



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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Email: hansard@parliament.qld.gov.au

Phone (07) 3553 6344

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, 23 February 2021

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TUESDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2021



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.

ASSENT TO BILLS

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from His Excellency the Governor letters in respect of assent to certain bills. The contents of the letters will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the letters for the information of members.

The Honourable C.W. Pitt MP

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Parliament House

George Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

My dear Mr Speaker

I hereby acquaint the Legislative Assembly that the following Bills, having been passed by the Legislative Assembly and having been presented for the Royal Assent, were assented to in the name of Her Majesty The Queen on the date shown:

Date of Assent: 4 December 2020

A bill for an Act to amend the Acts Interpretation Act 1954, the COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020, the Domestic and Family Violence Protection (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Regulation 2020, the Explosives Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Regulation 2020, the Electoral Act 1992, the Gaming Machine Act 1991, the Liquor Act 1992, the Local Government Act 2009, the Local Government Electoral Act 2011, the Retail Shop Leases and Other Commercial Leases (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Regulation 2020, the Youth Justice Act 1992 and the other legislation mentioned in sections 37 and 38 and schedule 1 for particular purposes

These Bills are hereby transmitted to the Legislative Assembly, to be numbered and forwarded to the proper Officer for enrolment, in the manner required by law.

Yours sincerely

Governor

4 December 2020

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 4 December 2020, from his Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to a certain bill on 4 December 2020 [[147](#)].

The Honourable C.W. Pitt MP

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Parliament House

George Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

My dear Mr Speaker

I hereby acquaint the Legislative Assembly that the following Bill, having been passed by the Legislative Assembly and having been presented for the Royal Assent, was assented to in the name of Her Majesty The Queen on the date shown:

Date of Assent: 11 December 2020

A bill for an Act to amend the Disability Services Act 2006, the Evidence Act 1977, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 and the other legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes

This Bill is hereby transmitted to the Legislative Assembly, to be numbered and forwarded to the proper Officer for enrolment, in the manner required by law.

Yours sincerely


Governor

11 December 2020

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 11 December 2020, from his Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to a certain bill on 11 December 2020 [148].


SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Public Release of Committee Documents


 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, today, in accordance with standing order 20, the Legislative Assembly will release to the public unpublished minutes of its committees from 1990 that have been in the custody of the Clerk of the Parliament for 30 years. 1990 marked the commencement of an agenda of reform under the direction of then premier Wayne Goss. The Fitzgerald report had been tabled in parliament in July 1989. It recommended the parliament consider introducing a comprehensive system of parliamentary committees to enhance the ability of parliament to monitor the efficiency of government. The Ahern National Party government had instituted a Public Accounts Committee and a Public Works Committee in the previous year. The publication of minutes of those two committees began in 2019, as they became 30 years old, and significantly more minutes from those committees are to be released this year, reflecting the increased activity as they became more established over 1990.

Released today are the minutes of the meetings of committees established in 1990—the Public Accounts Committee, the Public Works Committee, the Travelsafe Committee, the Parliamentary Committee for Electoral and Administrative Review and the Select Committee of Inquiry into Ambulance Services. On a personal note, I see that my father, the Hon. Warren Pitt MP, was a member of the select committee into ambulance services and present at its first meeting on 22 March 1990. Today's release is part of the parliament's ongoing program to publicly release 30-year-old committee documents each year. The Queensland parliament continues to uphold one of the cornerstone values of a democratic society—that is, accountability with transparent committee scrutiny of government administration. The committee minutes released today from 1990 and information about the parliament's publication scheme are available on the parliament's website.


School Group Tour

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Varsity College Primary School in the electorate of Burleigh.

Acknowledgement of Country

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, thank you to those members who came to the acknowledgement of country this morning. We thank you. This is part of our Parliamentary Service's Reconciliation Action Plan and an important mark of respect that we will be doing at the beginning of every sitting year.

Parliamentary Annexe, Lightning Strike

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to advise that if any members did hear any of the storm activity last night you were not mistaken in thinking it was a big one. I can advise that the Parliamentary Annexe was actually struck by lightning last night. Coincidentally, the ablutions block on level 7 is not working anymore and you can join the dots on that.

PETITIONS

The Clerk presented the following paper petitions sponsored by the Clerk—

Land Clearing

From 231 petitioners, requesting the House to tighten controls on land clearing for urban expansion to protect endangered species and implement planning regulations putting the environment first [149].

Juvenile Offenders

From 427 petitioners, requesting the House to review and toughen state laws in relation to juvenile offenders [150].

The Clerk presented the following paper and e-petition, lodged and sponsored by the honourable member indicated—

Harold Walker Jetty, Dunwich

Dr Robinson, from 1,286 petitioners, requesting the House to not proceed with the demolition of the Harold Walker Jetty at Dunwich and to make the facility safe for continued use [[151](#), [152](#)].

The Clerk presented the following paper and e-petition, sponsored and lodged by the Clerk—

Gateway Arterial Road, Noise Barriers

From 223 petitioners, requesting the House to significantly improve the 55 year old noise abatement barriers on the western side of the Gympie Arterial Road during the Gympie Road and Gateway Arterial Road upgrade [[153](#), [154](#)].

The Clerk presented the following e-petitions, sponsored by the honourable members indicated—

Palmyra Dragway

Mr Andrew, from 473 petitioners, requesting the House to develop a safer and more sociable alternative at the Palmyra Dragway for car and motorcycle enthusiasts [[155](#)].

Drivers Licensing Regulation 2010

Mr Powell, from 280 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure that Transport and Main Roads section 20 of the Drivers Licensing Regulation 2010 in a fair and reasonable manner [[156](#)].

Manufactured Homes Parks

Mr Purdie, from 572 petitioners, requesting the House to amend the *Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Act 2003* to require disclosure of planning and development information and intent at the initial point of sale [[157](#)].

The Clerk presented the following e-petitions, sponsored by the Clerk—

Weapons Licensing, Pest Management

From 1,437 petitioners, requesting the House to change the Queensland Weapons Act and Regulations to allow lawful and licenced firearm owners to acquire and use the same weapons already available to primary producers for the purposes of pest management [[158](#)].

Morayfield Road, Traffic Congestion

From 203 petitioners, requesting the House to ease traffic congestion on Morayfield Road by upgrading the main access road to two lanes from Graham Road to the M1 entry ramp [[159](#)].

State Parliament and Councils, Religious Observances

From 466 petitioners, requesting the House to order the cessation of religious observances in parliament and city and regional council meetings [[160](#)].

Townsville Northern Access Intersections Upgrade

From 618 petitioners, requesting the House to pause construction on the Northern Access Intersections Upgrade project near Black River, Townsville and to conduct consultation to find an alternate design fit for purpose [[161](#)].

State Parliament and Councils, Religious Observances

From 6,164 petitioners, requesting the House to allow the tradition of including religious observances in parliament and city and regional council meetings, such as the saying of a Christian prayer to continue and not order this to cease [[162](#)].

Body Corporate Managers, Regulation

From 875 petitioners, requesting the House to urgently regulate body corporate managers [[163](#)].

Koala Conservation

From 3,920 petitioners, requesting the House to upgrade the status of the koala to critically endangered in the South East Queensland Bioregion and to implement a range of measures to permanently protect priority koala habitats [[164](#)].

Nicklin Way, Traffic Congestion

From 90 petitioners, requesting the House to address traffic congestion on Nicklin Way during peak hours [[165](#)].

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS

PAPERS TABLED DURING THE RECESS (SO 31)

The Clerk informed the House that the following papers, received during the recess, were tabled on the dates indicated—

7 December 2020—

[373](#) Community Support and Services Committee: Report No. 1, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 11 August 2020 and 7 September 2020

8 December 2020—

- [374](#) Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (Hon. Fentiman), to an ePetition (3351-20) sponsored by the member for Maiwar, Mr Berkman, from 791 petitioners, requesting the House to create a law that requires 50 per cent of statues, pictures and plaques in public places in Queensland to depict real women
- [375](#) Response from the Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (Hon. Linard), to an ePetition (3384-20) sponsored by the member for Mudgeeraba, Ms Bates, from 590 petitioners, requesting the House to adopt the LNP's Child Protection Force
- [376](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. D'Ath), to an ePetition (3404-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 491 petitioners, requesting the House to properly legislate for aged care and seniors providers to design accommodation to a standard and to ensure staffing levels and training is capable of offering greater health protection and care during virus pandemics
- [377](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. D'Ath), to an ePetition (3375-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 1,579 petitioners, requesting the House to no longer refer to Queensland as the low tax state whilst hospital patients are forced to pay exorbitant car park fees whilst attending appointments at public hospitals and using government owned car parks
- [378](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. D'Ath), to a paper petition (3414-20) presented by the member for Nanango, Ms Frecklington, and an ePetition (3360-20) sponsored by the member for Nanango, Ms Frecklington, from 1,128 and 411 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to appoint a Specialist Cancer Nurse role to the South Burnett
- [379](#) QSuper—Annual Report 2020
- [380](#) Response from the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (Hon. Dr Miles), to a paper petition (3416-20) presented by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(3) and an ePetition (3383-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 173 and 1,337 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to recall the proposed incinerator coordinated project in Ipswich and reject any further applications for incinerators within city limits of Ipswich
- [381](#) Response from the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs (Hon. Scanlon), to a paper petition (3415-20) presented by the member for Burnett, Mr Bennett, and an ePetition (3344-20) sponsored by the member for Burnett, Mr Bennett, from 142 and 2,796 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to revoke the Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2019 and establish an Office of Science Quality Assurance to check the science being used to make political decisions

9 December 2020—

- [382](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3307-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 1,245 petitioners, requesting the House to seek an alternative to the proposed service road at exit 92 Palm Beach and preserve this valuable environmental space for our community
- [383](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3354-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 105 petitioners, requesting the House to close the eastern end access to Lord Lane, and open the western end for access to the D'Aguilar Highway, Moodlu.
- [384](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3361-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 182 petitioners, requesting the House to build new entry and exit ramps at Dohles Rocks Road, Murrumba
- [385](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3377-20) sponsored by the member for Mirani, Mr Andrew, from 151 petitioners, requesting the House to provide a compliant public transport service to meet the needs of the residents of Ipswich's western suburbs
- [386](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3387-20) sponsored by the member for Oodgeroo, Dr Robinson, from 280 petitioners, requesting the House to widen the road at a particularly dangerous section of East Road, North Stradbroke Island
- [387](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3398-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 697 petitioners, requesting the House to create an acceleration lane turning left from Grays Road into Eumundi-Noosa Road, a turning lane left into Grays Road and to extend the 60 km zone from the United Petrol Station, to Beddington or Duke Road at Doonan
- [388](#) Response from the Premier and Minister for Trade (Hon. Palaszczuk), to an ePetition (3380-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 329 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure that religious organisations preaching that a supreme being created the Earth about 6000 years ago not receive any State government assistance, exemptions, subsidies or funding
- [389](#) Response from the Premier and Minister for Trade (Hon. Palaszczuk), to a paper petition (3412-20) presented by the member for Cooper, Hon. Jones, from 352 petitioners, requesting the House to urge News Corporation to continue to publish the Sunshine Coast Daily in a paper format or sell the paper to a local consortium who will continue its publication
- [390](#) Queensland Human Rights Commission—Putting people first: The first annual report on the operation of Queensland's Human Rights Act 2019-20
- [391](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (3418-20) presented by the member for Clayfield, Mr Nicholls, from 16 petitioners, requesting the House to remove all parking on Junction Road west of Keith Street to Dawson Street to allow residents to safely enter Junction Road, Clayfield
- [392](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (3419-20) presented by the member for Scenic Rim, Mr Krause and an ePetition (3338-20) sponsored by the member for Scenic Rim, Mr Krause, from 163 and 317 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to upgrade Boonah-Rathdowney Road, in particular to double lanes from Musgrave Bridge to Maroon

10 December 2020—

- [393](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. D’Ath), to an ePetition (3400-20) sponsored by the member for Cairns, Mr Healy, and a paper petition (3434-20) presented by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(3), from 1,205 and 502 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to commit to the Cairns University Hospital project and to build the Cairns Health Innovation Precinct within 2022-25

14 December 2020—

- [394](#) Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2019-20
[395](#) Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2019-20
[396](#) Central West Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2019-20
[397](#) Children’s Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2019-20
[398](#) Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2019-20
[399](#) Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2019-20
[400](#) Mackay Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2019-20
[401](#) Metro North Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2019-20
[402](#) Metro South Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2019-20
[403](#) North West Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2019-20
[404](#) South West Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2019-20
[405](#) Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2019-20
[406](#) Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2019-20
[407](#) Townsville Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2019-20
[408](#) West Moreton Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2019-20
[409](#) Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2019-20
[410](#) Bundaberg Health Services Foundation—Annual Report 2019-20
[411](#) Children’s Hospital Foundation Queensland—Annual Report 2019-20
[412](#) Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2019-20
[413](#) Gold Coast Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2019-20
[414](#) Ipswich Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2019-20
[415](#) Mackay Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2019-20
[416](#) PA Research Foundation—Annual Report 2019-20
[417](#) Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2019-20
[418](#) Sunshine Coast Health Foundation (Wishlist)—Annual Report 2019-20
[419](#) The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2019-20
[420](#) Townsville Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2019-20
[421](#) Toowoomba Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2019-20
[422](#) Health and Wellbeing Queensland—Annual Report 2019-20
[423](#) Office of the Health Ombudsman—Annual Report 2019-20
[424](#) Childrens Court of Queensland—Annual Report 2019-20
[425](#) Queensland Mental Health Commission—Annual Report 2019-20

15 December 2020—

- [426](#) Department of Health—Annual Report 2019-20
[427](#) QIMR Berghofer Institute of Medical Research—Annual Report 2019-20
[428](#) Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) and National Boards—Annual Report 2019-20
[429](#) Queensland Police Service—Device Inspections Annual Report 2019-20
[430](#) Queensland Police Service—Dangerous Attachment Devices 2019-20
[431](#) Queensland Police Service—Surveillance Device Warrants Annual Report 2019-20

