years ago. Labor's commitment was to whack in a couple of fans for the hall, which will not do much to help the kids who have to sit in there sweating for much of the year. The \$150,000 committed by Labor at the election is not listed in the budget, but I do hope it is covered by some of the other various funding. The minister is more than welcome to fully fund the hall if she sees fit.

At Arundel, I am aware that the state has contributed towards their new undercover structure through the School Subsidy Scheme. The P&C did fantastic work there, but their classrooms need some of the investment we are seeing at other schools. The government has said they are master planning the school, yet nothing has appeared in this budget. There has been no contact with the principal, school council chair or P&C about this master plan. I ask the minister to please include this upgrade in the next state budget. I will do whatever I can to support the master planning process. My community and I just want to see funding for better buildings at Arundel.


As already announced, we have the replacement building for block B at Southport State High School, which was funded by an insurance payment after last year's fire. The commitment to provide \$100 million over three years to employ 464 additional wellbeing professionals in Queensland state schools and to trial the placement of general practitioners in up to 20 schools also has great merit. I have seen the value of the wellbeing officer at Arundel State School, which has been able to make that appointment through the great IPS initiative. Zoe Lowe has had a profound impact on both staff and students. She is a known safe place to go to for everyone in the school. She runs classes for every child who has been identified as needing extra support for anxiety.

While work on Brisbane Road at Olsen Avenue is thankfully underway thanks to the federal government paying for half of it, at the Pine Ridge and Captain Cook intersection of Brisbane Road we are once again still looking at planning money until 2022, so it looks like the council will have to go it alone there. While we have seen park and rides at other stations, Helensvale has again been overlooked. The government is all too happy to talk about this station and its connectivity with buses and heavy and light rail; they just do not want to make it more accessible for locals to use. What they need is more car parks.

As we grow, we need to stay ahead of our infrastructure needs rather than scrambling to catch up. I welcome the freeze on public transport fares. We need to get people back onto public transport, particularly because cost-of-living struggles will be faced by many in 2021 as we continue to recover from this pandemic.

I have repeatedly spoken about the need for more police and tougher laws in my area. I have heard story after story of crime being out of control and victims not getting justice. While there have been additional police personnel committed, we have seen on more than one occasion that this government will delay these appointments for as long as they can and will not provide the laws to back them up. Southport station, Runaway Bay station and the Arundel Police Hub urgently need more officers allocated to them to give them the resources they need to take on the tens of thousands of calls for service they receive.

In summary, we were promised a lot and saw little. I want the best for my part of the Gold Coast, and I will continue to fight for it as long as I am in this House.

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (6.26 pm): May I acknowledge this very special moment personally for me as a First Nation member to rise and speak to a First Nation Speaker.

By keeping COVID-19 out of our state we have been able to open our economy, and now we are perfectly positioned to return to strong growth. If we continue to work together, Queensland can lead the nation and the world out of the pandemic. We are the only state to have recovered all jobs lost during the pandemic, and we have added more. Since May, more than 205,000 jobs have been recovered or created across the state. We are keeping Queenslanders safe and in work, we are creating jobs and supporting skills, and we are investing in bricks and mortar.

This budget delivers a fair go for Bundamba. Locally, we will have record essential frontline workers like nurses, doctors, teachers and police. That means a continued commitment to world-class education for our rapidly growing community. It means upgraded schools and education infrastructure from Goodna to Bundamba and everywhere in between.

At Bellbird Park State Secondary College it means \$12.23 million for new classrooms. One of Queensland's newest secondary schools, Bellbird Park opened in 2017 and its first intake of year 12 students will graduate in 2022. Our Bundamba State Secondary College will benefit from three

refurbished amenities blocks, improved student safety and supervision. The Collingwood Park State School prep block will be reconfigured to provide our kids with improved learning spaces and outdoor experiences. A new building with eight general learning spaces and a hospitality kitchen will be delivered at Goodna State Special School, a near \$7 million investment.

Kruger State School will see a modernised teaching space in block 2 to better support our Queensland curriculum, and car parking at Redbank Plains State High School will be upgraded to the tune of \$400,000. I know that this announcement has already been warmly welcomed by parents, staff, motorists and surrounding residents. Likewise, a new-look outdoor learning arena at our iconic Redbank State School has the full support of the Raptors community. Riverview State School's B block will be refurbished and reconfigured to create more modern and functional learning spaces for its students and staff.

We are also funding general maintenance and minor works totalling almost \$1 million at schools across the local community, and our \$1 billion investment in skills and training includes more support for our Bundamba TAFE. Back in March we committed \$2 million to upgrade the metal trades training facility, and this budget confirms a further \$7 million for a state-of-the-art metal trades manufacturing and robotics centre.


While our ongoing investment in education, skills and training will support the development of future generations of Queensland leaders, our commitment to health care is all about community wellbeing. This budget includes \$40 million of a total \$146.3 million to continue the Ipswich Hospital stage 1A expansion. This historic project will deliver new mental health facilities for adults and the elderly.

Debate, on motion of Mr McCallum, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm.

## COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

### Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates and Referral of Auditor-General's Reports

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (7.30 pm): I seek to advise the House of the determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 136, that: the Health and Environment Committee report on the Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill and the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill by 12 February 2021; the State Development and Regional Industries Committee report on the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Indigenous Joint Management Moreton Island) Amendment Bill by 12 February 2021; and the Community Support and Services Committee report on the Child Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 12 February 2021.


The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 194B, that: the Auditor-General's report to parliament No. 3 of 2020-21 titled *Queensland government response to COVID-19* and the Auditor-General's report to parliament No. 6 of 2020-21 titled *Awarding of sports grants* be referred to the Economics and Governance Committee; the Auditor-General's report to parliament No. 4 of 2020-21 titled *Queensland Health's new finance and supply chain management system* be referred to the Health and Environment Committee; the Auditor-General's report to parliament No. 5 of 2020-21 titled *Responding to complaints from people with impaired capacity Part 1: The Public Trustee of Queensland* and the Auditor-General's report to parliament No. 8 of 2020-21 titled *Regulating firearms* be referred to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee; and the Auditor-General's report to parliament No. 7 of 2020-21 titled *Delivering successful technology projects* be referred to the Community Support and Services Committee.

## APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (2020-2021) BILL

### APPROPRIATION (2020-2021) BILL

#### Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed.

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (7.31 pm), continuing: This historic project will deliver new mental health facilities for adults and the elderly, a new 26 inpatient bed ward and an MRI suite to grow clinical capacity. We are also investing \$2.5 million as part of a further \$46.5 million of further upgrades



at the hospital addressing increased service demands at the emergency department and maternity, gynaecology, renal dialysis and nephrology services. Safety and security management systems will be boosted at Ipswich Hospital and West Moreton Health's The Park mental health facility in Wacol. We are also funding a series of general maintenance works at the hospital.

We are keeping our local Bundamba community healthy and we are also keeping it safe, as part of the biggest investment in Queensland policing in more than 30 years. This budget means a new mobile police beat van will hit the streets in Ipswich—one of 25 across the state. Our five-year police personnel commitment means we will welcome 150 additional police to the community by 2025, and they will also be fully resourced. This unprecedented investment includes more QLITE mobile tablets—a \$2 million funding win in this budget—and a further \$2 million for body worn video cameras to provide more effective and efficient policing services for all Queenslanders.

The Project Booyah and Respect programs—both highly successful in our local Bundamba community—will continue to support our Queensland youth with a \$4.2 million commitment. Safety also comes in the form of secure, suitable and affordable housing, and I am proud to announce more than \$4 million to continue the construction of 18 units as part of the Housing Construction Jobs Program. The completion of two public housing units has been funded, along with the commencement of a further 20. Importantly, we have committed \$11.65 million to continue the construction of another 54 units, providing housing opportunities for those in need. Homelessness has also been supported, with more than \$370,000 for our local Goodna Youth Services, who do a wonderful job, to continue to deliver their specialist services, and a further \$352,000 for the Ipswich Accommodation Support Service—and both are incredibly important to our community.

That community support extends to our green spaces and sports facilities. The Moodai Reserve—a popular park in the suburb of Bellbird Park—will benefit from enhanced drainage and improved water quality thanks to a \$150,000 funding commitment in this budget. Rugby League players based at Goodna's Richardson Park will hit the field supported by a new-look change room. The \$55,000 upgrade will replace the ageing ceiling, floor and walls. That is all part of our wonderful Works for Queensland program.

The Palaszczuk government's commitment to our renewable energy boom is in full swing. Renewables make not only environmental sense but also economic sense. They create jobs. They lower prices. They grow the economy. We have supported \$8.5 billion in renewable investment, increasing generation capacity by more than 4,600 megawatts and supporting over 7,000 Queensland jobs. An affordable, reliable energy supply underpins our economic plan for a post-COVID recovery, and renewables now play—and will continue to play—a critical role. Renewables currently make up just over 20 per cent of Queensland's energy mix, and that figure will more than double over the next decade as we aim for 50 per cent renewables by 2030.

We have also committed a further \$145 million to unlock three renewable energy zones in North Queensland, Central Queensland and South-West Queensland. These zones will coordinate and foster renewables by supporting the delivery of transmission infrastructure and attracting industrial energy users to create more jobs. Queenslanders will be able to own a stake in our renewable revolution thanks to this budget investing \$500 million to support the development of renewable energy projects. Our publicly-owned energy businesses CleanCo, Stanwell, CS Energy, Energy Queensland and Powerlink now have the opportunity to share in the half-billion dollar fund to build, own and operate renewable assets and transmission infrastructure that will drive jobs in the clean energy sector and deliver cheaper, cleaner energy to households and businesses.

I have mentioned our proudly publicly owned energy assets. These businesses were also mentioned in the financial papers of the last LNP government. Businesses listed for sale, lease or privatisation—writ large on page 6 of Strong Choices—included CS Energy, Stanwell, Powerlink, Energex and Ergon.

**Mr Hart:** Rubbish.

**Mr McCALLUM:** I take the interjection. The member might want to go and have a look at page 6. CleanCo was not around back then, but if it had been you can bet it would have been either sold off or wound up—just like the Office of Clean Energy was and support and public investment in clean energy was brutally cut. The Strong Choices document—the LNP privatisation manifesto—in addition to cutting services and sacking frontline public service workers is of course their answer to debt. It turns out that it was not so much a 'strong choice' as it was a 'wrong choice'—a wrong choice that was utterly rejected by the people of Queensland.

Since being elected in 2015, the Palaszczuk government has proudly led a remarkable boom in renewables—including public renewables—that has delivered cheap, clean power right across our great state. Lower power prices boosts our economy, ensuring more competitive sectors like manufacturing that in turn delivers jobs. Queensland is uniquely positioned to manufacture renewable technologies right here at home. We can continue to develop our renewables boom to underscore a vibrant and advanced manufacturing sector to grow the economy and deliver jobs, particularly in regional Queensland. We are backing renewables, we are backing Queensland know-how and we are backing Queensland jobs in the industries of now, like renewables, and the industries of the future, like hydrogen.


We are poised to make Queensland a global leader in both renewables and hydrogen. We have one of the best locations in the world for renewable hydrogen investment, with the highest direct solar intensity and world-class wind resources. Hydrogen produced from renewable energy is widely considered to be the ultimate clean fuel and presents a unique opportunity to export Queensland's sunshine and wind energy to the world while using and storing our renewable energy at home.

The Palaszczuk government released our hydrogen industry strategy in May last year ahead of the National Hydrogen Roadmap. Our Queensland strategy included a \$15 million Hydrogen Industry Development Fund. In the time since then, QUT and the University of Tokyo have demonstrated that hydrogen can be generated from solar energy and exported to Japan. This budget ensures that Queensland will remain at the forefront of renewable hydrogen with a further \$10 million investment in the industry. This increases our industry development funding commitment to \$25 million, delivering secure and skilled jobs, developing a domestic and export hydrogen market and reducing our carbon footprint.

I was reflecting on the member for Broadwater and his budget reply when he mentioned his search for inspiration, a search that took him back to the future. He jumped in the DeLorean, fired up the flux capacitor and went back to 1957 to see Frank Nicklin. While there is no doubt we must always respect and acknowledge our past, when it comes to the future economic prosperity of Queensland, those of us on this side of the House are firmly focused on the future—a future where Queenslanders are safe and in work and receiving the benefits of record investments in frontline staff and public services, a future where we all work together for a shared prosperity. The future is looking good.

Yesterday's national accounts figures revealed that Queensland has dragged Australia out of recession. Our economy grew by 6.8 per cent between June and September, and that means the fastest economic growth in the country and it means our plan for a strong and safe recovery is working. Queensland is the only state to have recovered all of the jobs that we lost during COVID-19 and we are also the only state to be producing more output than we did before COVID-19.

We now have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to work together to position Queensland for the long term. With our clear plan for a strong and safe recovery, underpinned by this budget that was soundly endorsed by Queenslanders at the election, our best days are ahead of us. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (7.42 pm): Madam Deputy Speaker Gerber, firstly, I would like to acknowledge your promotion to the role of Deputy Speaker. This budget, this moment, makes me think of my two young girls. It makes me think of 2040 when they will be in their 20s, starting their careers, starting their independent lives, maybe starting families and their contribution to their community. The 2020 recession will roll off the tongue as an historical reference. My girls will remember how they were schooled from home and may or may not remember a time when hand sanitiser and social distancing were not part of everyday life. The economy will have rebounded, we may have even had another downturn and the actions of governments at this moment will be largely forgotten.

I am under no illusion that there will be few people who will read my 2020 budget reply speech in 20 years time, but today I put this on the record just in case they do. I want them to know that debt and deficit was in the Palaszczuk government's DNA before the virus. Now they are opportunistically unashamed about racking up record debt and deficit. I want them to know that there was no plan for surpluses and debt reduction before the virus. Now they do not think they have to worry about it. I want them to know that there was not a government in Australia before the virus more eager to rack up debt and fund their frivolous initiatives than the Palaszczuk Labor government.

The Palaszczuk government spend like there are no consequences. If we all lived like that, we would be bankrupt. The sad thing is that in the world they live in, there are no consequences for their spending. Selfishly, they only think of themselves, about their own jobs. Politically, they can get away with spending like a drunken sailor because the consequences of those actions will not be on their careers. The consequences will be on the economy my daughters will be entering in 20 years. The

consequences will be the fact that we could have had better roads, better schools and better hospitals if this government had not wasted money in 2020. The consequences will be that my girls will probably move from Queensland to find the opportunities that this state could have provided if this government looked further forward than the next opinion polls.

This budget was a unique opportunity to lead our state out of a COVID-inspired recession. Instead, and yet again, what we have is a budget from a government that shirks the hard work, a budget that avoids tough decisions, a budget that is an emblem of this government: content with standing still and avoiding trouble rather than building Queensland's ambition. It is a budget and a government that lacks leadership, lacks vision and fails to foster the economic conditions in which Queenslanders can thrive.

Queensland is the last state in the nation to release a budget this year and now we know why. The hypocrisy of this government is unmatched. To ask Queenslanders to trust them and then blatantly abuse that trust by hiding the dire state of our economy and their lack of vision until after the election is the ultimate betrayal. What we have seen in this budget is the extent of Labor's disdain for the truth and the lengths they will go to in order to hoodwink Queenslanders and abuse their misplaced trust. This budget undermines the extraordinary effort that Queenslanders went to this year as we collectively battled an insidious threat. As we emerge from the COVID recession, Queenslanders deserve a budget that is built on ambition, is inspired by confidence and delivers a vision for the future. Instead, Labor have served up more of the same stale and recycled excuses for their failure to lead Queensland out of the economic wilderness.

The Labor Party has zero credibility when it comes to economic management. Assertions from the other side that Queenslanders gave the Palaszczuk Labor government a mandate at the election could not be further from the truth. Queenslanders were unfortunate victims of an orchestrated scare campaign. To blame COVID for the state's economic performance is a cheap shot given the Labor government's abysmal track record before the pandemic hit.

Before coronavirus Queensland had the highest unemployment rate, largest government debt, lowest business confidence and highest bankruptcies in the nation because Labor had no economic plan. Hospital waiting times had blown out, our children's education standards had fallen, our police were overstretched and underresourced, youth crime was out of control and we had one of the highest unemployment rates in the country. After five years of a Labor government, Queensland also had the most bankruptcies in the country and business confidence was at rock bottom. At the same time, the Treasurer also introduced nine new or increased taxes, ripping a further \$3.5 billion out of the state's failing economy.

No-one could have predicted the economic, social and health crisis that we have been dealt in the form of the coronavirus pandemic. Despite these unprecedented times, Queenslanders have proudly responded to the challenge and proven yet again just how deep the Queensland fighting spirit runs. They deserve far better leadership and economic management as we emerge from the health crisis. They do not deserve decades of ongoing economic pain and hardship brought on by a Labor government that has been shown time and time again to be an abject failure at managing the state's economy. Today, as we move into COVID recovery mode, the economic forecast is just as dire, with debt now projected to blow out to \$130 billion and one of the worst unemployment rates in the country at 7.5 per cent. In four years time when our New South Wales cousins revel in the fruits of their government's tough decisions, Queenslanders will yet again bear the brunt of Labor's inability to invest for growth.

As we heard earlier from the Leader of the Opposition, despite the mammoth debt bill of \$130 billion, our state's net worth will have increased by a mere 0.8 per cent. It was the architect of the once strong Queensland economy, former Treasury and investment boss Sir Leo Hielscher, who first raised the alarm bells when he said that the Palaszczuk government had no strategy, no plan and no program to pay down their debt, which at that time was forecast to hit \$83 billion. Fast-forward to today and that \$83 billion is forecast to reach \$130 billion. Sir Leo also lamented the loss of our AAA credit rating at the hands of the Labor Party more than a decade ago. Cash reserves and superannuation surpluses had been raided and debt was still rising. He said that our recent budgets had been balanced by the reallocation of our cash reserves. What the most respected Treasury boss of our time was saying was that this government was robbing Peter to pay Paul. History is repeating itself.

As we head into Christmas, there are almost 214,000 Queenslanders looking for work. During the last term of this Labor Party, from November 2017 to January 2020, this once proud state had, on average, the worst unemployment rate in the nation. Based on Labor's own forecasts and despite the massive debt burden, after another term of this Palaszczuk government our unemployment rate will still be the worst in the country.

I would like to reflect on what this budget has delivered for constituents in my electorate of Ninderry. It will not take long. Since I was first elected, I have been lobbying the Minister for Transport and Main Roads for funding for critical road infrastructure upgrades. This included, among other important traffic and safety improvements, upgrading the roundabout at the intersection of Yandina-Coolum Road and School Road. This is a failing intersection that can no longer accommodate the 8,000-plus residents of Coolum and the thousands more tourists who visit. Each day, parents and children from the Coolum State School need to negotiate this intersection as they travel to and from school. It is not just a bottleneck but also a serious safety concern as the backlog of vehicles tails back onto the Sunshine Motorway, causing the motorway to fail. This has caused many accidents over the years, some of them fatal. Members of the local Labor Party even staged a demonstration during the election campaign, waving placards at this very roundabout in Coolum where I met the minister last year, demanding their own Labor minister take action to bust congestion at Coolum.

My community and I were delighted in the lead-up to the election when the Labor Party finally committed to fund this important upgrade and also committed to duplicating the Sunshine Motorway. I can assure members that the thousands of motorists who get stuck in the congestion every single day were ecstatic at this announcement. Fast-forward to this week, though, a mere month after the election, and now we find out these commitments were just another broken Labor promise, with not a single cent allocated in this year's budget to these important infrastructure upgrades. Residents of the Sunshine Coast have been short-changed yet again and rightly deserve better.

Down the road in Caloundra South, where police numbers have failed to keep up with the rapid population growth, crime is subsequently spiralling out of control and calls for service are at record highs, Labor promised a new police station—a carrot for the thousands of young families who now call that area home. With law and order being such an important issue right across the state, those voters put their faith in a Labor government that said it would listen and was willing to invest in the safety of the community. Where is the funding? Was it just another broken promise? These are just a few of the broken promises we have heard about this week. No doubt we will hear about many more by the time all my colleagues reflect on how the budget has failed to deliver for their communities right across the state.

Unfortunately, we have heard of yet another betrayal of Queenslanders' trust. During the election, the Treasurer assured Queenslanders that borrowings would be limited to \$4 billion to cover the costs of the Labor Party's election commitments. Was the Treasurer lying, or are his accounting skills so poor that he forgot to allow for the cost of running the state? When the Treasurer handed down his budget on Tuesday, we learned that borrowings will actually be in the vicinity—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mrs Gerber): Pause the clock. Member for Ninderry, I ask that you withdraw the unparliamentary language: 'lying'.

**Mr PURDIE:** I withdraw. Are his accounting skills so poor that he forgot to allow for the cost of running the state? When the Treasurer handed down his budget on Tuesday we learned that borrowings will actually be in the vicinity of \$28 billion, a figure seven times that which he promised Queenslanders. These borrowings are not an investment in our state's economy; nor will they contribute to the cost of building infrastructure or creating jobs. As I and others on this side pointed out earlier, there will be no net gain in wealth or value—just more economic pain for our children and our grandchildren.

Around 97 per cent of all businesses in this state are small businesses, and in my electorate alone there are more than 4½ thousand of them. They are the backbone of our economy, and we need to do more for them. If we support small business they will do the heavy lifting by driving employment and economic growth, but this government has again proven that it has no interest in supporting the mums and dads who make up a large proportion of our small, family-run businesses. These are families that are working hard—making sacrifices—to improve their lot, to employ people and to give back to the community.

What does the Labor Party do for small business? It smashes them with increased taxes, higher costs and more red tape. In its last budget, Labor's nine new or increased taxes ripped almost \$4 billion out of the Queensland economy. This year COVID has delivered another hammer blow but, instead of giving our small businesses a lifeline and giving businesses more time to get back on their feet, Labor has yet again failed to provide the right economic conditions to allow them to thrive.

According to the state's peak business advocacy group, the CCIQ, Labor's budget is a missed opportunity. It has failed to deliver the immediacy that is required to build business confidence in the short term and lay the foundation for a job-creating, business-led recovery in the long term. We can


thank our federal colleagues for doing much of the heavy lifting that has helped keep the blood flowing through the veins of small business during the health crisis, but, given the state's bleak economic outlook, what will happen when JobKeeper payments dry up in March?

Labor had an opportunity to dispel its anti-business sentiment and provide some salvation by waiving payroll tax, but that is not the Labor way. Just as soon as the green shoots of recovery from a COVID inspired recession emerge, businesses will be smashed by their accrued payroll tax debt. Is it any wonder Queensland had the highest number of business bankruptcies in the nation during the last term of this government?

In this budget, Labor has proven yet again that it is no friend of small business. When the Treasurer commented that he does not like to borrow money, I almost fell off my chair. Debt and borrowing money are part of the Labor Party's DNA. When Labor runs out of money, it comes after yours. Labor has form when it comes to reneging on its promises, fudging the figures and glossing over the facts. In fact, it has become a hallmark of this Labor administration.

The Labor Party has been exposed. As the tide goes out, its members have been caught with their pants down—again. As I have said many times in this House, the two highest priorities of any government are the safety and security of its citizens and to provide an economic environment in which its citizens can prosper. On these highest priorities, Labor has failed across the board—systemically, profoundly and unforgivably. To add to that pain, this Labor government has also breached the trust of Queenslanders, who this year have been forced to completely change the way they live their lives. They have done so courageously and with the utmost trust that the government would do everything it could to protect them.

Queensland will always be a great place to live, no matter how reckless this government is in breaking promises or managing the books. We will love this state. Sadly, in 2040, when those opposite are sitting on union boards in semi-retirement, my girls will be trying to get jobs in an economy that will not be all it could be. They probably will not know the best Queensland they could have. We have seen the writing on the wall with this budget. In the first four weeks of this term we have seen what the next four years will be like—four lost years, four years that set Queensland behind. This is the legacy of this Palaszczuk Labor government, a legacy that will be borne by all our kids and grandkids and for generations to come.

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—ALP) (7.57 pm): It gives me great pleasure to rise to speak in support of the government's budget. I promised the people of Stafford that my first priority would be to work with the Premier in her continued efforts to manage our health response to the global pandemic and the economic challenges that it brought. This budget delivers on that in spades. I thank the Treasurer for his dedication in preparing and delivering the budget so soon after the government was officially formed. I thank the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the cabinet team for showing the vision and leadership that Queenslanders needed throughout this tough year and for delivering this historic budget that Queenslanders overwhelmingly supported.

This has been a busy couple of weeks for incoming MPs, with parliament returning sooner than normal, but after the pomp and ceremony of the formal opening—as beautiful as that was—and after the honour of rising in this place to deliver my first address representing the people of Stafford—as humbling as that was—this budget shows that the government is already hard at work. We are hitting the ground running, delivering the vision for Queensland's future that we took to the election and which was overwhelmingly endorsed on 31 October. Budgets are, after all, a statement of values—an articulation of what we stand for and who we are fighting for. That is why I am proud that this budget is a budget for jobs, a budget for investment in our state and a budget for service delivery. It is a Labor budget.

It is a budget that is tailor-made for my electorate of Stafford. In many ways I think our community is a microcosm of the needs this government seeks to address and the priorities this budget advances: jobs, health and education. This budget continues the laser focus this government has had on supporting the economy and creating jobs. The strong health management during COVID-19 has allowed the Queensland economy to rebound strongly—great work by Queensland industries and the workers who continued to serve Queenslanders through the height of this pandemic.

The budget builds on that record with the largest infrastructure program in over a decade. It includes \$14.8 billion in 2020-21—that is, \$56 billion over four years. This government is backing Queenslanders with the \$500 million backing Queensland businesses program and will target business development where businesses are based in Queensland and where they will create jobs in Queensland. I also believe our investment in training and skills is a key economic tool to build the

Queensland economy. To attract businesses from other states and to support the development of new industries and the expansion of existing Queensland industries, we are investing in skills and training to create the highly skilled workforce required for that growth. Of course, such investment supports Queenslanders at a personal level, getting them the skills and experience they need to get into the workforce and lock down good, secure jobs.

In this budget, that includes \$83 million for important skilling programs, including the TAFE Priority Skills Fund and pre-apprenticeship support. I am very proud to support this government investing \$21 million to extend free TAFE to Queenslanders under 25. I am very proud that this government reinstated Skilling Queenslanders for Work and that this budget continues to support that program, but our investment in building economic growth through investing in our people does not start or stop there. As I said in my speech last week, I believe that we cannot overstate the importance of education in giving Queenslanders the best start in life, the opportunity to expand their horizons and to develop—develop their pathways to a career and develop as human beings.

I am absolutely delighted that I have been appointed to the Education, Employment and Training Committee and I look forward to continuing to work with the education minister and the training minister as well as the incoming committee chair, the member for Redlands, and other members. I am obviously very proud to be part of a government that is investing \$17.5 billion in education and training in 2020-21. I again thank the teachers, leadership teams and parents across the electorate of Stafford who are so dedicated to delivering the best for our kids. I have appreciated already working with you so far and I look forward to continuing the constructive relationship next year.

I am excited that there is investment in local schools, including Wavell Heights, Stafford Heights and Wilston. As a special mention for its centenary year, I want to wish the Wilston school community the very best. I know that we were not able to celebrate the way we had planned this year, but I look forward to the updated plans for 2021. Thanks to this budget, those plans will include working together to roll out \$8 million over four years for a new multipurpose hall. I can tell members that the parents and staff are already very excited about the government's investment. With all of these projects at our schools, it is not just brilliant investment in the future of our kids' education; it also creates local jobs in the process. Likewise, this budget will create local jobs through investing in our community sporting organisations that are so much of the social fabric in our community.

As I said last week, for our community in particular the other core piece of our community fabric is our health workforce. I was very pleased to welcome the Deputy Premier to the Stafford electorate during the election campaign as he announced funding for the planning of the rapid expansion of health services at the Prince Charles Hospital. Labor has a strong record of investing at the Prince Charles Hospital—an icon on the north side. It was Labor that expanded the services provided by the hospital, particularly the expansion to general health services and the emergency department. It was Labor that funded the specialist paediatric emergency department. It was Labor that delivered Jacaranda Place, co-located on site at the Prince Charles Hospital. This is the wonderful new facility literally saving young people's lives. This is a stark and very serious reminder of the legacy of the LNP cuts, of course in this case the closure of the Barrett centre, with no replacement, which saw inexcusable harm to young people and so much pain for their families.

In contrast to that savage approach, this budget delivers a record \$21.8 billion investment in health, including \$6.8 billion across the greater Brisbane region. Locally, as I said, it means funding for fast-tracking of the expansion of services. In addition, it means an investment in a new multistorey car park at the Prince Charles Hospital. This is great news for patients and their families and for staff as well as local residents to take pressure off neighbouring streets. Crucially, this government is delivering this investment with the government's portfolio model, meaning that the asset stays in the hands of the Queensland public.


I am also proud of this government's investment in public health right across the north side. Now, I know it is just across the border in the electorate of my neighbour and good friend the member for McConnel, but many Stafford constituents are proud staff members at the RBWH and of course many constituents have been patients and visitors to the RBWH over the years. The government is continuing to invest in important health services such as \$11 million to complete the construction of a new 184-bed specialist rehabilitation and ambulatory care centre worth \$33 million. It is called the Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital Surgical, Treatment and Rehabilitation Services, or STARS. To the staff at both hospitals, I again thank all of you for your contributions to what is a world-class health system—the doctors, nurses and allied health professionals who dedicate their careers to serving their fellow Queenslanders. To the wardies, the caterers, the cleaners and the laundry staff, I thank each and every one of them for playing their part in what is a complex, large and quality healthcare system.

I also want to briefly touch on other investments this budget delivers for our state and for our local community. In transport I am pleased to confirm that this budget includes funding for the design and upgrade of new bus platforms along the very busy Chermside strip of Gympie Road and \$4.5 million towards the Northern Transitway bus priority works. As I reflected in my speech last week, many of our locals are CBD commuters and this investment in public transport confirms Labor's proud history of investing in local bus services, including of course the Northern Busway. Like many MPs on this side, I know how excited my constituents are about the possibilities that Cross River Rail can bring. Commuters from Alderley, Newmarket and Wilston stations, as well as those who utilise Woolloowin and Albion, will benefit from the extra capacity this massive project will deliver.

Our commitment to renewable energy and the environment crosses across all of our electorate boundaries, benefiting all Queenslanders and our environment. I am proud that CleanCo, the publicly owned clean energy generator, will deliver the \$250 million Karara Wind Farm. This investment is forward thinking, delivers for our renewable energy commitment and creates jobs in the process.

We are a community that seeks to look out for one another and ensure Queenslanders have the support that they need. I am proud that this budget delivers \$140 million across the greater Brisbane region in social housing. In addition, we are investing in local services, including to the Salvation Army support accommodation to deliver specialist services and to Burnie Brae—a much loved institution in our community—half a million dollars for the provision of Home Assist Secure services. We are also investing more than \$600,000 in footpath reconstruction and I look forward to working on ensuring that local suburbs, where there is the most pressing need, get the improvements that this investment can provide.

In conclusion, I again thank the Treasurer for his dedication in delivering this budget. I thank the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the team for delivering the budget that these times needed. I am proud to be part of a government investing in infrastructure and investing in services and job creation right across this state. I am proud that this budget delivers so much for the local community that I love.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (8.07 pm): The Palaszczuk government has broken several promises in its new term of government. During the election campaign the figure of \$4 billion of additional borrowings was repeatedly used and, as the budget exposes, that figure has now blown out to \$28 billion. The government asked for a mandate on the back of the \$4 billion increase in borrowings and now it is seven times that figure. It is a clear breach of trust.

We also see a lack of ambition for jobs. In four years time we will still have the worst unemployment numbers in the country and it is simply not good enough. It has been said that secrecy is the enemy of democracy. It is now common practice that the Treasurer, as part of a government that believes itself above scrutiny and forever fearful that its mismanagement will be exposed, tries to hide the facts from Queenslanders. By starting this new term of government in a similar manner to the last five years, the government is seeking to hide information like the real debt levels from the public.

There were mistruths told during the campaign by the Labor Party about the supposed LNP cuts to the Public Service, but when the Queensland ALP Treasurer released his budget costings we saw that in fact the ALP will cut a billion dollars from Queensland Health. The costing document begins with a statement from the Treasurer, Cameron Dick, about how Labor's plan was the only fiscally responsible approach and that any attempt to achieve economic recovery through austerity measures would only delay recovery. The document then goes on to allude to how the 9,000 doctors, nurses and allied health professionals that Labor had committed to hire over the next four years would be funded from existing health budget funding. That means cutting funding from health, with Cameron Dick confirming that the government would have to find \$270 million a year to fund its promise.

This is not the first time the Palaszczuk government has used a so-called 'efficiency dividend' or 'savings plan' without any detail of where the cuts would come from. Just before the election the Treasurer announced an economic update promising \$3 billion worth of savings, including cutting programs. That equates to cutting to the Public Service. Additionally, we know that Australia's electoral authority was probing whether the private details of Queenslanders were shared illegally by Annastacia Palaszczuk's Labor government with unions so they could directly influence voters in critical seats. Then we hear taxpayers will pay an extra \$1 million to pay for the salaries of the Palaszczuk government's expanded ministry. Despite the Premier claiming savings by reducing the cabinet to 14 persons, we now have 19 ministers and eight assistant ministers.

I remind Queensland that we have trouble in paradise after the state government last year sold a pristine Queensland island to the Chinese—a 99-year lease over Keswick Island. I will remind Queenslanders of that every day. I have raised the debacle of Paradise Dam many times in this place:

lowering the dam wall by 5.8 metres without all the testing being completed and the region being in the middle of the worst drought conditions in a decade. There are lost opportunities for Paradise Dam in the budget. There is no new money to honour the promises made to reinstate the dam wall to its full capacity. These promises were made by both candidates and the minister.

Budgets should provide confidence and incentives for regions to prosper. Not dealing with the biggest infrastructure failure in Australia's history is beyond belief. To have no real commitment to fixing it is a shame. We know there is significant investment and expansion that is now on hold in our region as a result of the government not making any real commitments on reinstatement or any commitments to water security. That money allocated for essential works and improvements has already been allocated so there is nothing new, just rehashed announcements.