16 December 2020—

- [432](#) Ministerial Gifts Register—Reportable Gifts 1 July 2019—30 June 2020
[433](#) Response from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (Hon. Furner), to an ePetition (3430-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 969 petitioners, requesting the House to ban animal testing and experimentation

17 December 2020—

- [434](#) Response from the Treasurer and Minister for Investment (Hon. Dick), to an ePetition (3333-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 539 petitioners, requesting the House to protect local communities from the impacts of mining operations
[435](#) Casino Control Act 1982, Gaming Machine Act 1991: Gaming Tax Amendment Notice 2020, No. 266
[436](#) Casino Control Act 1982, Gaming Machine Act 1991: Gaming Tax Amendment Notice 2020, No. 266, explanatory notes

[437](#) Casino Control Act 1982, Gaming Machine Act 1991: Gaming Tax Amendment Notice 2020, No. 266, human rights certificate

[438](#) National Health Practitioner Ombudsman—Annual Report 2019-20

[439](#) Administrator National Health Funding Pool—Annual Report 2019-20

18 December 2020—

[440](#) Response from the Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (Hon. Crawford), to an ePetition (3399-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 296 petitioners, requesting the House to enable people on disability support pensions to be eligible for a mortgage

[441](#) Department of Transport and Main Roads—Review of inner harbour capital dredging for the Port of Cairns—Sustainable Ports Development Act 2015, section 35, August 2020

4 January 2021—

[1](#) Response from the Acting Premier and Minister for Trade (Hon. Miles), to an ePetition (3336-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 492 petitioners, requesting the House to implement greater safeguards to ensure electorate offices and their assets are not used for political party purposes

[2](#) Response from the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (Hon. Dr Miles), to an ePetition (3318-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 252 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure amendment to s254 Local Government Regulation (Qld) 2012 to properly reflect that any pledge any elected or local government employee has with an organisation are invalidated once elected or appointed to public office

[3](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3410-20) sponsored by the member for Burnett, Mr Bennett, from 258 petitioners, requesting the House to sign the project agreement so work on the conveyor can start at the Port of Bundaberg

[4](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3407-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 197 petitioners, requesting the House to improve existing bus networks and their ticketing regulations across Rockhampton, Gracemere and Mount Morgan

[5](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3422-20) sponsored by the member for Coomera, Mr Crandon, from 76 petitioners, requesting the House to fast track the upgrade to bus services between Ormeau Railway Station and Coomera Railway Station

[6](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3423-20) sponsored by the member for Coomera, Mr Crandon, from 86 petitioners, requesting the House to fast track the business cases for the Coomera Railway Station park 'n' ride

[7](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3424-20) sponsored by the member for Coomera, Mr Crandon, from 61 petitioners, requesting the House to fast track the provision of a regular daily bus service to enable people to connect to the transport hub of Ormeau and the nearby Pimpama shopping precinct

[8](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3425-20) sponsored by the member for Coomera, Mr Crandon, from 254 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake improvements to Exit 49 of the M1 at Pimpama as part of the COVID-19 Economic Recovery plan

[9](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3426-20) sponsored by the member for Coomera, Mr Crandon, from 108 petitioners, requesting the House to fast track the construction of the Pimpama Railway Station

[10](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3427-20) sponsored by the member for Coomera, Mr Crandon, from 74 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake improvements to Exit 41 of the M1 as part of the COVID-19 Economic Recovery plan

[11](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3428-20) sponsored by the member for Coomera, Mr Crandon, from 56 petitioners, requesting the House to fast track the essential upgrade to bus services between Beenleigh Railway Station and Ormeau Railway Station

[12](#) Response from the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs (Hon. Scanlon), to an ePetition (3378-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 3,819 petitioners, requesting the House to implement stronger laws for the protection of koala habitat in South East Queensland

[13](#) Response from the Minister for Tourism Industry Development and Innovation and Minister for Sport (Hon. Hinchliffe), to an ePetition (3370-20) sponsored by the member for Mirani, Mr Andrew, from 85 petitioners, requesting the House to commit to sporting complex upgrades at the proposed Victoria Park site, Rockhampton

5 January 2021—

[14](#) Response from the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services (Hon. Ryan), to an ePetition (3343-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 1,633 petitioners, requesting the House to remove paintball markers from Category A of the weapons regulation to a Restricted Item

[15](#) Response from the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services (Hon. Ryan), to an ePetition (3347-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), 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

[16](#) Response from the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services (Hon. Ryan), to an ePetition (3358-20) sponsored by the member for Mirani, Mr Andrew, from 136 petitioners, requesting the House to secure land and start the process to establish a new fire station in Mango Hill

- [17](#) Response from the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services (Hon. Ryan), to an ePetition (3366-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 311 petitioners, requesting the House to establish a new police station in Murrumba Downs
- [18](#) Response from the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services (Hon. Ryan), to an ePetition (3367-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 156 petitioners, requesting the House to make Deception Bay Fire Station a permanent fire station
- [19](#) Response from the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services (Hon. Ryan), to an ePetition (3368-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 537 petitioners, requesting the House to open the current police station at Mango Hill/North Lakes 24-hours
- [20](#) Response from the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services (Hon. Ryan), to an ePetition (3421-20) sponsored by the member for Coomera, Mr Crandon, from 242 petitioners, requesting the House to fast track the provision of 35 additional police officers in the Coomera Police Division
- 12 January 2021—
- [21](#) President of the Industrial Court of Queensland (in respect of the Industrial Court of Queensland, Queensland Industrial Relations Commission and the Queensland Industrial Registry)—Annual Report 2019-20
- 13 January 2021—
- [22](#) Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Report No. 43, 56th Parliament—Interim report: Inquiry into the Queensland Government's health response to COVID-19, government response
- [23](#) Takeaway liquor authority notice number 8 issued in accordance with section 235D and 235F of the Liquor Act 1992 by the Commissioner for Liquor and Gaming
- [24](#) Takeaway liquor authority notice number 9 issued in accordance with section 235D and 235F of the Liquor Act 1992 by the Commissioner for Liquor and Gaming
- [25](#) Takeaway liquor authority notice number 10 issued in accordance with section 235D and 235F of the Liquor Act 1992 by the Commissioner for Liquor and Gaming
- [26](#) Takeaway liquor authority notice number 11 issued in accordance with section 235D and 235F of the Liquor Act 1992 by the Commissioner for Liquor and Gaming
- 20 January 2021—
- [27](#) Transport and Public Works Committee: Report No. 41, 56th Parliament—Inquiry into Transport Technology, government response
- 21 January 2021—
- [28](#) Magistrates Courts of Queensland—Annual Report 2019-2020
- [29](#) Public Interest Monitor—Annual Report 2019-20
- [30](#) Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board—Annual Report 2019-20
- 22 January 2021—
- [31](#) Takeaway liquor authority notice number 12 issued in accordance with section 235D and 235F of the Liquor Act 1992 by the Commissioner for Liquor and Gaming
- 28 January 2021—
- [32](#) Auditor-General Report 9: 2020-21—Water 2020
- 29 January 2021—
- [33](#) Review of the Transport Security (Counter-Terrorism) Act 2008—Final Report
- 2 February 2021—
- [34](#) Auditor-General Report 10: 2020-21—Transport 2020
- [35](#) Response from the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs (Hon. Scanlon), to an ePetition (3378-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 3,819 petitioners, requesting the House to implement stronger laws for the protection of koala habitat in South East Queensland: Erratum
- 3 February 2021—
- [36](#) Family Responsibilities Commission—Annual Report 2019-20
- 4 February 2021—
- [37](#) Auditor-General Report 11: 2020-21—Energy 2020
- [38](#) Residential Tenancies Authority—Annual Report 2019-20: Erratum
- 9 February 2021—
- [39](#) Auditor-General Report 12: 2020-21—Health 2020
- 11 February 2021—
- [40](#) Auditor-General Report 13: 2020-21—State entities 2020
- [41](#) Public Works and Utilities Committee: Report No. 48, 55th Parliament—Housing Legislation (Building Better Futures) Amendment Bill 2017, government response—Recommendations 12, 13, 14, 16 and 18

12 February 2021—

- [42](#) Education, Employment and Training Committee: Report No. 2, 57th Parliament—2020-2021 Budget Estimates
- [43](#) Education, Employment and Training Committee: Report No. 2, 57th Parliament—2020-2021 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information
- [44](#) State Development and Regional Industries Committee: Report No. 2, 57th Parliament—2020-21 Budget Estimates
- [45](#) State Development and Regional Industries Committee: Report No. 2, 57th Parliament—2020-21 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information
- [46](#) Community Support and Services Committee: Report No. 2, 57th Parliament—2020-21 Budget Estimates
- [47](#) Community Support and Services Committee: 2020-21 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information
- [48](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 2, 57th Parliament—2020-21 Budget Estimates—Appropriation (Parliament) (2020-2021) Bill 2020
- [49](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 3, 57th Parliament—2020-21 Budget Estimates—Appropriation (2020-2021) Bill 2020
- [50](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report Nos 2 and 3, 57th Parliament—2020-2021 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information
- [51](#) Health and Environment Committee: Report No. 2, 57th Parliament—2020-21 Budget Estimates
- [52](#) Health and Environment Committee: Report No. 2, 57th Parliament—2020-21 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information
- [53](#) Health and Environment Committee: Report No. 3, 57th Parliament—Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020
- [54](#) Health and Environment Committee: Report No. 4, 57th Parliament—Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2020
- [55](#) Health and Environment Committee: Report No. 5, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 15 July and 8 September 2020
- [56](#) Community Support and Services Committee: Report No. 3, 57th Parliament—Child Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020
- [57](#) Transport and Resources Committee: Report No. 2, 57th Parliament—2020-21 Budget Estimates
- [58](#) Transport and Resources Committee: Report No. 2, 57th Parliament—2020-21 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information
- [59](#) Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 2, 57th Parliament—2020-21 Budget Estimates
- [60](#) Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 2, 57th Parliament—2020-21 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information
- [61](#) Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 4, 57th Parliament—Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill 2020
- [62](#) Letter, dated 12 February 2021, from the Chair of the Committee of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt, to the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Neil Laurie, advising of the committee's determination to extend the reporting date of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee on the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Indigenous Joint Management-Moretton Island) Amendment Bill 2020
- [63](#) Education, Employment and Training Committee: Report No. 3, 57th Parliament—Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020
- [64](#) Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 3, 57th Parliament—Criminal Code (Consent and Mistake of Fact) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020

15 February 2021—

- [65](#) State Development and Regional Industries Committee: Report No. 3, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 4 August 2020 and 11 August 2020

16 February 2021—

- [66](#) Auditor-General Report 14: 2020-21—Responding to complaints from people with impaired capacity—Part 2: The Office of the Public Guardian
- [67](#) Response from the Premier and Minister for Trade (Hon. Palaszczuk), to a paper petition (3413-20) presented by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(3) from 775 petitioners, requesting the House to consider the installation of *Diamantinasaurus matildae* as the Queensland State Fossil

17 February 2021—

- [68](#) Code of conduct for building certifiers—Effective 1 October 2020

18 February 2021—

- [69](#) Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 5, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 15 July 2020 and 2 October 2020

19 February 2021—

- [70](#) COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020, Retail Shop Leases Act 1994: Retail Shop Leases and Other Commercial Leases (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 7
- [71](#) COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020, Retail Shop Leases Act 1994: Retail Shop Leases and Other Commercial Leases (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Amendment Regulation 2021, No 7, explanatory notes
- [72](#) COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020, Retail Shop Leases Act 1994: Retail Shop Leases and Other Commercial Leases (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 7, human rights certificate

22 February 2021—

- [73](#) Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 3, 57th Parliament—Criminal Code (Consent and Mistake of Fact) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020: Erratum
- [74](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 3, 57th Parliament—2020-21 Budget Estimates—Appropriation (2020-2021) Bill 2020: Erratum
- [75](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 4, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 15 July 2020 and 8 September 2020
- [76](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 5, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 9 September 2020 and 26 November 2020
- [77](#) Community Support and Services Committee: Report No. 3, 57th Parliament—Child Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020: Erratum
- [78](#) Community Support and Services Committee: Report No. 4, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 8 September 2020 and 2 December 2020
- [79](#) Letter, dated 22 February 2021, from the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs, Hon. Meaghan Scanlon, to the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Neil Laurie, regarding Schedule 3 of the Commonwealth Gene Technology Amendment (2019 Measures No. 1) Regulations 2019
- [80](#) Gene Technology Amendment (2019 Measures No. 1) Regulations 2019, Schedule 3

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Transplantation and Anatomy Act 1979:

- [81](#) Transplantation and Anatomy (Tissue Banks) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 255
- [82](#) Transplantation and Anatomy (Tissue Banks) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 255, explanatory notes
- [83](#) Transplantation and Anatomy (Tissue Banks) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 255, human rights certificate

Disaster Management Act 2003:

- [84](#) Disaster Management (Further Extension of Disaster Situation—COVID-19) Regulation (No. 7) 2020, No. 256
- [85](#) Disaster Management (Further Extension of Disaster Situation—COVID-19) Regulation (No. 7) 2020, No. 256, explanatory notes
- [86](#) Disaster Management (Further Extension of Disaster Situation—COVID-19) Regulation (No. 7) 2020, No. 256, human rights certificate

Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994:

- [87](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Commonwealth Schemes) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 257
- [88](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Commonwealth Schemes) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 257, explanatory notes
- [89](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Commonwealth Schemes) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 257, human rights certificate

Forestry Act 1959, Nature Conservation Act 1992:

- [90](#) Forestry (State Forests) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 258
- [91](#) Forestry (State Forests) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 258, explanatory notes
- [92](#) Forestry (State Forests) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 258, human rights certificate

Nature Conservation Act 1992:

- [93](#) Nature Conservation (Macropod Harvest Period 2021) Notice 2020, No. 259
- [94](#) Nature Conservation (Macropod Harvest Period 2021) Notice 2020, No. 259, explanatory notes
- [95](#) Nature Conservation (Macropod Harvest Period 2021) Notice 2020, No. 259, human rights certificate

Public Health Act 2005:

- [96](#) Public Health (Further Extension of Declared Public Health Emergency—COVID-19) Regulation (No. 6) 2020, No. 260
- [97](#) Public Health (Further Extension of Declared Public Health Emergency—COVID-19) Regulation (No. 6) 2020, No. 260, explanatory notes
- [98](#) Public Health (Further Extension of Declared Public Health Emergency—COVID-19) Regulation (No. 6) 2020, No. 260, human rights certificate

Building Act 1975:

- [99](#) Building (Approval of Amendment of QDC) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 261
- [100](#) Building (Approval of Amendment of QDC) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 261, explanatory notes
- [101](#) Building (Approval of Amendment of QDC) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 261, human rights certificate

Liquor Act 1992:

- [102](#) Liquor (Kowanyama) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 262
- [103](#) Liquor (Kowanyama) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 262, explanatory notes
- [104](#) Liquor (Kowanyama) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 262, human rights certificate

Public Trustee Act 1978:

- [105](#) Public Trustee (Interest Rate) Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2020, No. 263
- [106](#) Public Trustee (Interest Rate) Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2020, No. 263, explanatory notes
- [107](#) Public Trustee (Interest Rate) Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2020, No. 263, human rights certificate

Disability Services Act 2006, Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000:

- [108](#) Disability Services and Other Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 264
- [109](#) Disability Services and Other Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 264, explanatory notes
- [110](#) Disability Services and Other Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 264, human rights certificate

Disability Services and Other Legislation (Worker Screening) Amendment Act 2020:

- [111](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 265
- [112](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 265, explanatory notes

Fisheries Act 1994:

- [113](#) Fisheries Quota (Commercial Trawl Fishery (Fin Fish)—Prescribed Whiting) Amendment Declaration 2020, No. 267
- [114](#) Fisheries Quota (Commercial Trawl Fishery (Fin Fish)—Prescribed Whiting) Amendment Declaration 2020, No. 267, explanatory notes
- [115](#) Fisheries Quota (Commercial Trawl Fishery (Fin Fish)—Prescribed Whiting) Amendment Declaration 2020, No. 267, human rights certificate

Public Trustee Act 1978:

- [116](#) Public Trustee (Interest Rate) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 1
- [117](#) Public Trustee (Interest Rate) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 1, explanatory notes
- [118](#) Public Trustee (Interest Rate) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 1, human rights certificate

Disability Services Act 2006, Police Service Administration Act 1990, Transport Planning and Coordination Act 1994, Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000:

- [119](#) Disability Services and Other Legislation (Worker Screening) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 2
- [120](#) Disability Services and Other Legislation (Worker Screening) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 2, explanatory notes
- [121](#) Disability Services and Other Legislation (Worker Screening) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 2, human rights certificate

Disability Services Act 2006:

- [122](#) Disability Services (Transitional) Regulation 2021, No. 3
- [123](#) Disability Services (Transitional) Regulation 2021, No. 3, explanatory notes
- [124](#) Disability Services (Transitional) Regulation 2021, No. 3, human rights certificate

State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999:

- [125](#) State Penalties Enforcement (Public Health) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 4
- [126](#) State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999: State Penalties Enforcement (Public Health) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 4, explanatory notes
- [127](#) State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999: State Penalties Enforcement (Public Health) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 4, human rights certificate

Health Act 1937:

- [128](#) Health (Drugs and Poisons) (COVID-19 Vaccination Services) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 5
- [129](#) Health (Drugs and Poisons) (COVID-19 Vaccination Services) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 5, explanatory notes
- [130](#) Health (Drugs and Poisons) (COVID-19 Vaccination Services) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 5, human rights certificate

Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995:

- [131](#) Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Driver Licensing) (Hazard Perception Test) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 6
- [132](#) Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Driver Licensing) (Hazard Perception Test) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 6, explanatory notes
- [133](#) Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Driver Licensing) (Hazard Perception Test) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 6, human rights certificate

Nature Conservation Act 1992:

- [134](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 8
- [135](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 8, explanatory notes
- [136](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 8, human rights certificate

Heavy Vehicle National Law as applied by the Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012 (Qld) and by the law of States and Territories:

- [137](#) Heavy Vehicle National Legislation Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 9
- [138](#) Heavy Vehicle National Legislation Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 9, explanatory notes
- [139](#) Heavy Vehicle National Legislation Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 9, human rights certificate

Industrial Relations Act 2016:

- [140](#) Industrial Relations (Tribunals) Amendment Rule 2021, No. 10
- [141](#) Industrial Relations (Tribunals) Amendment Rule 2021, No. 10, explanatory notes
- [142](#) Industrial Relations (Tribunals) Amendment Rule 2021, No. 10, human rights certificate

COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020, Retail Shop Leases Act 1994, Supreme Court of Queensland Act 1991:

- [143](#) Uniform Civil Procedure (Fees) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 11
- [144](#) Uniform Civil Procedure (Fees) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 11, explanatory notes
- [145](#) Uniform Civil Procedure (Fees) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 11, human rights certificate

SPEAKER'S PAPER

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

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly (Hon. Pitt)—

- [146](#) Statement for Public Disclosure: Expenditure of the Office of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly for the period 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2020

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Coronavirus, Update; Coronavirus, Vaccine



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.37 am): Queensland has recorded zero cases of COVID overnight. We have seven active cases. There have been 6,176 tests in the past 24 hours. Since the pandemic began, 1,321 cases of COVID have been recorded in Queensland with the loss of six lives. Across Australia the number of deaths is 909; globally the figure is around 2.4 million.

Some 391 days after we started battling this pandemic, we have reached a turning point. Yesterday Zoe Park became the first Queenslanders to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Zoe is a nurse working in the COVID ward of the Gold Coast University Hospital and it could not be more fitting that the first vaccine was given in the first hospital that treated our first COVID patient. By the end of the first day, 203 Queenslanders had received their first dose of the vaccine. By the end of this week, that number is expected to grow to 1,000.


By the end of October, we aim to have vaccinated four million people. This is an historic undertaking. Everybody naturally wants to know when their turn will come. The vaccine is in limited supply. These supplies are controlled by the federal government. We can only give out what the federal government delivers. We are rolling out the vaccine in phases and I urge people to look at the fact sheet about the phases and that rollout.

Now is not the time for people to contact their GP or turn up in hospitals. We are starting with people like Zoe working in COVID wards or in hotel quarantine. The more of them we vaccinate the better the protection for all of us. We expect vaccinations for the general public will begin midyear. They will start with people aged over 80, then 70 and so on.

All through this pandemic the government has made informing Queenslanders a priority. I believe part of Queensland's success in this pandemic has been because of good communication. For as long as there is a pandemic that communication will continue. We will keep Queenslanders informed as the vaccine rollout continues.


The Minister for Health and the Chief Health Officer will be conducting a briefing for all members during this sitting of parliament and I urge all members to attend. It is vitally important that members get across this information to be able to talk to their constituents about it. When Dr Young says it is our turn, we will be going to get the vaccine as well. We begin 2021 with more to hope for than to fear, but we cannot let our guard down. Each day brings us closer to the end of this ordeal, but until that day we must remain vigilant, strong and united.

Anzac Day

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.40 am): I have good news for Queensland: Anzac Day commemorations will proceed this year as normal. Dawn services, marches and all other Anzac Day events will be as they were prior to this pandemic. This applies all over the state. Mackay, Rockhampton, Longreach, Townsville, Cairns, Currumbin and all points in between can start planning for Anzac Day's return. RSL President Tony Ferris told me this is the best news he has had all year. The pandemic has cost us a lot. I know how heartbreaking it was that Anzac Day last year could not be conducted as we all would have liked. Look how far we have come since then. Once again the credit for this belongs to the people of our great state. Their sacrifice has made this possible when it is not possible in other states.

The freedoms we enjoy in this country were hard fought. Perhaps we have a new respect for them. Thanks to the vigilance of all Queenslanders during this pandemic we are able to enjoy more of them and have Anzac Day back where it belongs.

Economy

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.41 am): By keeping COVID out we are keeping Queensland's economy open for business. In Queensland our economy is on the road to recovery and on track to grow this financial year. We are delivering \$11 billion for that economic recovery. As Deloitte said last month about Queensland—


The health response to the pandemic has been strong, and that's meant businesses have been able to reopen earlier and to a greater extent. That puts the state's economic recovery several steps in front of some other parts of the country—and even more, of the rest of the world.

Already more people are moving to Queensland, with the strongest growth from people moving interstate in the country. Why would they not want to move here? It is the best state in the country with the best lifestyle. Queensland had 7,200 net interstate migrants in the September quarter, with most—over 4,000—coming from New South Wales. More people are moving to the regions than to Brisbane, which is great news for our regional members. This is contributing to the highest investment in new houses in Queensland since 1994. That is flowing through to more jobs being created.

Queensland has seen the strongest recovery in jobs in the nation, with 224,000 jobs returning since May last year. In January there were 9,200 full-time jobs created. This means that the total number of full-time jobs has now recovered to pre COVID levels. There are now nearly 275,000 additional jobs than when we came to office and around six out of every seven of these jobs has been in the private sector.

While international borders remain closed there are businesses that are still hurting and there needs to be support for those impacted to remain open. That means targeted ongoing support from the federal government beyond JobKeeper. Our economic recovery plan is delivering and I am confident that Queensland's best days remain ahead of us.

Coronavirus, Vaccine; Defence Industries

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) (9.43 am): At the outset can I say how proud I was to be a Queenslander yesterday. To begin a population-wide COVID vaccination program after the death of just six people, only one of whom contracted the virus here, is a miracle we should all be very proud of. It means our annual Anzac Day traditions, which are so important to all of our communities, can go ahead this year as normal. It also means we are ahead of the rest of the world when it comes to the post pandemic economic recovery and job creation.

Last week the Queensland cabinet met at Rheinmetall Defence Australia at Milvehcoe in Redbank, the most advanced military vehicle manufacturing facility in Australia, one of the most advanced in the world. There the Premier signed a memorandum of understanding with Rheinmetall Defence Australia to support its campaign to win the phase 3 Land 400 construction contract. Through its current production of 211 Boxer reconnaissance vehicles, Rheinmetall is already creating more than 450 jobs at Milvehcoe and adding more than \$1 billion to the Queensland economy in its first 10 years.


In signing the MOU the Queensland government demonstrated its commitment to advocate with Rheinmetall on the delivery of the next infantry fighting vehicle for the Australian Army, the Lynx KF41, as part of the Land 400 phase 3 tender. The phase 3 contract is worth \$27 billion over 10 years and

would bring hundreds of jobs, provide long-term certainty to the current workforce and create opportunities along the entire supply chain for Queensland small and medium enterprises. These are the kinds of high skilled, knowledge based jobs of the future that the Queensland government supports.

None of it would be possible without the work of the Palaszczuk government. Who could forget then minister Dr Lynham's dash to Germany to get that initial deal over the line? This state-of-the-art 11-hectare site at Redbank gives Rheinmetall a massive home-ground advantage when bidding for these future defence contracts. Queensland's defence industries currently support around 6,500 direct jobs. Our aim is to have an additional 3,500 jobs added to the sector by 2028.

Queensland has the largest concentration of defence personnel and assets in Australia, with over 40 per cent of the Australian Army based here in Queensland. The vehicles developed at Milvehcoe not only protect the lives of the men and women who serve in the Australian Defence forces; they also ensure that Australia has the right capabilities to deal with humanitarian missions and natural disaster situations at home and abroad. Supporting the defence industry is all part of our plan to build back better, supercharging our economic recovery from the COVID pandemic and ensuring the jobs of the future are being created right here in Queensland.

Economy


 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (9.46 am): Throughout the pandemic one lesson has run clear and true to governments all around the world: a strong health response means a stronger recovery and a stronger economy. Along with our robust health response, our government has a clear strategy for our state's economic recovery. Recent data once again demonstrates that the resilience, hard work and determination of Queenslanders throughout the pandemic positions our state very well for recovery.

Queensland's state final demand rebounded strongly in the September quarter, rising 6.8 per cent as emergency health restrictions were eased. This was the strongest quarterly rise of all states. Queensland was the only state to record growth since the March 2020 quarter and over the year. As the Premier said, the strength in our rebounding economy is leading to a stronger labour market. The 29,700 additional Queenslanders who are in work in January this year compared to January 2020 means Queensland is the only state to have more people in work today than were working a year ago. Victoria is still 16,000 jobs short of its level this time last year and New South Wales is 53,000 jobs behind.

Rising consumer confidence is supporting a strong recovery in household spending. The Westpac-Melbourne consumer sentiment index for Queensland has remained in optimistic territory since October 2020 and has now risen 35.4 per cent since its COVID-19 lows in April last year. Retail turnover volumes in Queensland grew a further 0.6 per cent in the December quarter to be 10 per cent higher over the year—the second fastest growth among the states. The good news is that the strength in consumer confidence and demand is flowing through to the business sector. The latest NAB quarterly business survey shows Queensland business conditions and confidence surged in the December quarter, rising 19 points and 10 points respectively.

As Australia's vaccine rollout begins this week, there is reason for more optimism than there has been for more than a year. As countries like the United States and the United Kingdom contemplate easing restrictions and charting their path away from COVID, Queensland is already taking strong steps on that journey. Now more than ever Queensland is the place to be.


Coronavirus, Vaccine

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.49 am): Queensland has gained another weapon in our fight against COVID-19: a vaccine. Yesterday I was fortunate enough to attend the first round of vaccinations with the Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young, at the Gold Coast University Hospital, one of Queensland's six Pfizer hubs. Zoe Park, a registered nurse who has been working at the Gold Coast COVID ward, was the first Queenslander to get a vaccine and that happened at the hospital that treated Queensland's first COVID patient. She was vaccinated alongside a member of our Queensland Police Service, a venue health manager at our Gold Coast quarantine hotels and a hotel quarantine operational support officer. In total 203 Queenslanders were vaccinated at the Gold Coast vaccination hub yesterday—double our original target. This first phase of vaccinations has prioritised those workers who are engaging with our hotel quarantine facilities and working in our COVID wards, including police officers, healthcare workers, paramedics and cleaners.