I am disappointed that there was nothing tangible announced before the election about the Bundaberg port. The political games played out over the Hinkler Regional Deal are a typical example of the arrogance and lengths the Labor government will go to to punish its political rivals. For years federal government money was available for many projects. However, it took the election campaign for the political will to finally approve the multi-use conveyor. After six years of no action at the port we finally have some industry interest. It is important that we remind Queenslanders of this government's contempt for the Bundaberg port. It took years to approve a conveyor that required no investment from the state and years to approve the Pacific Tug Group facility. It is absolutely essential that the government cease with its anti-region agenda and back in the Bundaberg port. It is essential to create new businesses and residential opportunities at the port to significantly boost the economy of our region and create more jobs.

Our community was also promised the delivery of a brand new level 5 hospital, but all I can see allocated in the budget is half a million dollars which is supposedly being shared between improving facilities at the Bundaberg Hospital site and new promised alcohol and drug support, which is welcome. Where is the rest of the money we desperately need to complete this critical project that we kept hearing over and over during the campaign would be delivered? We were promised \$15 million for a new alcohol and drug rehabilitation and treatment facility. There is very little detail in this budget for the facility, however, we welcome the investment.

I am glad that the minister is in the House. I wanted to see money towards the Isis Highway upgrades, as promised. The region deserves to see investment in our notorious road network. Rosedale Road needs overtaking lanes and significant upgrades to many intersections. Moore Park Beach Road is notorious and needs more permanent solutions. I take this opportunity to address issues raised by the minister in question time in referencing my media release. QTRIP is not a budget document.

**Government members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mrs Gerber): Order, members!

**Mr BENNETT:** I am glad the Minister for the Environment is here as well. It is disturbing to see the under-utilisation of the \$15 million firefighting air tanker. When one considers Fraser Island has been burning for six weeks now, there are many questions to be answered. The inquiry announced should be independent and needs to have clear terms of reference addressing the many failures of the management of the fires on Fraser Island.

Many people in our region have asked many times why the fire has burned for seven weeks. Questions have revealed the tanker was not engaged early in the fire. We know that Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, QFES and the traditional owners cannot agree on anything, in particular a plan to fight the fires, including access to water et cetera. We are heading into another fire season and we are again questioning this government's responses to our state's fire management. Do we need another inquiry to inform us that the lack of back-burning and the minimal use of our Indigenous land and sea rangers et cetera will again cause large tracts of protected estate to burn out of control?

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. I cannot hear the member on his feet. Order!

**Mr BENNETT:** There are serious issues with the financial position of the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service. In fact, the majority of HHSs across the state are in financial distress. Budget papers confirm our worst fears. In May this year I wrote to the Auditor-General highlighting my concerns around issues that the budget now highlights. I predicted in May we will have a serious budget overrun of nearly \$10 million. The budget shows the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service is nearly \$8 million over budget. I have predicted, based on the current trends, the real debt position will be close to \$30 million by the end of this financial year.



The Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service has had an additional 150 full-time staff appointed since last September, when the best performing CEO in the nation was politically unceremoniously sacked. There are now significant budget overruns and the performance of the hospital's emergency department is failing. Waiting lists are blowing out to nine months for outpatients, 12 weeks for endoscopy and six months for surgery. It may be easy to blame the COVID pandemic for these failures, however the Wide Bay region has had only 28 cases of COVID-19, with 23 community isolated and not requiring hospital support.

I acknowledge and welcome the promises that were kept for local projects, like the \$42 million towards an East Bundaberg flood levee and the funding for smaller projects, which the member for Bundaberg will talk about, such as improved lighting at Salter Oval and money for Bundaberg Central Men's Shed and the Mon Repos Turtle Centre, but we did not see any money for the car park. We spent \$25 million revamping the Mon Repos Turtle Centre—a complete budget overrun—and we have not ended up with a car park. We welcome further commitments and we will continue to work towards solutions.

I congratulate Woongarra State School for receiving much needed money for upgrades. Making significant announcements involving flood mitigation was important after six years of promises of boots on the ground and six years into the government's 10-year action plan. What is disturbing is that the announcements are dependent on federal funding. It is evident that the government has only this week made contact with the federal government around a co-funding arrangement. I would have thought that arrangements would have been sorted any time in the last six years to avoid any further delays.


Investment in tourism opportunities is going to be desperately needed. We have seen an immediate boost in visitation locally. It is important that our investment assists the creation of and improvements to our tourism offerings ensuring we have quality offerings. That is why the ongoing issues and lack of funding for the safety and access issues at Round Hill Creek, Agnes Water, 1770, are extremely disappointing. The Southern Great Barrier Reef is an important tourism offering and not having suitable egress and access from 1770, Round Hill Creek is a real failure of this government. Additionally, further protections are required at Lady Musgrave Island, particularly in the lagoon, to ensure the future of the visitor experience. We must work together to get that happening. Serious environmental issues in Moneys Creek at Bargara have been ignored in the budget and we need to keep the pressure on to ensure this project becomes a reality.

I again use this opportunity to advocate for support from the government to ensure the sugar industry in both Maryborough and the Burnett has a future and the local sugar mills maintain viability. This should be priority of this government as it is about jobs and the future of an important agricultural enterprise, a proud industry, needing this government's support.

Moore Park Beach Surf Club is desperate for much needed government support. Having been severely damaged in cyclones, the club and Surf Life Saving Queensland have been trying to secure the remaining construction funding. There is \$500,000 already committed and the club just wants the state government to get on with the job. I thank the minister for agreeing to meet me on this issue.

I want to put on record that I will be working with our team to ensure a secure future for the Goora Gan Steiner school in Agnes Water. Currently the school occupies a previously vacant government building under a sublease, which has seen the local school flourish with 50 students enrolled, looking to expand to 70. Unfortunately, the future of this successful school, which provides such a vital opportunity for the education of children in Agnes Water, is not secure. Government legislation prevents any extension to a sublease, something that creates a real threat that the school will be evicted and left with no opportunities to continue providing this essential service. I look forward to meeting with the minister to chart a way forward to secure tenure. I am sure all in this House would support the future education of our young people.

I mention minor changes needed to the Land Act and the Water Act to provide real opportunities for many in Queensland. I intend to work hard to achieve sensible outcomes that should allow improved access to overland flow of water to allow the construction of one only-200-megalitre dam near the town of Buxton to deal with access to water for important farming enterprise and, additionally, access to water by the rural fire brigade when this community faces one of the regular fires that occur. It is important that we continue to work towards good outcomes out of this budget. I will continue to work, as I have to from the opposition, with the government members to make sure that the community gets its fair share.

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (8.19 pm): I rise to speak in favour of the appropriation bills. I congratulate the Treasurer and the government on this week's budget. During the recent election and throughout the COVID lockdown, my volunteers and I spoke with over 26,000 people right across

Pumicestone. Every single day I promised that I would work hard and stand up for what our community values most, whether that is the strong public services that people in Pumicestone count on, the workers who deliver them or the infrastructure upgrades that will grow local jobs. I promised I would work every day to make Pumicestone better for us and this week's budget absolutely delivers on my commitments to the Pumicestone community.

Health is the No. 1 issue for many people in Pumicestone. My electorate has a median age 12 years above the rest of Queensland and health commuting takes a real toll on people in Pumicestone. Every day at dawn, elderly people with complex health needs get on the community bus at Bribie to travel to Brisbane for hospital appointments. Some make the trip multiple times each week. That is why a hospital on Bribie Island has been an aspiration of the community for many years and our Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering.

Not one but two satellite community hospitals for Bribie Island and Caboolture are just what the doctor ordered for the people of Pumicestone. Our satellite hospitals mean that people in Pumicestone will get more care closer to home, easing the pressure on our busy Caboolture Hospital. I am delighted that this budget backs in the planning and community consultation to select the services and sites for our satellite community hospitals with \$1.6 million in funding for 2020-21. I look forward to updating the Pumicestone community on all the details of when the consultation will begin and how they can get involved.

Before the 2017 election, our Premier promised that if her government were re-elected we would build a massive upgrade to Caboolture Hospital and that is exactly what we are doing. It is hard to believe that when the Premier announced that massive upgrade those opposite said that it was a political stunt and that it was not needed. That is right: the LNP said upgrading the Caboolture Hospital was a political stunt and that it was not needed. On this side of the House we are proud of Caboolture Hospital because Labor built it in 1993, Labor backed it and now Labor is growing it bigger and better than ever.

In this 2020-21 budget, over \$67 million is allocated to continue our expansion of Caboolture Hospital. We are adding a whole suite of new facilities and services, including 130 new beds, an upgraded special care nursery, a new cardiac unit, improved mental health services and an expanded emergency department. I could go on, but the list of new services and facilities at Caboolture Hospital is almost too long for this speech. As well, we are delivering upgrades that will make Caboolture Hospital more comfortable, more spacious and more welcoming to our community, such as a new entry, a new visitors lounge and a new cafe. You only have to drive past Caboolture Hospital to see our Palaszczuk Labor government keeping its promises to the people of Caboolture and those from right across Pumicestone and the northern Moreton Bay area.

Pumicestone people are passionate about the road upgrades they need to get home sooner and safer. I am pleased to update the House that substantial upgrades to Bribie Island Road, in the order of \$30 million, are underway as we speak. The Old Toorbul Point Road intersection upgrade has been welcomed by the Pumicestone community because it will reduce congestion and deliver huge safety benefits. This budget includes over \$9 million to complete stage 1 of that vital work. Parents, teachers and kids from St Michael's College Caboolture, which is a great local school that I am really proud to be associated with, are especially enthusiastic about the upgrade. Although I know the works are tough on the school community as they negotiate pick-up and drop-off times, they will continue over the Christmas holidays and the new intersection will be well worth it. Recently I sought an update from TMR and can confirm that stage 1 of the works is on track to be completed on schedule early next year. That is fantastic news for the school community.

That is not the end of the good news for Pumicestone residents when it comes to our local roads. Prior to the election I negotiated even more funding for key upgrades to Bribie Island Road, including \$3 million to install signals at Regina Avenue at Ningi to improve access and safety for local residents and businesses. I also secured almost \$1 million for a business case, plus the first \$10 million of a \$20 million project to dual-lane Bribie Island Road from the Old Toorbul Point Road intersection all the way to the Caboolture interchange. Now I am calling on the federal government to come to the party and back the people of Pumicestone who need that all-important dual-laning to get home sooner and safer.

The Bribie Island Bridge is a huge issue in Pumicestone. I am really proud to have negotiated \$4 million to get started on the early planning and design required before a new bridge can be built. I look forward to delivering on that commitment. However, the very day that I was sworn in as the member for Pumicestone and even while I was giving an interview about the importance of the Bribie Island

Bridge to the people of Pumicestone, what was the Leader of the Opposition doing? He was putting the LNP's own funding promise of \$3 million for the early planning and design of the new Bribie Island bridge on the chopping block. The Leader of the Opposition refused to confirm support for a new Bribie Island bridge. He was shaping up for a cut.

Is that because, having lost the seat of Pumicestone for the LNP at the election, those opposite are now giving up on the people of Pumicestone and what they need most? It certainly looks that way. Perhaps those opposite are giving up on the whole of the north coast region, all the way to Wide Bay. After all, we have seen the LNP give up on the northern Moreton Bay region when they stripped the member for Glass House of his shadow ministry. Certainly my new colleague the member for Bundaberg is adamant that those opposite have abandoned Wide Bay with the member for Burnett also relegated from the shadow ministry.

**Mr Hart:** Is there only one person who writes your speeches?

**Ms KING:** That must be it. This year's budget is not just a roads budget for Pumicestone; it is a jobs budget for Pumicestone. We have seen \$52 million allocated towards the massive \$662 million upgrade of the Bruce Highway between the Caboolture-Bribie Island Road interchange and Steve Irwin Way, a project that will create over 660 local jobs. That is the best possible news for Pumicestone. This budget is also proudly about community safety. There is a huge funding boost for more police in Pumicestone and for better and more up-to-date policing technology such as body worn cameras and QLiTE iPads. Importantly, at least 150 more police officers will join our police district and they will be warmly welcomed.

It is the people of Beachmere to whom I am most looking forward to talking about what this budget means for community safety. From many conversations with Beachmere residents I know that they are keen to see more police in their communities more often. That is why it is great news that Beachmere and Bribie Island are getting one of the 25 new mobile police beats. Those new police stations on wheels will make our Police Service more agile, more responsive and better able to adapt to the needs of the community. Whether setting up proactively at a big community event or taking witness statements and collecting evidence at the scene of an incident, our new mobile police beat will make a big difference. The funding for our mobile police beat starts this very year, supporting community safety for Beachmere and Bribie Island.

There is a huge heart for education in Pumicestone and this budget backs our state schools with \$10.94 million for projects right across the electorate. That includes \$9.78 million to build Pumicestone State School's new two-storey learning centre, with a focus on STEM and robotics; half a million dollars to continue work on Banksia Beach State School's new car park; and \$280,000 to completely refurbish the special education unit at Beachmere State School. There is also \$380,000 for maintenance and minor works across every state school in Pumicestone. I could not be more delighted about what that means for local jobs and upgrades to the local infrastructure of our state schools.

I stood shoulder to shoulder with parents, teachers and students to campaign for our state schools in Pumicestone to be fully air conditioned because I believe in removing barriers to education. That is why it is wonderful to see \$129 million in this year's budget to air-condition state schools right across Queensland and another almost \$51 million for installing solar panels to offset the energy costs and the emissions. I can update the House that, of the five state schools in Pumicestone, three—Banksia Beach State School, Beachmere State School and Pumicestone State School—now have air conditioning installed in every single classroom, every library and every staffroom. Bribie Island State School and Bribie Island State High School are expected to be completed next year. I pay tribute to our local P&Cs that worked so hard to fundraise for air conditioning and I am glad that the Palaszczuk Labor government could finish the job. Every state school in Pumicestone will join Bribie Island State High School in having solar panels installed by mid next year.

This is a jobs budget and, in Pumicestone, small business is a huge driver of jobs. As a former small business owner, it was a privilege for me to be able to support local small businesses through this difficult pandemic year. Some 73 small business adaptation grants have been paid so far to small businesses in Pumicestone, totalling almost \$600,000. Farmer Dave and Katrina of White Ridge Farm at Elimbah used their grant to advertise their fantastic farm experience far and wide. Despite COVID-19, they built their business's profile and they have never been so busy. Erin and Andrew of Ferryman Cruises, Bribie Island, used their grant to build their marketing and social media skills and repositioned their iconic local business for the future. I look forward to watching these vibrant local tourism businesses grow and thrive with support from the Palaszczuk Labor government.

When I was endorsed as the Labor candidate for Pumicestone, there was not one Skilling Queenslanders for Work program in the whole of Pumicestone, despite its proven success of getting Queenslanders into jobs. I worked closely with Gerry from the Youth Development Foundation to help turn that around, and now we have several strong programs underway that are already getting young people into further education and working in construction and business with local employers. It is a great outcome and it is all because this government backed Skilling Queenslanders for Work with over \$14 million in funding right across our region.

I promised that I would work hard to help make Pumicestone better for us, that I would work every day for infrastructure upgrades, strong public services and local jobs. I am proud that this is exactly what this budget does. I commend the appropriation bills to the House.



**Mr KNUTH (Hill—KAP) (8.31 pm):** I rise to speak to the budget. I think it is very important for every member of parliament to represent their constituents and take their issues to parliament, in the hope to get outcomes and deliver for their electorates. When it comes to securing funding, the people in our electorates respect that. It is a time when you come alive, feeling that you are able to achieve some things and do some good for the regions.

I acknowledge the education minister and the government for providing \$6 million in school funding. It is very important. I want to acknowledge those schools. The Atherton State High School received \$1.6 million in funding; Babinda State School received \$205,000; Feluga State School, a small school, received \$45,000; Goondi State School received \$400,000; Innisfail State College received \$270,000; Mount Garnet State School received \$110,000; Ravenshoe State School received \$1.4 million; and Walkamin State School, a small school in my community, received \$713,000. There is also funding for maintenance of schools in the Hill electorate, \$1.47 million, and for minor works, \$640,000. That is good news for the Hill electorate and good for the schools. I acknowledge the P&Cs for their hard work in bringing needs to the attention of the principals, to me, to facilities, to the minister and then to the government. That is good news.

It is good to hear that there will be the manufacturing of trains at Maryborough. This is good for jobs, good for Queensland and also good for Australia in general. Manufacturing locally is how it should be, rather than importing goods from overseas. The Labor Party should not get too carried away with regard to this, because it was the Labor Party that closed down the Banyo workshops and the Townsville workshops, particularly in the time of the Goss government, and privatised the coal component of Queensland Rail and the above-rail, the Townsville-Mount Isa line.

We must remember, too, that with the coal component we were raking in \$1.8 billion of transport haulage. That was going back to the state government out of the mining companies carting that coal for us. That money was going back to schools, hospitals and roads. Now it is going to multinational and transnational corporations. It is a good thing which I fully support and great news for Maryborough—local trains, local manufacturing, local jobs.

We need to progress even further than that. That is why we have always pushed very strongly for the Queensland government to build and own the railway track in the Galilee Basin. If we own it, it becomes our asset. Companies then pay us for transport haulage which adds up to billions of dollars. It is money going back to the state government—not to Adani but back to us.

I want to acknowledge that we received funding for the Eddie Bay Surf Life Saving Club's roof to provide undercover shelter. I acknowledge the former minister for sport and recreation who took time out to have a teleconference with representatives of that club. They are rejoicing at present as the difficulties have been endured since Cyclone Yasi hit it. There was a lot of damage done. I believe there are up to 60 nippers in that club. The biggest problem for the club was in housing all of the equipment for the members. Now they will have an undercover area that they are very appreciative of and are rejoicing over, so I definitely would like to acknowledge that.

With regard to road funding, I have to acknowledge the \$200 million that is coming to my electorate, but it does overlap the Hinchinbrook, Cook and Mulgrave electorates. We have been pushing very strongly and have secured \$7 million for the Boogan Road. We have secured \$6 million for the East Feluga intersection but only after a number of lives were lost. We very much appreciate that funding. There is the upgrade to the Gillies Range, works taking place on Millaa Millaa-Malanda Road and works on the Kennedy Highway.

The minister is not present in the chamber, but last night I raised the issue of Silkwood Japoon Road at Innisfail. It is a loop road that starts at Silkwood, goes through Japoon, Japoonvale through to Mena Creek, which boasts Queensland's biggest tourist attraction, Paronella Park, through to South Johnstone and Wangan. It is a school bus route and a lot of trucks use that road. It is falling to pieces

and is a serious safety risk. I tabled six to seven letters last night. We are hoping to see funding going to that road. We have lobbied for that funding probably since time began. We appreciate the fact that there is now money coming for the area from Innisfail to Wangan. It was one of the worst sections, but that is now fixed. We also have from Wangan to South Johnstone, from South Johnstone to Mena Creek, from Mena Creek to Japoon, and from Japoon to Kurrimine, which is next. I will be communicating much more with the minister regarding that.

We were quite disappointed that there is no funding for Ootann Road. Ootann Road is about 20 kilometres south of Mount Garnet. All the trucks use that road, particularly the road trains, so they do not have to go through the Tablelands. They do not have to go down through the Bruce Highway. They go around through the western area and do not have to unhook. The road is rough. Those road trains are falling to pieces. They have no choice but to use the Bruce Highway or go through the Tablelands, where they are constantly going back and unhooking to get through to service Cape York Peninsula, or coming from the cape and servicing southern parts of Queensland and Western Queensland. If we seal that road we will relieve all that congestion from the Tablelands and from the Bruce Highway. It is common sense to seal that road once and for all.


I am very passionate about ensuring locals, particularly road contractors, are prioritised when it comes to granting contracts for government tenders. So many times we have seen southern companies put in for these contracts. They screw it down and suddenly get awarded the contract. They do not know the weather conditions, they have no compassion for the local communities and they do not create jobs in the local communities. You will see that a job is completed but within three months it is breaking up. Henrietta Creek is an example of local contractors doing a great job. They have dug down deep, they have filled it up with all sorts of flood rock to allow for drainage, they have packed it and they have sealed it. It is local people who are getting those local jobs. It is very important that the government recognises the need to always support local contractors over contractors that come from a long way away that do not have any knowledge of the area.

I believe we are progressing with regard to the Kurrimine Beach boat ramp—and I note that the Minister for Transport and Main Roads was here. This has been pushed for for about 20 years. I think we are making inroads. When people launch their boats into the ocean they either get bogged or get stung by a jellyfish or eaten by a shark or potentially a crocodile. It makes sense to secure that boat ramp and simplify things. We talk about jobs for our region and we have the great asset of the Great Barrier Reef there and people cannot launch their boats without a certain amount of risk and danger. If we could put some money into the Kurrimine Beach boat ramp it would be greatly appreciated.

There was very little with regard to water infrastructure in the budget. We have a project that we have been pushing for quite some time. It is a project that was approved back in the 1950s. That project is the North Johnstone transfer project. At the time the Tinaroo Dam was constructed it was acknowledged that as farming increased there would not be enough water to sustain the region over the decades. They designed the North Johnstone transfer. There were a number of floods and they thought at the time that maybe we did not need this. There has been a massive expansion on the Atherton Tablelands, particularly when it comes to the production of blueberries, avocados, lemons and lime, and we are held back because there is not enough water.

The North Johnstone transfer is designed to transfer water from the North Johnstone during flood in an underground five-metre pipe into the Barron River and then into the Tinaroo Dam. Everyone in the Tablelands benefits. Recreational users benefit because at the moment once the dam gets below 40 per cent everyone gets kicked off. That supplement would help. There is very little in the way of costing and there is very little in the way of environmental issues. Water is collected during floods and the gates shut off when it gets back to its original environmental flow. The mayor basically said, 'Give me a shovel and I will start working on it. I will do it for a cheap price.'

Obviously other issues will pop up. I appreciate the fact that we have money for schools. In terms of roads, I have brought to the attention of the House what is needed. Hopefully things will happen before the next budget. Given the expansion of the food bowl in this area we need water infrastructure badly. I wanted to bring that to the attention of the House.

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (8.43 pm): I rise to speak in support of the appropriation bills. The Palaszczuk government is certainly getting on with the job of delivering our economic recovery plan for Queensland. We took a clear plan forward at the election and we were returned. I want to take this opportunity to thank the electorate of Gaven for placing their trust in me for a second term. As a born and bred Gold Coaster, I am particularly pleased to see significant investment in this year's budget for my city. I am very proud of the commitments we took forward at the election.

The centrepiece of those commitments are our M1 upgrades. This year's budget has allocated money for exit 41 at Yatala South, exit 49 at Pimpama and exit 57 and for the Pacific Motorway upgrades from Varsity Lakes to Tugun. In the last term of government we completed the Mudgeeraba to Varsity Lakes upgrades, which was a commitment I made at the previous election. Most importantly, there is funding for the Coomera Connector—a project that I have advocated strongly for over the last term.

It was interesting to hear the Leader of the Opposition's contribution to this bill earlier because it was actually those opposite who stopped this particular project from progressing. I table an article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin* published in 2014 titled 'End of the road for traffic relief plan as road corridor quietly scrapped'.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin* online, dated 25 April 2014, titled 'End of the road for traffic relief plan as road corridor quietly scrapped' [355].

**Mrs Frecklington:** Welcome to 2020.

**Ms SCANLON:** I thank the member for Nanango for her interjection. Over the last term of government our government was very proud to deliver M1 upgrades. This is in contrast to the member for Nanango and the LNP who, when last in government, did not spend a single new dollar on the M1. As I just mentioned, they scrapped the Coomera Connector from progressing.

The member for Broadwater, who was previously the member for Mundingburra, thought that he could move to the Gold Coast and wipe history. Just because he moves to the suburb of Runaway Bay does not mean he can run away from his track record.

We are investing heavily in this space. We are delivering a Coomera Connector that Gold Coasters have been calling for. This contrasts to the LNP's proposal which was puny, was significantly shorter and was narrower. According to advice from TMR, it would have dumped thousands of vehicles onto the Gold Coast Highway. Our project will deliver the outcomes that Gold Coasters expect and need.

I was also interested to hear the member for Burleigh's contribution earlier where he effectively criticised the demand response trail that we committed to during the election in my electorate. It is not particularly surprising that they criticise public transport investment in my electorate given that when they were last in government they cut bus services. I remind the member for Burleigh that we are significantly investing in his electorate also when it comes to public transport.

**Ms Boyd:** Is it going past his brewery?

**Ms SCANLON:** I take the member's interjection. There has been some speculation around what interests the member for Burleigh perhaps has around some proposed routes. We are very proud to be delivering Gold Coast Light Rail. It was a Labor government that delivered stage 1, delivered stage 2 and will deliver stage 3 as well. That will be from Broadbeach South to Burleigh Heads.

Our road to recovery would not be possible without a strong health response which is why it is critical that we keep investing in health care for a growing community like the Gold Coast. During the election I was pleased to announce funding for a \$40 million new satellite hospital on the southern Gold Coast and a \$105 million contribution to build a 40-bed mental health rehabilitation unit at the Gold Coast University Hospital—a project that I note the member for Bonney was also criticising despite the fact that they did not actually commit to that particular upgrade during the election.

We have also committed \$5.8 million to build a hybrid theatre to improve patient outcomes and survival in comprehensive trauma cases as well as employ more nurses, more doctors and more health professionals. There is also funding for a second CT scanner for the Robina Hospital and funding towards a new hospital and health precinct in Coomera on the preferred 13 hectares of land already owned by Queensland Health. I am very proud to be part of a government that invests in health care. I am pleased to see funding in this year's budget for our hospitals, particularly given the growth we are seeing on the Gold Coast.

I also particularly proud to see \$500,000 in this year's budget for a new Gold Coast manufacturing hub. This is something I have particularly advocated for because we know there are many full-time, permanent jobs in the manufacturing sector. My focus has been on diversifying the Gold Coast economy, with particularly a large industrial sector in Nerang.

We have also committed \$2.5 million for a reality television hub on the Gold Coast, supporting jobs in the screen industry—a sector I know the Premier is incredibly passionate about, having secured many blockbuster films for the Gold Coast to create jobs. We also know that we cannot just deliver the job opportunities; we also need to deliver the skills and training for young Queenslanders to get those

jobs. That is why we have committed \$18.8 million this financial year to refurbish, upgrade and expand TAFE campuses along the Gold Coast as well as expand the free apprenticeships and free TAFE program.

I am also very proud to see funding for Pacific Pines State High School in my electorate—a \$10 million contribution in this budget out of a \$26 million commitment for new classrooms. The northern Gold Coast is growing and growing. This is one of many election commitments for schools in my patch. We have Nerang State High School, Nerang State School, Worongary State School and William Duncan State School which will also be receiving upgrades over this term of government, as well as air-conditioning every state school classroom, staffrooms and libraries by 2022, and putting solar panels on school rooftops ensuring that we are not only driving down power bills but also lowering our carbon emissions.

The Palaszczuk government is investing \$989 million this financial year to protect our natural assets and drive economic growth. I want to acknowledge the member for Algeester, who was the former minister for environment, for the work she has been doing in this space. A key part of our agenda is the delivery of our climate action plan for the next decade. This will be developed in consultation with stakeholders to reduce emissions, make our economy and communities more resilient, and create jobs in growth industries such as renewables and hydrogen.

In this year's budget we are also providing additional funding of \$1.5 million for grants to local councils for climate change adaptation work—something I know the LGAQ have very much welcomed. It is good to see two levels of government taking action on climate change even in the federal government's absence. Our flagship Land Restoration Fund will also continue to invest and grow Queensland's carbon farming sector. So far we have already committed close to \$93 million across 19 projects from the first investment round, creating sustainable local jobs, supplying premium carbon credits and delivering social and environmental outcomes.

Those are just some of the ways our government is tackling climate change to reduce the impacts on the Great Barrier Reef, which we heard some reports about this morning. The reef is an icon to Queensland. We have a responsibility to protect this natural wonder. This year we will be investing a further \$27 million to improve reef water quality and support local communities and industry to reduce threats to marine wildlife. We have also provided new funding of \$10 million through our Reef Assist program to support 11 projects that will deliver on-the-ground environmental outcomes and generate 130 regional jobs in North Queensland.

We will be continuing our path forward to make Queensland a zero-waste society by investing in increased recycling through our \$100 million Resource Recovery Industry Development Program partnering with businesses to increase the number of jobs we have in the recycling industry. We are doing this because it is not only the right thing to do but we know that by recycling we create three times as many jobs than if that waste went into landfill. We also made an election commitment to develop and organise a waste strategy for Queensland. We will deliver on that.

When it comes to protected areas, as custodians of the environment, the Department of Environment and Science plays a critical role in managing more than 13 million hectares of protected areas and forests, with 346,000 square kilometres of Great Barrier Reef and state marine parks. Our government has released a new Protected Area Strategy for Queensland. This strategy will pave the way for the next 10 years to expand our protected area estate and double the number of Indigenous land and sea ranger jobs. This work will begin with \$15.8 million for the strategic acquisition of properties across the state to grow protected areas.

As part of Queensland's economic recovery plan, we are investing \$10.9 million for new visitor infrastructure in our national parks, including a \$3.1 million contribution to continue the construction of the multi-day walking track in the Whitsunday Islands National Park. This is in addition to our investment of \$8.9 million in our National Parks Works and Jobs Boost Program. This will deliver a range of local projects including the new co-designed mountain bike trails in the Nerang National Park in my electorate, renewable energy upgrades at the Mon Repos Turtle Centre and infrastructure upgrades in parks and forests across Queensland.


When it comes to science, this year, in the face of the pandemic, we have relied on science more than ever. It is fitting that this budget also builds on the strengths of Queensland's scientific excellence. Science gives us the tools to make informed decisions to seize opportunities to build a stronger future. That is why we are expanding the air quality monitoring program across the state, with a \$1.4 million investment to help protect Queenslanders from bushfire smoke. The scale of the 2019-20 bushfire

season was unprecedented and the exposure to bushfire smoke created serious public health concerns. This investment will support air quality monitoring that is critical to the health of all Queenslanders.

The Palaszczuk government is also committed to youth engagement and supporting young people to thrive and participate in Queensland's economy and society. We want young people to look to the future and see endless possibilities. Youth engagement is not just about giving young people a voice. It is actually about listening to them as well. It is about actively and genuinely seeking their ideas and input into decisions that affect them.

We have already achieved so much with the Queensland Youth Engagement Panel, comprising 11 young people from across the state who came together to help shape government policy; the Queensland Youth eHub, the safe electronic platform for young people to have their say on matters that affect them; and youth forums emerging right across government. The YMCA Youth Parliament, in its 25th year, and the Queensland Indigenous Youth Leadership Program, which is about to commence, will be providing valuable platforms for young people to raise issues and ideas for change with government.

The Palaszczuk government's budget is committed to supporting the environment and backing jobs on the Gold Coast and all across Queensland. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (8.55 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Appropriation (2020-2021) Bill 2020. On Tuesday the Treasurer referred to strength, tenacity and goodwill in his opening remarks. Unfortunately, those qualities went missing from his speech from that point onwards.

There were a number of announcements for projects in my electorate that I have been fighting for over the duration of the last term. When we look at the Burdekin electorate and look at the agricultural production, horticulture and, more importantly, the resources sector and what they contribute to this state, we would think that the Treasurer and this government would be falling over themselves to keep that electorate going, to fund the infrastructure and the services that we so desperately need and that we have been crying out for for decades.

Sure, we have the Haughton River flood plain road project. This is a \$500 million project that we fought so long and hard for. That is starting to come to a conclusion. It will flood proof the Bruce Highway at the section near Giru that is a notorious trouble spot. I also welcome the announcement of funding for upgrades to Rugby Park at Ayr and the contribution to the Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program at Ayr. As a frequent visitor to the school, I welcome the funding for the multipurpose hall at Ayr State High School and, along with the multipurpose hall at Moranbah State High School, which I fought so long and hard for, I look forward to those facilities opening in the not-too-distant future.

Funding for the Drive IT NQ project is finally forthcoming from the state government. That is yet another project that I have advocated for over the longer term. In fact, it was during a local government campaign that I first gave my support to that project, along with the current Mayor of Townsville, Jenny Hill. Here we are, more than five years later, finally seeing that project come to fruition.

Moving south towards Bowen, I welcome continued works at the port at Abbot Point and the contribution towards the Salisbury Plains Industrial Precinct, as well as the works at the Bowen State High School. I have had a lot of discussions, a lot of meetings, with the Bowen Chamber of Commerce, the Bowen Collinsville Enterprise, CQ University and stakeholder groups in Bowen about the need to develop and deliver agriculture related training in this area with a view to providing a career path to students in the region. As a passionate campaigner for better roads in regional Queensland, I also welcome works on the Bowen Developmental Road and the Peak Downs Highway as well as funding for much needed improvements at Clermont, Dysart and Moranbah state high schools.

That is all so far so good, but let us look at the detail and let us look at the projects that are missing. I will start at the northern end of the electorate of Burdekin. It is a fact that, in the last 18 years, the stretch of the Bruce Highway between Zinc Road and Cape Cleveland Road—a stretch of just 19 kilometres south of Townsville—has claimed 17 lives. I know, Mr Deputy Speaker Walker, that as the divisional councillor for that area, you are well aware of the danger of that particular section of highway.

It is a shame that the transport minister is no longer in the chamber because I challenge him to find a more dangerous section of the Bruce Highway along the entire length of it in this state. Here we are still waiting for the upgrades, still waiting for those works that are needed to make that section of highway safer. You only have to drive along that section of highway, Mr Deputy Speaker—and you know this full well—and see the white crosses dotted along it to truly appreciate just how dangerous it has become.



It is a fact that over 10 years ago plans for the southern corridor access road were developed. Yet, despite that fact, there is no money in this budget to make this stretch of road safer. The time for excuses in relation to that stretch of road has long passed. The attitude of this government towards ongoing fatalities and serious injuries is nothing short of disgraceful. I will not give up this fight. I am standing with the local residents and the motorists who use that section of highway on a daily basis, and I will continue to highlight this issue until it is fixed.

As we move down to the Burdekin district there is precious little in this budget to help keep that district alive. The Burdekin district needs diversification, and when it comes to industries and jobs there is no funding for the industrial estate that would have provided an opportunity to do just that.

I want to talk about the raising of the Burdekin Falls Dam, a project that has been on the drawing board for decades. This is a project that is ready to go. It is a project that has been talked about for decades and it is a project that North Queensland needs. The number of studies, investigations and the planning work that has gone into the expansion of this dam is now bordering on ridiculous, yet again we see money allocated in this budget for even more planning. I say that we should get the job done. Get the work started so we can create the jobs that we need and provide the water security that we so desperately need in the north of the state.