This is an exciting time for Queensland and, indeed, Australia, but there is a long way to go. We will continue to work with the Commonwealth government to ensure that we are receiving the required amounts of Pfizer vaccine to continue our rollout statewide. Five more vaccination hubs are being stood up across the state and will come online over the next two weeks as Queensland receives more supplies. This week we will be rolling out the vaccine at the PA Hospital and Cairns Hospital hubs. Next week will see the remaining Pfizer hubs at the RBWH, Sunshine Coast University Hospital and Townsville University Hospital become operational. However, we must remember that this is only the first phase of the vaccine rollout. Other parts of Queensland that do not have a vaccine hub will receive the AstraZeneca vaccine from phase 1b onwards.

The COVID-19 vaccination rollout is the most significant coordinated immunisation campaign that Australia and, indeed, the world has ever seen. We must remain patient. With the TGA providing provisional approval for the AstraZeneca vaccine to be provided to Australians, our message to Queenslanders is clear: any Queenslanders who want a vaccination will receive one when their turn comes. In the meantime, I urge Queenslanders to continue the measures that have helped us manage this pandemic so successfully: social distancing, hand hygiene and, most importantly, getting tested and staying home when you have any COVID-19 symptoms. Together we will continue to get through this.

State Schools, Infrastructure


 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.51 am): Right across this state thousands of young Queensland students are receiving a great education in 1,254 great schools. In 2021 that includes five brand new schools in the growing south-east corner. On the first day of school, students were welcomed at Brisbane South State Secondary College at Dutton Park; Baringa State Secondary College, which was officially opened last week with the Premier and the member for Caloundra, Jason Hunt—what a great morning that was; Palmview State Primary School and Palmview State Special School on the Sunshine Coast; and Gainsborough State School on the Gold Coast. Those five new state schools represent an investment of more than \$462 million, supporting up to an estimated 1,387 jobs. There is more to come with three more new state schools to open next year: a new primary school in Caloundra South, a new primary school in Greenbank and a new special school at Coomera.

The Palaszczuk government recognises that our short-term economic recovery hinges on jobs. Our record \$1.9 billion school infrastructure investment will support almost 4,800 jobs throughout Queensland. That means jobs for plumbing apprentices such as Cameron MacDonald. Last week I met Cameron at the sod-turning of the new primary school at Greenbank with the Premier, the member for Logan and the member for Jordan. Young people such as Cameron will be building a future while they build new school halls, performing arts centres and classroom blocks. We are also pumping \$45 million into shovel-ready projects that can get underway straightaway—projects like playground and fencing upgrades. That will support nearly 150 valuable local jobs right across the state.

Our education policies are also focused on the long term by building careers for students with the skills they will need to grow and prosper into the future. Our \$45 million Local Schools Local Jobs plan will upgrade training facilities and trade training centres at 26 schools across the state such as Tara Shire State College in the electorate of Warrego and Chinchilla State High School in Callide. The plan will support training opportunities in mining, gas and electrical industries for young people in those areas so that they can get jobs in local industries and will not have to leave their regions. This is all about strengthening regional economies and communities.

Since 2015 the Palaszczuk government has invested \$5.2 billion in school infrastructure because we know that our state is growing. We will continue that investment to create local jobs, rebuild our schools and economy, and give young students the future they deserve.

Cross River Rail

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.55 am): If 2020 was the year of demolition to make way for Cross River Rail, 2021 is the year we carve out, tunnel and build the largest ever passenger rail project in Queensland. There will be two rail tunnels, three stations on the Gold Coast, four new underground stations, 5.9 kilometres of tunnels, six road headers, 7,700 jobs, eight station upgrades, 95 per cent local workers on tunnels and stations, 10 kilometres of rail line and zero dollars from the Morrison LNP government. That is why the Palaszczuk government's \$5.4 billion

Cross River Rail project is not just transforming our public transport network; it is creating jobs in existing and new industries and opportunities for hundreds of local businesses, all driving our state's economic recovery plan from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the past two months I have inspected works that people above ground cannot see: the construction at the Albert Street and Dutton Park sites, the start of tunnel boring at the Gabba site and the transformation of the Exhibition station, which I inspected with the Minister for Education and member for McConnel. I have met with hundreds of workers who are building this project from the underground up, such as the crew of 15 that is skilfully guiding our two 1,350-tonne boring machines, which are named after two wonderful women in Queensland history.

So far, 2,400 people have been able to secure stable and long-term jobs because of this project. Queenslanders looking to upskill have been able to cut their teeth on a world-class project with 450 apprenticeships and traineeships, including 17-year-old apprentice Samuel Scheeres who is getting the opportunity of a lifetime to work and learn as the machines tunnel from the Gabba, under the river and towards the Brisbane CBD. Eight hundred Queensland businesses, both big and small, have supplied resources, equipment and skills. Those include businesses such as Fencepac on the Sunshine Coast, which I am sure enjoys support from the members for Caloundra and Nicklin, the Wagners company through its concrete facility at Wacol, and Beenleigh Steel Fabrications in the Woodridge electorate, to name but a few.


Cross River Rail is a key part of our state's economic recovery from COVID. Every day it injects more than \$4 million into our state's economy. We will see that benefit continue for generations to come, including of course through the trains we will build in Maryborough, Queensland for the Cross River Rail project. The Palaszczuk Labor government is the only party with a plan for economic recovery from COVID, a plan to create jobs and a plan to build a better public transport network with a record \$26.9 billion transport and roads budget. We are getting on with the job. They laugh at the jobs and infrastructure that we are building, but we are getting on with it.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Thank you, Minister.

Mr BAILEY: We are not cutting; we are building.

(Time expired)

Youth Justice

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (9.58 am): This government is a government that listens to the community and acts decisively. I can inform the House that the state government's plan to further crack down on recidivist youth offenders is moving ahead. This week we will introduce to the parliament legislation that will enable our suite of reforms to be enacted. Those reforms build on and extend the work that the government is already undertaking, particularly in the early intervention and prevention area.

In the past week the head of our Youth Crime Taskforce, Assistant Commissioner Cheryl Scanlon, has been travelling the state, meeting with key people and explaining how the reforms will work. It is important to note that these new measures will target youth offenders who repeatedly offend and put the community at risk. Under our comprehensive suite of reforms, the following measures will be implemented. There will be the ability for the courts to require the fitting of electronic monitoring devices as a condition of bail for recidivist high-risk offenders aged 16 and 17. We will trial this in three key hub locations across the state.

There will also be a presumption against bail inserted into the legislation for youth offenders arrested for committing further serious indictable offences whilst on bail, like dangerous operation of a motor vehicle and unlawful use of a motor vehicle.


Courts will also be empowered to seek assurances from parents and guardians and other responsible people that bail conditions must be complied with before an offender is released on bail. We will also strengthen existing bail laws to provide further guidance to the court by amending the Youth Justice Act to include a reference to the community being protected from recidivist youth offenders in the charter of youth justice principles. The government will also enshrine in legislation the principle that offending while on bail is an aggravating circumstance when the court is imposing a sentence to ensure that people feel the full force of the law.

In addition, to prevent crime, police will trial an enhanced ability to use metal-detecting wands to target knife crime in a trial on the Gold Coast. We will also change anti-hooning laws to strengthen those laws to hold the registered owner of a vehicle responsible, except where the vehicle is stolen or

the owner can identify the driver of the vehicle. There will be a parliamentary inquiry which will examine the implementation of remote engine immobilisers—a very important topic that I know many in the community, including the Queensland Police Union, feel very passionately about.

As advised by the Queensland Police Service, the reality is that overall the number of unique youth offenders has gone down by 30 per cent in the last decade, and about 90 per cent of young offenders do not reoffend after their first interaction with police. That being said, any instance of criminal offending is entirely unacceptable, and that is why these changes are being introduced and are squarely aimed at those serious repeat offenders—that 10 per cent of youth offenders who are frequently putting the community at risk. That is why we are making these changes to bail laws and other legislation changes. These 10 per cent of all youth offenders account for about 48 per cent of all youth crime. These offenders need to feel the consequences of their actions. It is this group we will target with all the force and resources at our disposal. We will always do what is necessary to enhance community safety and hold offenders to account for their actions.

Hervey Bay, Tourism


 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism Industry Development and Innovation and Minister for Sport) (10.02 am): I have great news for Hervey Bay. The humpback whale highway will be springing to life in the coming months in the warm winter waters off Hervey Bay. Joining the humpback whales will be hundreds of job-supporting visitors from New South Wales, bringing around \$8 million into the Fraser Coast's economic recovery.

Today Jetstar announced that from 26 May the airline will fly direct three times a week from Sydney into Hervey Bay. Jetstar's direct flights are perfectly timed for whale-watching season. These direct flights are supported by the Palaszczuk government's \$15 million Aviation Recovery Fund to rebuild the air links that are important to iconic destinations like Hervey Bay to maximise interstate tourism potential. It means Sydneysiders can potentially get out of the big city and, in just over two hours, be on a boat having a whale of a time, watching these magnificent creatures breaching the water as one of Queensland's great tourism experiences.

While Sydneysiders tick whale watching off their 2021 Queensland tourism bucket list, they will be supporting some 67 direct tourism jobs, making bookings with local accommodation providers and supporting local businesses right across the variety of businesses that play such an important part in the visitor economy.

On the Fraser Coast earlier this month I met with the member for Hervey Bay, Adrian Tantari, and Mayor George Seymour. Both are very fierce advocates for creating a world-class destination on the Fraser Coast. The council operates Hervey Bay Airport. It was at that meeting that I had with Mayor Seymour and the member for Hervey Bay that the wheels were put in motion to get those flights from Sydney off the ground. The council has backed it up with marketing in Sydney, including on the city's top-rating FM breakfast show. It shows what a great partnership you can have between the state Palaszczuk Labor government and local government, supporting our tourism icons and our tourism economy. Whale watching and winter on K'gari are good to go.

Resources Industries


 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (10.04 am): It is an exciting time to be part of the resources sector. Queensland is well positioned to use our resilience and innovation as the world recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic. I am pleased to inform the House that the latest quarterly figures by the Australian Bureau of Statistics show that Queensland recorded more coal jobs in the final quarter of 2020 than in any other quarter in the last 30 years. Even looking at four-quarter average employment in Queensland's coal sector, the numbers are strong, with the sector employing an average of more than 29,000 people across 2020. These figures prove that, despite external factors such as the COVID-19 pandemic, our resources sector remains resilient. December trade data shows that the value of Australian coal exports rose by 26 per cent over the previous month, showing coal continues to be an important part of the global energy and industrial mix for many years to come.

I saw firsthand what the coal industry means for Queenslanders when I visited Moranbah earlier this month and took a tour of BMA's metallurgical coalmine at Goonyella Riverside. This mine alone employs 26,000 workers, many of whom live in Central Queensland and support the local economy and the communities they live in. In fact, I got to meet one of my past students, Paul Robke. I did not ask him to present the homework he had not submitted 35 years previous, but as a former teacher I can say that it is great to catch up with your past students and see that they are working in the industry that you are very passionate about.

I also had the pleasure of meeting some of the next generation of resource workers when I attended the all-female Tradies for a Day workshop, hosted by the Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy and the Queensland Resources Council, at Moranbah State High School. The event showcased the benefits of a career in mining for regional female students and illustrated to me the benefits to the resource industry in fostering a greater diversity across its operations. Above all, the day reminded me of what an exciting time it is to join the resources industry, which is getting on and delivering a critical contribution to Queensland's economic recovery.

There are currently more than 68,500 resource workers in Queensland, located right across this great state of ours, and this highly skilled workforce is a key driver of our \$29 billion resource export industry. Under the Premier's watch, \$21 billion has been invested in or committed to resources projects, creating some 8,000 jobs. Every single Queenslander benefits through taxes, royalties, exports, jobs and business opportunities brought about by the resources sector. That is why the Palaszczuk government continues to back the sector and will continue to do so for many years to come.

Domestic and Family Violence

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.08 am): A year ago last week, Australia was left shocked, angered and heartbroken following the tragic murders of Hannah Clarke and her three children. The anniversary of the deaths is a tragic reminder of the insidious nature of domestic and family violence and so, too, was the news overnight of the townhouse fire in Browns Plains where two bodies were found, with police confirming a domestic violence order had been issued. Any death from domestic and family violence is absolutely unacceptable. My deepest sympathies are with those affected by these tragic incidents.


Our government's resolve to end the scourge of domestic and family violence is stronger than ever. Last week, the Premier and I announced the establishment of an independent task force led by the Hon. Margaret McMurdo AC. The task force will examine the issue of coercive control and make recommendations on how best to legislate against coercive control as a form of domestic and family violence.

This commitment is a significant step forward in taking action against coercive control and illustrates our determination to end domestic and family violence. We have committed to consulting extensively with a wide range of survivors, domestic and sexual violence service providers, legal and domestic violence experts and the community in the development of a new approach to tackling coercive control.

The consultation will include Hannah Clarke's parents, Sue and Lloyd. In the face of insurmountable grief Sue and Lloyd have worked tirelessly to raise awareness of domestic and family violence in Australia and the behaviour of coercive control so that other families do not have to experience the pain that they have endured. I want to pay tribute to Sue and Lloyd Clarke for all the work they have done to bring about this change and to the many other advocates and leaders within the sector who have been calling for this.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to continuing to lead a program of reform to end domestic and family violence in Queensland which is why we have invested \$152 million in this financial year to ensure the safety of Queensland women and children. While we have made significant progress with all of the 140 recommendations of the landmark report *Not now, not ever: putting an end to domestic and family violence in Queensland* having now been implemented, we know we still have much more work to do. Today we honour and remember Hannah and her three children and all victims of domestic and family violence and we all in this House recommit to doing everything we can to prevent domestic and family violence in Queensland to better protect victims and hold perpetrators to account.

Small Business

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.10 am): Support for small business is front and centre of the Palaszczuk Labor government's economic recovery plan. They are some of the heavy lifters in our economy, representing 97 per cent of all businesses in Queensland and employing 44 per cent of private sector jobs. It is why we backed small business when the pandemic was declared last year, including with our \$1 billion interest-free loans and our \$200 million of COVID adaptation grants and why at the election we committed \$140 million through our Big Plans for Small Business initiative.

This year our efforts to support small business across the state are off to a flying start, with our 17-stop small business roadshow and seven virtual meetings hosted by industry peak bodies. We kicked off in Gladstone three weeks ago and have so far visited 13 business hubs stretching from the north to the south and the west of our state. Almost 1,500 small business owners so far have heard firsthand how they can benefit from the government's key initiatives. But, importantly, we are meeting small business owners and operators face to face and listening to what they have to say on the challenges they face at this particular point in the COVID economy and how we should best move forward for them.

It is clear from the response that the outlook for business in Queensland is improving and confidence levels are rising. It was pleasing to see this also reflected in the recent CCIQ pulse survey. Some businesses are booming. Vincent from Retro Espresso Coffee Co. told me business has doubled across his cafes in Tiaro, Hervey Bay and Maryborough, which has meant he is able to employ more staff from the region. I know the members for Maryborough and Hervey Bay are so proud of his successes. There are others that are not booming and are terrified about JobKeeper ceasing at the end of this month.

Many have made significant efforts to attend our roadshow, especially our Mount Isa session where we welcomed attendees from Richmond, Julia Creek and Cloncurry. I give a big shout-out to our youngest attendee to date, 10-year-old Hamish who has been running Hammy's Cupcakes in Toowoomba for two years and who got special permission to take the morning off school to attend.


The frank feedback from businesses is invaluable, including on their difficulties in finding motivated and/or skilled staff, their desire for one-on-one support, and the emergence of home based, online businesses. The roadshow has also highlighted just how important government support is, especially our small business COVID adaptation grants. The program has seen more than \$178 million paid to more than 20,000 small businesses to date. With our member for Bundaberg I met Candice and Rory from James's Place and Tomato Backpackers who used our adaptation grant to pivot their business to a domestic market by developing an app to cater to locals after being reliant on international backpackers. There are a myriad other similar stories.

We want to ensure Queensland small businesses take advantage of the opportunities we can offer them, including creating a business environment for recovery and growth. We want to provide the assistance they need to thrive. That is what they need and that is what they deserve. I look forward to continuing our conversations with them over the coming weeks.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, question time will conclude at 11.14 am.

Youth Crime, Breach of Bail

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (10.14 am): My question is to the Minister for Youth Justice. Why will the government not return breach of bail as an offence for young offenders?

Ms LINARD: I thank the member for the question. The community has witnessed some tragic events recently involving juvenile offenders. On behalf of the government—and I know the Premier has said this—I say that our hearts are with those who are most affected. Since coming to government we have invested over half a billion dollars into youth justice in this state. We have done so because we are committed to ensuring that our community is safe. The first principle of the Youth Justice Act is community safety. That is what we are committed to. That is why we have made that significant investment. People have seen this government respond every time we have needed to to make sure that we are addressing key issues of offending.

In respect of breach of bail, the measures that we have announced to deal with this 10 per cent of high-risk, recidivist offenders—and the Minister for Police has stood and spoken about this this morning—address those offenders but do so effectively. It is about introducing measures that will target that 10 per cent effectively. Those measures include establishing a presumption against bail for youth offenders arrested for committing serious indictable offences while on bail.

Mr Ryan: A better approach.

Ms LINARD: A far better approach.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left and right, I would like to hear the minister's response.

Ms LINARD: The measures will also include, as announced this morning, enshrining in legislation the existing common law principle that offending while on bail is an aggravating circumstance when the court is imposing a sentence. Both of these are far stronger options than establishing a separate offence of breach of bail which, in previous iterations, has proved unworkable and did not result in a harsher penalty for the offender.

When in force, there were only 185 young people with a proven offence. Of these, more than 90 per cent reoffended within 12 months. I think it is important to mention that the Leader of the Opposition has clearly stated that they have called 200 times, I believe, for breach of bail to be reinstated in Queensland. They have called for it more times than the actual number of young people proven to have committed an offence—185.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left, the minister is being responsive to the question asked. I appreciate that there has been some give and take. When I call the House to order I expect it to come to order.

Ms LINARD: The president of the Childrens Court stated in his 2013-14 annual report, when breach of bail existed—

The circumstance that a juvenile committed an offence on bail has always been treated as an aggravating circumstance on the sentence for that offence. Presumably that cannot now be a consideration in the sentence for that offence because it is a separate offence for which separate punishment must be imposed.

However, it was later determined that they might be convicted but they could not be punished because they cannot be punished twice. It does not work.

(Time expired)

Youth Crime

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Premier. In 2015 Labor abolished breach of bail. Can the Premier explain how six years of rampant youth crime is keeping Queenslanders safe and strong?

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members, I expect questions will be heard in silence.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe that question incorporated imputations, and I ask that it be ruled out of order.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no imputation against an individual member. I will allow the question, but I also give the Premier some leniency in answering that question.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question because the Leader of the Opposition sat around the cabinet table with Campbell Newman and the other ministers when they decided to abolish youth justice conferencing in this state, when they decided to abolish the Murri Court in this state, when they decided to abolish the Special Circumstances Court and when they decided to shut down the Barrett Adolescent Centre.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana!

Ms PALASZCZUK: That was their approach to youth justice—to abolish the courts that would deal with these young offenders.

Mr Powell: How are bail houses working out?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you for that interjection. We forgot the boot camps!

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Premier, you have the call.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. The audit report found that they did not work. The then minister—the member for Kawana, if I recall—suddenly scrapped that proposal when they found that more people escaped from the boot camps than were housed at the boot camps.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Southern Downs, congratulations on being the first person warned in 2021.

An opposition member: Hear, hear!

Mr SPEAKER: Do not wear that as too much of a badge of honour.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes. The issue of youth crime is a serious issue in this state and it is one that my government takes absolutely seriously. That is why my cabinet is 100 per cent united in the reforms that we announced and that will be introduced into the parliament this week.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, I have cautioned you a couple of times. You are warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: As well as putting in place the legislative measures, we are tackling the issues to prevent youth crime at the beginning. That is why we announced just under a year ago one of the largest investments, I believe, in youth justice in this state ever—over \$550 million. As part of that we are building a brand new youth justice centre, a 32-bed centre which will be open next month. That is my understanding. In fact, we do have some young people using one of the wings at the moment. That is going to be a therapeutic centre as well, because some of these young people coming into the system also have drug and alcohol addiction. Some of these young people also have a disability that is not diagnosed at the time by the courts. As the police minister said, there is a specific cohort of young people—10 per cent—that are committing the majority of the crime and our laws target specifically that 10 per cent. We make no apologies for the measures that this government is taking to ensure community safety in this state.

Coronavirus, Vaccine

Mr KELLY: My question is of the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier update the House on the vaccine rollout?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Greenslopes for that very important question. There is one major question that the Queensland public want answered, and that is when they are getting the vaccine. When I am out and about that is the one thing that people stop me in the street or stop me in the shopping centres and ask me about—the rollout of the vaccine. That is why I think it is absolutely crucial that every member comes to the briefing that the health minister advises me will be on tomorrow at 1.15 pm in the Undumbi room. I urge members to attend that briefing with the health minister and the Chief Health Officer about the rollout of the vaccine.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Everton, I have cautioned you a couple of times. You are warned under the standing orders. Do you disagree with the ruling, member?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I look forward to seeing the member for Everton at that briefing. As we know, yesterday was a pivotal and historic day for tackling this COVID pandemic, and that is the rollout of the Pfizer vaccine. As I said in my ministerial statement, we are absolutely dependent on the federal government giving us the supply. The federal government is in charge of 60 per cent of the rollout and we are in charge of 40 per cent.

Yesterday Queensland Health set a target of 100 people to be vaccinated. They exceeded that. They doubled that—203. They are planning to get to 1,000 by the end of the week. Of course the PA Hospital will be stood up tomorrow and then Cairns on Friday.

It is very important that members of this House are across the facts because the public have a lot of questions. We are trying to provide them with timely and accurate information. A good source of information is the Department of Health website. Dr Young and I will also be providing regular updates to people.

These vaccines have gone through rigorous independent assessment at arms-length from government. The Therapeutic Goods Administration committee has assessed both Pfizer and AstraZeneca as safe to be used in Australia. I urge all Queenslanders when it is their turn to get vaccinated to do so. We need to get vaccinated. I urge every single member of this House to show their solidarity in the vaccine by also getting vaccinated to give confidence to their communities.

We will continue to prioritise our responsibilities but, as I said, it is absolutely dependent on the supply coming from the federal government.

(Time expired)

Youth Crime, Insurance

Mr JANETZKI: My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier tell the House what is the effect on Queenslanders' insurance premiums from six years of increasing car thefts and property damage under Labor's youth justice laws?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Insurance is the domain of the federal government.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is. Perhaps you can go and talk to your mates in Canberra.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! Premier, I ask that you put your comments through the chair.

Tourism Industry

Ms LUI: My question is of the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier update the House on the government's plan to rebuild Queensland's tourism industry and safeguard tourism jobs?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am happy to address the issue that has been raised by the member for Cook, a very strong advocate for her community in the Far North that will be impacted by JobKeeper coming to an end at the end of March.

In speaking of the federal government, it is about time the federal government realised that there are specific industries in this state that are hurting and that need support beyond JobKeeper, particularly the tourism industry in the areas of Far North Queensland, the Whitsundays and of course on the Gold Coast. It would be good to see the Leader of the Opposition, as shadow tourism minister, back our pleas to Canberra to look at more targeted support when it comes to the tourism industry.

We have said all along that we recognise that, whilst the international borders are shut—and we absolutely support the closure of those international borders—there are going to be industries that are going to be deeply affected. These are men and women who have worked hard for Queensland, who have made sacrifices over the years. They need to be able to pay their bills. They need to be able to pay their rent. They need to be able to pay their mortgage. Now is not the time to cut assistance to those industries that are doing it tough.

That is why the Minister for Tourism Industry Development, the assistant minister and I, along with the local members including the member for Cook, met with the tourism industry to hear their concerns firsthand. It is a big issue and it is a real issue. First of all, the federal government dismissed it. They absolutely dismissed it as not being an issue. All of a sudden we saw one of their federal ministers finally go up there to hear from the community. They had to be dragged up there because at first they knocked it back as not being an issue.

We will stand by the tourism industry. We have our COVID economic recovery plan and we are putting in extra money to help the tourism industry. We are looking at further measures that we will announce in due course. Of course, we are backing our tourism industry with over \$70 million that we announced during the election campaign. Now is the time for Queenslanders to continue to support our tourism industry. With the good results of COVID across Australia, we hope to welcome more interstate tourists to Queensland destinations in the very near future.

Youth Crime, Breach of Bail

Mr NICHOLLS: My question is to the Minister for Youth Justice. Will the minister listen to the community and restore breach of bail as an offence?

Ms LINARD: I can go through the exact same comments I made earlier if those opposite would like to hear them, but I will just go through the highlights. Breach of bail did not work. We are not interested in the policy vacuum that is the opposition's idea of youth justice. Boot camps and breach of bail are the only things the opposition has talked about for nine years. During their three years in government and six years in opposition all we heard from the policy vacuum of those opposite with regard to youth justice is boot camps—which failed—and breach of bail, which was not used. The offence of offending on bail carried with it no actual punishment—

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gregory.

Ms LINARD: I will start again because I do not think that the member for Clayfield, who asked the question, heard the answer. The offence of offending on bail carried with it no actual punishment. It applied to a very small number of young people and it had no appreciable impact on offending and reoffending. While those opposite continue to call for it, as a government we are far more interested in doing the things that work. For six years this government has shown that we will continue to listen to the Queensland public and do the things that need to be done to address youth offending. We have shown that again and again.

Youth justice requires continuous vigilance. As offenders change the way they offend, we have to be flexible and respond. That is what government does. Government invests, it has a plan and it listens to the community and it responds. What it does not do is repeat the same thing which does not work. It did not work in 2014, it did not work in 2013 and it is not going to work now. We are entirely more interested in listening to those stakeholders in our community who provide advice to the government, including Bob Atkinson. In 2018 at the request of our Premier, Bob Atkinson, whom I believe everyone in this chamber respects, drafted a report to guide youth justice in this state. We are investing in that plan because we will always invest in community safety and young people to change the story of youth offending. That is what governments do, and that is what we will continue to do.

Job Creation

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 commitment to creating local jobs and is he aware of any alternative approaches?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Bundamba for his excellent question. I know that, like everyone on this side of the House, he is focused on Queensland's economic recovery post the pandemic and how that can create jobs in his electorate. We are determined to get more people back to work and to build back better, and there is already evidence that our plan is working. We are supporting Metagenics to make medications in the member for Nudgee's seat; Aspen Medical to make PPE in the member for Pine Rivers' seat; MaxiTRANS is making trucks in the member for Jordan's seat; Grillex is making barbies in Bundaberg; and Boeing is designing, constructing and testing their Loyal Wingman drones right here in Queensland, including in Cloncurry at our world-leading high-tech test facility. As I outlined in my ministerial statement, we are all in backing Rheinmetall in the member for Bundamba's seat in their bid to win the phase 3 Land 400 contract, which is a massive contract—\$27 billion into our state—as well as the jobs it will create.

While last year the Premier worked closely with Victoria to help the AFL and the Storm respond to COVID, in this fight for phase 3 Victoria is our enemy. We are fighting for Queensland jobs. While we hope that we win that tender, we will take nothing for granted. We will do everything we possibly can to win that contract, the economic investment and the jobs it will create. That is the difference between us on this side of the House and those on the other side. We get up every day and do the work to create jobs for Queenslanders while those opposite are just focused on themselves.

I was interested to read that the Leader of the Opposition has already declared victory at the next election, even though it is still four years away. We will spend every day of those four years working to create jobs for Queenslanders. While the Leader of the Opposition has announced that his focus is on the one job that he cares about—the one job that he wants—we will be focused on jobs for Queenslanders right across Queensland because we are a government that is passionate about jobs. We care about Queenslanders and their livelihoods. The member for Broadwater has proven that he only cares about one thing, and that is himself.