The town of Home Hill was completely overlooked yet again in this state budget. Here we have a town where the equipment to provide dialysis services is in place but patients still need to travel to Townsville. Despite the excuses and the rhetoric, it is very apparent that the issue is the availability of staff. That is an issue that remains unaddressed throughout the Burdekin electorate when it comes to health.

Heading down the highway to Bowen you see yet another missed opportunity. Along with the member for Nanango, during the campaign I had the pleasure of announcing funding for a space launch facility. Wouldn't that have been a great opportunity for North Queensland and a career path for those students—an opportunity to inspire students and create new industries. Instead, the countdown has stopped. In Bowen itself the funding for the CT scanning facility at the Bowen Hospital is finally available. Almost two years after the federal government committed to supplying the equipment this Labor government is finally progressing this project. In the meantime, thousands of people have made the four-hour round trip for medical services that city people take for granted. It is those health issues that continue all the way to Clermont in the south-west corner of my electorate.

All day today and tonight from those opposite I have heard about hospitals and health services and the need for improved services. They need to come and visit the Burdekin electorate, because in places like Clermont we have been waiting for a permanent doctor for years. It took me four years to get a second doctor at Collinsville. Communities like Dysart, where we have one doctor who starts at seven o'clock each morning and finishes at midnight six days a week, highlight the disparity between the provision of health services in the bush and the provision of health services enjoyed by our city cousins. The rural doctor crisis is real, and there is no better example of that than what is going on in places like Clermont—a community that has had to take matters into their own hands to find a solution.

I want to pay tribute here tonight to the work undertaken by the Clermont community, because they got together with the local resource company and local businesses and stumped up the money to try and pay for a doctor to come to that community. It is a disgrace that, in this state, that community had to put their hand in their pocket to pay the wages of a medical practitioner in their town. During the election campaign Clermont was one of the centres nominated for dialysis services. Like Home Hill, will it also see equipment installed with no associated staffing? That is just one question that needs to be answered.

Also in Clermont we see—and I quote from the regional action plan—'a commitment for a replacement police facility'. That is it. There is no allocation of funds for this much needed project, so on behalf of the Clermont community I ask this question of the Premier: will this police station be built during this term of government, or was that yet another empty promise by the Labor candidate during the recent election?

I mentioned earlier that I welcome works on the Peak Downs Highway. It is between Clermont and Moranbah that this work is scheduled to take place. It appears that the Treasurer has no idea that the Peak Downs Highway is 175 kilometres long and that Nebo is 100 kilometres from Moranbah. I hope that is just the beginning of much needed improvements for what the locals colloquially call the 'goat track'. Just recently we saw yet another fatal accident on that stretch of highway. Can I remind everyone in this place of the value of the resources that come out of Central Queensland? All we have

ever asked for is our fair slice of the pie, yet to this day we still have roads like the Bowen Developmental Road, the May Downs Road and the Kilcummin Diamond Downs Road which are unsealed. We take that for granted when we are down here in the south-east corner and we talk about capacity and adding extra lanes. All we would like out in that country is a sealed road. When you are overtaking or being overtaken by road train triples on single-lane bridges, when the school bus run to Kilcummin State School is suspended because they can no longer drive the bus on the road to transport the kids to school, then you have a problem because that is putting at risk the education of those students.

As we head into Moranbah, a centre that contributes billions of dollars to the state coffers in royalties, it is about time the Treasurer explains why the now Deputy Premier committed to a business case for upgrading the Moranbah Hospital and why the Labor candidate said the upgrade would happen. Either way, the election has passed and of course yet again the promise has vanished. Not surprisingly, that promise also included a business case for the upgrading of the Bowen Hospital. That has also vanished.

If you head back towards the coast you pass through Collinsville, a town steeped in mining history. After a four-year fight that I was proud to lead, Collinsville recently welcomed their second doctor. That is great news, but if you live in Collinsville you had better hope that you do not need to be transferred to a tertiary hospital in Townsville or Mackay after dark. There is a very simple reason for that: the runway there needs to be upgraded to accommodate the larger RFDS planes. Would you not think that would have been a worthwhile project this government would have funded in the budget handed down this week: \$800,000 to extend the runway to allow RFDS planes to land in that community after dark.

I will move on to my shadow portfolios. Once again we have heard of extra police for Queensland, and once again most Queenslanders did their best not to laugh. The Treasurer talks about an extra 2,025 police personnel by 2025. The minister stood in this place earlier today waxing lyrical about these additional officers. However, as I often like to say, the best predictor of future performance is past performance, and when it comes to police recruitment this government has been found wanting. Let's cast our mind back to previous budgets and count the speeches in this place where Labor ministers talked about more police.

The 2019-20 budget promised an increase of three police officers compared to the actual figure for 2018-19. I guess any increase is a good thing, but what was the actual result? We did not get three extra officers or even one: we got 222 fewer police than what was promised in the budget, meaning that in 2019-20 we actually had 116 fewer police personnel than were budgeted for in 2018-19. Queenslanders are sick of crime. Townsville people are sick of crime.

Despite the COVID-19 restrictions, this year has been more deadly on Queensland roads than previous years. If this government is serious about addressing these issues they must deliver, because the time for talk is over.

In the area of fire and emergency services, one of our biggest issues is volunteers. Luckily for the government, the only mention of those generous, brave men and women is a referral to satisfaction levels. It will be interesting, to say the least, when we see the next survey of satisfaction levels, given the recent debacle surrounding both rural fire volunteers and our marine rescue volunteers. I think we can see the writing on the wall for that particular measure.

Perhaps the shadow portfolio that identifies best the priorities, or lack thereof, for this government is rural and regional affairs. As I have already outlined, within my electorate this is a budget that sadly misses the mark for regional Queensland. So many opportunities have been missed, so many promises have been made but not funded and so many services have seen little change, if any, to their funding. This government's ignorance of rural and regional Queensland is made even sadder given the sixfold increase in borrowings in the budget compared to election commitments. This is a budget of missed opportunities, of borrowing more than promised and then delivering less than we need. It is another missed opportunity for Queensland at a time when we need jobs and shovels in the ground.

*(Time expired)*



**Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (9.10 pm): I rise to speak in support of the appropriation bill and I commend the Treasurer on this, his first, budget. In a year of turmoil and uncertainty, it has been said that this is a budget of no surprises. The unique circumstances of COVID and the state election in Queensland mean that Queenslanders have already heard and seen this budget. It was the platform that the Labor Party was elected on—indeed, it was the mandate that Queenslanders have already sent.

Our state has an optimistic and bright future. Our Premier resolutely followed the expert medical advice and has seen us through the first wave of COVID. This week, we have welcomed the opening of our state's borders—the removal of the barriers on state lines, the long-awaited reunions of families and loved ones, the reflection on the hard road we have collectively walked to get to this momentous action.

These are moments worth reflecting on but, as always, the focus of the Palaszczuk Labor government is firmly forward. This budget is the road map to our bright future as we continue to unite and recover. Queenslanders expect us to get on with the job of delivering for them. They want to continue to see the strong, dependable government that we have proven to be. Our community have sought certainty in the most uncertain of times. It is in the Palaszczuk Labor government that they continue to find it.

Our job of rebuilding our health system has been one of the key priorities of the Palaszczuk Labor government since 2015. It was a job that quite literally saved lives throughout the year—not only with our dedicated health professions but with the investment in bricks and mortar. One of the challenges that I was acutely aware of when I got elected was the lack of infrastructure for our community—in both a university that was accessible to locals and a hospital that was close to home. The University of the Sunshine Coast Petrie campus is the preferred site for our recently announced local satellite hospital, meaning we will need to travel less to access world-class services. Pressure will ease at local emergency departments and major hospitals as locals access our Pine Rivers satellite hospital. It will tailor the services to our community needs—be it renal dialysis, chemotherapy, wound care, minor injury and illness, be it ambulatory or simple day therapy services, or outpatient or community based health services for young people or the aged and frail in our community.

At first, we will measure this asset in jobs and construction dollars but its long-lasting impact on our overall wellbeing will be immense and immeasurable. Our satellite hospital will also provide the platform for innovative workforce models and virtual health opportunities, including a range of rapid access consults, care coordination, remote monitoring and patient literacy services.

Our investment in education will see every state school in my community provided with upgrades—from more inclusive and accessible schools to new learning spaces, playgrounds and classroom upgrades. These upgrades come on top of the air conditioning of every learning space and the ongoing maintenance and replacement of air-conditioning units. Our Pine Rivers schools are seeing solar panels installed to reduce their footprints. The rollout has been extremely welcomed by our school communities. This good work will continue under a re-elected Palaszczuk Labor government.

Our kids depend on us in this place to provide them with opportunities for a bright and meaningful future. That is why we have seen the community embrace our policy to provide free TAFE training to people under 25—opening skills and training to people to provide a future that can deliver so much more.

One of the successes in our region has been engaging with and redirecting disengaged youth through Project Booyah. This budget will continue to run this early intervention program as well as expand the Respect program in schools.

Locally, I have lobbied the police minister to provide more mobile policing resources, and this budget continues to deliver more police beat vans across the state. Our officers will stay more mobile thanks to QLITE tablet devices and will be more effective and efficient thanks to the continued funding of body worn cameras. What is more, we are delivering more boots on the ground, with our region welcoming a record investment in police personnel—an additional 150 new officers for our region.

Our region has seen 150 of our small businesses share in \$1.3 million in COVID relief funding to respond to the direct impact of the virus or to be able to pivot and increase capabilities in an uncertain time. Our government has also supported our small businesses through payroll tax relief, micro training and no-interest loans, just to name a few. The budget provides our Big Plans for Small Business package to our small business community so they can continue to increase their capabilities, continuing to provide good, secure jobs for the future and drive local economies. My community has a large and diverse small business community. As the minister so articulately stated in her ministerial statement when talking about small businesses—

They are the heart and hub of our local communities, they are our neighbours, our friends and our family members, they create jobs and they make our communities strong.

Previous budgets have made significant contributions in the justice space, including upgrades to the Pine Rivers Courthouse in Strathpine, and we continue that funding package today. It means that victims of family and domestic violence will have improved safety and wellbeing, particularly those in

high-risk situations with children. As we continue to tackle the scourge of domestic and family violence and encourage victims to speak up, come forward and break away from dangerous situations, it is imperative that we have protections and safeguards in place.

Our COVID-19 economic recovery depends on delivering jobs quickly and getting money into our local economy, which is why I am so excited to partner with our local council to deliver long-lasting infrastructure for our community. I often worried that this was the project that I would never be able to fix, but thanks to Works for Queensland there will be appropriate and safe pedestrian infrastructure over the Private Percy Cash crossing of the South Pine River at Samford. No more will locals need to walk or ride horses, mobility scooters or other means of transport on the main road over the bridge. It is dangerous and completely inadequate for a busy road with a varied array of vehicles traversing over the river. I place on record my thanks to Councillor Darren Grimwade for working with me over what feels like a very long time to find a solution that would provide safety for our community.

Our commitment to the Pine Rivers BMX Club will invest in a state-of-the-art facility located at Nolan Park, Brendale. Already the club is home to national and world champions but, through this facility, we will play host to major competitions and support the growing club. Our state government contribution will provide for earthworks, stormwater management, irrigation and access roads. The club has considered all elements of the facility, from parking to the track surface. For years the club has been planning for the move and utilising grant funds on infrastructure that is relocatable. Our funding will kickstart this project over a year and council will see through its long-awaited completion.

The Pine Rivers Swans at Strathpine have had a season on the up and up. Despite the disruption of COVID and the loss of a club giant, they have built up their culture, with wins both on and off the field. I am so pleased to be able to partner with council to double the capacity the club will have at their home ground in their change rooms. It will mean that the thriving women's teams will be able to grow and expand. The club will be able to host more games at home and the facilities will be modern, purpose-built and suited to all.

The Pine Rivers PCYC are seeing through the completion of their new multipurpose shed which will be home to their gymnastics and KinderGym groups. Upon my last inspection, I found the facility is just about there and I promised I would take Evie P back to a class in the new year with other local Bray Park families to check out the new shed and enjoy the KinderGym program.

I am always advocating in our community to remove bottlenecks and improve our local road network, to spend less time stuck in traffic and have better quality time with those we love. I have run a lot of campaigns in the past to see significant investment in our community and, indeed, the adjoining electorates, and this budget is no different. On the outskirts of my electorate work is progressing with planning for the full duplication of the Linkfield Road overpass, the Strathpine Road diverging diamond interchange and, to the north, local commuters are seeing the bottleneck at the Petrie roundabout removed and a signalised intersection introduced to reduce congestion and improve safety.


It is a matter of days until the Lawnton park and ride opens at the Lawnton train station, doubling the car park capacity. This is a project I have long advocated for as our community grows and thrives. The safety works have just started on Mount Glorious Road and Samford-Mount Glorious Road to improve travel along this dangerous windy road. This budget will see new money invested in the Samford Road and Camp Mountain Road intersection to make it safer and, really excitingly, it will see an investment of funds for Samford Road, from Lomandra Park to Camp Mountain Road, to improve safety. It is a stretch of road that has long been a concern for locals. I thank the community for their strong advocacy to get funding to make safety upgrades, particularly Jason McGarry, who has been a strong, persistent advocate each time there was an incident on this road.

There is new money inserted in this budget for our community to upgrade Eatons Crossing Road down to the intersection with Mount Samson Road. Detailed upgrades will progressively occur over time on this dangerous road. This is work that the community has strongly advocated for and work that will invariably save lives as traffic volumes have increased. We have money invested in improving safety on Mount Nebo Road, Jollys Lookout and we will be improving the intersection of Winn Road and Clear Mountain Road at Cashmere.

Our public transport capability will be significantly improved as we make upgrades to the essential bus station at the Strathpine centre, and my community has welcomed the recent announcement of a fare freeze for public transport throughout 2021.

Queenslanders know what they are getting with the Palaszczuk Labor government and in Pine Rivers there are not any surprises, either. Jobs, transport and infrastructure—these are the things that I commit to focus on and work to make better for our community every day, and this budget delivers

these things in spades. Of course, the elements that I have detailed in my speech today are not the limit of what we deliver for Pine Rivers; it is only the start. At the heart of this budget is people, job creation and collective recovery. It is a budget that delivers on promises and sets up a bright, exciting future for us all. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (9.22 pm): In the almost year and a half since the last Labor budget was delivered in this place much has changed, but much is still the same. Of course, front and centre has been the coronavirus pandemic. COVID-19 has changed how we work, how we play, how our children learn, how we shop, where we can travel and even how we talk. Corona is no longer just a beer or, for those more astrally minded, the highest level of the atmosphere around the sun, and iso is now the word of the year here in Australia.

Economies around the world went into freefall as governments reacted to the health crisis by introducing restrictions on the movement of goods and people. Stocks and share prices went into freefall. Many businesses closed, some unfortunately forever. Some will come back. Many will emerge much smaller than when the pandemic was declared and some will emerge stronger and larger.

Here in Queensland a budget originally promised for April and then abandoned and then revived has now, under pressure from the LNP, finally been delivered. They did not want to deliver one. They ducked it, avoided it. They ran like Wile E Coyote trying to get away from it all, but finally they were forced to deliver a budget. I have to wonder why because I have no doubt that the member for Woodridge, the former member for Greenslopes, was under no impression when he looked in the mirror of his ability to deliver one. He thought, 'No, this is my great opportunity. That fellow from Murrumbidgee—I am going to beat him in the leadership stakes. I am going to stand up and do as well as I can.' He saw his opportunity and he leapt at it.

After the member for South Brisbane, of course, was involuntarily retired to the backbench, the member for Woodridge saw his chance. Labor's third Treasurer in three years continues to borrow big just to keep the lights on and to cover the failures of the last five years. No matter how much has changed—and a lot has changed in that year and a half, including the Treasurer—Labor budgets and Labor treasurers do not change their spots.

Every year that I have been in this place Labor governments have increased debt—every year—even in the best of times. In 2007 debt increased, more than doubling from the previous year. In February 2009, of course, Queensland's AAA credit rating was lost under Labor despite almost a decade of the best economic growth and the best terms of trade in Australia in half a century. Despite the rivers of gold delivered by a booming resources industry, Labor still could not manage finances.

When the GFC hit and having gone bust in a boom with no gas left in the tank to battle the financial crisis what did Labor do? In direct contravention of promises made before the 2009 election, they sold off Queensland Rail, Forestry Plantations Queensland, Queensland Motorways, the Port of Abbot Point, their investment in the Brisbane Airport Corporation and a host of other things that they wanted to get out of. There was \$15 billion worth of sales and guess what?

**Mr Power:** Strong Choices came next?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** The debt still went up. I say to the member for Logan they blew it all; it is all gone. The member for Logan asks the question. He says, 'Tell us what you did?' Let me tell him what we did. There was \$300 million for schools' maintenance that had not been spent by the Labor government. We got rid of the dental long waiting list that had not been dealt with by the Labor government. There was the great schools guarantee, \$600 million handed over to schools and school communities so they could deliver the programs they wanted. There was exit 54, a \$65 million upgrade on the M1 and Labor never had a look in the door. There was \$8 billion on the Bruce Highway upgrade with the federal government, \$1 billion on the Gateway Upgrade North—and we got the federal government over the line on that one—the second range crossing, \$1.6 billion which Labor never, ever had a chance of doing.

Let's talk about the ramping at hospitals that was reduced. While we are on the subject of the ramping at hospitals, let's talk about the nurses and the doctors and the wardsmen who actually got paid after Labor could not pay them the right amount. They paid dead people or they did not pay them enough or they paid them too little. It was a health department that was sclerotic under Labor and about whom Anna Bligh said, 'I want to take a meat axe to it.' That is what Labor left us.

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Hang on, there is more, member for Logan. Ask me another question. There was the Sunshine Coast University Hospital, \$1.4 billion; Gold Coast Light Rail; the recovery from Yasi; recovery from ex-Tropical Cyclone Oswald; we cut down the bikies—the member would know about

that—and then we delivered tradesmen's works for local tradies so they could deliver in the regions. There are the Get in the Game grants so that kids could play sport without going broke, the great start home buyers grant—where was that ever delivered by those opposite? By the way, we introduced the first home owner's stamp duty grant as well, which was cut by a Labor government. We handed management of local water schemes from SunWater back to local irrigators.

There is also Queen's Wharf, and I bet they will all be wanting to go down to Queen's Wharf at some stage. They would still be waiting if not for an LNP government. They talk about it; we deliver. We delivered payroll tax concessions, the first in a decade; full funding of emergency services so our fireys and ambulance services in times of disaster can respond. They are fully funded by us. The NDIS agreement was signed and entered into by the LNP government. There was the inquiry into child safety—and boy, we could almost use another one of those now after the failures of this government—and the extra \$460 million that went into it; and the inquiry into domestic violence, ignored by Labor for so long and delivered by an LNP government.

The review into Trade and Investment Queensland would have become nothing more than a glorified travel agency for Labor ministers to go overseas and was costing tens of millions of dollars more. Who can forget the lease that they signed in Los Angeles at three times the going market rate?

We stopped the crazy Cross River Rail plan that was going to cost more than \$12 billion and we investigated the new rail plan, which this government is now using as the basis for its design.

**Mr POWER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. None of this has been relevant to this budget. This has all been a lovely trip into history, but there has been no mention of the cuts to the Mount Lindesay Highway, bus services or the Barrett centre. It has nothing to do with this budget.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Walker): There is no point of order.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I was just taking the member for Logan's interjection. If he does not want to hear anymore, he ought not interject anymore.

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hart): Order! The member for Logan will cease his interjections.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** If the member for Logan were half as good as his predecessor, Mr Mickel, rather than just some flaky failure who sort of fell into the position, he would realise that, on page 166, the general government sector time series covers all expenditures and revenues from 2008 and 2009. Not only was I taking his interjection; it is actually in the budget papers. When they coined the phrase 'Come in, sucker', they were thinking of the member for Logan.

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Clayfield—

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I withdraw the unparliamentary language, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Logan, you will cease your interjections or you will be warned.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** What else did Labor do in the lead-up to an election campaign in 2009? It is relevant because we have seen the same behaviour this time around. The Fuel Excise Subsidy Scheme was axed—no-one was told about that—and petrol prices went up by 9.1 cents per litre; tolls were increased by 30 per cent; and, in another hit on motorists, registration fees were lifted to become the highest in Australia. With the Labor Party's crazy green agenda, they do not want people owning cars—

**Mrs D'ATH:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. We are not debating the 2009 budget; we are debating the 2020-21 budget.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** There is no point of order.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Given what I have endured for the last couple of years in somewhat stoic silence about budgets going back to 2012, I have to say that the preciousness of those opposite is somewhat amusing but not unexpected. They can give it, but they certainly cannot take it. They have neither the wit nor the memory—nor the ability—to do so.

The Labor Party did not want people to own a car—tolls were up, fuel was up and registration was up—but then if you wanted to catch public transport, guess what? Public transport fares went up as well—25 per cent a year each year for three years. Who was the minister responsible? It was the member for Inala, who sat there and meekly went along with whatever was said in relation to it. There would be no cars and train prices were going up. By the way, you were lucky to get a train that ran anyway. Who can remember all of those trains that could not run? Remember the million dollars in fare

rebates they had to offer because all the trains stopped working? That was after two years of trying to get the go card to work. They could not do that, either. Then what happened? The then Labor treasurer wrote to the Australian Energy Regulator effectively asking for power prices, locking in five years of increases from 2010 to 2015.

**Mr Brown** interjected.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** No. The member for Capalaba displays ignorance. It was more than 45 per cent because there were two years under Labor that it went up above CPI. It was much higher. Andrew Fraser wrote to the Australian Energy Regulator and said, 'We're not making enough money. We're going bust. We have to charge more for it. Please increase the distribution charges.' That is not to mention the waste in the Tugun recycling plant!

Time is getting away from me, as much as I enjoy it. There are things I could go on with—the rail failures of the Labor government. They delayed New Generation Rollingstock for so long that Downer EDI pulled out of the contract. They said, 'No, we cannot build them.' Who was the member for Whitsunday at the time? Jan Jarratt, the then member for Whitsunday, came in here and sheepishly handed out a media release saying, 'Oh sorry, we cannot build them anymore; Downer EDI have withdrawn,' three weeks after the then member for Hervey Bay, Ted Sorensen, asked her if it was still going ahead. This is only beaten by Rachel Nolan, who when asked directly whether there were any plans to sell Queensland Rail said no and then three minutes later Andrew Fraser got up and said, 'We are selling Queensland Rail.' It would be a comedy if it were not so tragic.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Members, there is far too much noise. I understand that the member for Clayfield is being provocative. Please keep the noise down or I will start warning people.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** And not deliberately provocative, Mr Deputy Speaker, as I am sure you will appreciate. From 2012, the LNP government had to start getting things under control. The rate of increase in debt was tackled. The hopelessly optimistic revenue forecasts were amended to reflect the fact that Labor had overestimated revenue by \$4½ billion. We achieved the smallest fiscal deficit since 2006 in 2013-14 and, as we projected, a fiscal surplus was achieved by former treasurer Pitt in 2016-17 on the back of our strategy. Ever since, fiscal deficits have been the hallmark of Labor treasurers. The worst coming are from the bloke who thinks he is the best.

**Mr Mellish** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Aspley, you are warned under the standing orders.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** It is his second term; he is finding his voice after three years of saying nothing. I am prepared to forgive him. I thought he was working on computers for the first two years that he was here!

These papers show a government with no fiscal plan, a budget in a shambles, its third Treasurer in three years, its third Under Treasurer in three years, its sixth debt repayment plan. Like all the previous debt replacement plans it is not to be believed, because you know what? Debt will be \$130 billion. When I hear the word 'myth' I think of my old friend with his Mythbusters. I wish I had another 15 minutes to speak, because there is so much good information about what Labor did in the Mythbusters from that time. We know of taxes going up and so on. When I heard the Treasurer say, 'It is a myth that all debt and deficit is bad,' I reflected on what he said after he lost office in 2012 as the member for Greenslopes. He said—

I do think Labor fell into error, or seriously miscalculated and under-estimated the desire for Queenslanders to hold onto the AAA credit rating—

and—

... I think the concern Queenslanders had generally was about government debt and deficit.

The member has been on the road to Damascus—well, the Logan Motorway to Woodridge—and has turned around and decided to borrow and spend. A budget with \$28 billion in borrowings over four years was not taken to the Queensland people before the election. Some clever word games, stagnant net worth and the breaching of their own fiscal principles, all without a credible plan, is not a budget; it is Labor history repeating itself. That is not a plan that any shopkeeper I know would willingly sign up to.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. We have agreed to designated COVID-safe seating in this place. The member for Bundamba is putting his colleagues in a very unsafe environment by not sitting in his designated COVID-safe seat.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Bundamba, I ask you to return to your seat, please.



**Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (9.39 pm): It is a pleasure to speak on the appropriation bills. There is so much good stuff happening in the western suburbs. It is a bit like Christmas has come early, as members can tell from my outfit. During recent months it was a pleasure to stand with the Premier and Minister for Transport and Main Roads and share the design work for the Centenary Motorway upgrade of the Jindalee bridge along with a commitment to fund the project alongside the federal government under a fifty-fifty cost-sharing arrangement. This project will cost \$244 million in total, with \$20 million of that already spent by the Palaszczuk government on the business case and detailed design work. Some \$112 million of that funding will come from the state government over the coming years and \$16.4 million is in this year's budget.

This project has been a long time coming. The Centenary Motorway in my neck of the woods has not been substantially upgraded since it opened to great fanfare approximately 50 years ago. Since then, we have seen the rapid expansion not just of residential communities in Ipswich, Springfield and beyond but also in the amazing business communities with both smaller local manufacturers like GMG in Spine Street, Sumner, to bigger manufacturers like Volvo in the Premier's electorate and Rheinmetall in Redbank Plains.

As I have said, the Centenary suburbs, in addition to being a wonderful place to live, are also a burgeoning employment hub—from advanced manufacturing through to light industry and more—and that means that we need to support this jobs growth with roads growth and infrastructure growth so that staff can get to work and home again sooner. It is wonderful to be partnering with the federal government on this critically important project. I know that my federal counterpart the member for Oxley, Milton Dick, fought just as hard as I did for this project and we are both so proud to be delivering this upgrade for our community as fifty-fifty partners.

Darra park-and-ride will receive another 180 car parks and over 30 bike parks at the well-loved Darra train station. Pre COVID, you could not get a car park at Darra park-and-ride after 7.30 in the morning. Commuters come from my local electorate in the Centenary suburbs but also from as far away as Springfield to get a park at this express station. This means that people are getting to work much earlier than they need to in order to secure a park, and that is time away from their families. That is why Darra was one of a number of strategically selected stations that will be expanded to cater for increasing commuter numbers. I should note that during COVID the station obviously was not as busy. However, when I stood there at election time, it was once again starting to rebound in numbers.

We want to encourage as many people as possible to catch public transport rather than drive, and that means ensuring our park-and-rides can cater for the demand at these regionally important stations like Darra. Darra is an express station and you can get from the Darra train station to the city in under 25 minutes. You cannot beat that commute time, so we need to ensure that there is parking available so Darra locals can have their streets back and commuters do not miss the train as they look for a park. I was very excited that construction has started on this fantastic project. Darra is a thriving community full of families, fabulous Vietnamese restaurants and amazing businesses like Gutsy Ferments, which makes and manufactures fermented goods right in the heart of Darra.

The Sumners Road overpass will cost a total of \$80 million and work is blazing ahead on this amazing interchange. It will be six lanes in total, traversing the Centenary community over to Darra. This upgrade is needed in no small part due to the thriving business communities in Darra and in Spine Street, Sumner. The Sumners Road overpass is a lynchpin for the local business community as well as commuters from Centenary needing to use the Darra train station, and I know that the completion of construction cannot come quickly enough for us. I thank the wonderful locals like the Jamboree Residents Association led by Wayne Williams, who supported my campaign to get this built, as well as the Bicycle User Group and Chris Cox, who championed the additional \$15 million for the significant cycling upgrades that were added post election in 2017.

When I first became a candidate in 2013, this overpass was the No. 1 issue raised with me in Darra and the lower Centenary suburbs like Riverhills, Middle Park, Sumner and Jamboree Heights and now we are nearly there. The Oxley to Rocklea section of the Ipswich Motorway will get a total of \$400 million, and again that is a fifty-fifty partnership with the federal government. It is one of the big success stories of this project that the girders for the new bridges—and in fact for the Sumners Road overpass—are manufactured locally in my electorate. In fact, I understand that generally speaking over 90 per cent of product for Transport and Main Roads projects in Queensland is manufactured in



Queensland, keeping locals in my electorate in jobs. I have previously mentioned in this House a local company in my electorate, the Spacer Company, and it is current suppliers of TMR for many of its projects throughout Queensland. The Ipswich Motorway Rocklea to Darra upgrade is now nearing completion of stage 1 from Rocklea to Oxley, and it is looking fantastic. The higher roadways are allowing cars to come home even during torrential downpours, which have previously cut the road during adverse weather events. This section of road is well and truly on its way and should be done around Christmas time.

That is a little bit about local infrastructure, but I am equally excited about some of the statewide programs being undertaken, like the \$196 million in small business adaptation grants. White Lies Brewing used its grant to create hand sanitiser and gin; the Piggy Back Cafe used its grant to help cover costs—

**A government member** interjected.

**Ms PUGH:** It is good gin if you want to try some. The Piggy Back Cafe used its grant to cover costs—

**A government member** interjected.

**Ms PUGH:**—I have heard—during shutdown and Westside Seafood cafe in Seventeen Mile Rocks was also successful. Teaz Hair in Jamboree Heights also got a grant and used it to receive business coaching for the next two years in a bid to grow its business. I am really excited to see what it does with this coaching. It is already a fantastic local business in our area. It has beautiful decor. Its clients are beautifully styled. It will be great to see how its business benefits in the long term from this grant.

What is great about these grants is that I have already seen them circulate through our local economy many times over. Local businesses like Culture Doctor have been employed to provide advice and businesses like Flex PR have not received the grants themselves but have received contracts from successful businesses and benefited by providing services to businesses that have received them, so this means that the money is circulating through our local economy multiple times over, which is brilliant. It is supporting local families and keeping our local economy going during these tough COVID times.

As a former small business manager, I really appreciate the importance of supporting small business during tough times like we have seen this year and I have heard over and over again from my local businesses how important these grants were for sustaining local businesses during the height of COVID. Now that Queensland is open for business, these businesses are better positioned to take advantage of the visitors who will be flocking to Queensland to see family and friends. There is no doubt in my mind and in the minds of Mount Ommaney locals that these adaptation grants were money well spent.


Our government is also investing in the future of the Oxley community, turning the essentially unused former Oxley secondary school site into a beautiful community space with housing, aged care, early childhood education and more than 50 per cent retained as open and parkland spaces. Some of the highlights from the \$15.5 million allocated in this year's budget is the complete rejuvenation of the bushland which abuts Canossa retirement home. The site has been lovingly tended by our local Bushcare group, but we will be handing it over to BCC in top condition after creating walking trails and removing pest and weed species.

The government will also be remediating the hillside land that backs onto the homes on Blackheath Road to ensure the stability of the land into the future. The land will be preserved for community use and include a mini park and preservation of beautiful old native trees, keeping the stunning outlook for residents, new and old alike. There will also be a community hall and the Yuingi kindy, which has been located on the site since it was a school, will move up the hill to a flood-free location to ensure locals never again have to clean up after a flood on that site.

I thank the wonderful parents at Yuingi for their engagement on this issue. I was really proud to work alongside them earlier this year and secure a larger piece of land for the new kindy to give the kids even more play space. I also thank the Oxley Community Panel led by Theresa Rich Hoyle which has worked tirelessly on this plan for years. It has provided such a great body of work to support its vision for the site and I thank it once again for its ongoing commitment to getting the best possible outcome for Oxley.

I also congratulate my amazing P&Cs on their hard work over many years to air-condition our local Mount Ommaney state schools. The Palaszczuk government is finishing the job, committing \$477 million over five years to Cooler Cleaner Schools, which not only air-conditions the classrooms but also invests in solar to bring down the cost of electricity in the hot summer months.

I am also incredibly excited about the creation of the Metro South satellite hospital. I know better than most right now that sometimes when you need to get to hospital every minute counts. This \$37.5 million investment in local health care will ensure that local services—potentially maternity, wound care and more—can be offered locally depending on community demand. I urge the people of the western suburbs to get involved in the consultation around what this facility could provide. It is our community facility and we have an opportunity to shape the services that it offers. I know what I will be asking for. I will leave my contribution there, suffice to say that this is a budget that delivers for Queensland and I am proud of what it delivers for Mount Ommaney.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (9.49 pm): Queenslanders have been waiting for this budget for so long—in fact, for 539 days. That is way too long. It is no wonder that the Labor government wanted to hide behind this budget. We repeatedly called on the Labor government to release its budget before the election so Queenslanders would know what they were voting on. What were they voting on? We all remember that the Premier of Queensland came out and said, 'We're going to borrow \$4 billion because we are going to build.' Then the Treasurer came out saying we would borrow \$4 billion, but we cannot have a budget before the election, irrespective of the fact that the member for Pine Rivers in her contribution actually said Queenslanders did not need a budget because we had the glossy brochure so they saw everything. Unfortunately, member for Pine Rivers, the glossy brochure—

**Ms BOYD:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Not only are the member's comments misleading, I find them personally expensive and I ask her to withdraw.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I find them expensive too! I withdraw. It is expensive. I take what the member for Pine Rivers said. The people of Queensland were told \$4 billion and what is expensive for my children, for my future grandchildren, for my future great grandchildren and my future great great grandchildren is \$28 billion. That is a lot more expensive, member for Pine Rivers, than \$4 billion. The debt of Queensland under this Labor government will blow out to \$130 billion.

**Mr Harper** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hart): Pause the clock. Member for Thuringowa, your interjections will cease.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Let me make it really simple for those opposite, because I do not think they quite get this. It would be like your child coming to you and saying, 'I really need to borrow \$4,000 to buy a car.' Let us make the numbers a bit smaller for those opposite. Your child somehow ends up at the bank borrowing \$30,000 from you. It does not even make sense to those opposite. That is Labornomics. There are \$130 billion worth of fake promises from this Labor government that the people of Queensland now will have to rely on.