Youth Justice, Boot Camps

Mr POWELL: My question is to the Minister for Youth Justice. The Premier and the minister are both on the record as saying that boot camps are not an option for Queensland. Will the minister now reveal the details of the reported MOU the government has signed to establish a boot camp on the Sunshine Coast?

Ms LINARD: I thank the member for the question. There is no MOU. We do not support boot camps, we have never supported boot camps and we will not be investing in boot camps.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms LINARD: What we will be investing in—and I thank you for two minutes and 42 seconds to talk about the things that do work—is the \$332 million we are investing that the Premier—

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Glass House.

Ms LINARD:—earlier spoke of for programs that divert young people from offending. We have spoken here today about the additional measures our government is instituting with respect to the 10 per cent, but let's talk about the other 85 to 90 per cent. We know that most young—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms LINARD: They do not want to listen because they have no ideas. I am more surprised you did not ask about breach of bail, but we will move on. We know that in Queensland—

Mr Powell interjected.

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

Ms LINARD:—an estimated two per cent of young people actually come into contact with the youth justice system, and of that two per cent who come into contact with the youth justice system the majority, 85 to 90 per cent, will never come into contact with the system again. We will hold that 10 per cent to account, but we are investing in programs to divert the majority because, to use Bob Atkinson's words, we want them to change their story. I believe that every Queenslanders wants young people to be productive members of society. We certainly do. We want them to have the hope and opportunities that young people should have to be law-abiding citizens in Queensland. The things that are proven to work and that we are investing in are things such as: Transition 2 Success, with a 77 per cent reduction in offending; restorative justice conferencing, with a 67 per cent reduction in offending—


A government member interjected.

Ms LINARD: I take that interjection. Those opposite abolished it because they are more interested—

Interruption.

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House


 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (10.38 am): Mr Speaker, I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. I do not mean to disrespect the minister in her answer. Mr Speaker, the matter I want to write to you about relates to the answer the minister has just given that, with respect to the question just asked, there is no MOU. Considering the member for Caloundra was on Channel 7 announcing the MOU—

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, you will resume your seat. At the moment there seems to be a potential difference of opinion. I am not necessarily seeing a matter of privilege suddenly arising; however, I look forward to your correspondence. I will take note of that and give it due consideration. The minister has 53 seconds left.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Youth Justice, Boot Camps

Resumed.

 **Ms LINARD:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. It will not be enough to go through the investment that we are making. Can I also make mention of the member for Caloundra, who is a very big supporter of veterans in his electorate. My understanding was he was supporting veterans who were trying to find meaningful ways to be involved in the community. That is what he was supporting. No-one in this government supports boot camps because we know—and we have the report and it is public—that they do not work. We will continue to invest in the things that do work, including under our five-point plan the On Country trial which is delivering meaningful connection to young people and doing so in a safe and culturally informed way, unlike boot camps.

Tourism Industry

Ms PEASE: My question is to the Treasurer and Minister for Investment. With international borders still closed, will the Treasurer please update the House on what measures the Palaszczuk government has put in place to assist Queensland tourism operators, and is the Treasurer aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Lytton for her question and her strong support for the tourism industry, particularly in the beautiful bayside that she represents in the House. Just as Queensland was the first jurisdiction in the country to declare a COVID-19 public health emergency a little bit over a year ago, we were also the first state to put in place relief measures for the tourism industry more than one year ago. If honourable members recall, the Premier wrote to the Prime Minister saying, 'This is going to be a crisis for our state and nation. We need your support.' In fact, I think there was a resolution of the House calling on the federal coalition government to act. Of course the Prime Minister said at the time that it was not going to be a problem, and we know history has demonstrated that his judgement was wrong and wrong and wrong.

Since the onset of the pandemic, our government has committed over \$700 million in direct economic recovery and support to the tourism and events sector. At the same time we have continued to deliver over \$180 million through our government's pre-COVID Growing Tourism, Growing Tourism Jobs program. We are also delivering an additional \$74 million in new funding under the Rebuilding Queensland Tourism commitment that will incentivise new experience development, attract new events, boost marketing, provide further support to our regional tourism organisations and provide business capability training to assist tourism operators. I recognise the great work the minister for tourism is doing in that regard. On top of that, we have provided \$1.3 billion worth of tax relief measures to businesses through the worst of the pandemic.

As business conditions improve, there are parts of our economy—in particular, the tourism sector in the Far North of our state—that need support. The Premier again has been very strong in her support of those Queensland communities and industries which continue to suffer, particularly the tourism industry in the Far North of our state. Led by our Premier, we have called on the Prime Minister and the federal coalition to act. As we head towards the JobKeeper cliff at the end of March, we need action in Queensland to support those tourism operators.

I heard the member for Broadwater on the television on Sunday night saying he was going to stand up to Canberra. We know the Leader of the Opposition wants to win big. He wants to win big, and he said that publicly. He is going to be like Donald Trump: 'We're going to win like no-one's ever won before.' That is what the Leader of the Opposition said. Well, there is one big win we need for Queensland and that is for our tourism industry. Just as the Premier was right one year ago when she made the call—the absolutely correct call—on declaring a public health emergency and putting money into the tourism industry, the Premier is absolutely right once more: calling on the federal coalition to stop taking Queensland for granted and start backing in Queenslanders, in particular our tourism industry to keep those important jobs going.

(Time expired)

Youth Crime, Penalties

Ms BATES: My question is to the Minister for Youth Justice. Can the minister explain to Belinda from the Gold Coast, whose car was stolen, trashed and dumped, why the young criminals who stole her car were let off with a slap on the wrist despite it being their 20th criminal offence?

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Under the standing orders, members cannot ask for a legal opinion. I believe the question that was asked is asking for a legal opinion from the minister as to how the court ruled on a particular matter.

Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mudgeeraba, I will rule the question as it has been asked out of order.

Coronavirus, Vaccine

Mr O'ROURKE: My question is of the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Will the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government will be ensuring that any Queenslanders who want a vaccine can get one?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for Rockhampton for his question. I know he is very interested in when his community is going to be able to get this vaccine. It is really important that the community get as much information as they can about the rollout and the phases of the vaccine. That is why I strongly encourage all members of parliament to come along to the briefing from the Chief Health Officer and me tomorrow so they can make sure the information they are imparting to their communities is

accurate, because accurate information is critical. It has been all along when it comes to COVID and our response, and it is equally important, if not more important, when it comes to the vaccine rollout to make sure we deal with misinformation out there.

As I expect all members know, there are six hubs in Queensland—Gold Coast, two in Brisbane, Sunshine Coast, Townsville and Cairns. Those hubs are to deliver the Pfizer vaccine to 37,000 individuals. Those 37,000 individuals have been specifically identified because they work in hotel quarantine, they work on our borders and they work in our hospitals with COVID patients. They have to be our priority group. The hubs are not set up specifically to roll out to the general population, so the general population do not need to be concerned whether they live near a hub or not because the hubs are specifically for that vaccine for that cohort. Once we move into 1b, we will start moving the vaccine out into the community once we have received the AstraZeneca vaccine from the Commonwealth—whether it is produced here in Australia or whether it is arriving on our shores. We need that vaccine and once we have that we can start delivering that consistently across the state.

The Commonwealth is negotiating with general practitioners to ask which ones are wanting and willing to deliver the vaccine. In addition, pharmacies will be able to deliver the vaccine. We will be able to deliver it from our hospitals, from respiratory clinics and from other sites across the state. We will be taking the vaccine into regional and remote communities, particularly remote Indigenous communities. We will be taking the vaccine to the people. They will not have to worry about coming to the hub; we will take the vaccine to them.

When the time comes, the Premier, the Chief Health Officer and I will line up for the vaccine as soon as it is available to us. I strongly encourage every member of this House to do the same—to show leadership in your community, to show you have absolute confidence in the TGA that approves every vaccine that we get in this country and every vaccine that our children have received. It is the same process, with the same level of scrutiny, assessment and approval, so everyone should have confidence in this vaccine. I do, the Premier does, the Chief Health Officer does and the Palaszczuk government does, and we will all be getting vaccinated.

Townsville, Youth Crime

Mr LAST: My question is to the Minister for Police. The minister talked tough at a Townsville crime forum almost a year ago, saying he would put young offenders on the floor if he had to, but today youth crime is still out of control. Why hasn't the minister delivered on his commitment to the people of Townsville?

Mr RYAN: It is good to get a question from the shadow minister. I was expecting a question from the shadow to the shadow minister, the member for Ninderry, who seems to be talking more on this issue than the shadow minister. Bring back Dan, I say. He is out and about doing all of those things. He probably typed the question up for him anyway. We are acting on this issue. We have consistently said that any criminal offending is unacceptable and that we will listen to the community and we will act, and that is what we are doing on this issue right now.

In my ministerial statement I outlined the suite of reforms that we are further implementing to support the other reforms that we have rolled out since being in government. Those reforms have seen a reduction in the overall numbers of youth offending. That is what the statistics show. But there is a persistent, hardcore cohort of youth offenders who need a tougher approach, and we are taking that tougher approach.

Crime is unacceptable and we will never give up on our efforts to improve community safety. Not only do we support the police with the extra resources—double the commitment that those opposite were making at the last election. When people want to see which side of politics supports the police, they should have a look at election commitments. Our commitment was double their commitment, so we support the police double the amount they do. Our laws are actually tougher than theirs. We have heard this nonsense—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, members.

Mr RYAN:—about breach of bail. It never existed as an offence. The provision that existed under the member for Kawana when he was the genius attorney-general—and I am glad everyone is sitting down because this is what it was—meant you had to get a conviction first. The provision that the genius attorney-general, the member for Kawana, had in place meant a person commits an offence if they were convicted of an offence they committed while they were on bail for an offence. No wonder it was never used, because you had to get the conviction first. No wonder it had a 90 per cent failure rate, as the Minister for Youth Justice just outlined.

Their approach was full of failures. If we look at the boot camps, the bad laws and the statistics, they failed every time. Our approach, informed by the experts, includes properly resourcing our police and properly resourcing early intervention and prevention services, and the statistics show this. Whenever there is crime happening, we know we need to continually be vigilant, continually look at what we are doing and act when the community wants us to act, and we are doing that. We will roll out that suite of reforms; we will roll out our harder focus on these youth offenders.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The members for Chatsworth and Gregory are both warned under the standing orders. Your comments will be directed through the chair.

Education System

Mrs MULLEN: My question is for the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Will the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is ensuring we are setting up our children for a world-class education, and is she aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for the question. I know that the member for Jordan is very excited about the new schools in her area and how important education is to give our students, our children, the best start they can get. After the great efforts during COVID last year and as we move into the 2021 school year, I could not be more excited about what lies ahead for students, teachers and school communities.

At the election we made a series of commitments all designed to ensure we continue to support students in receiving a world-class education that sets them up for a great future. It is all about wrapping these education services around young people so that we can give them that great start. We committed more than a billion dollar boost to the education infrastructure investment over the next four years, ensuring that every Queensland child, no matter where they live, enjoys world-class facilities when they go to school—and with all classrooms air-conditioned as well. We are delivering on that.

I do not think there is a school in the electorate of any member in this parliament who could say they have not received some infrastructure investment. It is wonderful to visit them, as we did at Heatley Secondary College with the member for Thuringowa and the Premier on day one of school when we saw incredible facilities being built and being used, and there is more to come at Heatley and other areas around the state.

We have committed \$100 million to a game-changing student wellbeing package to ensure that every student has access to a health professional for their wellbeing, be that a psychologist or a trained health counsellor. We will be embarking upon that—and that will be a game changer—as well as GPs in 20 schools that we will be trialling so that students can be diagnosed and given the support they need early rather than later in life. That will allow youth justice to improve as well.

Our \$45 million in Local Schools Local Jobs plans in 26 secondary schools will see training facilities upgraded when we have an incredible employment of teachers—a record 6,100 teachers and over 1,100 new teacher aides. I am very excited about the Turn to Teaching internship program that will give teachers—300 of them—early access to state education; we can employ them as soon as they have graduated.

We have a clear plan and new homework centres. Members have only to contrast that with the confused, mixed details that came out of the education policies of those opposite during the election campaign. They could not get their teacher numbers right. There were unfunded commitments. They were all over the place. It was confusing and not clear. Compare that to this side of the House: clear, numbers, infrastructure, services—all being delivered to Queensland state schools, and who is benefitting? Our students.

(Time expired)

Housing

Ms BOLTON: My question is to the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning. Will the Deputy Premier please advise when the government will effect requested changes to definitions of secondary dwellings within the state Planning Regulation 2017 as part of addressing the critical shortage of affordable housing and rental options in our communities across Queensland?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Noosa for her question. Given it is particularly technical about a specific aspect of that regulation, I will endeavour to provide a more detailed response to her. At the same time I will offer her a briefing with the state planner if she would like one so that she can properly be informed of that. I would like to assure the House and the member that we are acutely aware of residential housing supply issues, particularly how the big surge in interstate migration that we are currently experiencing is affecting the balance of land supply across most of the south-east.

We have sufficient land supply. It is approved development that is the problem. There are parts of the south-east where that is not a problem, but there are particular regions where it is. Noosa is one area, Gold Coast and Redlands are others where supply of approved developments is well less than our target of four years. We are working with the development industry and local governments to try to address that in both the short and the medium terms. If the member is okay for me to provide more information about the regulation, I am happy to do that.

South-East Queensland, Traffic Congestion

Mr SULLIVAN: My question is of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister update the House on the Palaszczuk government's plan to tackle congestion across South-East Queensland?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the member for Stafford. It is great to have him in the chamber representing his community. He understands that our state's strong management of the COVID-19 health crisis has meant that more Australians are wanting to move to Queensland, and they are doing so in large numbers. We know that a fair proportion of those are heading towards Brisbane's north side. That is putting pressure on our infrastructure.

As all eyes look to Queensland, we have an opportunity to grow our jobs and to grow our new industries faster than our southern neighbours. To do that successfully we must ensure, of course, that our record investment in transport and main roads continues, including in rail. We are investing \$11.7 billion in major roads and transport projects over the next four years across the south-east. We know that Cross River Rail will transform the way commuters travel right across South-East Queensland, and this year we are also starting to build the Northern Transitway to get north side buses into the CBD faster.

We will also start construction on a new interchange at Strathpine Road and Gympie Road at Bald Hills, and the new \$31 million Everton Park Link Road will help bus congestion through Everton Park in the member for Everton's electorate. That is a big project and is now well advanced. We are planning for the future. We also have a \$2.1 billion plan to transform and upgrade Gympie Road, the Gateway Motorway and the Bruce Highway. This will include a new arterial road called the Moreton Connector as well as a new bridge over the Pine River to add capacity. We are also on track for construction to start that within two years.

Future planning will also look at the needs of the entire region and at every mode of transport. Our planning needs to cater for major growth happening in Moreton Bay and on the Sunshine Coast—and I welcome our two new members in Nicklin and Caloundra—as well as the growth in Brisbane's north. We will soon begin a region-wide study to determine the future transport needs of the entire region. Given this, I am concerned about the Brisbane City Council's current push for a new motorway through the North West Transport Corridor impacting the suburbs of Everton Park, Stafford, McDowall, Bridgeman Downs and Carseldine. The corridor must be used for the purposes of an entire region and the growth that is coming.

Last July, I wrote to the Lord Mayor to make it clear that we do not support a new motorway being built on the North West Transport Corridor. I have written again to the Lord Mayor asking that he stop this push for a new motorway and, instead, work with us cooperatively on planning to identify the proper long-term use for the North West Transport Corridor, looking at all public transport modes. We have to get this right. We have one shot at it. I give northside communities an assurance now that the Palaszczuk Labor government does not support and will never support the North West Transport Corridor being used for a new motorway. We have to make this decision; we have to get it right. We look forward to hopefully working with the council in a more cooperative way.

Police Banning Notices

Mrs GERBER: My question is to the Minister for Police. Will the minister advise the details and duration of police banning notice No. 272043?

Mr RYAN: That is a question that really needs to be put on notice. If the member wants to put it on notice, I invite her to do so.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Ninderry, please put that down. You do not have the call. Waving a prop around when you do not have the call is worse than waving it around before being asked to table it. You are warned under the standing orders.

Energy Industry

Ms KING: My question is of the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement. Will the minister update the House on the Palaszczuk government's plans to support the future of Queensland's energy sector? Is he aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr de BRENNI: At the outset, I thank the member for Pumicestone for the question and acknowledge her advocacy for an efficient, reliable and affordable energy sector in Queensland. The Palaszczuk government is already backing Queenslanders with cheaper, more reliable electricity. We protected Queenslanders from financial hardship through COVID with measures such as energy cost relief. We protected Queenslanders through careful management of our economy. We listened to the experts. We also protected Queenslanders through investment in infrastructure for the latest renewables technology. That is why Queenslanders were rightfully shocked last week when those opposite and their federal counterparts revealed their latest thought bubble: to construct nuclear reactors across Queensland. This again exposes the huge risks on energy policy within the Morrison government and the LNP.

It seems that in Queensland the LNP is ideologically opposed to renewables. To see this, we only need to take note of the member for Callide's comments. He said—

The fantasy of renewables is holding us back.

I can think of many things holding back the member for Callide, but members of the LNP want to spend a billion dollars constructing nuclear reactors that would generate power costing five times the cost of renewable generation in Queensland—five times the cost of wind and solar in Queensland. It simply does not make sense. Queenslanders have a right to ask where the LNP proposes to build these nuclear power plants in Queensland. Queenslanders have a right to ask whose Wide Bay farming properties will be compulsorily acquired to make way for these nuclear reactors. Queenslanders have a right to ask Senator Matt Canavan how many barrels of toxic waste will be carted up and down the Bruce Highway.

The member for Broadwater, the Leader of the Opposition, could solve this today. He could call his LNP federal counterparts and ask them to put an end to their plans to build nuclear in Queensland, but we know that he will not do that. How do we know? Because the last time a member of the LNP called on their federal counterparts to renounce nuclear—the member for Burleigh—his federal counterpart retorted that his state colleagues were entitled to their view but noted that creating nuclear energy was an endorsed LNP policy. What happened to the shadow minister? He lost his job and went to the backbench. We know that the member for Broadwater will not dare go there. What Queenslanders deserve from this opposition leader is a definitive statement. Does the LNP back nuclear or a future of renewables in Queensland? Queenslanders deserve to know whether the future of energy generation in this state is clean and reliable or dirty and outdated.

Agriculture Industry, Labour

Mr PERRETT: My question is to the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development. Industry experts say there is a critical labour shortage of 7,000 farm workers across Queensland. What advice does the minister have for farmers who risk breaching their supply contracts?

Mr FURNER: I am really proud to be the minister for agriculture in the state of Queensland. I am proud to follow in the footsteps of the Premier's father as well. Queensland was the first state to declare agriculture an essential service. We are the first state to ensure we have adequate labour on our farms—self-quarantining on our farms workers from Tonga, the Solomons and Vanuatu. In fact, on a regular basis we are working under the Pacific Labour Scheme to ensure we deliver.

Ms Palaszczuk: That the Prime Minister has applauded.

Mr FURNER: That is correct. The Prime Minister has supported this initiative. Once again, we are forward leaning in respect of making sure we have labourers on our farms to ensure they deliver the clean, green produce that Queensland is so renowned for. We will continue to work with farmers right across the sector to ensure the important trade in which we are involved continues to prosper our state. We are doing a lot more in terms of not only supporting our farms with labour but also continuing relationships with our trading partners.

Last September saw our first virtual trade mission with Japan. We have seen export growth of kabocha pumpkin grown in the Lockyer Valley. Recently the member for Lockyer and the shadow minister were out in the valley talking to a good friend of mine, Troy Qualischefski. Troy commended the work of the Palaszczuk government in this space. He is commending our work in continuing trade negotiations through virtual trade missions. We will do more of those in the future. The federal government continues to erode relationships with our trading partners. China is an example of the continual erosion of the goodwill that we have built over time with our trading partners.

Mr PERRETT: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. My question was: what advice does the minister have for farmers who are likely to breach their contracts with major suppliers in this state?

Mr SPEAKER: I believe that the minister is being responsive to the question. Minister, I will ask you to come back to the details and specifics of the question asked by the member for Gympie.

Mr FURNER: I do not know whether the member for Gympie's ears are painted on, but I have explained this to him time and time again. I know that he has struggled to get media attention lately. He goes out in the bush and finds lost people, their dog and their car. We on this side of the House work and deliver for our farmers, our hardworking men and women, right across the breadth of Queensland.

In terms of the importance of trade, which was the essence of some of the question, we are supporting our trading partners through—

Mr PERRETT: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the words the minister used with respect to my ability to find someone. I ask that he withdraw those comments.

Mr SPEAKER: We do not need an explanation, member for Gympie. Do you take personal offence at the minister's comments?

Mr PERRETT: I do.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, will you please withdraw for the dignity of the House?

Mr FURNER: I withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you. Do you have anything else to offer in your remaining seven seconds?

Mr FURNER: No. I think I have well and truly ventilated the issues in my answer.

Bundaberg, Tourism Industry

Mr SMITH: My question is to the Minister for Tourism Industry Development and—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, I have asked repeatedly for silence during questions as they are being asked. Please give that courtesy to the member for Bundaberg. Please restart your question, member.

Mr SMITH: My question is to the Minister for Tourism Industry Development and Innovation and Minister for Sport. Will the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is supporting tourism jobs in the Bundaberg region through investment in infrastructure?

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I thank the member for Bundaberg for his question. He is already proving himself to be a very strong advocate dedicated to growing jobs and Bundaberg tourism. I recently had the great privilege—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Nanango, the minister had not even risen to his feet and you interjected and you have continually interjected. You are warned under the standing orders.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I recently had the privilege of joining the member on a tour of tourism investment projects underway in his region. One of the projects that the Palaszczuk government is investing in to deliver new tourism experiences is an Australian first. We are providing almost a million dollars to help develop the local family owned Macadamias Australia's orchard to plate gourmet experiences featuring some of the world's best locally grown produce and of course the macadamia nut, which is native to Bundaberg and the broader region, or the bauple nut, as some people like to call it.

The macadamia experience is supporting some 37 jobs for local tradies at a time when local jobs are critical to the Bundaberg region's economic recovery. Some 20 operational jobs will come online once Macadamias Australia opens its doors in the months ahead, with a total predicted economic benefit of up to \$38 million for the Bundaberg economy. This is a project which has an eye on the future, with plans to target international tour groups once we have a COVID-safe return of international visitors.

In another great vote of confidence in the future of the southern Great Barrier Reef, the Palaszczuk government is partnering in an innovative underwater pontoon. Our Growing Tourism Infrastructure Fund is investing another million dollars in more jobs and a three-level pontoon to be placed adjacent to Lady Musgrave Island. The pontoon is predicted to attract more than 16,000 visitors to the region every year and drive more than \$1.8 million in visitor spending. It represents a new visitor experience for Lady Musgrave Island and the southern Great Barrier Reef.

We know that international tourism will likely be in turmoil for a while yet, but these new experiences will be real game changers for the domestic visitors who will get to enjoy that part of Queensland and help Bundaberg rebuild better when overseas travellers are able to return for the Queensland holidays that they have been dreaming of. It is vitally important that we continue to work cooperatively with our regions to rebuild better and rebuild the Queensland economy better, and tourism is at the heart of that. There are significant overwhelming challenges that face the international tourism industry across the state, but it has been great to see those regions have adapted and responded to change and have taken great steps forward to deliver new experiences and new product, and this is a great example.

(Time expired)

Coronavirus, Vaccine

Ms LEAHY: My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Will the minister guarantee the COVID-19 vaccine will be made available to all regional and rural Queenslanders in the 1b and 2a categories at the same time as Queenslanders in the cities hosting COVID hubs?

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

Mrs D'ATH: I certainly heard the question. Apparently the member for Warrego did not hear my answer before, so let me be clear: we are rolling this out across the state. It is really disappointing that those on the other side want to play politics with the rollout of the vaccine. If the member for Warrego wants to know if GPs in her area are going to be delivering the vaccine, then she should talk to the Commonwealth, which has done the expression of interest with GPs. We are working to deliver it across the state for everyone—for everyone.


Mrs Gerber: At the same time?

Mrs D'ATH: Is every single person getting it at the same time? No. It will be rolled out across the state through pharmacies and through the GPs that have negotiated the rollout with the Commonwealth and through respiratory clinics and through other facilities, and we will be rolling it out across the state. We will not just start with South-East Queensland and then move north; we will be rolling it out across the state.

(Time expired)

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Contempt of Parliament

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (11.15 am): Mr Speaker, I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. In the question asked by the member for Currumbin, she referred to a particular document. Section 602W of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act says that it is an offence to distribute a document of that nature in an unreasonable way, so in this instance there may have been an offence committed. I give notice that—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left, it is not a time to debate the issue. I am hearing the matter of privilege suddenly arising from the Minister for Police. I would appreciate being able to hear that point of order so that I can ascertain whether there is any substance to the matter being raised.

Mr RYAN: There may have been an offence committed in this instance, so I will be—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left, have I not made myself clear? Moaning and carrying on is not appropriate at a time when I am trying to hear a member on their feet. I cannot collectively warn you, but I give you my sternest warning that it is unacceptable given the ruling I have just made.

Mr RYAN: Thank you, Mr Speaker. There may have been an offence committed in this instance, Mr Speaker, so of course I will be writing to you in respect of any standing orders that may have been breached and I will also be referring the matter to the Queensland Police Service for investigation.

Alleged Contempt of Parliament



Mr BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (11.16 am): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! Members to my right will now give the same courtesy to the member for Kawana.

Mr BLEIJIE: The member for Currumbin's document that she referred to was a published document in the member for Mundingburra's electorate. I will be writing to you, Mr Speaker—

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, please, for a moment. There is no need to hold a document up. The member for Ninderry has already been warned for using it as a prop. We are aware of the document, so there is no need to raise that document again. If you will be writing to me on a subsequent matter, I am happy to give consideration to that.

Mr BLEIJIE: On that matter and also the abuse of process that the minister is displaying in this House—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my right! Treasurer, I do not need your assistance.

Mr BLEIJIE:—and what could amount to threats to the member for Currumbin. I will be writing to you on that.

Mr SPEAKER: No, I am sorry.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! I will hear your matter of privilege, but in future I would appreciate that you will put those matters in writing to me because, as I have heard the matter, the minister has risen on a matter of privilege suddenly arising which he is entitled to do if the matter was still a relevant matter in terms of the time that has elapsed. I do not believe that that in itself is a breach of process. However, I will consider your matter of privilege that you have flagged and I will give that due consideration.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (2020-2021) BILL

APPROPRIATION (2020-2021) BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation (Parliament) (2020-2021) Bill

Economics and Governance Committee, Report

Mr SPEAKER: The House will consider the Appropriation (Parliament) (2020-2021) Bill. The question is—

That the report of the Economics and Governance Committee be adopted.




Mr BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (11.18 am): This is the first of the appropriation debates dealing with the Committee of the Legislative Assembly. It is a pleasure to serve on that committee with honourable members. Before we get into the appropriate budget estimates debate, I want to place on record a few things that I raised on the day of the committee hearings—that is, the serious nature of the Parliamentary Annexe. This annexe is falling apart and it is becoming unsafe with respect to a lot of these issues. In the last two years we have had air-conditioning units catch on fire. Members were evacuated. We had another incident where an air-conditioning unit caught on fire.


We then had major water leaks. Money has to be expended on the whole water unit throughout the annexe, alleviating more potential safety issues because, if members are unaware, the water tank is on top of the Parliamentary Annexe. Yesterday it was revealed, appropriately through the Clerk, that parts of the concrete facade are falling off. The concrete facade is essentially held together with metal pins. Some of the metal pins were replaced and fixed in 1991—obviously not all of them. They have rusted and are pushing golf ball sized concrete pieces onto the level 7 area which is now cordoned off until an appropriate assessment is undertaken.