**Ms Boyd** interjected.

**Mr Saunders** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Pine Rivers, your interjections will cease. Member for Maryborough, your interjecting will also cease. The next person will be warned.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** As so many on this side of the chamber have expressed, it is the Labor way. Like the former treasurer of Queensland, Tim Nicholls, just said, debt is always higher under Labor and we know that. This is tragic because there are 214,000 Queenslanders who are currently out of work. At 15.5 per cent Queensland has the worst youth unemployment rate in the nation, higher than any state or territory. In actual fact, it is areas in and around Wide Bay, Maryborough and Gympie that have the highest youth unemployment rate.

**Mr Saunders** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Maryborough, I just gave you a warning. You are now warned under the standing orders.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Before the election Labor told Queenslanders that they were borrowing to protect jobs. Despite racking up the biggest debt in our state's history, unemployment is still forecast to be the worst in the nation in four years. We know that under the Palaszczuk Labor government Queenslanders have suffered. They have suffered on average the highest unemployment rate in the nation, they have suffered the lowest business confidence and they have suffered from the highest number of bankruptcies in the nation. That is the woeful record of the Palaszczuk government.

Six years of Labor in this great state and they go to an election saying it is just \$4 billion, but then it ends up being \$28 billion. That is just a miraculous bit of Labornomics accounting. No wonder Labor hid those figures. No wonder the Treasurer of Queensland and the Premier refused to put the budget

out, even though members over there think that Queenslanders had the budget because they had the little glossy brochure. It is no wonder that this Treasurer hid behind this budget and only after pressure from the LNP ended up delivering a budget, which we have seen this week.

**Ms Boyd** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Pine Rivers, you have been given a warning. You are now warned under the standing orders.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I turn to my shadow portfolio of water, dams, manufacturing and regional Queensland. This side of the House knows that water and water security is one of the most important issues that Queenslanders continue to face. Water is vital to our Queensland economy because it means jobs and it means a future for our children. My goodness, our children will need a future because they will be paying off Labor's debt for generations to come.

**Mr Whiting** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I am more than happy to talk about the New Bradfield Scheme.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members, do more of you want to be on a warning, because I will warn more of you?

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Goodness me, I cannot wait to see the report from the guy who was going to bring the carbon tax into Queensland. I cannot wait to see the report on the New Bradfield Scheme that apparently, miraculously, the Palaszczuk Labor government is going to do. We will wait to see that. To develop regional Queensland, government and policy makers must take a serious long-term approach to the supply of water, which is why we did take a visionary, bold, ambitious project to the people of Queensland. We also took a serious approach to the regulation of irrigation prices because we refused to pick winners and losers. That is what the Palaszczuk government has done.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Members, there will be no cross-chamber discussion happening or I will warn both sides. This is the last warning.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** It is really simple: more water means more production, more food, more fibre, more trade, more revenue coming into the government. Wouldn't that be a miraculous idea? I thank the member for Lockyer for the work that he has been doing with me and local growers of the Lockyer Valley and the Brisbane Valley to ensure that we can harness that vital water and ensure that that area—

**Mr Saunders** interjected.

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

*Whereupon the honourable member for Maryborough withdrew from the chamber at 9.58 pm.*

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** We need to find a way to ensure this vital area has a future by utilising the available water that we know is there but is just being tied up.

**Mr McDonald:** 640 new jobs!

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I will take that interjection. When it comes to dams we know that the Labor government are stuck in the dark ages. They refuse to build a dam.

The one dam built by a Labor government was the Paradise Dam, built under Peter Beattie's government, and it is now being torn down. Not only is that embarrassing for Queensland and the Beattie government; it is a disaster for the local primary producers. The budget papers reveal what we have always known: under this Labor government it will be a long time before the primary producers in the Bundaberg area know what is actually happening to the Paradise Dam. By the time they are finished, the budget papers say they will have spent \$100 million on tearing down the dam wall. The previous minister for natural resources claimed that the yield would be restored. We really do not know and have had no clarification as to what that actually means, but we do know that full capacity must be restored.

Water security in that region has been completely shattered, which brings me to another false promise from those opposite in the Palaszczuk government. The new member for Bundaberg stood on the booth and repeatedly lied—I withdraw. He repeatedly told untruths. He stood there and said, 'We will restore the Paradise Dam. We will rebuild the wall.' What a load of codswallop. The member for Bundaberg actually said the words, 'We will restore Paradise Dam to full capacity.' That is another broken promise from those opposite.

I will highlight a few other issues that jump out of the budget papers when it comes to water. The member for Burdekin mentioned the raising of the Burdekin Falls Dam, but in the budget all we see is another bit of plan. Rookwood Weir continues to be behind schedule. We do know that the Palaszczuk Labor government has blamed the cost of concrete for reducing the size of the dam. They have not reduced the size of Cross River Rail because of the price of concrete, but—by goodness—they have decided to reduce the amount of water that our farmers can get by reducing the size of Rookwood Weir, apparently because of the cost of concrete. Many dam projects that have been on the cards tend to slip away, a bit like Nullinga dam.

I note comments made by Mayor Paul Antonio from Toowoomba. I understand and agree totally with his concerns about the funding for water. He said—

When it comes to our real goals here, we realise that health and education is good, but there hasn't been anything specific on water.

There could be a need to build another dam or possibly a pipeline to Clifton in the future, and there is no clarity around what's happening on the pipeline to Warwick.

Water is very important to this vital region, which has formed a water alliance with the Western Downs, the Southern Downs, Goondiwindi, the Lockyer Valley and even a New South Wales council, the Tenterfield Shire Council. Their focus is solely on water security for southern inland Queensland. I look forward to working with that group to help them progress key water projects. Those are progressive councils and they could teach the Palaszczuk Labor government a thing or two when it comes to regional growth, economic activity and private sector investment.

I am a bit like Tim Nicholls because I have so much to talk about but I do not have time. I will move on to the electorate of Nanango. I have been working my way through the budget documents, trying to find some good news for my electorate, which suffers from among the highest youth unemployment and suicide rates in this state. Unfortunately, this budget has not delivered on many of the important projects that we have been waiting for, including long-awaited safety improvements for major connecting roads, as well as water infrastructure, which have been overlooked. Key projects that my community needs funding for include the Mundubbera-Durong Road, Kilkivan Tansey Road, Maidenwell Bunya Mountain Road and the Cooyar single-lane bridge, but once again we have been completely overlooked.

Water infrastructure such as the Barlil weir is not mentioned in the budget. We are looking for only \$25 million. They are spending \$100 million to rip down a dam wall, but the Barlil weir has not been considered. In fact, many of the projects for my electorate listed in the budget have already been announced. The fire station in Yarraman has been opened, but it is in there because they needed a picture for their brochure, which they got wrong anyway. Those are not new projects. Can members guess what the entire Somerset region got? I know the member for Ipswich West will be vitally interested in this. The entire Somerset region will receive \$6,000 for solar panels for the Esk Civic Centre. Thank you for that! That is all we got.

**Mr Perrett** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Gympie, you will cease your interjections.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I represent around 58 schools in my electorate. One of my favourite little schools is Tanduringie State School. When the bus carrying the entire school hit a truck on the Tanduringie bridge, I called for the government to do something. It is a single-lane bridge. A whole busload of kids was nearly killed. Please, let us do something about that bridge. Whilst there is a tiny bit of money for planning, it is out into the never-never. We must look at projects in those little areas. The bridge is on a main road just off the New England Highway. Trucks use that road and still we have a single-lane wooden bridge. That is not good enough when a school bus full of kids has hit a truck on a bridge that we know has seen terrible, sometimes fatal, accidents. Many locals have had the life scared out of them on that road. We have been advocating for a change to that bridge but, again, there is nothing in this budget. There is some scheduled planning for the Running Creek Bridge, but only because the old timber bridge burnt down following a serious road accident.

There is so much opportunity in the Nanango electorate, but it needs backing with better roads, better health, better water security, and less red and green tape for local small businesses. I will continue to push for those things because, just as with regional maternity services, once again the bush has been forgotten.

*(Time expired)*



**Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (10.06 pm): I rise to speak on the appropriation bills and to highlight the important choices and decisions that have informed the 2020-21 state budget. 2020 is a year that has certainly challenged Queensland. It has challenged our health, challenged our economy and also challenged the way we do things in this state. It was in January 2020 that our government declared COVID-19 a health emergency and, as we reach the end of this tumultuous year, while we can pause to take a short breath we must remain ever vigilant to the deadly virus. Early action and the resolute decision that the health of Queenslanders was most important guided our government's strong health response and, in turn, our economic recovery. Our state's success, the people of Queensland's success, in containing the spread of the virus means that it is expected that the June quarter will be the lowest point of the COVID-19 economic cycle.

Since March we have remained focused and consistent in our approach through the implementation of a clear economic recovery plan based on nine key and long-term objectives. Those objectives are easy to understand. They cover the incredibly diverse needs of our economy and our communities, and importantly they highlight and support initiatives that we know are working. The recent ABS labour force data release showed that between May and October employment rebounded by 205,900 persons, above the pre-pandemic level in March 2020. Those are promising figures but, as the Treasurer has made very clear, Queensland's recovery from COVID-19 is a long-term challenge that requires a long-term response.

The objectives of our Unite and Recover Economic Recovery Plan are also what guided the significant package of election commitments that we took to the people of Queensland. Importantly, we did not shy away from the truth. We did not spin it. We did not hide it. We were very clear with the people of Queensland that we would borrow to meet our election commitments. The people of Queensland understood that borrowing was prudent and that borrowings will increase. And guess what? The sky did not fall down.

Whether you are the Morrison government, the Berejiklian government, the Andrews government or the Palaszczuk government, governments are borrowing to rebuild. As the Treasurer said in his budget speech, if there has ever been a time to borrow to build to create jobs and to strengthen the Queensland economy, it is now. Unlike New South Wales and Victoria, our debt will be lower. Key debt metrics as at 2023-24 shows net debt for Victoria at \$87 billion, New South Wales at \$93 billion and Queensland at \$68 billion.

Being honest with the people of Queensland was again a choice and those opposite did not choose wisely. They chose to actively mislead the community, to promise big on self-described bold projects and on surpluses. They chose to wait to the very end of the election campaign when a large proportion of Queenslanders had voted to reveal that their whole campaign was, indeed, nothing but an embarrassing backdown of their two signature commitments on the Bruce Highway and the Bradfield scheme.

The 2020-21 state budget delivered by the Palaszczuk government focuses on the issues that we know matter to the people of Queensland: the creation of jobs, the opportunity of education, accessible health care, safe and inclusive communities, reducing cost-of-living pressures and infrastructure for our growing state. Despite what the Leader of the Opposition says, we are backing jobs in this budget. This is particularly important for the people in my own electorate of Jordan. Whilst we know that there are more Queenslanders working than there were before the pandemic struck, we also know that the number of Queenslanders who want to work has also increased. The outlook for employment is strong. In year-average terms it is forecast to rise one per cent in 2020-21 and in quarterly terms is forecast to rise by 6¾ per cent, around 106,000 persons, through the year to the June quarter 2021—all made possible through making the decisions to invest in job-generating infrastructure, increased frontline services and a focus on new industries and diversifying our economy.

We also know that particularly in outer metropolitan areas, like Greater Springfield and Greater Flagstone in my electorate, small and medium businesses are vital to the economic prosperity of our region. Our government's further commitment of \$140 million for our Big Plans for Small Business strategy will be welcomed in my electorate by hardworking local business owners, the very same local business owners who took advantage of our small business COVID-19 adaptation grants—100 local small businesses that received a share of over \$900,000 in the Jordan electorate alone—which I know supported them during the most challenging times. This also complements the \$2.3 billion which included payroll tax relief, electricity rebates and interest-free loans that have supported businesses to keep 334,000 Queenslanders in work during the pandemic.

I am honoured to represent the most fantastic schools in the Jordan electorate. This year's budget provides an education boost for our growing area, delivering a great start for our children and young people. Springfield Central State High School is the fastest growing high school in my electorate and we are complementing the \$10 million already announced for a new building, which is currently under construction, with a further \$1.32 million for additional classrooms. Springfield Central State School will also receive \$9.3 million for additional classrooms. I know how necessary this funding is for what is a very popular school.

I am pleased to see funding in the budget for the brand new primary school we are delivering in Greenbank, due to open in term 1 of 2022—the first school to be built in this area for 132 years. We have also not forgotten the fantastic Greenbank State School, which is also receiving additional capital works funding. One of my favourite election commitments, which came through our Local Schools Local Jobs policy, will see Woodcrest State College receive \$2.25 million to upgrade the very successful WesTEC Trade Training Centre as we prepare local students for jobs in aviation engineering, an important and growing industry in the western corridor.

My excitement does not end there. As Jordan is one of Queensland's high-growth electorates, our government has made a strong commitment to begin the planning for the new schools we will need to manage our growing population and ensure our local children have access to quality education and state-of-the-art facilities. For the Jordan electorate, planning will begin for six new schools, including two new high schools and a special school. I cannot express how important this commitment is, because it is about recognising and getting ahead of the growth—good planning leading to good education outcomes.

I am also proud to be part of a government that understands the importance of resourcing our health system properly. This year's budget has a record investment of \$21.8 billion in health services and infrastructure, which includes significant upgrades for the Logan and Ipswich hospitals. The \$265 million in the budget to commence delivery of seven new satellite hospitals, including one for the Ipswich region, is a forward-thinking commitment and I look forward to working closely with West Moreton HHS on the delivery of this innovative model of care. Our government has also committed additional funding of \$360.5 million this financial year to assist with the delivery of the government's COVID-19 response plan.

This year, the Jordan electorate was in the unenviable position of being impacted by not one but two COVID-19 outbreaks, so I understand firsthand how important this funding is to support health and emergency services, to move swiftly in testing, contact tracing and additional support to our communities. Of course, none of this is possible without the amazing health staff. Again our government made the choice to invest in frontline health staff. Over the next four years we will hire an extra 9,475 frontline health staff, including 5,800 nurses and midwives, 1,500 doctors, 475 paramedics and 1,700 allied health professionals. As has been demonstrated so clearly this year, our health system is strong because of the deliberate efforts of our government since 2015, and the Palaszczuk government will ensure it remains strong.

Through the budget we have announced that over the next four years the value of the Palaszczuk government's capital works and infrastructure program will be \$56 billion, a record spend. I am particularly pleased to see continued funding for important infrastructure projects in my electorate. The \$44.5 million Springfield Central park-and-ride is now under construction and, weather permitting, we will see a brand new multistorey car park delivering 1,100 spots across the station precinct by early 2022, a project also creating 44 jobs.


It is also terrific to see our government's increased focus on the Centenary Motorway. Funding is secured in the budget for an upgrade to my favourite interchange, the Centenary Logan Motorway Interchange, with detailed engineering design to begin early next year, and funding for the Centenary Bridge duplication at Jindalee. Further funding for the Mount Lindesay Highway has also been secured through the budget, which is really great news for our communities in Greenbank and Flagstone and I know will also make my colleague the member for Logan very happy.

I strongly believe that rail is the future for outer metropolitan areas. It is pleasing to see that this budget has included planning funding for both the Ipswich-Springfield rail line and the Salisbury-Beaudesert rail line. This is very welcome news.

Cross River Rail continues to be a signature project and is absolutely necessary if we are to see the realisation of expanded rail services outside of Brisbane. This project charging ahead has been really good to see. This is despite the federal government again making a clear choice to ignore this catalytic project with zero funding support, thereby showing those of us who live in Greater Brisbane, the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast that they do not care about commuters in our areas.

I would like to conclude by congratulating the Queensland Treasurer on the delivery of the 2020-21 budget. It is indeed a mammoth task to deliver a budget in a month, and the member for Woodridge and his staff should be acknowledged for this. In turn, I also acknowledge the Under Treasurer, Rachel Hunter, and the many Treasury officers who work so diligently and professionally to meet the government's requirements of delivering a state budget in December.

On our side of the House, we understand that we have an obligation and a duty to ensure that we now meet every one of the over 1,000 commitments that formed part of our re-election campaign. Every minister and every member of the Palaszczuk government will and must be focused on driving the delivery of these commitments. We cannot waste the opportunity that we have been given, and our 2020-21 budget is the beginning of this opportunity. The people of Queensland also made an important choice: they chose to support the Palaszczuk government for a third term. We cannot and we will not let them down. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (10.17 pm): COVID-19 has presented challenges for many across our state. For the Labor government, delivering a budget before the election was their challenge—using the excuse that the federal government had not delivered their budget. Unfortunately for local councils—their elections and the ever-changing impacts of COVID-19 on them—they had no choice. They could not use the excuse that the state government had not delivered their budget.

Businesses and families across my electorate were continuously monitoring and managing their budgets. They were not afforded the luxury of excuses that the Labor Party have indulged in. Labor's excuses that revenue is collapsing and that they need to borrow to pay for deficits and protect jobs do not wash and certainly will not wash with the many small businesses doing it tough. This points to why Queensland is the last state in the nation to release a budget in 2020. If Labor is so proud of its budget, why hide the finances until after the election?

The budget presented is uninspiring and lacks vision for the future. Incurring debt to deliver no additional value to our state pays no favours now and certainly even less for the next generation. While I acknowledge the intent that the regional Queensland strategy plays in the budget, the translation into quality commitments is underwhelming. It presents \$28 billion of opportunity lost through the lack of investment in catalytic infrastructure like dams, major road projects and partnerships to deliver infrastructure that will enhance supply chains and productivity with the added bonus risk of a credit rating downgrade.

I acknowledge and welcome that some funding, through the education capital budget, is coming to my electorate for Cannonvale State School and the TAFE aquaculture training centre. This is welcomed by locals. With the private investment of Tassal—Australia's largest prawn farm in my electorate—skills, training and pathways in aquaculture will be in high demand and this investment will support opportunities to enter this exciting and innovative industry.

I campaigned on a plan for growth in the bottom half of my electorate, the northern beaches. With the highest ratio of residents in the Mackay local government area, with currently just over 20,000 residents and expected growth of 53.6 per cent by 2036, it is the fastest growing part of the electorate. I acknowledge and welcome the \$1.2 million allocated to upgrade facilities to industry standards for the digital engineering, early childhood, arts and business sectors.

It is important to note that schools across the northern beaches are bursting, including Northern Beaches State High School, Eimeo Road State School and Bucasia State School. They are all reaching their peak capacity or exceeding it. Forward planning for a new school in the electorate is urgent. I campaigned to deliver community infrastructure to meet this growth and committed to aquatic facilities so that children can access a safe swimming option as many of the schools cannot afford the bus fares to access the closest pool and our youth are missing out. Unfortunately, there was no money allocated for this project.

I also campaigned on an integrated transport plan. I welcomed our shadow transport minister to the electorate during the election campaign to witness the growth of the northern beaches. What he witnessed, along with many in my community, was the waste of more than \$2.7 million to fund bicycle paths around major roundabouts that I, as a cyclist, and my cycling community will never use as they only put our lives at risk. The community called for another access in and out of the northern beaches and a recognition that emergency service vehicles cannot get in and out if there is a single road accident.

In terms of planning for growth to unite and recover, I draw the attention of the House to the QTRIP documents that the Minister for Transport and Main Roads identified this morning. I note that \$750,000 for planning has been pushed out to 2023-24—right in time for the next election. The

community has no confidence in this government that this forward planning will be delivered. It will be dangled like a carrot in the lead-up to the next state election. While our region faces the pinch point of growth there is no investment in emergency services—fire or ambulance—that are often held up when road access is closed.

Some \$12 million in federal funding was committed in 2018 for Goorganga Plains. The state only has to contribute \$3 million. When I look at the QTRIP data from last financial year, which was tabled, I see that the allocation was due to be fully expended this financial year. Unfortunately—surprise, surprise—it has been pushed out too. According to the forward estimates, it is now scheduled to be completed by 2023. Add the timing for tenders to this project and we will be lucky to see that project commenced before the next election. Yet the federal government continues to be blamed by the Labor government. Who can blame the federal government for saying ‘If you don’t use it you will lose it.’

This government is now in the habit of lay-bying roads across this state. It is regions like mine and communities like mine that get cut off by flooding year in, year out that suffer. COVID cannot be blamed for this. The federal government is allocating infrastructure funding and it will take this government over six years to spend it and deliver. We deserve better.

The Service Delivery Statements for environment and science and tourism, innovation and sport reference the commitment to facilitate sustainable recreational opportunities, nature based tourism and ecotourism and the SDS outlines working across government to develop new adventure and nature based opportunities. The Whitsunday mountain bike trails program aims to deliver nature based experiences—mountain biking is a growing adventure sport—and is shovel ready in our region. It has the support of the Whitsunday Regional Council, Tourism Whitsunday, the Whitsunday Coast Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Whitsunday Alliance—the economic development body. I draw the tourism minister’s attention to the fact that it is a \$1.8 million project that will create 10 full-time jobs during construction and 34 ongoing jobs. The project is set to attract an increase in visitors of 13,200 per year. It is ready to go. I urge the minister to listen to the community on his visit there next week.

The announcement made for the Pioneer Valley of \$500,000 for mountain bike trail design and assessment is smoke and mirrors as it was the council that I was part of that funded the detailed design and purchase of land. This commitment is simply laughable. The request for funding was in the millions and it now leaves the council short and having to turn to the federal government or ratepayers to fund this catalytic adventure tourism project.

The reef restoration project in the Whitsundays will enhance and build upon existing underwater art and will scale up collaboration. This investment of \$2.8 million is shovel ready. The coral gardening project will provide 24 ongoing jobs and offer 50,000 participants the opportunity to help rehabilitate the reef. These were commitments that I made during the election, which, sadly, the Labor government did not commit to.

The reannouncement of Cyclone Debbie funding recovery projects like the Proserpine Entertainment Centre and the Shute Harbour redevelopment are the legacy of a region recovering from Cyclone Debbie 3½ years ago. In terms of the announcement of the Bluewater Trail at Queens Park, I can say that this project was finished before the end of the financial year and officially opened on 17 July and yet it still remains in the glossy brochure.

New investment is what we seek in our region and a mixture of small infrastructure projects that will deliver a big bang for their buck for our local communities. I speak of projects like those of the Whitsunday Volunteer Marine Rescue and the Habana & Districts Progress Association’s resilience project. They do amazing things and promote resilience in our community.

Long before coronavirus, other states were powering ahead and experiencing a tourism boom while Queensland failed to keep pace and lost valuable jobs. It is across ecotourism that Tasmania now leads and fishing tourism that the Northern Territory now leads. My boaties would welcome funding for new boat ramps in the budget, yet we see that the same boat ramp committed to by the Labor government at the 2017 election at Midge Point is still to be constructed.

**Mr O’Connor:** Planning?

**Ms CAMM:** Still planning. Labor have failed to increase overnight stays in national parks after repeated broken promises over delivering new ecotourism trails. Now would have been the time to invest in catalytic tourism infrastructure, fast-track coordinated approvals and conduct a review of island leases and development approvals for islands such as Brampton Island and Keswick Island—iconic assets that are now being used as land banking. That is not in the interests of this state or Queenslanders.



I note the Whitsundays did not receive an invite into the Tourism Icons Program 2020. I also note that the regional action plan for Mackay and the Whitsundays outlines the Whitsundays Skyway project with a tick. I certainly hope the minister for tourism can do better than his predecessor who was unable to get this across the line with the department. The Whitsunday Sailing Club has secured \$6 million in federal funding for a maritime education facility. Now is the time the state should be partnering and investing so that we develop future skills for our region.

I will briefly touch on my shadow portfolio areas. Firstly, today is part of the 16 days of activism. On behalf of Queenslanders, I welcome and recognise the additional funding of \$6 million over four years that will be provided to support the prevention of domestic and family violence in vulnerable populations. Every individual deserves to live safely and free from violence. The murder of Hannah Clarke and her three children showed that Queensland's laws are clearly failing to protect victims. Along with Hannah, the lives of the following women are a tragic reminder that there is much more work to be done: in February both Alexis Parkes from Chermiside and an unnamed woman from Pimlico were taken; in April, Jacqueline Sturgess from Narangba; in May, Loris Puglia; in June, an unnamed 76-year-old woman in Cairns and Karen Gillard in Rockhampton; in August, Alysha Baty from Nambour; and, in October, Lisa Hund. Nine Queensland women have lost their lives from hideous violent acts. So far this year we have lost 49 women nationally. This issue is above politics. We in the LNP are ready to work with Labor and the minister to prevent further deaths and domestic violence. We want to see engagement and action.

There is more to be done to tackle Queensland's DV crisis. It is deeply alarming that Queenslanders reached out to DVConnect more than 16,000 times during the peak of lockdown. It is even more alarming that 2,895 calls to the Queensland's domestic violence hotline went unanswered during the height of the coronavirus lockdown—an average of 36 each day. Labor should have increased the capacity of DVConnect to answer all calls during the height of the pandemic and they need to continue to work with stakeholders to look at innovative ways in which we can support women and victims and recognise the unique challenges.


The LNP's record is sound and we have demonstrated this through the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act and establishing the *Not now, not ever* inquiry into domestic and family violence. We have fully supported the implementation of the report's recommendations. We are ready to do more. We released a comprehensive domestic violence plan during the campaign and look forward to working with the government—in particular, to protect women and children and also to invest further in perpetrator programs.

Upon reviewing Labor's record in child safety, at least 16 children have died since Labor was elected in 2015, including Mason Jett Lee. The coronial inquiry into Mason Jett Lee's death found that the department of child safety had failed him in every possible way. The Carmody inquiry recommended the use of adoption, but that still has not happened. I look forward to the bill that was tabled in the parliament today. In the last five years there have been only six children adopted from the child protection system.

The LNP has a strong record when it comes to addressing child safety issues. The last LNP government accepted and implemented the recommendations of the Carmody inquiry, leading to child safety notifications and substantiated cases of harm going down under the LNP.

Labor has failed to protect vulnerable children in care over the last five years. The coronial report into the death of toddler Mason Jett Lee showed the department failed in its duty to protect Mason from the risk of serious harm. The budget showed the rate of children subject to protective orders has increased to 9.8 per 1,000 children—up from 8.8 the previous year. The rate of children subject to protective orders has increased to 52.4 per 1,000 children for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children—up from 47.7 the previous year. It is not good enough.

Children are not line items and they are not a disposable commodity. These rates do not instil confidence—not for me—and they should not instil confidence for the sector or the community. The Labor government has one role, and that is to protect children. Queenslanders are tired of reviews. They are tired of inquiries and they demand that children's safety is paramount. We expect an improved standard of service across all areas—in particular, where the government's role is to support and protect the most vulnerable.

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (10.32 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker Kelly, I congratulate you on your appointment to the role of Deputy Speaker. We believe that you will do an outstanding job.

I am proud to rise today to speak in support of the appropriation bill delivered by the honourable Treasurer and Minister for Investment, the member for Woodridge. As the days become shorter in the Northern Hemisphere and the winter chill sets in, many counties face a second or even a third wave of

the insidious COVID-19 virus—the greatest health pandemic since the Spanish flu, which peaked in the autumn months of 1918. Like the Spanish flu, COVID-19 has claimed many lives worldwide. To be precise, 1.48 million people have lost their lives to date—908 Australians. My love and thoughts remain with my close family members living overseas—Adam, Leah and Azra in New York; Joanne and Alex in London; Loretta and Joe and my many cousins in Ireland—as they face further months of fear, lockdown, deprivation and global isolation.

During this pandemic, referred to by many economists as the ‘COVID crash’, we have seen phenomenal changes. These changes are happening all around us. Our economic resilience or anti-fragility has been tested. Like the 1918 Spanish flu or the September 11 terrorist attacks, after every crisis we see trends, adaptations and about-turns—accelerated trends such as technology, digitisation and e-commerce; adaptations such as corporate travel, the medium for meetings and the way we physically greet each other and interact. Then there are the about-turns—the way we think about austerity, for example. Attitudes towards austerity have changed as witnessed when we analyse government spending all over the world, regardless of their stripe and ideology—the LNP opposition in Queensland being the only exception.

Monetary and fiscal stimulus is the priority. Balancing the government books is seen globally as irresponsible as the world grapples with uncertainties, including development of a vaccine, social inequalities further pronounced by this pandemic, climate change, re-skilling the workforce, the urgency for reliable and accessible health care, market globalisation, government support for the unemployed, trade negotiations and supply chain difficulties, not to mention rogue and ignorant government leaders, and the list goes on. However, change can often create investment opportunities. Today governments must invest, as evidenced by the research of the OECD, the advice of the International Monetary Fund and the Governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia.

Queensland’s health response to this global pandemic has drawn accolades globally. On behalf of my community, I thank the Premier, the former minister for health and Deputy Premier, and Dr Young, our Chief Health Officer, for their courageous and decisive leadership. Our strong health response in Queensland has ensured the foundations for the best possible economic recovery—the opportunity for our government to borrow to invest. The Palaszczuk government’s plan for economic recovery from COVID-19 begins with investing for job creation. The greatest investment any government can make is in the people they serve.

What a great budget it is for the Queensland we serve and for the good people of the Mansfield electorate. This great Labor budget creates jobs, setting out a clear economic plan, attracting investment and building infrastructure—building the economy of the future. It is a budget that delivers the health and education infrastructure investment for the future success of young Queenslanders and for the prosperity of our great state.

When I was elected to this parliament, I vowed that I would strive to ensure that the Mansfield electorate became a hub of educational excellence. I am proud of the 19 schools in my electorate and the quality education that they provide—the reason young families flock to my electorate. More than 100 young families move into my community every month.

I know that a hub of educational excellence requires world-class infrastructure, the resources and funding to inspire learning, as well as the collegial and collaborative support of educators working together across schools and between classrooms; effective teachers and strong educational leaders who apply explicit and precise strategies to improve student learning; and educators who teach their students how to think critically, creatively, to identify future problems and opportunities, who inspire student confidence to apply complex and sophisticated formula and to work together to ensure that the sum of the whole is greater than the sum of them as collective individuals—not applying punitive measures to complex matters such as their big, bold, visionary plan to return our education system to an industrialised bygone era; nor the decluttering of the curriculum to facilitate a back-to-basics approach; nor in their blind pursuit of some self-acclaimed heroic budget surplus neglecting to build one new classroom across Queensland in three years, as happened under the LNP government when they held office.

**Mrs Gerber:** Rubbish!

**Ms McMILLAN:** I did hear some very unparliamentary language. I ask that it be withdrawn.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): You will need to take personal offence.

**Ms McMILLAN:** I take personal offence and I ask that it be withdrawn.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I am going to take some advice on that. Member for Currumbin, that language was unparliamentary. I ask you to withdraw.

**Mrs GERBER:** I withdraw.

**Ms McMILLAN:** I have only been in this place three years, but that is the first time—

**Mr Minnikin:** Three is too long if you cannot handle 'rubbish'.

**Ms McMILLAN:**—I have ever heard that level of language in this House.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. I had ruled on that, member for Chatsworth. You can stand and withdraw that as well and then I will place you on a warning.

**Mr MINNIKIN:** I withdraw.

**Ms McMILLAN:** A quality education transforms the lives of individuals, families and whole communities. We are delivering a \$13.9 million investment in new modern school facilities in Mansfield. Funding is included in a \$1 billion Great Schools, Great Future education policy to modernise schools and support more than 3,100 local construction jobs right across Queensland. This includes new classrooms at Mackenzie and Rochedale state schools and a new building to replace the classrooms lost in the devastating fire at the Upper Mount Gravatt State School. To cater for continued growth and enrolment the budget also includes \$6.74 million for new classrooms and a canteen at Wishart State School. Mansfield State School is also receiving \$12.41 million to provide a new building of classrooms and a refurbished music block. I am proud to have secured a \$500,000 commitment to begin the priority safety upgrade to Ham Road for Mansfield State Primary School and Mansfield high. We expect that this funding will be matched by the Brisbane City Council under the Local Road Improvement Program.

The Palaszczuk government has a clear vision for education in Queensland. We will employ more than 6,100 new teachers and 1,100 new teacher aides over the next four years. Education is the best investment that we can make for the future of Queenslanders and the future prosperity of our great state.

It is also pleasing to see a strong commitment by the Palaszczuk government to free TAFE for Queenslanders under 25. This is welcomed and will be valued immensely by the young people in my community. Under this re-elected Palaszczuk government, the Mount Gravatt TAFE will receive a further \$3.4 million upgrade to teaching spaces, maintenance and providing state-of-the-art infrastructure. We are keeping Queenslanders safe. The Palaszczuk government will deliver an extra 2,025 police personnel over the next five years. We will deliver seven satellite hospitals worth \$265 million—one in Brisbane South—to enable our acute hospitals to continue to safely manage patients via alternative models of care. Recently I joined the former minister for health and the Chief Health Officer to announce a \$12 million investment to establish a 24-bed ward at the QEII Hospital.

This is what Labor governments do, and this is exactly what the people of Queensland elected Labor to do. Social isolation and loneliness is a well-documented and researched new world issue identified prior to the pandemic but which has been exacerbated during COVID-19. Since my election in 2017 I have worked closely with the University of Queensland School of Psychology, the Mount Gravatt Community Centre and the Queensland Community Alliance to proactively address this important issue in my community. The employment of social workers locally—known as link workers—as part of our Ways to Wellness program has attracted ongoing funding of a further \$124,000 of \$498,536 by the Palaszczuk government. I am proud of this program, the international interest it has attracted and the significant outcomes achieved to date for our local people. An \$18.9 million investment across Queensland in neighbourhood centres will further enable the Mount Gravatt Community Centre to continue their tremendous work supporting our most vulnerable.

Small businesses play an important role in my community. Our strong health response has meant that we can get back to business as usual. Mr Deputy Speaker, 177 of the small businesses in my electorate have received Palaszczuk government COVID-19 adaptation grants totalling \$1.8 million. A \$950 million payroll tax relief package will assist small to medium sized businesses to create jobs in Queensland. Many small businesses in my electorate have benefited from the interest-free loans and will continue to access these when needed.

The Palaszczuk government's strong health response has put us on the road to economic recovery. My community understands that strong and proven community leadership and a good strong, stable government is what is needed in times of a global economic and health pandemic. I am proud to stand as part of a Queensland Labor government led by our Premier, who has a vision for this great state of Queensland. The 2020-21 state budget ensures that a progressive Queensland will be one more educated, more critical, healthier, more mobile and better prepared for the ongoing economic challenges that lie ahead. This will be the work of one government—a Labor government—and the result of only party: the great Australian Labor Party. I commend this bill to the House.



**Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (10.44 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Appropriation Bill. I have listened with curiosity to many of the contributions made. I certainly feel that I have a significant contribution to make on behalf of the people of Traeger and perhaps on behalf of a lot of the people of regional and Western Queensland.

I think it behoves me always at the start to be gracious and thank the government on behalf of the electorate for some of those things that did come in. The first thing I would point out is dialysis in Charters Towers. That fight has been going since before I took the seat. It is with a sense of slight bitterness that I reflect on that, because as a member in a rural electorate when you talk about dialysis it means that people leave town forever to get treatment. Or at least they are busting themselves trying to get to Townsville, which is a three-hour round trip two to three times a week, and it places enormous stress on people. I hear people around the state demand a sports stadium, a new sporting field in the suburbs of Brisbane or a new park or bike paths, but all we are asking for is dialysis, one of the most primary healthcare elements for a rural electorate.

The issue of dialysis is interesting. In rural electorates the requirement for dialysis is likely to keep increasing but they will often say, 'You don't have the numbers to justify getting a machine.' That is because half of the last lot just left town for good. They wanted to stay, but they left. The response is that the numbers are not there. That is a very good case in point as to why we see a bleeding of the population from those western areas. We are being told that it is not viable because you do not have enough numbers, but at some point you need to start turning that around. I will say that I am very grateful for that, and some families who have already received news of that are indeed very grateful.

In relation to Big Rocks Weir, before the election it was announced that there was \$30 million for that. I will make the distinction that it is a weir and not a dam. That is a small project that is a pilot project for the Hells Gates Dam project at Charters Towers. It will have a big impact. That is a good thing to spend money on. That is an 'excellent' tick, but it did not come without some lobbying and some pressure. There is funding there so we are very grateful for that. CopperString is in there. That was 10 years in the making and it is not built yet, but there has been assistance there and we are appreciative of that. It took a lot of effort to get people interested in that in the first place. There were crickets chirping at the start, but here we are. It is there and it has a lot of momentum now, so we are grateful for that.

The comment that keeps coming from the Treasurer is that debt is okay if you spend it on schools and hospitals. I am paraphrasing, but that is perhaps close to his words. It is a curious statement. I am no economist and I am not an academic, but I do understand the distinction between monetarism, supply side economics and Keynesian economics. Perhaps someone forgot to read the second chapter of the Keynesian model, because it is about spending money to build the economy. Whilst hospitals and schools are virtuous and terrific things to provide, they do not grow the economy. There is no economic benefit or legacy there. It is social infrastructure that you build when you have the money to do that. You say that you are increasing spending and you are going to go and build these things, but you have to think about how you are going to pay for it. Sure, you will draw criticism that people get obsessed with fiscal balance, and that is true too. You can be obsessed with that.

I do agree with the first part of the statement. Debt is not always a bad thing, but it must be spent on the right things. I would like to mention what I think the right things are. A lot of these things are not very popular and they do not get a lot of votes in Brisbane where you can win the state election, but they are needed. The problem in this House is that these things are needed where the population is and you do not get the votes, and environmentally they are not popular, but here is the drum: there are resources and assets out there that need to be capitalised on.

**Mr Harper:** What about Glencore, Robbie?

**Mr KATTER:** I would like to hear more from the member for Thuringowa because I would be very interested to hear some of his thoughts on this. He has mentioned CopperString again. It is very interesting that the member for Thuringowa mentions CopperString. He did not know what it was 12 months ago. He turned up to media conferences not knowing what to talk about.

**Mr HARPER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I absolutely take offence and I ask the member to withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Member for Traeger, the member has taken personal offence. I ask you to withdraw.

**Mr Bennett** interjected.

**Mr KATTER:** I withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Burnett, I do not need your assistance.

**Mr KATTER:** I welcome the comments from the member for Thuringowa because I would be very interested to see his input beyond the last 12 months on CopperString. It was very interesting to watch some of his inputs at some of those media conferences. We will let the public judge on what the input has been because this has been a 10-year journey but we welcome you along at the end, mate. It is very good to pat yourselves on the back at the end. I do thank the government for it. They did come in the end. It was very interesting that the member for Thuringowa would talk up on that.

I would also like to talk about Hells Gates Dam. There is a lot of talk about this. Originally, it was always, 'Let's raise the Burdekin Dam wall instead,' and that actually came from the Labor Party first, for the member for Thuringowa's benefit. It was Jackie Trad, the former member for South Brisbane, who mentioned for the first time the raising of the Burdekin Dam wall.

Hells Gates Dam is a big project, make no bones about it. These are the things that will never look good on a profit and loss statement when they first come out. That is what everyone says when it comes to the cost of water: 'We'll have to look at the business case'—which seems to be the new excuse for never building anything now—and that is if they get through any environmental rigours, which they never seem to. We have had previous proposals and business cases done on these same projects that would stand a foot high, all to do with the Bradfield scheme. Hells Gates Dam is the start of the Bradfield scheme. At the back end of these, someone needs to make a judgement call. There will never be absolute certainty on any of these projects that, 'Yes, they definitely will show a strong economic return. And, no, there will be no environmental impact.'

Someone has to have the intestinal fortitude to make a judgement call on any of these projects. That is why I have no faith at all that this project will be built under the current government. It is such a big project and it needs vision, which is what we want to see in the budget. That is the sort of thing that takes us out of the position we are in now in the economy. Even before COVID, we were in a position where we needed industry development and investment. We need those construction jobs on the front end, but it is very important to have that legacy benefit on the back end of it. That is why something like Hells Gates is important.

The HIPCo dam is an interesting one. There is \$180 million from the federal government sitting there right now for a dam in Hughenden. Barely a drop is taken out of the Flinders River system. It depends on what figures are used, but about four million megalitres a year runs out into the sea and there are one or maybe two farmers who take a little bit of that water. It runs past hundreds of thousands of acres of rolling black soil plains that are open, that do not need to be cleared and that could be farmed immediately. There are barriers that have been put along anything that needs to be built—any farming, any water allocations you want to take out of there.

Governments and departments are obsessed with pricing and 'You need to have a business case to get up there.' If you want any of that done, someone needs to say to the farmers who live along that river and have been battling away for years, 'Just take the water. We'll price it as cheap as we can. You're the pioneers. No-one is showing you how to do anything up here. We don't have a DPI station up here. Just have a go, take some water and we'll make it as cheap as possible for you.'

At the moment, we have only released some 200,000 megalitres or more out of the four million megalitres a year that runs out there. You are allowed to take 30 per cent out of these systems; we are allowing for five or six per cent out of the Flinders system and we are squabbling over the Hughenden dam. There is \$180 million from the federal government to build that right now, but it is just locked up with the state and I expect it will be for another five years. There will be every excuse in the book as to why it cannot be built.

It is really hard to see where the economic benefit is from here but people in the past have seen it. The people who built the Fairbairn Dam were faced with exactly the same proposition, but it was built and it is a wonderful thing. It is a beautiful asset and it is an economic provider. It has provided a legacy, far beyond any construction jobs or benefit from the economic boom at the start. It is that legacy that everyone benefits from, but it requires that vision from the government of the day. There is \$180 million sitting there from the federal government right now and it has been there for over a year. It cannot be captured and it may just be thrown in the bin because it will not be allowed to be built.

Another issue is the Galilee rail line, and this was a policy of our party. Fair enough if you do not like coalmining and you do not want any more coalmining, but there is an opportunity for 100 million tonnes of coal a year to go out of that Galilee Basin in the next five years. Instead, there is a commitment for Cross River Rail, and I believe the estimate for Cross River Rail is now over \$10 billion. Why would the government spend that money first on social infrastructure here, when \$3 billion would build the 200 to 300 kilometres of rail line to Abbot Point where a new port can be built all in one—

**Mr Harper** interjected.

**Mr KATTER:** No, you do need a new port. It is really difficult to take interjections from the member for Thuringowa because he seems to put his mouth into gear before his—

**Mr Harper** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Thuringowa, your interjections are not being taken. Member for Traeger, if you are going to respond, you need to do it through the chair.

**Mr KATTER:** Through the chair, I will respond to the member for Thuringowa. I will give him an education. He said there is a port berth that is vacant that would need to be developed. Yes, there is a port and I think we all realise there is a port at Abbot Point, but there is no open berth available for more coal. He should go and talk to the users. I talk to the users who are there, but clearly the member for Thuringowa does not, and that is probably the problem. They are now locked in there and they cannot get the ore out. The people of Queensland can own a port berth for \$3 billion—I forget which number port berth it is—and the rail line going in there would be paid for by the users. Within five years, there would be half a billion dollars in royalties—and that is royalties alone, not the economic benefit into the state. That is the sort of thing you can do if you have the will.

The next topic I would like to mention is Ootan Road, which is an interesting road. This is not in my electorate. I will admit that there is money in the budget for roads, and I am not going to criticise this government on their capacity to spend on roads. There is good money for the Hann Highway and the Torrens Creek Aramac Road. We have done well with that in the past. Ootan Road is an important piece of infrastructure and should be a priority. That is something that can make money for people because you can get triple road trains out of Cape York. The local member should be mentioning this because this is not in my electorate. There are great resources in Cape York. There is farming activity up there right now but it is constrained because you have to unhook in Mareeba if you are bringing produce down. If you can bring triple road trains down from Cape York, you are in business and that is why the CSIRO identified it as one of the highest value beef roads in Queensland in terms of potential.

The other thing I want to talk about is ethanol. One of the buzz words used was hydrogen cars. I see hydrogen as akin to the biofuels push which was used about three or four years ago. With the biofuels push, not one fine has been issued by the government and I figure the large oil companies now just treat the mandate as a joke because the government is not being strong and enforcing that.

The really disappointing thing for me was that one of the two biofuels plants actually closed down during the election campaign. They appealed to the government for assistance. They could have made hand sanitiser and they needed assistance from the state government to facilitate upgrading it into hand sanitiser so we did not have to import it from the Chinese, but that assistance was not there. That is exactly the job of government. That is exactly what a government is supposed to do—facilitate the manufacturing of biofuels. How can we take the government seriously when they are talking about hydrogen when they did that with biofuels? Even the funding for the biofuels app that we had out there was dropped earlier this year. It is very disappointing that we are moving onto a different thing when that was not even properly handled. I think we have every right to be entirely cynical about talking new and emerging industries when that was not handled properly.

The last thing I will mention quickly is the \$5 billion Future Fund that was announced before the election. A portion of that should be quarantined for regional—and I think specifically for North Queensland—investment. In that way, we would know that that fund would be used for money-making infrastructure. It would be adequately used.



**Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (11.00 pm): I rise to speak to the appropriation bills before the House and acknowledge the foundation that they lay for Queensland's economic recovery. As I stand here in the parliament I acknowledge the privilege that I have to be an elected member of this House and the honour I have in representing my local area. If there is one thing I am especially proud of right now, it is being a Queenslander.

Thinking back to that briefing that members of the 56th Parliament received in this House in March about what COVID-19 might mean for Queensland and Australia and then seeing what transpired in overseas countries with the absolute tragic loss of life, I stand here thankful for being a Queenslander. I am thankful that we have a Premier who was and is prepared to make the tough decisions in the interests of Queensland and particularly those who are most vulnerable. I am thankful for her leadership, her decisiveness and her foresight, because Queensland saw this coming. Queensland declared this a public health emergency when everyone was calling us alarmists. We introduced the first industry assistance package within three weeks of declaring the public health

emergency and we were calling on a national strategy two months before the federal government finally introduced international border closures and restrictions. Now here we are in Queensland, good to go. Queensland is open for business and on a solid path to fiscal recovery.

In May pubs and clubs opened with stage 1 restrictions and in June we were at stage 2. In July we eased back to stage 3 restrictions. We could do that in Queensland well before the other eastern states because our priority, our No. 1 priority, was always safeguarding the health of Queenslanders, and that was the precondition required to get our economy going again.

I acknowledge the work of the Treasurer and Treasury officials in handing down this budget—I did hear a remark that it was a boring budget—a budget that just gets on with doing what we said it would do and what we committed to doing. We committed to delivering jobs; we committed to growing the economy out of this global pandemic. This budget does this and more. We are the only state to have recovered all the jobs that were lost during COVID-19, and data as recent as this week shows that Queensland is leading the way with the fastest economic growth in the country, and this budget builds on that.

While it is all well and good to look at national league tables on recovery, where my electorate of Macalister really benefits from the Palaszczuk Labor government's budget is in its commitment to not only build the infrastructure that Queensland needs to foster resilience and create jobs needed right now but prepare and ready Queensland for future prosperity. There are a number of road infrastructure projects funded in this budget on which residents will see work get underway. The largest of these is undoubtedly the continuing M1 upgrades, currently working their way through Underwood, Rochedale and Springwood. Now initial planning is underway to extend the busway past Springwood. A dedicated busway past Daisy Hill through to Loganholme is the key to getting Logan residents out of their cars and off the M1. I had been a busway commuter from Loganholme and Springwood. For many years my husband and I spent twice as long on a bus travelling from Loganholme to Eight Mile Plains than we did from Eight Mile Plains to the city. That is the difference a dedicated busway will make to public transport users in Logan.

Road upgrades that Macalister residents will see undertaken in their local area in the current financial year include the widening of Beaudesert-Beenleigh Road between Bannockburn Road and Mell Street. The design work commenced for the widening of Beaudesert-Beenleigh Road to four lanes between Milne Street and Tallagandra Road, intersection upgrades along Mount Cotton Road at German Church Road and Coorang Road, road safety and intersection upgrades along Beenleigh-Redland Bay Road, the signalisation of Beenleigh-Redland Bay Road and Kruger Road at Carbrook, and planning commences for the Beenleigh Better Roads Project. These are all happening this financial year. With these announcements of vital road upgrades will come roadworks, so I thank residents in advance for their patience for the foreseeable future. We are on the road to prosperity.

Queensland's future prosperity will be closely linked to the development and sustainment of a skilled workforce. I am proud to see this government's investment in our future tradies. Macalister is ground zero for tradies. The 2017 announcement contributing to the establishment of the Beenleigh Trade Training Centre was a perfect fit. Opened last year, it is already at capacity, so I welcomed the government's investment of a further \$20 million. Critically, this investment will establish the Queensland apprenticeship centre in renewable hydrogen energy. This will position Beenleigh to be the home of world-class training facilities in the industry of the future.

I am pleased to see work commencing on our state school upgrades. Work will be completed in the current financial year on the manual arts block upgrade at Beenleigh State High School. Principal Matt O'Hanlon took me on a tour of the current facility a few months back. While the original fit-out of the building from the 1960s was still serviceable, the needs of modern trades will take pride of place in the new layout.

The primary school students of Edens Landing State School will see their new senior outdoor activity area upgraded. Parents at the school told me that the area had not changed since they were students at the school. It is great to see this project, the brainchild of Principal Clint Curran with whom I have worked on this project for over a year, finally come to fruition.


Planning will also start on Beenleigh State High School's modern, new hall—a hall fit for the stunning Paddock to Plate event, with detailed design works to commence. Other design work to commence in our schools will be for the Carbrook State School \$500,000 expanded administration building, Windaroo State School's \$700,000 outdoor learning spaces and Mount Warren Park State School's \$1 million reroofing project. I will also be pleased to sit down with community leaders and stakeholders to advance the identification of a site for the new Bahrs Scrub State School, the first new school in my electorate in almost 30 years.

One of the biggest projects likely to transform the centre of my electorate, Beenleigh, is the identification of a site for a new justice precinct, a new police station needed for the additional police officers who will be coming to the south-east region in the next five years. Identifying the stakeholders to include who would benefit from such a precinct is key to getting this right. Work will begin to commence this process. This is the vision of the Labor government on show in this budget.

What vision did the Leader of the Opposition have for Queensland's future? It looked remarkably like 1957. I believe the Leader of the Opposition aspires to the leadership and success of Frank Nicklin. Considering Frank Nicklin as Leader of the Opposition steered the opposition to election losses in 1944, 1947, 1950, 1953 and 1956, I am impressed by his optimism—optimism to think that his party machine will forgive him not just one loss but five. Just ask the members for Nanango and Clayfield what happens after a loss. Perhaps I am deliberately misconstruing the Leader of the Opposition's statement. Forgive me. It appears to happen; the wilful prevarication is contagious when you sit on this side.

I was curious how great 1957 was. I clearly would not know and not even my mum was born then. The member for Bundamba has lent me his DeLorean. With the help of the yearbook of Australia in 1957 I went back and had a look. In 1957 only 75 members sat in this House, keeping in mind certain non-Europeans were excluded from voting at that time. Papua New Guinea and Nauru were territories under Australia's management. The average weekly wage for males in Queensland was 303 shillings a week. Females were mandated to only have 66 per cent of that pay at 201 shillings a week. The basic wage was 228 shillings a week. I might add that in this socialist utopia that the Leader of the Opposition wants to take us back to, it was mandated that the basic wage must be sufficient to maintain an employee, his wife and three children in an average standard of comfort.

Interestingly enough, on average a worker's rent made up nearly 11 per cent of weekly expenses. Perhaps in this new utopia the Leader of the Opposition will ensure that a Queenslander's rent will cost only 11 per cent of their weekly wage, or perhaps it will be a social housing panacea where we can all have affordable housing. Perhaps he will guarantee us wages so high. Perhaps, but I think perhaps not. Either way, what this budget delivers for Queensland and for my electorate is an absolute game changer. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (11.10 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the appropriation bill 2020. The long-awaited budget was finally delivered by the Treasurer, Hon. Cameron Dick, on 1 December, and what a budget it is! It will go down in history as the biggest 'nothing' budget of a Labor government ever delivered in this state, worse than Goss, Beattie and Bligh all added together. At a time when Queensland needed a budget full of infrastructure projects, this government has provided precious little in the line of major projects to stimulate our economy and get our state back up and running after a shutdown that has left small business, big business, tourism and the regions in tatters.

One month ago the Treasurer was going to borrow \$4 billion. Suddenly, yesterday that ballooned out to \$28 billion. Remember, this is additional borrowings—on top of what the Queensland state government has already borrowed. Eventually it will need to be repaid, as all debts do. The Treasurer and Premier will be long gone then, leaving a debt that our grandchildren will have to contend with. There will be nothing of note to show where all this money has gone. In four years our debt is expected to exceed \$130 billion, a staggering amount of money. As we all in this chamber know, the debt level in Queensland was horrendous a long time before the advent of COVID-19. The government is using this devastating virus as an excuse to cover for its poor economic management of Queensland over a long period of time.

As always, I scoured the budget papers to see what spending had been allocated for the seat of Condamine. As usual, this was a task that did not take long. Firstly, let me share what I did find and then I will speak of those things that were not included. This budget announced funding for three school halls in the Condamine electorate—significant announcements for those high schools at Oakey, Pittsworth and Clifton. The spend will be over three to four years at Clifton and Pittsworth. I am not sure what that means. Does that mean it will be a work site for three to four years, with tradesmen coming and going, or does that mean in the first year one wall will go up, the next wall will go up in the year after and so on? To date, the Oakey State High School does not have a timeline indicated, so hopefully work will start in the very near future. These halls are badly needed and will be welcomed by parents, students and staff alike.

There is funding for additional classrooms at the Wyreema school, refurbishments at the Oakey high school and an outdoor learning area at Gowrie school. The Quinalow Prep-10 State School will receive \$300,000 to replace its septic system—not glamorous but necessary. I would have thought a



septic system would be part of the ongoing maintenance and normal upgrade of a government owned asset. There was so little in the Condamine section of the glossy *Delivering for the Darling Downs* brochure that they had to include a septic tank at a small bush school!

In the 2017-18 budget, an upgrade of the Charlton fire and rescue regional headquarters was announced—\$630,000 out of a total spend of \$750,000. Then in the 2018-19 budget, another upgrade was announced—\$3 million out of a \$10.6 million total spend. Then in the 2019-20 budget, there was \$11 million out of a \$17 million spend for the replacement of the regional QFES HQ and a new fire and rescue station. Now in this budget we have \$16 million out of an \$18.4 million spend to continue the replacement. I am pleased to say that in February 2020 major construction works commenced. It is very similar to a new ambulance station that was announced at Drayton in the 2017-18 budget, with a total spend of \$4 million in the following two budgets, increasing the total spend to \$4.6 million. Finally, just prior to the election being announced the station was operational. It took a number of years, but it finally got there after four budgets. This is the sum total for Condamine.

Let's now talk about the things that I was hoping to see included. I notice that the member for Logan is back, because the chatter has started again. I have been calling for more police officers and infrastructure in many of the communities in the Condamine electorate. We have some areas with fast-growing populations, and the current police officers are stretched to the limit doing their job. There is nothing in the budget for a second police officer at Cambooya and nothing about extra police support at Goombungee to service Kingsthorpe and Gowrie Junction, although I am pleased to say that the Oakey station recently received a long-sought-after second patrol car, even if it was not fitted out for active duty upon arrival. Members would have heard my calls for this second patrol vehicle, as we have had the absurd situation of seven police officers sharing one patrol car for as long as I have been a member in this place.

Since I have been the member for Condamine, I have called on the Premier and the minister for natural resources and mines to give the Acland mine approval for stage 3. This is a shovel-ready project that would employ over 650 new workers within 18 months and inject millions into the Queensland economy. It is long overdue for approval, after 13 years of jumping through state government hoops and legal battles. If this government's mantra is about creating jobs, as it continually says it is, it needs to get this project happening. Last Friday, another 70 workers were laid off. I spoke to a number of them to wish them well and to promise them that I would do all in my power to ensure their remaining colleagues do not suffer the same fate. After the minister's response to a question without notice this morning I do not feel very confident for their future, yet we are told that this is a jobs budget—unless of course you work at Acland mine.

For the past two years I have been asking the government to investigate the need for a secondary school in the south-west corridor of the Toowoomba Regional Council area. In late 2019 the Queensland Schools Planning Reference Council identified that by 2031 one new secondary school may be required in the area. It recommended planning and developing a business case for this new school to assess future education demands. I was very disappointed to see that no funds have been allocated in this budget for a business case. The LNP made a commitment that if we won government we would fund a business case. The people in this area are crying out for a secondary school due to the rapidly growing population in the south-west corridor, particularly in terms of families with young children moving into more affordable areas such as Wyreema, Drayton, Westbrook and Cambooya.

Recently, I became aware of a review of the capital assets of the Darling Downs Health and Hospital Service. The review was conducted to investigate what assets required replacement or refurbishment. The review found that the aged-care and hospital facility at Oakey needed to be completely replaced at an approximate cost of \$30 million. It is currently an 80-bed facility with 72 aged-care beds and eight acute beds. The layout of the building is not ideal, with two wings for the aged-care section and the middle being the emergency hospital area. This was particularly challenging during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Almost half of the aged-care beds are in rooms with four people per room and a shared bathroom, with the remaining rooms being single or double rooms. The new standards for aged-care facilities are one person per room with an ensuite. I will be advocating for this facility to be replaced as soon as is feasibly possible to ensure the ongoing care for the aged community of Oakey.


In the lead-up to the election we saw the Premier and the former natural resources minister, Anthony Lynham, travel to Toowoomba to meet with the Toowoomba Regional Council to announce that they would be investigating building a pipeline to deliver water to Warwick and outlying towns along the route. There is no mention of even a feasibility study for this project. The Premier may have lost interest in this project after the election loss of the Labor candidate in Toowoomba North, but I can

assure the government that the need still exists. We have the unacceptable situation of water being trucked into the town of Cambooya and, worse still, in the town of Clifton water is being trucked in and sewage is being trucked out. There needs to be a full review into the water security of the Toowoomba region. This is one of the fastest growing regions in the state and this is putting increasing pressure on our water future. This is compounded by the fact that there is an estimated \$200 million to be spent on the spillways of the existing dams. This is beyond the capacity of the local government to fund and the state needs to step in and work towards a solution with council.

I searched through the road funding commitments and there was not one mention of any road funding in the entire seat of Condamine. Given the poor state of some of these roads, that is more than disappointing. I have made representations for a number of these roads—the Clifton Leyburn Road for example. I travelled this road in the local school bus and it is nothing short of dangerous. I wrote to the minister to express my concern, and do members know what the response was? There were signs placed on the road saying ‘rough surface’ and the speed limit reduced. That was all the action that was taken. This is not the only road that this has happened to. This is becoming commonplace throughout Condamine.

We see the Palaszczuk government borrowing an enormous amount of money at a time when Queensland’s revenue base is falling. In 2019-20 the three key revenue areas of GST, royalties and taxation all had decreases of between 3.7 per cent and 8.9 per cent. From the budget papers the general government sector revenue in 2020-21 is estimated to be \$56.24 billion, a decline of \$1.5 billion or 2.6 per cent. Yes, some of these decreases reflect the ongoing COVID-19 impacts on our state, nation and the entire world. There are, however, other impacts which include the expected 43 per cent reduction in royalty and land rent collections and the 38.8 per cent reduction in dividends and income tax equivalents, the income primarily due to the decreases in the electricity network sector driven by Energy Queensland’s new regulation determinations from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2025.

How are we going to pay back this debt? There is no substantial infrastructure funding in the budget. The total royalty revenue is expected to fall a further 45.2 per cent in the next 12 months after a fall of 13.2 per cent in the 2019-20 year, and we have over 67 per cent of this state currently in drought. The tourism and hospitality industry has a long way back from locking out the rest of Australia and the traditional Victorians and New South Welshmen who come to Queensland in the winter to get away from the cold. That covers most of our traditional economic earners—resources, agriculture and tourism. The budget is a nothing budget. It offers no way out of the deep black hole that Labor has dug for Queensland over the past five years, 10 months and two days.

 **Mr HUNT** (Caloundra—ALP) (11.23 pm): This evening I rise very proud of the fact that our state has so comprehensively outperformed the other large eastern seaboard states, but then given the quality of our health response and the titanic effort of the people of Queensland this should come as no surprise. I congratulate the Premier and the Treasurer and indeed all members of cabinet for putting us in such a commanding position relative to the rest of Australia. The fact is that the COVID-19 virus did not discriminate or play favourites but rather how each state and territory responded led each down a very different path—the oft-cited road to recovery—and it looks very much better for Queensland than for our nearest neighbours. Queensland is in a far better position than anyone on the east coast, and that is not down to luck.

On a personal note, I was delighted to see \$100 million in place to start the construction of the southern Queensland correctional precinct—a large, publicly owned facility that will go some way to addressing the overcrowding issues in Queensland’s correctional centres. This will create a healthier facility for the prisoner demographic, particularly with its therapeutic element built into its operations, but more importantly it will deliver a safer workplace for the men and women who work in those most dangerous of environments—custodial correctional officers. Correctional centres of this magnitude are gigantic economic drivers. They sustain jobs in the construction phase but, more than that, they become very large providers of permanent employment in every region they are located. This facility will provide a very significant flow-on economic stimulus to the region’s small business community for years to come.

I am also pleased to see that this government’s strong commitment to continue its support for the small business community remains on track and on target. I am personally aware of a number of small businesses in and around Caloundra owned and operated by people of all ages and across the entire retail spectrum that did not just benefit from this government’s COVID response initiatives; they were saved by them. Their doors are still open and they are still trading today thanks to the grants, loans and relief provided by this government. The Big Plans for Small Business strategy will continue this good work and help sustain our local small business community in the near future.

This government's continued prioritisation of education, particularly in Caloundra, will be most welcome news to communities right across the electorate. Beerwah State School's rejuvenated junior playground will mean not only a better and safer area for those children but also a more shady and sun safe one. A further investment in Baringa State Secondary College will only build on and enhance the learning potential of this very impressive school as it nears completion, ready to receive its first two year levels in 2021. It is already on track to be an extremely modern school with state-of-the-art facilities and this boost will keep it in that position. But it does not end there. There is yet more money for education in the new state school in Caloundra South. The residents of Nimimba will watch as a further \$26 million is injected into the ongoing construction of our new primary school. That completes the education trifecta for Caloundra. Thanks to this government, there has been three large schools in three years—a first in the history of the electorate.


I, like the residents of Caloundra, am very happy with the government's continued investment in the widening of the Bruce Highway—\$53 million worth of happiness to be precise. This is a measure that will help alleviate some of the traffic concerns between Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast. I am also excited to go back to my community and talk about \$38 million worth of funding to upgrade sections of the north coast rail line. In truth, I am most pleased and most proud of the \$35 million that this government has committed to the Bells Creek Arterial Road. This road is quite simply 11 kilometres of good news for Caloundra.

This road will provide a welcome measure of relief from the traffic on Caloundra Road. It will give the township of Caloundra direct access to the Bruce Highway via a second entry point for the first time in its history. It will link Caloundra to the hinterland communities of Landsborough and Beerwah via Roys Road in the most direct way possible. This glorious stretch of road will sustain up to 850 jobs in the short and medium term.

The original announcement by the Minister for Transport and Main Roads was barely 48 hours old when large retail outlets began making enquiries about the completion date of the road. This road will provide traffic relief, unlock investment and provide for significant commercial infrastructure. I will be talking about this road for a good long while and look forward to it opening some time in the next two years.

Last Saturday, 28 November, I was invited to an athletics carnival hosted by the Caloundra Little As. Almost 450 children and adolescents from as far afield as Toowoomba and Northern New South Wales converged on Caloundra. It was a magnificent event and a credit to all concerned. The Caloundra Little Athletics club shares a facility with the Caloundra AFL club, the mighty Caloundra Panthers. To be able to go back to Caloundra and tell both clubs that our commitment of up to \$550,000 for replacement lighting poles, upgrades to the toilets and coaching boxes is now a reality will be a genuine honour for me. The entire Sunshine Coast will be excited to hear that the first \$5 million of a \$20 million commitment will be making its way towards the provision of a Sunshine Coast stadium as continued evidence of this government's solid support for sporting amenities on the Sunshine Coast.

Finally, in the spirit of more good news for Caloundra, I can confirm that over \$1.4 million of the \$1.7 million required has been committed to the upgrade of the Beerwah community meeting place. This will provide extra meeting places, an outdoor meeting room and green arcade and even a small kitchen for community use in a hall that provides a venue for such diverse activities as tai chi, music recitals and an incredibly large table tennis community. These upgrades will be most welcome, as indeed this budget will be most welcome in Caloundra.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (11.31 pm): I rise to speak on the cognate debate for the money bills for this year. I would first like to speak in the context of my electorate of Southern Downs. I try to always speak on behalf of my electors and talk about the things that are important to them. There are some good features of this budget which I am happy to acknowledge. I have been campaigning for a divided carriageway at the dangerous Eight Mile intersection for quite some time and I thank the state government for coming together with the federal government to approve that project.

Warwick State High School will be receiving \$5 million towards a new school hall. I know the principal, Joy Craig, and her staff and students will be very pleased about that. Girraween National Park will receive funds for improvements to the campground. Girraween National Park is a wonderful asset to the Southern Downs. Anybody who has visited the Granite Belt and decided to camp there has had a great time and I encourage everyone to do so. The state government has approved funds for planning for the safety of the Coolmunda Dam. I will have more to say on that further in my contribution. There has also been funding for the Southern Downs Regional Council to embark on a recycling scheme to improve water availability to industry. Many jobs in Warwick depend on large supplies of water, such as the meatworks. There has also been funding for a kerbside recycling system.

Some of these things have already been announced, but it does not mean that they are not valued and welcome. However, I do have very significant concerns about other aspects of the budget. When one travels the roads of Southern Downs as I do, I do about 60,000 kilometres a year, it is apparent that the roads desperately need attention. There are three particular instances of poor roads which have failed to receive adequate attention from this government for many years.

First of all there is Cunninghams Gap. This is an issue that has been expressed to the state government by myself and also by the Southern Downs Regional Council. Whenever Cunninghams Gap is closed because of a fire, flood or a landslip those businesses that depend on the traffic across Cunninghams Gap all the way through to Warwick suffer because there is no reason at all to go on the Cunningham Highway from Warwick if Cunninghams Gap is closed. The Fisher Park Road House operated by Frank and Jenny suffers. The Bestbrook Mountain Resort operated by my great constituent Ray Vincent and his family suffers. The Maryvale Hotel suffers. These businesses suffer when Cunninghams Gap is closed. We need more money spent on Cunninghams Gap to ensure that it is not closed every time there is a fire or it rains.

The Cunningham and Gore highways are matters I have raised at length in the House in the past. The Cunningham Highway, in particular between Goondiwindi and Yelarbon, has undulations on it which are frightening. An ordinary family car can become airborne at the speed limit along there. Imagine trying to operate a trucking business or driving your own truck across these undulations. It is very tough on the suspension. It adds to the cost of doing business in our neck of the woods. The Gore Highway between Goondiwindi and Millmerran is similar to that across the Wyaga Creek crossings. Where Wyaga Creek spreads across there are many undulations that many people, in particular trucking operators and drivers, complain about. These are safety issues. I know there are difficulties with the substrata, that the water flow does make it difficult for the road to be stabilised, but something must be done about it because lives are at stake. We deserve to have safe roads in Southern Downs.

We have heard about the cutbacks in research in the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries which have occurred as a result of the current budget. I made an election commitment, with the agreement of the LNP opposition, to provide a wine industry extension officer based at the Applethorpe DAF facility which was going to be a great driver for the wonderful wine tourism industry that we have on the Granite Belt. I would love to have seen that matched by the government, but we see no commitment to that kind of research. I am worried that this government will allow the Applethorpe DAF facility to wither on the vine. I will do my very best to make sure that that does not happen.

It is well known in my neck of the woods that the department of natural resources, mines and energy took a very heavy-handed approach to some of the hardworking irrigators and dairy farmers in the Gladfield region to the east of Warwick. About 18 months ago, with negative three days notice, the department issued to many of these irrigators a notice to say that until they installed a water meter on their bore, their allocation will be cut by 80 per cent and they can only irrigate at very restricted times. This was in the middle of a period where farmers were growing lucerne and onions and irrigating pasture for cows and other animals. It was a disgraceful episode.

We did manage to achieve a withdrawal of those notices by fighting hard in meetings with the department. I thank Ross Bartley, the deputy mayor of the Southern Downs Regional Council, along with Lawrence Ryan, one of the dairy farmers, for their hard work to bring that injustice to the attention of the government and make sure that it was reversed. Those farmers have had notices issued to them again and they are required to purchase very expensive water meters. It is not something that drought-stricken farmers are in an advantageous position to do. I do not see any emphasis on helping those who are producing the food and the fibre that we rely on to comply with changing government requirements. I would like to see more emphasis on that.

We have heard a great deal about COVID-19 but not so much about the effects on local governments which have had to contend with COVID-19 and implement measures to support the government's response to COVID. The Southern Downs Regional Council advises me that it is almost \$300,000 out of pocket thanks to COVID and their support for the measures to contain it and close the borders. The Goondiwindi Regional Council has also laid out a fair bit of money, about \$60,000 I was told this morning by Mayor Lawrence Springborg. I urge the government to budget to repay these moneys to these local government entities. Their funding sources and their structural support financially are very narrow. They have a small rates base and they do a great deal of good for their communities. To take that sort of money out of the budget of a small council really hurts. I do not think it is fair that state government measures for which they are responsible should be funded by constrained local governments.

This particular budget is a virtuoso demonstration of Labor's propensity to borrow money. No-one that I am aware of is disagreeing with the idea that during times of economic downturn one borrows, because that is a chance to stimulate the economy and invest in the things that will give a return in the years to come. We have heard a number of speakers on my side point out that the borrowings that this government is making are not going exclusively to investing in income-producing assets and things that are going to make the value of the state greater in the long run.

We are seeing borrowings used to fund recurrent expenditure and that is happening because of Labor's long mismanagement of the economy. We have heard speakers before me talk in great detail about how, during the Bligh years, this state was set up for failure. We had a government that was profligate with its spending. It sold assets after going to an election explicitly saying that it would not sell assets. As has been said, the Premier, the Treasurer and the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services were part of the Bligh government and sat around its cabinet table. In the House today are ministers who were complicit in the sale of assets, contrary to the wishes of the Queensland people and without an electoral mandate to do so.

**Mr Hart:** \$16½ billion.

**Mr LISTER:** \$16½ billion; I take the interjection from my honourable friend. Where did that money go? It was frittered away. Even after raiding public servants' superannuation, increasing taxes and trying to extract money from dividends from the government owned corporations that had not been sold, the government still managed to increase debt. I heard my honourable friend the member for Clayfield excoriate the government over their past form in the financial management of this state with asset sales, increasing debt and so forth. Losing our AAA credit rating was the beginning of the end of Queensland being the shining light of economics in our Federation.

Now we have COVID and, because the government has large debts and large spending commitments, it is not able to cope with a downturn without borrowing to fund recurrent expenditure, which is a very concerning thing. I do not see a great deal of that money being spent in my electorate. My kids know—and I am sure I can speak confidently for their kids and their grandkids—that it is not a good thing to burden future generations with debt for which there is no lasting value. Labor's approach is always to measure their success by how much they spend and by how many announcements they are making, but seldom do they focus on outcomes. With record expenditure we hear speaker after speaker on the government side talk about record spending on this, there being so much money for this and so much money for that, but we never hear about the outcomes.

In terms of education, in 2019 we went backwards in half of the NAPLAN categories. We were below the national average in every year group for every subject, even though the government had been embarking on record expenditure in education. It is a similar story with health. When the LNP lost government at the beginning of 2015, there were 30,000 people on the hospital waiting lists. As of February 2020, before COVID, the waiting list was at 56,000, which represents an 86 per cent increase in the number of those waiting for surgery. Of course, we have heard about ambulance ramping, which is a crippling impost on the Health budget. It does not in any way serve the population well when it comes to getting treatment and emergency care.

We have seen more and more money spent on police. There are more gadgets, increased police numbers and bigger budgets, but crime is up because the government will not pass the laws that give the police the powers they need to deal with crime. We let out the same scallywags, day after day. Members should talk to the people of Goondiwindi who have had their cars stolen and their houses broken into and who have been assaulted. They are sick of the petty crime and the antisocial behaviour. The staff at the Goondiwindi Regional Council are extremely proud of the grounds and the fixtures in Goondiwindi, but they see them vandalised night after night by the same offenders, who are well known to the police but cannot be held. That is a great disservice to the community of Goondiwindi. It is a blight on what is an otherwise extremely livable and fabulous community.

In his speech the opposition leader, David Crisafulli, made some very good observations. In particular I agree with his assertion that the attacks on farmers and on the bush must end. In an earlier debate I heard Labor members talk about emergency water infrastructure rebates. They blamed the federal government for their failure. As someone who represents people who depend on those rebates, I know that the failure rested entirely with the Labor government. The system was mismanaged and the inference was definitely open that the government simply did not want to chip in its share. It wanted to clip the ticket for administering the scheme but not give hardworking primary producers, who needed support, the funding that they required.

The closure of agricultural colleges was a disgraceful low point in this government's relationship with the bush. Referring to the *Queensland Country Life* of 6 December 2019, I note that Minister Mark Furner had such poor judgement that he allowed himself to be photographed actually closing the Longreach agricultural college.

**Mr Millar:** I saw it myself.


**Mr LISTER:** I take that interjection from my honourable friend the member for Gregory, as that was in his electorate. I table that for the benefit of the House to forever condemn the minister for being responsible for putting the final nail in the coffin of agricultural training in this state.

*Tabled paper:* Extract, dated 6 December 2019, from the Facebook page of Ms Sally Gall, titled 'Ag Minister Furner visits empty college campuses on final day' [356].

That matter aroused great condemnation and dismay amongst the good and true folk of the Southern Downs, many of whom are proud graduates of those colleges. Where will our kids get the hands-on training that they need to become the operators of primary producing businesses in years to come? We hear a lot about education and training. Do not let it be said that Labor does not close schools. Labor closed two agricultural training colleges, to their eternal shame.

They are pulling down Paradise Dam. How can a government that says it supports the bush possibly look farmers in the eye when they do something like that? I heard my honourable friend the member for Condamine speak about the Acland mine. How disgraceful it is that a government would say that they cannot allow the mine to go ahead while it is under appeal, yet when they felt they were under attack electorally following the federal election the Premier raced out to break that very rule. Suddenly she abandoned the black-throated finches.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (11.46 pm): There is no denying that 2020 has been a year that has challenged Queensland communities both emotionally and economically. During these times, strong and stable government is so important in delivering economic stability. The Palaszczuk Labor government kept Queensland moving at a time when world economies were being shut down. We did that by prioritising workers and their families in our plan for economic recovery by creating jobs, backing small business, increasing investments in manufacturing and driving the largest infrastructure program in over a decade. We did that by keeping Queensland communities safe.

Our 2020-21 budget is focused on getting the economy moving sooner. As the member for Waterford, my focus is on getting our local economy moving. As the literal heartbeat of our community, the Logan Hospital has kept us healthy and kept us in jobs in these tough economic times. I am pleased to say that the Palaszczuk Labor government will invest \$53.6 million in the Logan Hospital this year and we are delivering an additional 206 beds and treatment spaces.

While 666 might be a superstitious number for some, for Logan it is the millions of dollars that the Palaszczuk government is investing in infrastructure and capital works in our region, supporting around 2,200 jobs. In the budget, education is a big winner for Waterford. We are delivering a new building and new learning spaces at Marsden State High School, the best school in the country, and new classrooms and automotive training facilities at Mabel Park State High School. As well as that, we are delivering a new Logan PCYC, a new clubhouse for the Waterford Rugby League Club and a new fire and rescue station at Loganlea. The budget includes funds for M1 upgrades for the region and a new shared pathway for the Loganlea Road Healthy Street Project. Labor governments understand that when we build we deliver frontline services and we create better jobs for locals.

As we continue to rebuild and recover, the Palaszczuk government will also put the safety of Queensland families first. To do that Queenslanders need to have confidence in their legal system. As the Attorney-General it will be my key priority to ensure that every Queenslanders has access to justice. A robust legal system changes lives as it creates safe, fair and just societies. The Department of Justice and Attorney-General will spend \$1.358 billion on delivering quality frontline services and keeping the community safe.

As we continue to rebuild Queensland's economy, we know how important it is to put women at the forefront of our plans and actions. The Palaszczuk Labor government is investing \$152 million in Queensland women and support services for victims of domestic and family violence this financial year. Unfortunately, women have been disproportionately affected by this pandemic. They have endured the

double impact of working in many of the continuing frontline jobs such as aged care, health care, teaching, child care and cleaning, while also being concentrated in the industries most impacted by shutdowns such as retail and hospitality. The number of women who joined the jobless queue outnumbered the number of men.

Tragically, because of COVID, the issue of domestic violence is more relevant than ever. Almost one in 10 women in a relationship experienced domestic violence during the pandemic, with two-thirds of women saying the attacks started or became worse. Domestic and family violence has no place in Queensland and we will continue to work to eliminate it from our community.

Our government's \$152 million investment this year alone includes \$48.5 million to respond to domestic and family violence including counselling and crisis responses, court based support for victims and perpetrators, and specialist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander support; \$34.3 million for women's shelters, mobile and centre based support services—and I am very proud to say that since 2015 seven new women's shelters have been funded in Queensland and that is the first in over 20 years; \$11.8 million for specialist sexual violence services; and \$8.4 million for women's health and wellbeing services.

Micah Projects does amazing work to provide services and opportunities in the community. When the budget was handed down on Tuesday, the CEO, Karyn Walsh, contacted my office and said—

The funding in the state budget to support services addressing domestic and sexual violence will be welcomed by services such as the Brisbane Domestic Violence Service to support more women and children to access safety, health and wellbeing.

The Speaker has reviewed and approved my budget speech for incorporation and, as such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated into *Hansard*.

*The speech read as follows—*

At the same time that the community was forced to adapt to the realities of the pandemic, Departmental staff in the justice portfolio showed much resilience and implemented innovative measures to ensure business continuity through COVID-19, especially in relation to video technology. It is most appropriate then, that the Budget allocates \$9.33 million for the upgrading of audio-visual capacity in the Justice system.

\$2.25 million will be spent on the Government's Tackling Alcohol Fuelled Violence policy. This will enable inspections of licensed venues during peak trading periods in Safe Night Precincts and is part of a total sector spend of \$6.87 million.

Under the "Tackling Alcohol-Fuelled Violence" policy, Queensland has recorded reductions in assaults, ambulance attendances and certain hospital admissions. These reductions represent a significant cost saving to the Queensland community.

Queensland's Blue Card system for adults working with children—the strongest in the country—will continue to evolve, with \$2.23 million allocated over the next two financial years to implement a process for the National Disability Insurance Scheme check and evaluating merging the Blue Card and NDIS screening systems. Another \$1.29 million has been provided for the next tranche of Blue Card System reforms.

The Office of the Public Guardian plays an important role in society protecting the rights, interests and wellbeing of adults with impaired decision-making capacity, and children and young people in the child protection system. This Office now includes Community Visitors in the Public Service Award and the 2020-21 budget provides an extra \$2.09 million to accommodate the change as well as cater for demand increases to support the ongoing quest to safeguard vulnerable adults and children.

The Department of Justice and Attorney-General is responsible for a vast array of facilities around the State, including 16 courthouses with cultural heritage significance. Indeed, courthouses have been among the first significant public buildings constructed in many regional areas and, new or old, they need to be maintained. The 2020-21 Budget will see \$13.271 million allocated to the minor works program in courthouses.

In light of this, Queensland Law Society President Luke Murphy said the Society is encouraged by the additional funding to court infrastructure and timely additional support for victims and perpetrator programs of Domestic and Family Violence.

And I quote Mr Murphy:

"We look forward to working with the Attorney-General on these measures and the other items in the Queensland Law Society's 2020 State Election Call to Parties,"

The Budget is supporting the Department's continuing efforts to develop new efficiencies across its business operations.

Accordingly, \$1.136 million and five full-time equivalent positions have been allocated for the continuation of additional sitting days in the Childrens Court and the Childrens Court jurisdictional lead team, which leads work to improve court efficiency and data collection.

A total of \$599,000 and eight full-time equivalent positions have been funded to continue a reform program to address immediate demand pressures facing the coronial jurisdiction, and implementation of recommendations made by the Queensland Audit Office to improve the delivery of coronial services.

As always, statutory bodies have been catered for in the Budget.

Some of the highlights include \$303,000 and two full-time equivalent positions allocated to the Crime and Corruption Commission to continue intelligence operations and associated hearings program to combat serious and organised crime.

Legal Aid Queensland will provide \$510,000 over three years to the Environmental Defenders Office to continue the employment of two solicitors.

Administered National Legal Assistance Partnership funding of \$62.193 million is being provided for Legal Aid Queensland, and \$23.94 million to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services in 2020-21.

The Department of Justice and Attorney-General continues to be involved in cross-sector initiatives to serve the community. New funding of \$377,000 over two years and 1.5 full-time equivalent positions, in conjunction with the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs, will support examining options for Child Safe Standards and Reportable Conduct Scheme models.

Mr Speaker—the Palaszczuk Labor Government's 2020-21 Budget is a reflection of the wholehearted commitment to fair and equitable justice for all in Queensland.



**Mr BOYCE** (Callide—LNP) (11.51 pm): I rise to speak to the appropriation bills of 2020. Once again, the Callide electorate has missed out on any major infrastructure builds throughout the entire area. There are a number of upgrades in the education and health portfolio areas. Chinchilla State School has been allocated \$2.8 million over three years for an engineering annexe to support training in the mining, gas and electrical industries. Taroom State School, in my home town, has been allocated \$1.5 million in the 2020-21 budget to replace an existing amenities block. The new addition will be most welcome, I am quite sure; however, I question how it could possibly cost \$1.5 million to replace a toilet block in a small country school. This is a question that I will be following up.

There is a \$6.2 million spend in the 2020-21 budget for the Calliope State High School stage 2 development. This is part of a total \$85 million delivery of a much needed and welcomed high school at Calliope. I acknowledge the efforts of the member for Gladstone, Mr Glenn Butcher, to make this happen, but again I question the money spend. To put it in simple terms, the private sector can build a three-bedroom house for \$200,000, so the high school build equates to approximately 400 new homes. I have been to the school and it is a most modern and wonderful school, but when I look about it I wonder where all the money has gone. Bureaucrats having meetings, perhaps? That is food for thought, I think. Eidsvold State School has been allocated \$600,000 to refurbish amenities and Gin Gin State School receives \$2.5 million for a new administration building.

In the health sector, there is \$122,000 for the Eidsvold Multipurpose Health Service and \$58,000 for redesign and refurbishment of the Gayndah Hospital. There has been nothing in the budget for rural birthing facilities or to address this problem throughout the Callide electorate and throughout rural Queensland.

We have a \$969,000 spend in the 2020-21 budget out of a total \$3.5 million spend to replace the Biloela police facility. There is approximately \$95 million and \$13 million respectively for overhauls and upgrades to the Callide and Kogan Creek power stations. I welcome the recognition by the government that they cannot do without coal-fired power. It is essential to the economy of Queensland that these facilities be kept operational well into the 2050s.

It is plainly obvious that the renewable energy sector projects such as Coopers Gap Wind Farm in my electorate, Australia's largest wind farm, are not capable of being reliable. The AGL wind farm is rapidly turning into another dodgy engineering and investment disaster. Of the 123 towers, 51 of the generators have to be replaced. There are problems with the yaw systems and bolt and blade breakage. Tower No. 10 has been condemned. Talk about renewable energy! It is not even 12 months old and they have to renew it. I suppose when you think about it, jobs will be created dismantling it and rebuilding it.

There is one item that appears in the budget papers that is of concern to me: page 93 of the Capital Statement, Budget Paper No. 3, Awoonga Dam emergency muster shelter 2020-21 budget—\$1.462 million. That is something that deserves an explanation. It might be a mistake; however, it means there will be another letter to the Minister for Water asking for an explanation.

While on the subject of water, one of the biggest single items of expenditure in the Callide electorate is the \$90 million spend on the destruction of Paradise Dam. As I have said many times, this is a disgrace and the most reckless and irresponsible decision I have seen the Labor government make. There is no provision for any water infrastructure builds in the Burnett-Boyne river system to supplement the loss of storage capacity in Paradise Dam.

There are several proposals that need investigating and building to give water security to agriculture up and down the Burnett and Boyne Valley. Fruit and berry growers and irrigators at Mundubbera have been waiting years to have the Cooranga Weir built on the Boyne River to give further water security to the \$100 million local berry industry, as have farmers at Coalstoun Lakes. However, with an anti-farmer agenda promoted by this government, it is unlikely that anything will ever be built. This is disgraceful.



Agriculture is one of our state's most important industries, and it is receiving no support from this government. In fact, what we see is a \$44 million budget cut at a time when agriculture faces the challenges of the COVID-19 era, the ongoing drought and matters like the implementation of Labor's reef legislation. Agriculture will need more extension officers, agronomists, soil scientists' advice and chemical and biosecurity advice. The list goes on and on. How does the government think it will implement reef legislation when the vast majority of agriculture people have little or no knowledge of what is required? Are we just going to put these people in jail for noncompliance? I note in volume 2 of the Service Delivery Statements that environmental policy is 'to control the activities of business and individuals'. That is Orwellian politics at its best. It is all based on flawed and manipulated science. In my view, science is being restructured from an institution of free thought and the generation of ideas into a servant of the ideological dogma of a ruling political regime. It goes further—

... to implement a targeted compliance program aimed at ensuring graziers, cane and banana growers meet their regulatory obligations for minimum practice standards in the regulated reef catchments.

What exactly are these minimum practice standards? Who is writing them up? What is the documentation that is required? Where are the models and the templates that people can use so they can determine if they are compliant or not? Will we see the return of these nasty, spiteful, overzealous burnt-out coppers who became known as the tree police, implemented by the Beattie government in the early 2000s? Will they now be the reef police with their body worn cameras and more powers of entry than ordinary police? I want to know how the government expects agriculture to comply with a slashed budget.

I also note that there is a full page in the Service Delivery Statements devoted to environmental policy programs and regulation services to identify, monitor and take action in relation to unlawful activity. There are detailed explanations and costings on effectiveness and efficiency, on how to prosecute people for noncompliance. Wouldn't it be nice if the government allocated some money to help people navigate reef legislation rather than assume they will be prosecuting them?

As far as the overall budget is concerned, I do not have a problem with the government borrowing money to build infrastructure to create wealth. What I do have a problem with is that since I have become a parliamentarian the total debt will have risen from \$80 billion in 2017 to a projected \$130 billion in 2024. The problem with that is that the government is borrowing money to fund its operational costs far more so than building things to generate wealth. In other words, in 2024, despite borrowing \$28 billion in 2020, the state of Queensland will be worse off than it is now. Unemployment is forecast to remain at 6.5 per cent and the government will have delivered substantially more debt for little or no tangible net worth. We will have seen little or no showpiece money-generating infrastructure builds.

Those opposite will argue things like, 'We built Cross River Rail'. Whilst that is arguably a necessary piece of infrastructure, the reality is that it is a public transport system that is heavily subsidised. It will have ongoing operational and maintenance costs. In other words, it is a net money cost rather than a net money maker for ever and a day.

The COVID-19 economic flow-on effects have not been yet realised. This time next year will be, I think, economically interesting. COVID-19 has not gone away. JobKeeper and JobSeeker will go away because we simply cannot keep paying people to do nothing. I doubt international air travel will return to what we know as normal for possibly years. This will have an economic effect, particularly on the tourism industry.

I would like to make mention of the John Peterson Bridge at Munduberra—a project that the federal government has committed \$20 million to of a total \$25 million build. The Labor government cannot even stump up \$5 million in the 2020-21 budget to get this job done and has rather pushed it out to the 2023-24 budget. This is more evidence of a Labor government that has no commitment to road infrastructure in rural areas, and particularly the Callide electorate.

In closing, the mining and resource sector along with the agricultural sector is what has kept Queensland economically sustainable in this COVID-19 era. There has been little or no support for either sector in the budget. We are caught in an economic rip-tide, dragged out on a sea of debt, treading water until possibly we slowly economically drown in a sea of debt.



**Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (12.02 am): Madam Deputy Speaker Lui, can I acknowledge your elevation to that position and put on record my pride in seeing you there. I think it is properly deadly.

I rise to speak in support of the 2020 appropriation bills. Over the last 12 months Queenslanders have faced unprecedented challenges and we have met those challenges with our characteristic resilience and unique sense of community. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a major impact on so many aspects of our lives, but it has also reminded us of all that is important in our lives: access to good health care and education; frontline services that ensure we remain connected to each other; a place to call home; food security; and, of course, the ability to participate in the economy. It is because of this government's strong health response that we can now deliver a strong economic response and a supercharged recovery. This budget supports the Queensland government's road map to ensure Queensland continues to unite and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

I am very fortunate to represent the incredibly vibrant and diverse electorate of Algester, where we have fantastic schools led by very talented principals and dedicated P&Cs. Over the last five years, the Palaszczuk government has invested over \$40 million in local schools across the Algester electorate. Through this budget we are continuing to invest in our state schools with more than \$11 million in new classrooms and upgrades. This budget includes over \$9 million for new classrooms and an upgraded classroom block at Calamvale Community College. I would like to congratulate the school community—in particular, the school principal, Lisa Starmer, who continues to be a great advocate for the school and Mike Butler and Leesa Mason from the school council executive who displayed great leadership in bringing parents and the school community with us on this journey.

Acacia Ridge State School, led by the principal, Nicole Collins, and the deputy principal, Tara Griffin, will receive \$850,000 for new much needed security fencing and a new playground. Almost \$1.5 million will be provided to Algester State School for upgrades to security fencing and the administration building. Watson Road State School will receive \$50,000 for a new shade cover for the outdoor area. Some \$400,000 has also been secured for the upgrade of the St Bernardine's Catholic Primary School car park. I would like to acknowledge the principal, Nick Gallen, the former P&C president, Kate Thomas, and the current P&C executive for their continuous advocacy for this very important work.

The Palaszczuk government is also supporting the Acacia Ridge sports hub by providing \$500,000 towards delivering Mortimer Road Park sport and recreation precinct. This budget also delivers on the \$30 million upgrade to the intersection of Beaudesert Road, Algester Road and Illaweenah Street, which is part of the Queensland government's economic recovery plan announced before the election. I have been advocating for this much needed upgrade for many years, along with the member for Stretton. I know that many in both of our communities are very much looking forward to work starting in the coming months.

I am also very honoured to take up my new role as Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts. This new department will support Queensland's recovery and play an essential role by delivering frontline services to the most vulnerable in our community, keeping us connected to each other and the economy and supporting Queensland's vibrant arts sector. This year's investment across the communities, housing, arts and digital economy sectors supports Queensland's social recovery as well as the economic recovery by creating jobs, backing our frontline services and helping us tell our stories.

In his response to the budget today the Leader of the Opposition talked a lot about values, but not once in his response did he talk about the importance of having a roof over one's head. He made a lot of motherhood statements, but made very little reference to supporting vulnerable Queenslanders and their needs. I am not surprised given he was part of the Campbell Newman government that removed supports for vulnerable renters like the Tenant Advice and Advocacy Service and embarked on the wholesale giveaway of public social housing stock.

I also note the comments of the shadow arts minister in his budget reply speech that our government's support funding for the arts was not enough. I will tell members who has not gone far enough, and that is the federal government. In fact, they are not even out of the blocks with their support funding for the arts sector, which is still waiting in Queensland. The arts are often the first to give their time and talent when times are tough and the lack of support from the federal government is absolutely appalling. The shadow minister for arts often breaches bipartisan support and I hope that that continues. The best way, however, that he could do this is to put in a call to his federal colleagues.

What a spectacular and extraordinary contribution from the member for Everton—the architect of the plan for the largest wholesale privatisation of public housing in this state. His mock outrage for vulnerable Queenslanders was astonishing to say the least, especially given his appalling record. He

knows the only reason there were fewer Queenslanders on their list seeking public housing was because under the member for Everton's policy the LNP heartlessly cut people who did not fit their criteria.

However, in this budget, in 2020-21, the Palaszczuk government is investing more than \$1 billion to ensure that vulnerable Queenslanders have access to a safe and affordable home. This budget invests more than \$526 million for our housing and homelessness capital program which includes the Housing Construction Jobs Program, Housing Construction Works for Tradies and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing. The capital investment alone will support more than 1,540 full-time equivalent jobs across the construction industry this financial year, as well as many more through the building supply chain.

It will deliver an additional 455 homes to Queensland's social housing portfolio. The total funding will see construction commence on a further 832 new homes, as well as provide essential upgrades to existing homes. It will include the purchase of dwellings suitable to add to our social housing stock, as well as secure land for future construction of social housing. This year's housing and homelessness capital program also includes \$70 million for the \$100 million Works for Tradies stimulus announced in June this year as part of our Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs package.

Works for Tradies will see contracts signed for the commencement of 215 new homes across identified priority regions by the end of 2020-21 and support around 240 jobs. This year's budget commits \$241 million to improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing outcomes, including \$142.2 million to improve social housing and deliver housing services in discrete communities.

There is \$42.5 million to improve state owned and managed Indigenous housing across Queensland, including tenancy management, upgrades and maintenance, and \$32.3 million toward the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan, including progressing new housing across 17 local council areas and, importantly, establishing a peak Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing body.

Also included in this year's budget is \$18 million to support members of remote communities to achieve home ownership, as well as \$6 million for homelessness responses, including completing construction of crisis shelters. We are also committing \$139 million this year to provide housing and support for vulnerable people, particularly those experiencing domestic and family violence, young people and First Nation people, mainly through investing in specialist homelessness services across Queensland.

Mr Speaker has reviewed and approved my speech on the budget for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech is incorporated in *Hansard*.

*The speech read as follows—*

#### **Communities**

Mr. Speaker, the Palaszczuk Government and our partner agencies play a vital role in our communities to ensure the vulnerable have access to support when they need it.

The global pandemic created new challenges in supporting Queenslanders but also re-focused our efforts to ensure appropriate support was available when and where it was necessary.

Neighbourhood and Community Centres are at the frontline of their local communities, offering a range of services and support tailored to their respective needs.

This can include domestic and family violence assistance, help with gambling issues, financial counselling, emergency relief, food pantries, homelessness supports and general counselling.

For almost 30 years, Belong has been an important community hub in my electorate.

As the local member I have seen first-hand the fantastic work they do to care for vulnerable locals and I am proud that we are continuing our strong record of supporting community centres like this, across Queensland.

The Communities 2020-21 budget is more than \$143 million and includes an \$18.9 million investment in Neighbourhood and Community Centres.

Of this, we have allocated \$1 million to 60 Neighbourhood and Community Centres for Round Three of the Thriving Queensland Communities Grants.

There is \$1.7 million for Neighbourhood and Community Centres to further mobilise the state's Care Army by engaging 15 Neighbourhood Connect Workers to assist high-needs communities impacted by COVID-19.

This year, the Palaszczuk Government is providing \$4.7 million for additional COVID support for the state's communities.

\$3.6 million of this is for psychosocial support through the Red Cross and \$1.1 million for Uniting Care Queensland Services and Care Army Volunteers.

An allocation of \$3.7 million will be provided to 24 service providers employing approximately 28.7 FTE financial counsellors and resilience workers in 26 locations, with an additional \$6.2 million over two years through a package of emergency support.

We are also committing \$1.16 million per annum to two Good Money Stores, providing improved access to No Interest Loans in Cairns and on the Gold Coast.

### Arts

Mr Speaker, our arts, cultural and creative sector will play a crucial role in the recovery of our economy, and bringing together our communities, as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The arts help us to understand who we are, where we've been, and to make sense of the significant challenges that we face in an increasingly complex world.

Prior to the onset of the COVID-19 the arts, cultural and creative sector contributed around \$12.3 billion direct or indirect contribution to Queensland's economy annually, and directly or indirectly employed more than 92,000 Queenslanders.

That's why the Palaszczuk Government views investment the arts, cultural and creative sectors as being critical for Queensland's future.

With the lifting of necessary COVID-19 restrictions that have helped keep us safe, Queenslanders are looking for opportunities to re-engage with the arts as part of the recovery and to participate in cultural activities in their communities again.

This year the Palaszczuk Government has committed \$290.3 million to the arts portfolio.

This commitment will support Queensland's diverse arts and cultural sector and includes investment in the state's major collecting and cultural institutions, major performing arts companies, small to medium arts sector, and transformative cultural infrastructure.

The Arts Queensland 2020-21 budget includes a \$22.5 million injection in new investment through the two-year, Arts and Cultural Recovery Package, announced in June.

This package is a down-payment on Creative Together, our 10-year Roadmap to renew and transform Queensland through creativity.

It delivers key actions of the Roadmap's first two-year action plan: Sustain 2020-2022.

This funding is already hitting the sector, with \$12.8 million from the recovery package already committed to 242 applicants state-wide and supporting around 9,200 employment opportunities.

The Palaszczuk Government is also building on our proud record of investing in the arts and cultural infrastructure which our communities will need in the decades to come.

In 2020-21 this includes \$2 million of our total \$15 million commitment to the new Rockhampton Museum of Art.

\$21.15 million is to deliver the state-of-the-art 1,500 seat, new performing arts venue for QPAC, supporting more than 100 jobs for Queenslanders.

Mr Speaker, the doors to our museums and galleries have reopened, and our theatre curtains can once again rise to full houses.

Through our investment in Queensland's artists, organisations and in our vibrant cultural experiences for all Queenslanders, the Palaszczuk Government is sending a strong message that we are standing by the arts and cultural sector as it emerges from the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Digital Economy

The Palaszczuk Government is investing to ensure that Queenslanders have the skills for jobs now and into the future.

Through our \$200 million Future Skills Fund, we will invest \$8 million through the delivery of a Digital Professional Workforce Plan.

Over four years this will support Queenslanders to access ICT and digital skilling, up-skilling and re-skilling education and training opportunities.

This investment is great news for Queenslanders who are looking for a career in the Digital Economy.

It supports the rapid pace and scale of digital transformation that we have witnessed through industry responses to COVID-19.

The Digital Professional Workforce Plan will be delivered with sector partners, with the aim of supplying an additional 10,000 digital professionals in Queensland by 2024.

### Conclusion

The Palaszczuk Government's Budget has a clear plan to Unite and Recover from the impacts of COVID—19.

And we are delivering on Queensland's plan for economic recovery.

Mr Speaker, I congratulate the Treasurer on an excellent Budget, and I commend the Bill to the House.



**Ms BOLTON (Noosa—Ind) (12.10 am):** Madam Deputy Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to respond to the 2020-21 appropriation bills. Firstly, I would like to commend the government on the efforts this past year. In a global pandemic and emergency, that Queensland has become an even more desired destination to relocate to by people and businesses from other states is testimony to how the health and economic aspects of COVID-19 have been managed—and we are experiencing that in Noosa right now.

Yes, along the way as MPs we have had grievances on behalf of our communities which emanated from several factors and which I submitted as part of the inquiry into the government's handling of COVID-19. In my speech to the COVID-19 bill this week—again I was unable to deliver it due to the time allocations process that needs reviewing—I noted that the greatest certainty we now need is how outbreaks will be managed into the future without the need to close borders.

As stated by the Treasurer, this budget has no surprises and continues on from the unite and recover strategy and COVID-19 Fiscal and Economic Review delivered in September this year. The focus on Queensland made and job creation through shovel-ready projects across the state remains prominent, and understandably so. Even though within my own community we may not have been as prepared as we could have been with these 'shovel-readies', to see a focus on Queensland attempting to become self-reliant, and greater so, is of benefit to all. I note the contribution by the member for Traeger about what our communities ask for in social infrastructure versus the less popular projects that deliver legacy benefits and how conflicting this can be.

Increased or new funding in a number of arenas important to my electorate includes wellness professionals in our schools, palliative care and suicide prevention initiatives—and I will be seeking our share. Extra firefighters and police, given the ongoing management of COVID-19, are essential. I also trust within funding allocations that the capabilities of drones will quickly be introduced to assist our frontliners in their endeavours, as well as further funding firefighting innovations that proudly call Noosa home.

Even though our own TAFE was closed seven years ago and is resuming in an expressions of interest process now that the caretaker period is over, the free courses and apprenticeships now available for people up to 25 years of age will be welcomed by many. I thank the department for committing resources to assist our Noosa Education and Training Alliance in efforts to develop an education hub, as this is vital for our community and future. I just trust that it does not take as long to get this established as how long the decommissioned TAFE has sat there.

For our businesses it is positive to see that government will now have a 25 per cent target in procurement from our small to medium businesses, embedding non-price related considerations of social and environmental outcomes. We need the 'support and buy local' campaign to be more than just a slogan. These commitments will assist, as will the continuation and extension of grants, including the extremely popular and oversubscribed small business adaption grant, retention of other initiatives such as payroll tax refunds and payment waivers which have all been invaluable to many Noosa businesses during this time. If we could, as requested of the Small Business Commissioner, create a level playing field for our producers battling against cheaper overseas imports, it would be a game changer. We need to support our own.

For Noosa, there definitely were no surprises, as the majority of commitments in this budget had already been announced, including the funding for stage 1 of Beckmans Road, replacement of Six Mile Bridge No. 7 and Noosa Parade—which were all greatly appreciated. Stages 2 and 3 of the Beckmans upgrade were not expected to be in the mix given the slow progress of designs. However, I trust that TMR and Noosa council will escalate efforts to have those ready for the next budget in June—unbelievably only seven months away.

Additionally, other projects in our 'list' including upgrades to sports facilities and the Regen Hub have a way to go before funding consideration, though the smaller projects should have designs and costings ready for grants in the first part of 2021. We look forward to the release of the clinical master plan and that its findings are actioned to address our medical needs including expansion of our emergency department at the Noosa Hospital.

One urgent priority, as stressed at a meeting with the Minister for Transport last week, is to ensure that whatever funding is needed be available to address the devastating impact to our hinterland communities from the inappropriate and dangerous volume of heavy haulage on a route assessed as deficient and inherently unsuitable a decade ago. This is traumatising our residents, businesses and infrastructure. With designs and costings not expected until the new year, and alternative options that need to be investigated and the advice from Noosa council's barrister due, I cannot believe that, with the resources available including legislation and laws developed to protect our people and communities, this is happening. It is totally unacceptable and must be resolved urgently, without blame as to whose fault it is or any excuses.

Grants and funding have delivered much to our community organisations, businesses and council through the COVID-19 Works for Queensland. This gives the ability to grow, service and maintain our community facilities as well as provide jobs. I seek again, as every year, that Noosa be

permanently included in this program as it is vital for an electorate heavily impacted by underemployment and other socio-economic issues shared by neighbouring electorates that are eligible.

Volunteer organisations remain the most undervalued in our communities, and those that provide lifesaving and enhancing services—and need to sausage sizzle their way to do so—need greater considerations. Yes, grants are given and appreciated with reviews undertaken to find a fairer funding model. However, in these efforts there are concerns from volunteers surrounding proposed structural changes, and these should be consulted on extensively with them.

There are some components missing in this budget that are essential as part of our recovery. I have made no secret of the historical crisis faced in Noosa, and now the broader Sunshine Coast, of the lack of affordable housing and emergency accommodation. The budget includes \$88.1 million for social housing in the greater Sunshine Coast region, and I trust that this includes community housing in my electorate for our workers. This is vital for our key industries that are heavily casualised and unable to source staff due to a lack of affordable rentals. In comparable countries, 20 per cent of housing is classified as community, with Australia hosting only some five per cent. The provision of social housing is not only a job creator but also has a positive flow-on effect to the ramifications of housing and financial duress including substance abuse, domestic violence, mental and physical health. All levels of government must work together on this. As I have said before, there can be no more excuses on this.

Our environment is an asset that continues to be underfunded. A key component of our economy is the attraction of our natural spaces. Locations such as Noosa, with unlimited numbers of visitors to our national parks and recreation areas, with limited funds to adequately manage, see their economic viability under threat.

Financial management must incorporate asset management, and when it is not maintained it becomes a liability. Overall, as stated at the beginning, this budget has no surprises. Yes, concerns have been raised, including with regard to the level of our debt. There have been reassurances from several indicators—we have retained our Standard & Poor's rating—that the interest from Queensland's investments will cover the interest associated with this debt.

Debate in this chamber is understandably confusing to Queenslanders—and I am getting many requestions on Facebook about this—as to the \$4 billion versus \$28 billion debt. A clear statement from the Treasurer on this is needed to clear up any confusion.

Regardless of who is in government, those in opposition will give examples of missing out, where funds have been cut or targets not met, including myself. I think of this and examples in my own community over the years where projects have been taken off QTRIP or our TAFE closed, with these funds obviously then being utilised elsewhere—in other electorates maybe? Is it the case that we exist in an economy of longstanding where we rob Peter to pay Paul as a norm? If we are, how do we finally move beyond this? A simple place to start is with our processes. We can all give hundreds of examples where the simplest of endeavours gets lost in elongated and costly inaction. Let's move to efficiency in how we operate and innovate, not procrastinate.

Nobody ever said this part of our journey through the COVID recovery was going to be easy and would not incur some heavy costs. To take us from the 'survive and strive' mode we have endured since the beginning of the year to our 'thrive' destination we must do whatever it takes with foresight and projects with legacy benefits for our next generations. With the next budget literally only half a year away, my community will be focused on getting our projects to a shovel-ready stage so they can be considered in the 2021-22 budget. Where needed, I will continue to personally fund the emergency accommodation we lack, provide transport to hospital appointments which are absent for our frail, and provide grassroots clarity around what our communities face and what they seek.

To say that this has been an extenuating year, leading to an extremely difficult budget and estimates process, is an understatement. Before I close, it is relevant to note that to scrutinise the service delivery statements and compile questions for some seven committees covering multiple departments does not give the crossbench members or the opposition adequate time to do our job thoroughly, which is to scrutinise, question and hold the government to account. Again I ask that the components of the standing and sessional orders that contribute to these shortfalls be reviewed in the new year.

Our appreciation goes to all who have worked extensively to deliver this budget, as well scrutinised, including ministers and departments. May 2021 bring a much easier year on multiple fronts for all Queenslanders.



**Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (12.23 am): I rise to speak on the budget delivered by the Palaszczuk Labor government for 2020-21. In doing so, I wish to congratulate the Treasurer for delivering an outstanding budget in outstanding times. This outstanding budget delivers for Queenslanders and delivers for the Wide Bay, but most importantly for my electorate it delivers for the people of Bundaberg.

The Palaszczuk Labor government has delivered four surpluses since being elected in 2015, demonstrating that in Queensland it is Labor governments that come through for everyday Queenslanders. We have seen this Palaszczuk Labor government come through again for Queenslanders and the people of Bundaberg, albeit while having to borrow. Just as with other communities across the world, our community of Bundaberg faced the challenges of a global pandemic. Our schools were challenged to deliver for their students in a way like no other before. Our businesses faced extremes of uncertainty about what to do with COVID-19 and what it would mean for their lives and livelihoods. Our community groups, sporting clubs, tradespeople and professionals wanted an answer as to how our state could recover from such a crisis, the likes of which we have never seen.

The strong health response to COVID-19 by the Palaszczuk government has delivered a strong economic recovery plan that has now delivered a budget that invests in the Bundaberg electorate. This budget safeguards the health and wellbeing of our neighbours, our friends and our community of Bundaberg by investing in construction projects at the Bundaberg Hospital site and for the alcohol and other drugs rehabilitation centre. We have already seen the commitment to deliver the new Bundaberg Hospital with the announcement of the preferred location and \$6.7 million for the business case study. As we speak, residents across the Wide Bay are providing their input into our new hospital through the WBHHS survey. Earlier in the year the Premier stood next to me at the preferred location, and together we promised to deliver a new hospital for Bundaberg. That is exactly what we will do for the people of not only Bundaberg but the Wide Bay region as well.

Bundaberg is a community surrounded by, and immersed within, the culture of the finest growers in the country. Those men and women within our agricultural and horticultural industries have done it tough through drought and the difficulties of COVID-19. That is why I am glad to see a \$1.2 million spend to identify local workforce needs across the state and work in collaboration to generate solutions. I am also thrilled that over \$4 million will be going towards the creation of a new agriculture and horticulture centre and Maker Space Centre at the Bundaberg TAFE.

Investing in regional Queenslanders, investing in Bundaberg—that is what this budget does, and it is because of the strong economic recovery plan put in place by those on this side of the House from investing in skills and tertiary education to investing in our Bundy schools. When you add them all up, there are over \$10 million worth of projects to be delivered to the schools in our Bundaberg community, including: \$400,000 for the Bundaberg North State High School; \$150,000 for the Bundaberg South State School; \$150,000 for the Bundaberg Special School—

**Mr Mickelberg:** Boring!

**Mr SMITH:** Education is not boring! We back education on this side of the House. There is over \$500,000 for the great students at Kepknock State High School; \$700,000 for a school security fence at Norville State School; a refurbishment project for Walkervale State School's outdoor learning area; as well as investments in further maintenance and minor work across 15 schools in the Bundaberg electorate. Of course, this budget sees \$6.96 million towards \$11 million worth of infrastructure builds to Bundaberg State High School. Mayor Jack Dempsey and I, along with the principal, Karen McCord, inspected the impressive construction of the new learning and resource centre building, which is already underway.

Being a teacher, I know the importance of investing in our students and their learning environment in order to generate a renewed energy and passion in the learning of students and the teaching of staff. These are fantastic announcements and commitments that I am proud to be delivering for Bundaberg through the outstanding work of the Palaszczuk Labor government in consultation with the Treasurer.

There are even more great commitments for the people of Bundaberg. Earlier in the year I met with Minister Hinchliffe in front of the Bundaberg East State School. While at that school we investigated the marking that indicates how high the water came in the devastating 2013 flood. Thanks to Minister Hinchliffe, and with the confirmation of Deputy Premier Steven Miles yesterday, staff, students and parents can rest assured that their terrific school will be protected by the Bundaberg East flood levee, to which the Palaszczuk government has committed \$42.5 million.

When I doorknocked through the streets of Bundaberg East and Bundaberg South, residents continuously asked me to champion their cause to deliver the flood levee. This announcement is a win for those residents who fought for the cause of protecting homes and businesses in Bundy. That \$42.5 million is also the amount that was announced by Minister Bailey earlier in the campaign for upgrades along the Isis Highway. I would like to take this moment to table comments made by the member for Burnett in a Facebook post where he said that the \$42.5 million had gone missing.

*Tabled paper:* Extract, undated, from the Facebook page of the member for Burnett, Mr Stephen Bennett MP, regarding Labor state election promises [\[357\]](#).

That is a somewhat embarrassing gaffe, but that is okay. For his benefit, I would also like to table a document from the Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program which clearly displays funding allocations for 2020-21 and onwards as well.

*Tabled paper:* Extract from the Department of Transport and Main Roads, Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2020-21 to 2023-24 for Wide Bay-Burnett [\[358\]](#).

The Palaszczuk Labor government has invested in road upgrades across Bundaberg and will deliver the \$42.5 million Isis Highway upgrades. I would also like to note that, should the member for Burnett wish to discuss the matters further, my office is always open. After all, he is a constituent in my electorate so he can come any time.

This budget is a budget that delivers on promises and invests in the region of Bundaberg. I thank the Premier, the Deputy Premier and all of the ministers who came to visit our community of Bundaberg with announcements to invest in local jobs and local infrastructure. Major job projects and major infrastructure projects were committed to and delivered in the budget for the people of Bundaberg by the Palaszczuk Labor government and its team of ministers. For example, through the hard work of Minister de Brenni, the Housing Construction Jobs Program will deliver over \$1 million in 2020-21 for the continued construction of 23 housing accommodation units—investing in people and investing in jobs.

Whilst we saw the Palaszczuk government and its team of ministers flock to Bundaberg during the election to invest in the community of my electorate, what did we see from the LNP? I will tell the House what we saw. We saw the LNP forget about the people of my electorate, and now we see the LNP abandoning the people of the Bundaberg region. They are abandoning them. As if it were not bad enough to see them sell out the safety of the people of Bundaberg when they voted against the essential works on Paradise Dam—essential works supported by documents—they did not commit to one major infrastructure or jobs project for the Bundaberg electorate during the campaign.


When the then leader of the opposition came to town, she dragged the local members of the region to a press conference where she announced nothing for Bundaberg. Instead, there was an announcement for her own seat of Nanango. That was bad enough, but what did we see in the weeks following the election? The member for Burnett, a senior member of this House, was given the boot from the shadow ministry as his party abandoned the Bundaberg region for the Whitsundays. The Premier and her government do not forget the Bundaberg region. This budget does not forget the people of Bundaberg. I will always make it my mission to deliver for Bundaberg, and the proof is in the budget of 2020-21.

This side of the House has restored frontline services. Where the LNP marched 120 nurses and midwives out the door of Wide Bay hospitals, the Palaszczuk Labor government has delivered 295 extra nurses, 117 extra doctors and 74 extra teacher aides. As a teacher, I know how valuable our teacher aides are. Let us remind ourselves of what a bad budget does. What did they do to nurses? A bad budget marches 345 health workers out the door of the Wide Bay hospitals. What does a good budget do? A good budget delivers for communities like that of Bundaberg—with \$300,000 for pathology refurbishment, \$100,000 for lighting upgrades at Salter Oval and \$100,000 to the Bundaberg Central Men's Shed. Each time I met with the members of the Bundaberg Central Men's Shed, I said to them that I had not given up the fight to deliver for them. I am proud to say that I kept that fight up, all the way to the very last days of the budget being finalised. I thank the Treasurer for his patience and concern for the community which was shown by him listening to me talk about the outstanding work of that fine group of gentlemen in that community.

This is a budget built on the strong health response to COVID-19, a response that is enabling a strong economic recovery plan that has delivered a budget that is delivering for the people of Bundaberg. Tick, tick, boom. It is delivering for infrastructure, delivering for health and safety, delivering for frontline services and delivering for jobs. This is a budget that is good for Bundy.



I heard earlier the member for Nanango make some fairly untruthful and baseless comments. Paradise Dam has always been about the safety of the people of Bundaberg. It has always been about the safety of over 8,800 lives. What did I say to voters on the pre poll? I told them exactly what our policy was. If it is safe to do so, then the preferred option is to restore the spillway—but only if it is safe to do so. Those on the other side of the House would risk the lives of close to 9,000 people in Bundaberg. Shame on them. We need to make sure that we protect water infrastructure. There is one tick. There are two ticks. There goes the boom. This is a great budget for the people of Bundaberg and I thank the Treasurer.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (12.37 am): Well, that was an erudite contribution. I felt like I was listening to Young Labor versus the Young LNP. If there is anywhere where the LNP has proven to be dominant, it is the Gold Coast, and this budget is an example of why the LNP is so dominant on the Gold Coast and why we have 10 of the 11 seats on the Gold Coast. In the 'Creating jobs on the Gold Coast' budget document, there are no job-creating projects in Surfers Paradise.

Of the 30 projects that were mentioned, not one of them is in Surfers Paradise and that is an area where the *Queensland Times* reported on 11 October 2020 that through COVID one in 13 workers had been laid off and lost their jobs and there was 13.5 per cent youth unemployment. The best that the government can do for the electorate of Surfers Paradise is precisely zero when you look at the regional action plan for the Gold Coast. That is why the Gold Coast, which was cut adrift by the Labor government during COVID, has stayed so strongly pro LNP, and I am very proud to remain as the member for Surfers Paradise.

I want to speak about the global budget issues, the local budget issues in Surfers, the business issues, the local issues such as roads, crime, police and hooning, and the portfolio issues. As I have already mentioned, there were no projects in Surfers. The government says it is bringing debt forward but let us look at the debt numbers. The debt numbers for 2019-20 were due to be \$78.5 billion pre COVID, and suddenly it became \$85 billion. Isn't it amazing that that is the number it was when we came into government in 2012. That was the outnumber that the debt was going to become—\$85 billion.

Through our prudent management we got that debt down to just over \$70 billion. It has only taken five years for Labor to go straight back to \$85 billion. For 2020-21 the debt is \$102 billion; for 2021-22, \$113 billion; for 2022-23, \$123 billion; and for 2023-24, \$130 billion, as we have heard. As I have said, there are no infrastructure projects that would provide jobs in Surfers Paradise.

The four-year infrastructure spend—we have heard those opposite talking about how much that is going to be—is \$56 billion in Queensland, but over the same period New South Wales, \$107 billion; and Victoria, \$78.4 billion is what they are spending for infrastructure. There is a clear difference between what is being borrowed and what is going to be delivered from this Labor government.

We only have to look at the Sensis Business Index to see what they wrote recently on 25 November about what business thinks about federal and state government policies for small and medium enterprises. They said—

59% of Queensland businesses said the Federal Government's policies were supportive with just 9% saying they worked against small businesses and 19% saying no impact. When it came to its own state, 21% said Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk policies worked against small business, 40% said they were supportive and 25% said it had no impact.

It is obvious there is far more support for the federal government's policies, including those of JobSeeker and JobKeeper, than for this state government. I refer to a local business owner, and many businesses in Surfers Paradise suffered so badly through this period of COVID. I received this email today and I will quote from it. The business owner says—

... we have experienced a consistent decrease in business of 95% or more.

It is a travel agency. He says—

The Qld Government has provided Grants of up to \$10,000 which is appreciated but covered very little. Government funded loans have also been provided but they are loan which do need to be repaid.

He summarised the situation by saying—

Our travel agent businesses and conference and event management divisions have suffered significant losses since March 2020. Travel agent revenue down 95% or more and conference business down 100%

Every week the borders were closed meant we incurred more and more losses. If NSW and Sydney was opened to Qld in October and November we could have started to make up some of those losses and this is not what is understood by the Qld Government. While we can now start to see an increase in business in December additional significant losses have already been banked in the last few months.

The Qld Government in promoting Queenslanders holidaying Qld has totally ignored travel agents. When they launched the Whitsundays campaign many months ago, it promoted booking directly and also using Alliance Airlines which cut the travel agents out and at that time also Virgin Australia. Our conference management business will continue to struggle to attract events to Qld as there is still no confidence the borders will remain open.

While the Qld Government has provided some financial support to theme parks and some tourism destinations, there has been no support for small tourism operators or travel agents that have had more than 50% loss of revenue through this time, in many cases more than 80% or 90%. The same applies to many in hospitality.

We need certainty that borders will now remain open and proper management and tracing plans are in place so we can manage any small outbreaks or interstate hot spots. Further border closures would be the end of many businesses. It will take 12-18 months for our business to make any significant impact on the losses and the debt incurred. The Qld Government needs to understand that even though the borders are now open, recovery does not happen overnight and it will take many months or years in some cases for affected businesses to recover to profitability.

He goes on to say—

We require some form of financial support from the Qld Government, a business restart grant or something like that to financially assist us to cover costs while we restart the business. It was the Qld Government decision to keep the borders closed to the end of November so we strongly feel they must contribute as we have significant losses to recoup.

Any tourism marketing needs to include the travel agent. We provide a very important service of knowledge and experience, bringing overall holidays together flights, accommodation, car rental, attractions etc ... In these times with health and risk management heightened, we can provide the one stop place where travellers can feel they are being looked after.

Incentives to attract conferences and events to Qld need to be more significant and far reaching. We can sell conferences and groups into Qld but we need marketing support and incentives. We also need certainty over borders remaining open.

I am sorry. That was a very long quote, but it shows the frustration felt by that particular business operator. It is something I wanted to put on the record.

I want to speak now about local issues. I have spoken about the fact that there are no job-creating projects amongst the government's own promises. I do want to speak about local issues that were particularly significant during COVID, the issues of crime and police numbers due to the manning of the quarantine hotels and the borders. I have stood in this House on multiple occasions to talk about how Labor likes to drive down to the coast for good news stories but disappears when challenges arise in our area. This stands true in the case of Bundall Road where the LNP planned and funded the six-lane road widening at Broadbeach Waters and upgrades for the 2018 Commonwealth Games. However, when Labor took the wheel they failed to ensure the safety of my constituents.

Along this stretch of road the safety concerns are twofold: on our footpaths and on our roads. The footpaths from Sophie Avenue to Fremar Street are uneven, wonky and substandard. The footpaths slant towards the road and at different angles. When the roads were widened along this street, Labor neglected the footpaths. I walked along the footpath with local resident Frank Partington, who is 88, and his neighbours Lazlo and Ilde and it is dangerous. Frank, who uses a walker, said both he and his neighbour who walks with a pram along this footpath are terrified of tripping over or slipping along this substandard footpath. The combination of the slanted footpath with widening means that there is the possibility of falling directly into oncoming traffic, and I table photos that are an example of the situation there.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of photographs, dated 16 July 2019, depicting defective and sloping pavements on Bermuda Street, Gold Coast [359]

I have been writing to the minister since August 2018 and after following up with him three times in October 2018, December 2018 and May 2019, I finally received a response in July 2019. In true Labor fashion, he denied all responsibility for the footpath, saying it is a council responsibility.

Twelve months from my original query, the Labor minister responded saying that it is a state responsibility but he would not do anything about it because no-one had been injured or killed yet, and I table that letter.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 27 August 2019, from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, the Hon. Mark Bailey, to the member for Surfers Paradise, Mr John-Paul Langbroek MP, regarding defective and sloping pavements on Bermuda Street, Gold Coast [360].

This is Labor's attitude towards the Gold Coast. What a kick in the guts for Frank Partington and other residents of Broadbeach. What is even more terrifying is that the cars that travel down this road rarely travel at the speed limit, which has been reduced to 60 kilometres per hour in both directions. As someone who drives that road every day, I can confirm that with my cruise control on 60 kilometres an hour I have people overtaking or tailgating me. It is especially bad between the Monaco Street bridge and Fremar Street in both directions.

Whilst I acknowledge the addition of the red light and speed camera at the Rudd Street and Bermuda Street intersection, this is not the silver bullet to improving safety in the area. Another measure is needed between the Monaco Street bridge and Fremar Street in both directions where I witness speeding from drivers every day. They tailgate those driving at the speed limit, particularly those who are travelling north in the right-hand lane via the continuous flow intersection to turn on to Isle of Capri at Salerno Street. From the bridge to Fremar Street travelling south, those travelling at the 60 kilometre per hour limit are constantly passed or tailgated.

I challenge the minister to walk along the substandard footpaths from Sophie Avenue to Fremar Street and take into account people such as Frank Partington who rely on walking to remain active and get around. I also challenge the police and transport and main roads ministers to see for themselves that the speeding issue along Bermuda Street and Bundall Road has not been fixed. It is time to implement another method to improve behaviour along the entire stretch of road, not just at Rudd Street. This became a lot worse during COVID. It got bad past the Sorrento shops where a vehicle lost control and crashed into bushes where people sit outside the Baskin-Robbins ice cream shop.

There is also significant confusion at the intersection of Bundall Road and Ashmore Road turning south towards Broadbeach. Because it is an intersection that is not completely aligned, there are people who believe as they turn into Bundall Road they are coming to a red light and they stop in the middle of the intersection. There have been numerous accidents, and I have asked the department for statistics about how many accidents have occurred there.

I was speaking about police issues when it came to speeding, but there are also issues about hooning. Recently there was a report in the paper that there was a significant hoon event outside Ocean Avenue and Surfers Paradise Boulevard on 24 November. A young man from Capalaba was fined \$427 and had his car impounded for 90 days. Yesterday in the paper it was reported that he went for an online funding source to try to get the vehicle back.

This occurred just outside Sun City. One of my residents sent me a photo of their view of the intersection over the light rail tracks with terrible marks on the road but, most importantly, the smoke. This posed potential danger to residents, to people walking and to the light rail itself. They are things that local residents have been complaining about at Bermuda Street, Robina Parkway, from Main Beach to Broadbeach, along Bundall Road and in Clear Island Waters. Many people are starting vigilante groups or employing private security guards because they are so concerned about the fact they are not able to get service from the police, who have been too busy during COVID.

I will quickly turn to issues concerning my portfolios. I am very proud to be the shadow minister for seniors, communities and disability services, having taken over from the honourable member for Moggill in this role, and the shadow minister for multiculturalism and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships. Today in his contribution the opposition leader said that if we are economically strong it allows us to be socially compassionate. I am concerned that Labor is borrowing seven times what it promised during the recent election campaign. Wouldn't it be nice to see seven times the improvement in outcomes for some of our most vulnerable citizens and communities? As we heard earlier from the honourable member for Southern Downs, we rarely hear from Labor about outputs; we only hear from Labor about inputs.


Some 915,000 Queenslanders are recognised as having a disability, but as at 30 September this year only 81,138 Queenslanders were receiving support as part of the NDIS. That means there is a significant portion of vulnerable Queenslanders dependent on the state government for support. There is only a minor allocation for social services, housing and other community services. We maintain that that is not good enough, but we hear the same blame game from those opposite. We heard it earlier from the Minister for Communities. They say that it is the fault of the federal government. The reality is that Labor's incompetence means it is unable to provide support to vulnerable Queenslanders.

The Labor government has thrown millions of dollars at the Deadly Choices program, aimed at improving Indigenous health outcomes, but it has failed miserably on developing comprehensive economic development opportunities for Indigenous communities. Queensland still sits at the bottom of the league table when compared to other jurisdictions when it comes to Closing the Gap targets. Under the LNP's watch—and as education minister—we had a significant increase in early childhood education participation, setting up thousands of Indigenous Queenslanders for a better chance of succeeding at school. Similarly, in relation to Labor's approach to seniors more needs to be done. Queensland deserves so much better than what is on offer from a tired, complacent Labor government. I will fight in this parliament to make sure their voices are heard.

Interruption.

## PRIVILEGE

### Alleged Contempt of Parliament

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (12.52 am): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. I did not want to interrupt the honourable member during his contribution, but on two or three occasions while the member was speaking and you, Madam Deputy Speaker Gerber, were drawing the House to order, the member for Cairns yelled, 'Unbelievable.' He also said, 'Now you do it.' This is a serious matter that temporary Speakers—

**Government members** interjected.


**Mr BLEIJIE:** I have a matter of privilege suddenly arising which I will be writing to the Speaker about. Madam Deputy Speaker, temporary Speakers such as yourself are owed the courtesy of all members in this House. I will be writing to the Speaker. I have written down the comments the member made while you were making your orders in the House. I think it is disrespectful to the person in the chair, whoever they are. I call on the member to apologise.

## APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (2020-2021) BILL

### APPROPRIATION (2020-2021) BILL

#### Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed from p. 441.

 **Mr WALKER** (Mundingburra—ALP) (12.53 am): I rise to speak in support of the appropriation bill 2020-21 and highlight what is within it for the seat of Mundingburra. Firstly, I thank Treasurer Cameron Dick and his team for a budget that will create jobs right across this state while keeping Queensland safe. It is a budget that will unite and help us on the road to economic recovery after such a serious global pandemic, COVID-19. I also thank the Premier, Annastacia Palaszczuk, for her strong leadership during such a testing time and for protecting the people of Queensland. I know that my community of Mundingburra was incredibly proud of this government's effort in ensuring that, although it was very sad and an absolute tragedy to lose six lives to this devastating virus, the lives of many thousands of Queenslanders were saved. This was down to the amazing work of this government, Dr Jeannette Young and all Queenslanders who braved these tough times and followed the health advice.

The Premier's strong leadership has no doubt placed Queensland in a very strong position moving forward by safeguarding our health and jobs by keeping Queensland pandemic ready. This strong position will help to implement our economic recovery plan. This budget is one that addresses the needs of Queenslanders and the ever-changing economy through advances in technology and the need for improved skills and training, ready for the challenges that face my community now and into the future.

This government is backing small business, the backbone of our economy, to thrive in a changing environment. In the seat of Mundingburra, small business has been supported during this global pandemic with 163 small business adaptation grants totalling \$1,489,375 being paid to date—businesses like Kings Cakes bakery in Gulliver, a small, family owned business that utilised the grant to stay open, pay wages and adapt during these testing times. 'Making it for Queensland' by growing manufacturing across traditional and new industries, making new products in new ways and creating new jobs during this pandemic has proven the difference.

As the Treasurer outlined, Queensland had positive economic growth. I repeat for members on the other side of the House: economic growth during the pandemic. This government is focused on helping Queensland's regions grow by attracting people, talent and investment and by driving sustainable economic prosperity. Investing in skills is what Labor governments are all about—ensuring Queenslanders have the skills and resources they need to find meaningful jobs and set up pathways for the future. I am proud to highlight that the Back to Work—Regional Employment Package in the Mundingburra electorate has supported 547 jobs through funding of \$5,340,137 to date, with at least \$359,250 committed so far for 2021.

I turn to education. This government took an ambitious pledge to the people of Queensland to strongly invest in our future generations through investment in our education system. More teachers, teacher aides and infrastructure in Queensland schools not only benefit the economy during the

pandemic but also benefit our most important asset: our people—Queenslanders. In Mundingburra alone, this budget has delivered new play equipment for year 6 at Cranbrook State School. The Townsville Community Learning Centre will receive \$3.42 million of \$7.6 million for additional classrooms. There is \$700,000 for a new safety and security fence at Cranbrook State School; \$600,000 for an improved learning space to support the STEM curriculum at William Ross State High School; \$600,000 for refurbishment and modernising B block at William Ross State High School; \$310,000 for the refurbishment of P block at Annandale State School; \$500,000 to upgrade the oval and irrigation system at William Ross State High School; \$380,000 to refurbish and modernise three learning spaces into two—E block—at Mundingburra State School; and \$130,000 to commence work on refurbishing a teachers block at Cranbrook State School. The Palaszczuk Labor government is walking the walk—not like those on the other side of the House who talk the talk.

As the father of a dedicated ICU nurse, I understand the importance of a world-class health system that keeps Queenslanders healthy. It is not rocket science. Without a healthy population we cannot have a productive workforce contributing to our economy and keeping Queensland moving. A big thankyou to the Deputy Premier for his ongoing support during the recent state election when it came to the topic of investment in health. I am proud to say that he is a true believer in the amazing work done at Townsville University Hospital in my seat of Mundingburra, and his many visits to Townsville always came with increased commitments to improve the health outcomes for the region.

Here is just a snippet of the commitments made towards health in my community of Mundingburra: \$300,000 to commence the delivery of a Townsville University Hospital hybrid theatre to establish international radiology to support delivery of comprehensive trauma services for North Queensland worth \$17 million; \$300,000 to commence the delivery of an expansion of the Townsville University Hospital outpatients department to reduce wait times and an amalgamation of North Queensland's persistent pain management services worth \$8 million; and \$900,000 to continue the fit-out of existing shell space for a new pharmacy aseptic manufacturing facility and cytotoxic laboratory worth \$934,000. This is what we do on this side of the House. We invest in Queenslanders, we invest in jobs and we invest in our world-class health services.

As mentioned in my first speech to parliament for those who caught the words between the sniffles, I mentioned the great work of James Cook University. My son is currently completing his undergrad at James Cook University. It never fails to amaze me the academic literature that continues to be produced by the many amazing students and academics at this institution. This government believes in the importance of science. We have many talented individuals across this great state. It is vital that our government, where possible, supports the endeavours of our students who wish to undertake important study that will contribute to bettering the future.

I am proud that the following grant funding for research at James Cook University was announced: \$150,000 as part of a \$1.5 million commitment over four years to conduct research into smart ear tags for livestock—that is right, investing in the livestock industry, because that is what Labor does; \$350,000 as part of a \$500,000 commitment over two years provided to Smart Precinct NQ Ltd towards the North Queensland Investment, Innovation & Industry Catalyst, investing in the new economy; \$20,000 as part of a \$300,000 commitment over four years provided to Dr Joseph Moxon to conduct fellowship research as part of the Advance Queensland initiative; \$20,000 as part of a \$300,000 commitment over four years provided to Professor Emma McBryde to conduct fellowship research as part of the Advance Queensland initiative; \$60,000 as part of a \$180,000 commitment over three years provided to Dr Elsa Antunes to conduct fellowship research as part of the Advance Queensland initiative; \$60,000 as part of a \$180,000 commitment over three years provided to Dr April Hall to conduct fellowship research as part of the Advance Queensland initiative; \$2,500 as part of \$45,000 over four years provided to Mr Adrien Marc to conduct PhD research as part of the Advance Queensland initiative; and a \$3,900 commitment to support female scientists. That is right: that is why I am proud to be a member of this government, because we believe that investing in our best and brightest academics to allow them to contribute in the field of research and science means that every Queenslanders is a winner.

Sport is also woven into the fabric of the community of Mundingburra. After all, we are the home of the Townsville Fire Women's National Basketball League team whilst also the location of the Murray Sporting Complex, home of community sport in the region. That is why I am proud of the \$331,000 as part of a \$497,777 commitment to AFL Townsville to construct an amenity block to support female participation in Australian football at Annandale. With our ambition being to not just build back but build back better, the vision for recovery is threefold.

On to road funding for the community, there is \$50,000 for planning works at the Douglas-Garbutt Road, Discovery Drive and Yolanda Drive intersection; \$646,000 of \$1.176 million to upgrade pedestrian facilities at the intersection of Ross River Road and Anne Street; \$75,000 of \$204,000 to upgrade the school zone signage at various locations on Ross River Road to improve road safety for our young ones; \$20,000 to improve safety on the Townsville Connection Road in Idalia from University Drive to Bowen Road bridge; \$127,000 of a \$253,000 total commitment to rehabilitate pavement in Zinc Avenue and Vantassel Street; and \$1.2 million in 2020-21 of a \$7.35 million total commitment to install noise barriers on the Bruce Highway between Army Dam Creek bridge and Yolanda Drive.

These are just a handful of the amazing announcements that are going to be warmly welcomed in my seat of Mundingburra. I look forward to seeing these delivered in the coming period. These are all clear indicators that this government is serious when it comes to investing in roads and road safety in the community of Mundingburra, and I welcome this funding. In summary, I am proud of this budget. Thanks again to the Treasurer and Premier for their unwavering support of the community of Mundingburra. This budget will continue to deliver for our region and continue to keep Queenslanders safe but, most importantly, it will put the people of our community first.



**Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (1.05 am): On the Queensland Treasury website one will find a whole series of tables and population projections for the regions around Queensland. It may surprise members of the House somewhat to know that the projections for the Gold Coast are, as they have always been for the last three or four decades, that the Gold Coast will continue to grow significantly. In recent media reports we read of a spike in real estate sales. We read stories about the boom that is expected post COVID of southerners migrating to Queensland. Sadly, this is not a budget that takes that into account. In fact, if one looks at the capital expenditure for the Gold Coast—and we have all seen the Capital Statement, Budget Paper No. 3, that has been produced by the Treasurer—one can only be concerned about the lack of infrastructure spending that the Gold Coast will receive in the forthcoming year.

As the fastest growing region in the state, it hardly seems reasonable that the allocation of capital that has been made to the Gold Coast goes anywhere near meeting the needs of a rapidly growing city. In terms of population, the Gold Coast represents about 14½ per cent or 15 per cent of the state's total population. Turning to the table at the beginning of this budget document, specifically to section 2.2 of the budget at page 18, if we look at the total capital expenditure forecast for this year it is some \$13.5 billion across the state—that is, if this government is even capable of delivering more than 50 per cent or 60 per cent of that in the forthcoming year. Sadly, if we go through and add up line by line the commitments that have been made to the Gold Coast, it is less than three per cent of the state's total expenditure. Yet again the Gold Coast will miss out. It will not be getting its fair share of capital expenditure over the next 12 months, certainly not from this government.

Let us take a look at some of the detail in the capital expense budget. Southport in my electorate has 18 schools with some 20,000 young people attending the various schools within my electorate. There is no significant new capital investment or improvements for any of the schools and virtually nothing in terms of arts, culture, sports and recreation. Out of an education capital budget of \$1.78 billion, there is \$68 million committed to the Gold Coast. That is about four per cent of the total budget for a city that has 15 per cent of the state's population. There is nothing in the budget for Benowa State School, nothing in the budget for Southport State School, nothing in the budget for Bellevue Park State School, nothing in the budget for Musgrave Hill State School and nothing in the budget for Keebra Park State High School or Benowa State High School.

To be fair, there is \$1 million for long overdue access improvements for Southport Special School. I am pleased to note that at long last we will see another special school constructed on the Gold Coast in the north of the city in Coomera because the Southport Special School has been under a lot of pressure.

I have been out to all of my schools. I have met with my principals and the members of the P&F and over the years I have compiled an extensive list of fundamental things that the schools need, such as classroom upgrades. One of the fastest growing areas on the Gold Coast, apart from the northern growth corridor, is the suburb of Southport. We are seeing tremendous infill development. We will get the spin-off as the Commonwealth Games Village continues to fill over the next year or two. Every one of my state schools is currently at capacity. In terms of the \$14 million that my principals have identified that needs to be spent within the Southport electorate, there are no commitments in this capital works budget.

In terms of the arts, culture, sport and recreation—there are many great sporting clubs and cultural organisations, not just in Southport but the length and breadth of the Gold Coast—we see a commitment in the capital statement of \$370 million. There is not one cent to any sporting club or cultural group within my electorate from this state government. The member for Gaven is going to have to lift her game if she is going to be a voice for the Gold Coast. We heard her speak today about the \$2.5 million for the Screen Queensland reality television hub, but that will not improve change rooms at sporting fields within Southport, it will not repair the roofs on some of our sporting clubs and it is certainly not going to encourage more young people to get involved in sport. What Southport gets out of this budget is zilch, zip, zero. There is not one cent for HOTA either. HOTA is a wonderful project that was driven by our local mayor on the Gold Coast. It is a great vision for the city.

Let us take a quick look at Health in the budget. There is a \$1.6 billion budget for the state of Queensland and the Gold Coast gets about \$19 million for a new CT scanner for the Robina Hospital and \$700,000 to make over the Gold Coast Ambulance Operations Centre in Southport, but that is it. That is less than one per cent of the total capital budget for the state in a city that represents 15 per cent. No new drug and alcohol treatment facilities, no expansion of facilities at Robina or Gold Coast University hospitals, just some vague promise about some new facility up in Coomera and we are still not quite sure what that is.

Let me turn now to social housing. This is interesting. There is a total capital budget of \$411 million but virtually no detail. There are two pages and every single line item has the word 'various' beside it. We do not know where that capital is going. To be fair, there are some items that are identified as special projects in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities up north and in other parts of the state, but in terms of the breakdown that we would ordinarily expect to see in the budget, in this ill-prepared budget that we have been delivered there is no detail. We have no idea what extra public housing there will be on the Gold Coast from Currumbin to Coomera. I have no idea what is going to be happening in Southport.

**Mr de Brenni** interjected.

**Mr MOLHOEK:** That is what it sounds like, member for Springwood. I take that interjection from the member for Springwood. As the former minister, his commitment was to actually build less public housing. He made a \$1.8 billion commitment over 10 years, which was \$180 million a year, and that is exactly the amount that is in the capital works budget with the word 'various' beside it. I would like to know, and I think the House deserves to know, exactly where that money is going to be spent over the next couple of years.

Perhaps the Treasurer, who has committed to an extra \$28 billion of debt, might like to have a chat to his counterpart in Victoria and ask him a little bit about their big housing build. They have just committed \$5.3 billion to fund and construct 12,000 new dwellings, which is a significant investment. I am not suggesting that that is perhaps the scale that we need to go to, but certainly I think Queenslanders deserve more than \$180 million worth of social and public housing in the year ahead. I would like to know where that is going to go. In terms of the total budget for housing, which is \$411 million, what does the Gold Coast get? I guess that is a surprise. So much for the *Not now, not ever* commitments that we heard from that side of the House about three years ago.

**Government members** interjected.

**A government member:** It is on the front page!

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mrs Gerber): Cease your interjections, members.

**Mr MOLHOEK:** There is a figure on the front page, but show us the detail, because that is just a glossy brochure. There is no detail in here or breakdown about public housing.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Through the chair, member for Southport.

**Mr MOLHOEK:** There is no commitment in there to crisis accommodation for women in response to the *Not now, not ever* report.

**Government members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Cease your interjections.

**Mr MOLHOEK:** Just like the previous minister's promises, this is a little bit like a Christmas bauble: shiny on the outside, empty on the inside. I could go through in detail the budget for justice and public safety, but there is no money for the Gold Coast in terms of the Southport watch house. I am intrigued to know just where all these new police are going to come from that have been committed in the budget because in Queensland we now have fewer police than we had five years ago. It surprises me that given we have put an extra 30,000 or 40,000 public servants on in the last four or five years

under this government, not one member of cabinet had the courage or the temerity to suggest that maybe a thousand of those 30,000 extra public servants could be police. Maybe we could actually have some extra police across the state rather than just another promise to deliver some 2,000 police over the next couple of years.

In terms of the energy networks, there is not a lot of money being spent on the Gold Coast. There is a little bit of money for maintenance. In terms of water, we get \$3 million to replace osmosis membranes at the Tugun desalination plant. The one that really concerns me is the transport budget. Yes, there is a commitment for \$194 million. It is all money that has been dressed up, re-promised and recommitted, but the total budget for transport in this state is \$6.2 billion and the Gold Coast gets just four per cent of that. With a city that has 15 per cent of the state's population we get four per cent of it.

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Cease your interjections, please, Minister.

**Mr MOLHOEK:** Minister, I am not taking your interjections. This is my opportunity to talk about the budget. We have heard so many promises, but we have not seen too much delivered on the Gold Coast. There is \$12 million for the Coomera Connector. They will be planning that for another 10 years at the rate these people move. Fourteen years ago the former member for Southport released a glossy brochure promising to upgrade the Southport-Nerang Road between Wardoo Street and Queen Street. That is not even in QTRIP. It is nowhere in these documents. It is not even a consideration and yet it is a state controlled road and a priority road.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr MOLHOEK:** I hear the interjections from the other side: 'You guys were in here for two years and you could have done all of this.' We were so busy cleaning up the mess that we inherited and trying to sort out the debacle and the disasters that were left by those on the other side. That is exactly what is going to happen in four years from now when Queenslanders have to face a debt escalation of another \$28 billion. Those members opposite have form in previous elections.

Previously their form was to say, 'We won't sell assets' and then have the biggest asset sale in the history of Queensland. They went to the last election promising Queenslanders that the debt would go up by only \$4 billion as a result of COVID, but in the first sitting back they say, 'Sorry about that and what a surprise: there will be another \$28 billion of debt!' It is a little bit like the housing budget. I will be very keen to see exactly the commitments to projects to be built and undertaken on the Gold Coast.

In summary, this year Labor's total commitment to the Gold Coast, if it is delivered, is a commitment to spend \$386 million on various infrastructure projects across the city. Out of a total budget of \$13.5 billion the Gold Coast, with a population that represents 15 per cent of the Queensland state, gets 2.8 per cent.



**Mr SKELTON** (Nicklin—ALP) (1.20 am): I rise in support of the 2020 appropriation bills. I am humbled to give a speech on the budget on behalf of the electors of Nicklin. It is my pleasure to report to the House that the good people of Nicklin are overjoyed with the member for Woodridge's budget. Reports have come to me of surprise and elation at the focus that this government has shown on our little patch of this great state.

If I may be indulged I would like to give my simple interpretation of a deficit budget. A deficit budget is like a household budget. Most people live with debt. We need to borrow to own a home or car. We need to borrow if the washing machine stops working. The needs of now must be met and, for most Australians, that means borrowing and then working off the debt. The example of the broken washing machine at home could be equivalent to a natural disaster at the state level. It is essential that we borrow. It is necessary to borrow for the things we need, such as bricks and mortar, people and skills. That is future planning. It is also prudent that we work towards paying back that debt. The state government's economic recovery package is just that.

It would be impossible and dishonest to forecast any surplus and a time frame to get it. We do not know what global economic conditions or natural disasters we might face. Unfortunately, there is no crystal ball to assist in the forecast of the future. The members opposite and their leader have the luxury of turning up with nothing and demanding the impossible as they have four long years to watch as we legislate for a better Queensland. The economic recovery is happening. The Queensland state government is getting things done. The Palaszczuk government represents responsible economic management. I note with interest that yesterday the papers accused the states of having a \$500 billion debt binge. It is worth knowing that the federal government is also borrowing at record levels, although that seems to have been omitted.



The record investment that the government is putting into the state is reflected in the seat of Nicklin. Already the farmers' and fishermen's friend, the member for Ferny Grove, has visited my electorate. He did so whilst I was still a candidate. The former member avoided him, even though he was announcing funding for the gourmet cheese factory in Kenilworth. Why wouldn't you promote the success of your region? We are getting \$6.8 million for fisheries and \$1 million for a new glasshouse at the Maroochy Research Facility. That will ensure jobs and continued support for the farmers and fishermen who live and work in my electorate and more broadly on the Sunshine Coast.

I commend the member for Miller and his department for the sterling work that they are doing and will continue to do in my electorate. A plethora of infrastructure projects will ease the burden of congestion and unblock the arteries of the Sunshine Coast so that our goods and services can get to where they are needed. There is a lot to mention and I am excited about pedestrian access in Yandina, a business case for public transport on the Sunshine Coast, and footpath and other accessibility work around the schools of my region. The people of Yandina thank the honourable member for remembering their pleas for a pedestrian refuge on the Yandina South Connection Road. Ours is a responsible government that is getting things done.

Thanks go to the member for Morayfield for his due diligence in keeping our police officers safe. The minister has listened to the front line and has committed to better ballistic vests, body worn cameras and QLITE devices. It is important to me and to all Queenslanders that the people who protect and serve us should be likewise protected as far as possible in such a dangerous profession. Mobile police vans will allow the deployment of police capability to anywhere in the state at short notice. There will be a new police station in Nambour and additional staff. It may be said that law and order is not a problem. Our police do an amazing job and are up to any task. A responsible government aims to give them the best that we can so that they can fulfil their role safely. Regarding the opposition's continual claims of problems, they do the QPS and their communities a disservice. It is a good thing that we have a caring and responsible government that gets things done.

Much gratitude goes to the member for McConnel, who is perhaps fast becoming the teacher's pet. Nicklin will see much needed investment in our schools. Burnside State High School will be building a performing arts centre worth \$10 million. Burnside State School will receive to invest in science learning spaces. Kenilworth State School will get funding for the refurbishment of block B learning spaces. The Nambour State College is receiving multiple equitable works to assist in access for students with special needs, as will Noosa District State High School, which will also benefit from some refurbishment of block H learning spaces.

The schools of Nicklin are particularly happy to see the long-needed footpath building and refurbishment program at Nambour Special School, Burnside State High School and St John's College. The multimillion dollar refurbishment and maintenance program, spread across 13 Nicklin schools, is a great place to start, because only Labor invests in public education. Only the Palaszczuk government puts its money where its mouth is when it comes to supporting, educating and developing the children of our regional towns and villages. Investing in education is investing in the future. I look forward to working with the minister to make education a priority, as the next generation are our legacy and they deserve the best that the government can give. This responsible government is getting things done.

Kudos goes to the member for Redcliffe and the member for Murrumba for their continued support of our wonderful hospital of the hinterland in Nambour. The hospital is a sub-acute facility and is being upgraded to the tune of \$86 million. Only the Palaszczuk government can be trusted with the health of our good people, and the good people of Nicklin know that to be a fact. In addition, the state government is providing more healthcare professionals, with some coming to our region and bringing their families, making our community stronger and more resilient. Collectively, we are getting things done.

Respect goes to the member for Bulimba for \$5 million for our TAFE college and \$1.2 million in small business grants. The minister is devoted to getting our state skilled and getting our businesses moving. The above examples are just the start of a long and productive partnership. This government is dedicated to the TAFE system. The members opposite should draw from this budget some lessons on how best to encourage, develop and educate the citizens of tomorrow. I use my region as an example of the Palaszczuk government getting things done.

I thank the member for Waterford for the government's commitment of funds to tackle the social issues that prevail in not just my electorate but also every electorate in different ways. Nearly \$1 million and a commitment over four years to tackle domestic and family services is appreciated by many great groups. I give a shout-out to the staff of the Kyabra Community Association and Sunny Coast kids. I

make special mention of the Nambour Community Centre. Through a great sense of community various not-for-profit groups offer respite and care in Nicklin and they will benefit from a more sensitive and far-sighted government. Ours is a responsible government that looks after the most vulnerable Queenslanders. It is a government that is committed to getting things done.

With gratitude to the Deputy Premier and member for Murrumbidgee, this state government invests in the community. The beautiful rural gem of Cooroy has benefited from this government's far-sighted support of local government initiatives. An almost \$3 million commitment to the Hinterland Adventure Playground and the Butter Factory fencing has been gratefully received. The Nambour Aquatic Centre's splash pad and slide and play zone gets a go. There is an upgrade of the Yandina Cricket Club, with amenities for females and all abilities.

This tiny snapshot of the good community support that Nicklin has benefited from in this delayed but unique budget only demonstrates the commitment of the Palaszczuk government to the wellbeing of its people. The people know that only Labor can be trusted to support and nurture the basics of strong communities—their people. This is a government getting things done.

Commendation goes to the member for Sandgate. The Nambour Crushers Rugby League Club will have upgrades to the clubhouse incorporating female change rooms, kitchen, training and meeting rooms. It looks likely that not only will the people of Nicklin benefit from this refurbishment; regions and community groups across Queensland will benefit also. My office has already been contacted by a Mr Beetson—now that is a familiar name—with a view to holding a Murri Cup carnival next year. Inclusiveness, access and community are hallmarks of a government and state that have united and are recovering.

This budget has something for everyone. The ministers that I may have missed are contributing to Nicklin in an indirect way by increasing the output of their respective departments. I have provided only a brief snapshot of my region.

The economic recovery has started because of the Labor Palaszczuk government. Queensland—the hinterland and its people—is resilient and has survived the worst of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic and global recession. The government and Queenslanders have a can-do attitude. We now have the tools to get back to work. Queenslanders are getting the training and skills they need. The strong focus on jobs and infrastructure provided by the government in this budget is exactly the way to rebuild after unprecedented disaster.

The history aficionados—I doubt any members opposite—could liken this very competent budget to FDR's New Deal that delivered the US out of the Depression. The people in my electorate are tired of the relentless negativity of the members to my right. The member for Broadwater, in his speech in reply to the budget, offered nothing but the usual doom and gloom. The opposition have no coherent plan. I know that it is a broad church, but I cannot quite find any idea or value that they have in common other than a pathological hatred of anyone who does not wear a blue tie. The people of Queensland have made their choice. They like detail; they like transparency.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SKELTON:** Sorry, that is a metaphor—for you guys, just so you know.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Direct your comments through the chair, member.

**Mr SKELTON:** The people have made their choice. They like detail; they like transparency. They have voted for the Queensland government. Queenslanders will not be bought by cynical handouts like a \$300 registration buyback. It is a very shallow talent pool to the right.

A mayor in my region is on record as saying that they welcome change. To paraphrase the mayor of the Sunshine Coast, 'We are tired of the lazy representation and expectation of office of the current LNP members.' This was said prior to the election, and I am living proof—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

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

**Mr SKELTON:** This was said prior to the election, and I am living proof of the people's approval of this government, this budget and this economic recovery plan.

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

That the member's time be extended.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is that the motion be agreed to. Those of that opinion say 'aye'; those against 'no'. I think the noes have it.

**Mr SKELTON:** The Premier, the Deputy Premier, the Treasurer and the cabinet of this Palaszczuk government have led Queensland through this difficult time. It is proof of the belief that Queenslanders have in the Labor Party to lead them through tough times, as we always have historically. As the representative of the people of Nicklin, I fully support this budget and its commitment to my region and our great state.

*(Time expired)*

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I can sit here all night. We are not doing anything until there is silence. I know that it has been a long day and it is getting late, but we should continue to conduct ourselves with the decorum this chamber deserves.



**Mr ANDREW (Mirani—PHON)** (1.37 am): I rise to speak on the appropriation bill 2020. I apologise in advance if I am not as spectacular as the member for Nicklin was in his speech. I am very proud to serve the Mirani electorate and I intend to work as hard as I can during my second term to make sure that the people of Mirani are given every chance possible to achieve a better quality of life, with better education and job opportunities, affordable housing and improved health services.

On their behalf, I therefore welcome this year's budget. This government has finally delivered a budget that recognises that Queensland does not stop at the borders of the south-east region. The Mirani electorate has been given a vital \$272.9 million in budget allocations for a whole range of infrastructure and services that have been badly needed for some time now.

I was particularly pleased to see the green light that has been given for the new two-lane highway connecting the Mackay Ring Road to the Peak Downs Highway and to finally see the long-awaited Walkerston bypass move ahead. Unfortunately, there is nothing for the Sarina Surf Life Saving Club or \$500,000 for the Marian tuckshop that was promised during the election. The \$250,000 that was promised for Ridgeland State School did not materialise either.

Some schools got a welcome funding boost with money allocated for a new performing arts and sports hall at Sarina State High School and the Bouldercombe playground shade project. I was disappointed that some of the projects we asked for such as two new high schools—one in Ooralea in the north of my electorate and one in Gracemere in the south of my electorate—to accommodate the growing populations in their respective areas were not addressed.

Unfortunately, a much needed ambulance station to service our growing population in Marian was not in this budget. I know that there was land allocated for that. I am not sure whether the state still owns that. I will be looking into that. We demonstrated that delayed response times to Marian are leaving many in that community vulnerable. I will continue to make representations, petition and lobby around those issues. Basically, I will do whatever I can to ensure that those other projects and programs in the region are not forgotten in the next funding round.

The budget papers make for a pretty sobering read. According to the Treasurer, there has been a \$3.5 billion hit to the state's coffers, with GST receipts, tax and royalties all down along with lower coal and oil prices. The promised \$234 million surplus predicted for this financial year has turned into an \$8.63 billion deficit. Government borrowings will now be a \$130 billion debt burden on the state by 2023, with annual deficits for the next four years at least. All this is at a time of plummeting state revenues and rock bottom levels of confidence in the business and wider community. That is a pretty grim outlook by anyone's measure.

The Treasurer presented the government's economic strategy of piling on the debt burden as the only fiscally responsible strategy to rescue the economy. His argument was based on two highly optimistic assumptions. The first is that the path to recovery has already started and the second is that Queensland's fundamental economic indicators were all in healthy shape going into COVID. Neither is correct.

Before COVID we had an ageing population and an economy riddled with pre-existing structural problems. Last year Queensland had the highest rate of business foreclosures, a massively inflated property bubble and the lowest level of business confidence in the country—a country with the highest level of household debt-to-income ratio of any nation on the planet. COVID was just the final tipping point and we will not know the true cost of that until all the government stimulus and support programs end around March next year.

I was very concerned to see in the budget that the majority of the government's loan borrowings are being spent on day-to-day operations. That is, simply paying the bills and keeping the lights on. That is a very bad sign. It means we are no longer borrowing for growth and we are borrowing to survive. It also means that the debt we are carrying is not just unsustainable, but probably almost unpayable at this point.

There were also a lot of crucial details missing in the budget papers and the Treasurer's speech. For example, how many businesses and farms have been forced to close down this year? How many Queenslanders are currently deferring their loan repayments? Most of all, why does this government insist on continuing to invest billions building massive state-of-the-art sports and entertainment stadiums, indeed duplicating stadiums in both Rockhampton and Mackay, when we cannot afford it?

While some may be needed, many were not. A lot of the people and communities of those areas would have preferred to use such massive amounts of expenditure on upgrades and improvements to their badly degraded road infrastructure and poorly resourced services, including their schools, hospitals, emergency and rural frontline stations and precincts, sporting fields and community halls. Why are hundreds of Queensland's regional sporting clubs and associations left to struggle with old, run-down and dilapidated facilities while people are forced to watch huge multimillion dollar stadiums go up in places where the population would be hard pressed to fill the massive seating capacity at the best of times? Why does the government not consult with local people and communities before awarding insane amounts of money for the hugely expensive white elephant projects they did not ask for and programs they did not even need?

In 2012 the government promised and funded a plan for a major upgrade of Brewers Park in Sarina to be completed by 2022. Let me be clear: Sarina is not a suburb of Mackay. Eight years later and nothing has been done. It is heartbreaking to see all the kids who play their weekly fixtures on the fields at Brewers Park forced to wade through pools of water because the drainage cannot cope and it constantly floods. I have spoken to some of the young kids and they told me that they have to go behind the toilets or behind trees to urinate because the toilet blocks do not work. That is disgusting and shameful considering we have two stadiums in Mackay, 400 metres apart. We are spending \$24 million on one and the other is hardly ever used and yet Brewers Park goes unnoticed. This was a funded plan. There needs to be much more follow-through by the state government with the councils to make sure that the moneys they award to regions for specific projects are spent on those projects and in a timely manner.

The federal Treasury is also forecasting that 86,000 people will migrate from other states to Queensland over the next four years. Where are the impact assessments for this huge influx of people into our already overcrowded towns and cities? What will that do to our jobs and housing market and all our hospitals and schools and the justice system that are already struggling to cope with the massive population boom Queensland has gone through in the last few years?

Another concern is that the government still seems intent on wasting hundreds of millions on risky venture capital type investment on emerging industries like advanced manufacturing, high-tech weaponry, untried biotech and gene based innovation as well as overpriced and unreliable government IT software management systems. That is without even mentioning the heavily funded and oversubsidised renewables projects and support programs or the many thousands of other very dicey and usually loss-making green projects the government seems wedded to.

Whatever you think of green project spending, I can tell members one thing for sure. Not one of them is capable of creating more than a handful of highly specialised jobs. What we should be doing is dropping water and electricity prices and letting the economic stimulus that results from that go through our towns. People manufacturing and people who own businesses will be able to use more and produce more. It is jobs—real, permanent, rewarding and long-term jobs—that the people of Queensland are crying out for right now. Not sometime in the future, when we have all been transitioned and re-skilled but right now, today.

Where is the investment in the real economy? We need to play to our strengths and put the money where it will do the most good. I could not find anywhere in the budget where funds were to be spent on fostering and developing the real productive sectors of our economy. It is like no-one in government has the first clue about business or even just plain common sense. I thought COVID might have woken us all up.

What we needed in this budget was targeted injections of funding and support for small business, mining and agriculture—all areas that have a tried and true record of creating wealth and jobs for Queenslanders. They are the backbone of this state. Rolling back vegetation management and reef

regulations would give our economy a boost right here and right now. Let us do it. Common sense will cost nothing but it will increase production for our state. What about the Bligh Labor government's coal plan 2030, implemented in November 2010? Why did we not revisit it and put it back into play? That was one of Labor's ideas. We could have moved forward. What Queensland got was another budget that ignored core priorities and saw additional borrowings piled onto an already mountainous debt burden and zero moves to end government waste, red tape and bureaucracy.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (1.47 am): This week the Treasurer delivered a solid Labor budget that sets out Queensland's path to economic recovery and implements the Palaszczuk Labor government's election commitments. It is a path we can travel with confidence thanks to Queensland's world-leading health response to the COVID pandemic. Unlike the LNP, the Palaszczuk Labor government listened and acted on health advice to protect Queenslanders' health and Queensland's economy.

It is concerning to read comments in the media today from a Greens party MP who has adopted the LNP's constant political attack on Queensland's world-leading management of the COVID-19 pandemic throughout 2020. The Greens party MP for Maiwar is quoted as saying, 'There had clearly been decisions made on the basis of politics rather than health advice.' That sounds familiar, does it not? I note the Greens party did not question the Palaszczuk Labor government's handling of the pandemic before the election. Yet now they are elected, with LNP preferences in South Brisbane, they are now cooperating with the LNP to undermine confidence in our world-leading health response, which I take the strongest objection to.

The US death toll from COVID-19 is 270,000 people and rising, while tragically Europe's death toll is sadly comparable. We are not out of the woods yet with the virus, as second and third waves overseas show, but the Greens party irresponsibly ignore the hundreds of media conferences and thousands of questions our Chief Health Officer has answered live on air day after day, to try to politicise this crucial public health issue long before this crisis is over, just like the LNP did and still does.

It is sad to see the Greens party has joined the LNP in this squalid exercise in undermining our health response, so I call it out for what it is. It is repulsive and I condemn it as dangerous and irresponsible. It is similar to what happened after the 2017 state election when the Greens party member for Maiwar moved amendments to water down Labor's tough tree-clearing laws only months after the election, only to back down once the tactic was exposed. Do not listen to what the Greens party claim; watch what they do.

While I am talking about irresponsible behaviour during a pandemic that adds risks to our state budget, our economy and people's health, it is impossible to overlook the reckless and arrogant behaviour this year of the new LNP leader, the member for Broadwater. In April this year, at the height of the first and only wave Queensland has experienced to date, the member for Broadwater attacked our Chief Health Officer—attacking her and other health officials as 'punch drunk bureaucrats who are power hungry'. They were his words.

The opposition leader has never apologised or withdrawn this unwarranted political attack at the height of the pandemic on one of the most effective chief health officers in the world. He is no leader. Dr Young has my and this government's 100 per cent support, and this strong budget is only possible because the Premier had the wisdom to act on Dr Young's advice from day one. He showed in that moment that, while he pretends to be different, he is in fact cut from the same negative, knocking, whinging and whining political style as the member for Nanango, where science and expert advice were attacked regularly for political gain.

The economic challenges we must overcome remain some of the toughest in our state's history, but Queensland's economy is in a stronger position than most others because the Premier was strong on our borders. While work on construction sites across the world wound down and ground to a halt during the pandemic, work on major projects continued without interruption across Queensland, and in some cases accelerated. Thanks to the Palaszczuk Labor government's record \$56 billion infrastructure program in the budget, thousands of Queensland workers kept their jobs and will have a job because we believe in them.

The LNP talk infrastructure, yet they have no plan to fund infrastructure and in fact attack us for borrowing the funds to fund that infrastructure, which many governments are doing. We remember the LNP's costings botch-up where they raided regional and Sunshine Coast road funding to pay for their puny second M1 on the Gold Coast.

**An honourable member:** Puny.

**Mr BAILEY:** It was puny. It was only six kilometres. We are doing 16 kilometres and we are fully funding it. The LNP were trying to fund it by raiding regional roads and Sunshine Coast roads. That was a disgrace.

This budget is the fifth record transport and roads budget out of six Labor budgets after the cutting, sacking and selling of Campbell Newman and the member for Broadwater when he was the member for Mundubberra. This \$26.9 billion commitment over four years under QTRIP supports more than 23,600 jobs—a majority of them in regional Queensland. I welcome our new regional MPs—the members for Bundaberg, Hervey Bay, Nicklin and Caloundra, as well as the member for Pymulung. Queenslanders voted very clearly for this government, with a 1.9 per cent swing to it. We will return the faith.

As part of our COVID response in the transport sector, we did support essential workers and maintain all services, as well as increased cleaning and sanitisation, which continues. We introduced cashless payments and rear-door boarding to support safer trips for commuters and drivers. This week we confirmed that 105 train services added to the network in August temporarily to support social distancing would become permanent fixtures. We will also extend an extra 175 bus services until mid-2021 to give commuters more travel options around peak travel times. The freezing of public transport fares in 2021 has been well received by the public.

The Palaszczuk Labor government's continued commitment to record transport and roads in Queensland also includes \$4.8 billion in stimulus funding for infrastructure in the roads and transport space after working collaboratively with the federal government. We will build Queensland's biggest rail projects: Cross River Rail, stage 3 of Gold Coast Light Rail and the Sunshine Coast rail duplication. The business case is done and is fully funded under this government, with joint funding from the federal government.

Queensland trains will be built in Maryborough and we will see the supply chain lock in there as well. We were not going to send them overseas like the LNP did. In fact, they even tried to do it again at the last election. In the costings released two days before the election, there were zero dollars to build trains in Queensland. That was two days before the election. Well done, LNP. They are just amazing. You could not make this up. You really could not. The Sunshine Coast rail duplication will support 333 jobs.

The new LNP leader showed in his lightweight budget reply speech that his style has not changed from the member for Nanango. When he was in the cabinet his own party did not even fund a business case for the Sunshine Coast rail duplication, let alone fund it and start construction—which we will next year.

No wonder the LNP lost Caloundra and Nicklin and suffered massive swings against them on the Sunshine Coast—3.8 per cent in Kawana which was double the statewide swing; 4.3 per cent in Ninderry; 5.9 per cent in Caloundra; and, wait for it, the biggest swing on the Sunshine Coast, 6.1 per cent in Buderim. That was more than triple the average swing across the state. What did they do? They promoted the member for Buderim. That is the punchline. They booted the member for Ninderry and the member for Glass House, who had much better results, and they promoted the bloke who made his seat marginal. They are really doing things differently over there.

Today, being the International Day of People with Disability, this Labor budget backs all commuters with \$500 million in accessibility upgrades across South-East Queensland. That is why we established a disability advisory committee to be chaired by Judge Forde. We will also invest nearly \$21 million in supporting the taxi industry to update its fleet with wheelchair accessible taxis. We will remove barriers at rail crossings as well, with \$241 million for level crossings at Beams Road, Boundary Road and Lindum station.

The \$371 million rollout of smart ticketing will continue, giving Queensland commuters access to the same convenient system of payment across the whole state—using your credit card, your debit card, your smartphone, your smartwatch—whether in Cairns or Coolangatta. Strangely, the Greens party MPs who claim they support public transport bizarrely criticise our smart ticketing program. Wherever it has been put in we have found that it massively boosts public transport patronage and of course it reduces carbon emissions because people do not drive their cars. They take the train or other public transport. Reducing emissions does not seem to be a Greens party priority. We are also running more than 8,400 weekly rail services—the most in 155 years of Queensland Rail.

The M1 is well covered. There are billions of dollars going into the M1 over the forwards, along with the second M1—\$1.5 billion in locked and loaded joint funding between the federal government and us, with construction to start next year. This road was blocked by the LNP when the member for

Broadwater was in cabinet. That was well reported at the time. The Leader of the Opposition's wafer thin budget reply speech yesterday won the 'whine of the week' award. He wallowed in whinging about the project that he blocked. We got it going. We gazetted all three sections. We did the public consultation. We landed \$1.5 billion—half of it from the federal government—to get it going, and there he is having a whine and a whinge. He has obviously been having tutorials from the member for Nanango because the style has not changed.

There is \$200 million for the inland freight route. There is funding for the Mount Isa rail line, the Townsville port, the Smithfield bypass and the Cairns Ring Road. We will continue sealing the road to Weipa in Cape York. There is the Townsville Ring Road stage 5, Riverway Drive stage 2, Stuart Drive in Townsville, the Walkerston bypass, Proserpine Shute Harbour Road, the Rockhampton Ring Road, the Gympie bypass, Townsville channel access, new maritime jobs, a new shipping service between Townsville and Brisbane, and more than \$1 billion going to targeted road safety initiatives. What an infrastructure budget that is!

Then we have our fully funded \$12.6 billion 15-year Bruce Highway investment program. It is not a hoax but a fully funded program. I note the shadow minister for transport and main roads' suggestion that I should go for a drive from start to finish on the Bruce Highway. I thank him for his thoughtfulness, even though he seems to have forgotten that he was copying my Bruce blitz from the 2017 project. It took him three years to get around to it—an election year. He got there eventually.

It must have been quite a sight. Leaving Belmont behind, the member for Chatsworth in his BMW cabriolet has the top down, with his immaculately white BMW Motorsport cap tightly fitted, a shiny coat of 50-plus sunscreen and his cravat flapping in the breeze. If he is really committed, I want to see pictures. He should table some pictures so we can see his convertible beemer on the Bruce. I hope he is generous and I hope he backs us in. There were 33 projects underway on the Bruce under us and four funded by the LNP in the three years the member for Broadwater was there.

In closing, this is a good budget for my local electorate as well. There is an injection of almost \$6 million to improve the learning experiences in our school system; more than \$2 million shared amongst seven different sporting clubs to fund change rooms, including a number of women's change facilities in AFL clubs; as well as field and lighting upgrades. Local hospitals welcome \$20.7 million on the PA Hospital extra and \$7.8 million for child services at the old Yeronga TAFE site, which will be redeveloped. That is welcomed by the local community.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I would like to inform you that the Deputy Speaker has reviewed and approved my budget speech for incorporation, and as such I ask that the remainder of my speech is incorporated into *Hansard*. The LNP says I am not generous, but there you go.

*The speech read as follows—*

Active Transport

Labor will continue to invest in active transport options, like bike riding and walking, supported by \$243 million for infrastructure like cycleways, rail trails and shared paths. That includes projects like:

- the \$5.4 million North Brisbane Bikeway
- the \$12.2 million New England Highway Cycleway between Highfields and Toowoomba
- the \$23.8 million Cairns Southern Access Cycleway
- the \$19.1 million Bundaberg to Gin Gin Rail Trail between Bundaberg and Koolboo Road.

On the Sunshine Coast, construction continues at Bruce Highway upgrades at the Maroochydore and Mons roads interchanges, while we will start six-laning between Caboolture-Bribie Island Road and Steve Irwin Way later this month.

The \$34.1 million Southern Moreton Bay Islands Ferry Terminal upgrades, jointly funded by Redland City Council, will progress, as will the \$72 million Northern Transitway project.

We are continuing with works in the western Brisbane suburbs, finishing the \$400 million Ipswich Motorway upgrade and the \$80 million Sumners Road interchange continuing construction, and starting the newly committed \$244 million Centenary Bridge duplication.

\$75 million allocated to upgrade the Mount Lindesay Highway between Stoney Camp Road and Chambers Flat Road; and \$53 million between Johanna and South Street.

Cross River Rail

Cross River Rail continues to ramp up in this budget with station boxes excavation advanced with the pair of 1350 tonne Tunnel Boring Machines soon to be moved into position in Woolloongabba to tunnel 10.2 kilometres of new rail line from Dutton Park to Bowen Hills, 5.9 kilometres of twin tunnels under the Brisbane River and CBD.

This exciting project will revolutionise public transport with the first genuine underground line, with a European Train Control System a world-class train signalling system, as well as new Gold Coast stations at Pimpama, Helensvale North and Merrimac, and upgrades to stations at Salisbury, Rocklea, Moorooka, Yeerongpilly, Yeronga, Fairfield, Dutton Park and Exhibition.

Cross River Rail will support up to 7,700 full-time equivalent jobs and 450 new apprenticeship and traineeship opportunities during construction.

#### Taxi/Limousine Industry

We delivered a \$23.2 million financial assistance package for the taxi and limousine industry through the economic impacts of COVID-19. Sustainable electric future.

#### Sustainable electric future

We're enacting its Zero Net Emissions Roadmap, including replacing the bus fleet with cleaner electric models by encouraging local electric vehicle manufacturing and assembly.

Next year will be a big year of testing and trialling different electric bus models across the state including: two electric buses trialled at Yarrabilba; one across Redland Bay; 10 across Logan/Brisbane; five in Cairns and five on the Gold Coast. We'll also trial two bioethanol buses in Mackay next year, powered by locally produced bioethanol.

## ADJOURNMENT



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (2.01 am): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 2.01 am (Friday).

## ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Camm, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly, King A, King S, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, MacMahon, Madden, Mander, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke, Palaszcuk, Pease, Perrett, Pitt, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Skelton, Smith, Stevens, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Watts, Weir, Whiting