As I said at the estimates process, at some point a government of any political persuasion is going to have to fix the annexe. It is the public's building. This is the people's house. I fear for the safety of not only members but everyone who works here: parliamentary staff, attendants and journalists. It is becoming an unsafe environment for people. I put on record that I think that money has to be spent on the annexe to get it appropriately safe for everyone who uses this as their office space. Concrete falling off the side of the building does present a huge safety risk not only to members of parliament and staff but also to the public who come to Parliament House for functions. We cannot now use parts of the level 7 space because of the safety issues.


The opposition is very much willing to work with the government. We recognise the government is the government for four years. The Committee of the Legislative Assembly needs to sit down and have proper, grown-up discussions about the investment that has to be made to not only make safe this building but also provide an opportunity for parliamentary staff to work in a 2021 workplace environment.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): I remind the following members that they have been issued a warning under the standing orders: the members for Southern Downs, Kawana, Everton, Glass House, Chatsworth, Gregory, Ninderry and Nanango.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (11.23 am). I would have risen earlier and noted the irregular rising of the member for Kawana. I formally endorse the report of the Economics and Governance Committee, of which I was the chair, in relation to the Appropriation (Parliament) (2020-2021) Bill 2020. It is worth reflecting on how much the world has changed since we had a parliamentary sitting funded by this budget in Townsville in September 2019 and not long after that we had the first cases of COVID-19. I commend the staff of the parliament for their hard work, not just through that Townsville sitting but in everything we have had to deal with since that point, to ensure we have a successful place to have our democratic discussions. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (11.23 am): I rise to speak briefly on the Appropriation (Parliament) (2020-2021) Bill report. In our statement of reservation we referred to the Speaker's request that more investment was required in the ageing facilities of the Queensland parliament, which our Manager of Opposition Business has referred to in his speech to this particular report. The chair of the committee has also been supportive and positive in that regard.

I have had quite a lot of experience through the CLA over a number of years in relation to the issue of looking after the No. 1 asset of the Queensland parliament. It is time to take the politics out of the refurbishment of a very ageing—40-plus years—facility. As highlighted by the Manager of Opposition Business, there are pieces of concrete falling off the building. There used to be a golf practice green in that area, but these golf ball sized pieces that are falling off the building are not there for practice. I endorse the work that has been done by the Parliamentary Service over the period and request the CLA to take the politics out of it, as the Speaker has alluded to, and put in some formula that enables the repatriation of the building to a proper state over a number of years.

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (11.26 am): I wish to begin my contribution on this report by thanking the members of the Economics and Governance Committee for their very detailed work. In particular I thank the chair, the member for Logan—a very fine chair indeed—who works extremely hard in that role. It is interesting to observe the comments by the opposition on this report on the budget as it pertains to this committee. Their first concern is not the significant number of people in Queensland who are seeking work in this state—although I am pleased to report to the House that unemployment has fallen to seven per cent in Queensland, which is 0.2 per cent lower than unemployment was under the LNP. Unemployment in Queensland now, as we are dealing with the worst pandemic in a century, is lower than it was under the LNP when it was in government. Without a pandemic unemployment was higher in this state and the first concern of the members opposite is the parliamentary annexe.

I make it very clear that the government will spend public money to ensure the building is safe and that people who live and work here are kept safe, but the priority of the government is the economic recovery of Queensland.

Mr BLEIJIE: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I seek your clarification. My understanding is we are debating the Appropriation (Parliament) (2020-2021) Bill with respect to the first element of the committee process which was just the CLA committee. The Treasurer seems to have possibly jumped the gun and is now talking about the next phase of the debate, which is the economics committee. We are really only debating the CLA portion. Can I have clarification on that?

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): I will ask the member for Woodridge to direct his comments to the Appropriation (Parliament) (2020-2021) Bill.

Mr DICK: My comments are perfectly relevant because the priority of the government will not be spending money on politicians. The priority of the government will be using public money, with record deficits and a record debt—admittedly two-thirds of the debt that will be racked up in the gold standard state of New South Wales. Our debt is lower than New South Wales and lower than Victoria because of the prudent financial management of the Palaszczuk Labor government. I assure all members that we will spend money on the parliamentary annexe to ensure it is safe. The priority of the government is the economic recovery of Queensland, getting Queenslanders back into jobs, delivering infrastructure and supporting frontline services.

That is the priority and it does not matter whether it is a report on the parliamentary services or a report on any other aspect of government. It does not matter because the priorities of the LNP and those of the Labor government are absolutely clear. Another example of that very clear difference is the absolute priority and purpose of the Labor government, which is to get people into work. That is our purpose and our mission as I said in my budget speech when, of course, all those members opposite decided to laugh at my late father and my late grandmother, breaching the convention of the parliament that a budget speech is to be heard in silence, because they put themselves first and Queenslanders last.

Mr BLEIJIE: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Again, this is about the CLA portion of the Appropriation (Parliament) (2020-2021) Bill, not what the minister is talking about. I know he will not accept the fact that he has stuffed up and is speaking in the wrong speaking slot, but the reality is that he should be speaking on the CLA issue in the appropriations.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, I believe that his address is appropriate.

Mr DICK: I am very happy to speak on this portion of the report. You know you have the member for Kawana when he keeps interjecting. You know you are right on the target and that you are really pressing the buttons for the member for Kawana. On this issue the member for Kawana, like the member for Mermaid Beach, is fundamentally wrong. We will spend money on this building to keep it safe, but the priority for this parliamentary term is investing public money on supporting jobs, on growing the economy and on recovering from COVID-19. That is my mission as Treasurer and it is the mission of our government.

Report adopted.

Clauses 1 to 4, as read, agreed to.

Schedule, as read, agreed to.

Appropriation (2020-2021) Bill

Economics and Governance Committee, Report

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): The question is—

That the report of the Economics and Governance Committee be adopted.

Mr POWER (Logan—ALP) (11.33 am): I rise to speak to report No. 3 of the Economics and Governance Committee titled *2020-21 Budget estimates—Appropriation (2020-2021) Bill 2020*. I spoke before about how dramatically Queensland and the world has changed since our time together in Townsville in September 2019. The pandemic has made profound changes to our whole world. Our job in this parliament is to keep Queenslanders safe and to keep Queenslanders working.

The budget, as promised at the election, was delivered after the election in 2020. We were able to have a budget process to budget for Queensland's response to COVID-19 and we were able to have a complete estimates hearing process so that all members of parliament could ask questions about that budget process. It is worth noting that the LNP made false claims that the process would not happen in 2020. LNP members went throughout Queensland—and in this House—saying that falsehood. During this debate I expect every member of the LNP will rise and apologise to the House for that falsehood. That is the only decent thing to do. They must recognise that during a pandemic false information such as that undermines our collective response. I hope they will sincerely apologise for that falsehood.


I wish to thank the many hardworking public servants, including the Premier, the Speaker, the ministers and directors-general, who came before the committee to give evidence. They came forward prepared to speak about the unique challenges that we face to keep Queensland strong and to keep

Queenslanders healthy. Many members of parliament came forward—and I recognise some of the crossbenchers who are here—with careful and well thought out questions to put to ministers and public servants. However, by others I was disappointed.

As I have said, because of COVID many things changed. However, what did not change was the opposition playing political games instead of doing the hard work to really examine the economic, social and health challenges of governance and budgets during the COVID pandemic. They were there simply to chase the headlines of the next day instead of looking at the hard challenges, so some things have not changed. I could have simply read what I wrote in 2019 about how the LNP opposition let down Queenslanders by playing political games. Queenslanders expect better. They expect questions that could help improve our response to COVID-19. Queensland rejected the opposition because they cannot do the hard work to truly examine the serious challenges that Queenslanders face during COVID-19.

One of our most important challenges is to continue to create new jobs in Queensland, especially—as we have heard—as so many Australians are voting with their feet and moving from other states, especially New South Wales, to Queensland. I have spoken about our time in Townsville in September 2019. At that point the ABS tells us that there were 2,557,632 Queenslanders employed, which peaked at 2,569,000 Queenslanders before COVID-19. During COVID-19 Queenslanders lost jobs and we felt that strongly. However, the response after it hit has been just as strong. Now 2,582,190 Queenslanders are employed, which is more than before the pandemic hit Queensland. No other state can make that claim. It is Queensland that is the driving engine, creating jobs for Queenslanders.

Our unemployment rate has dropped from a peak of 8.8 per cent to seven per cent. While there is more to do, that figure is less than the 7.2 per cent experienced during the LNP's time in government. At that time there was not a COVID-19 pandemic yet still we had 7.2 per cent high unemployment. We have so much more to do because so many Queenslanders are reaching out and seeking employment in our state. Only the Palaszczuk Labor government is focused on keeping our state healthy and continuing to create jobs in our economy. I commend the report of the committee.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (11.37 am): No-one can doubt that last year's estimates process and the appropriation bills of 2020 were all about the health crisis that hit the world and, in particular, hit Australia. We understand that and we support the measures taken, particularly by the federal government, which really were the ones that kept us safe by shutting Australia's borders. In a moment I will speak to the claims made here about the tourism sector, but I am told that 450,000 Australian expats are coming back from overseas and they are flooding the Gold Coast and northern New South Wales property markets. That is also why no-one can get a rental property in those areas, because the rental market has gone berserk. That has put a lot of pressure back onto the Queensland economy, which is another issue that I will get to in a moment.

Turning to the budget process, we went in to the health crisis—which we all recognise—with a debt of \$102 billion, which is proportionately higher than any other state and affected our ability to prepare for the financial fallout that was part of the health crisis. An economic crisis followed the health crisis and we are still going to see the impacts of it as the year rolls on and throughout the 2021 budget. I am sure that the cries from this Labor state government for the federal government to keep funding JobKeeper, JobSeeker and so on are just about trying to bail them out of their horrible predicament where they are second last—not last, I will grant them that; they have moved to second last—on the table relating to unemployment across the states of Australia.

Ours is a state with bountiful tourism. The Gold Coast is the most popular tourist destination in Australia. We also have the mining and agriculture industries, as well as the education industry, yet this government has presided over the second highest unemployment rate in Australia. The Labor Party is supposed to represent the workers of Queensland. You are kidding me!


All they know is debt, debt, debt. The \$102 billion—guess what? I predicted they would borrow another \$30 billion and I was \$2 billion out. They borrowed another \$28 billion so they can keep the lights on in Queensland. They are spending a lot of that \$28 billion on recurrent expenditure because they cannot manage a budget properly. Then they call for the federal government, left, right and centre, to bail them out of their own created problems.

On the Gold Coast—I can talk about this as a member from the Gold Coast—we are going very well in terms of tourism. Even though international tourism has failed because of the borders being closed, we are going extremely well in terms of domestic tourism. The domestics have found the Gold Coast again and that has made it a very busy tourism sector. We understand that. The federal

government has committed \$520 billion as part of its debt input into keeping Australia ticking over as an economic powerhouse, but that will be stopping in later March and we will see more fallout from that particular economic move after March.

The estimates process this financial year has been truncated. Last year we had the election, then we had the budget and a fortnight later we had the estimates process. That did not allow for the normal process of questions being asked and the provision of answers to build on. It was a truncated estimates process, and that is why we have complained that some of the answers given were not in the fullest of forms. The perception in the community of any politicisation of the estimates process can be understood. That is what we have heard from several sources in terms of the operation of that questioning period, which is imperative under the Westminster system in order for the opposition to hold the government to account.

This government is using the old pea-and-thimble trick—borrowing more money and blaming it on the health crisis, when in fact it is its financial mismanagement that has caused those borrowings to get out of control.

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (11.42 am): I thank the chair and members of the Economics and Governance Committee for providing us with the opportunity to appear at the estimates hearing and to answer questions. I will pick up where the member for Mermaid Beach left off. We do believe that estimates is a great part of our democratic institution. In fact, the member for Mermaid Beach was part of the government that decided that it would ‘truncate’ all of those estimates hearings into just two days. That made it physically impossible for me as the then leader of the opposition to get to every single hearing, because they were all being held concurrently over the two days. Members opposite should not come in here and lecture us on integrity and accountability when we know that the facts speak for themselves.


What we saw last year was unprecedented. We are still going through the global pandemic, but there is light at the end of the tunnel with the vaccine. It was unprecedented, and Queenslanders reacted very well in everything we asked them to do; however, our economy suffered as a result. Through the national cabinet and the briefings we held with the heads of Treasury and the Reserve Bank and even the Prime Minister, it was said that state governments need to do more and, in a period of record low interest rates, borrow more so that we could build the necessary infrastructure to keep people in jobs. It was agreed amongst all of the premiers and first ministers that we would all do our part, so I reject the member for Mermaid Beach’s comment that it was only Queensland that was doing this. As the Treasurer always says, our debt is lower than the debt of New South Wales and Victoria. That is exactly where we want to remain.

Last year we had the election. We promised that before the end of the year we would deliver a budget and have a full estimates process. This was a big ask on everyone. It was a big ask on government, and on government and opposition members of parliament, to do all of this in the lead-up to Christmas. I want to place on the public record my thanks to everyone involved in that process because it was a mighty effort. As the Treasurer and I were just saying, we get to do it all over again in a few months time when the next budget is delivered.

COVID also meant that we were able to do things differently. What I saw was a great effort of departments working together and communities working together to deliver. As the Treasurer said earlier in the debate on the previous bill, the No. 1 issue for us is jobs. That is what matters to people. It is jobs and our response to COVID. These are two critical issues that we spoke about at length last year. We spoke about them at length during the election campaign, and we will honour all of the election commitments we made to the people of Queensland. That includes, for example, setting up satellite hospitals in seven locations. This is going to be a game changer in terms of getting people access to good quality health services close to where they live. It is about building new schools. Projects such as the new school servicing the electorates of Logan and Jordan bring jobs, cater for the growing communities in those beautiful areas and deliver on education. As we know, education changes lives dramatically.

We on this side of the House will always put people first. We will always make sure that there is opportunity, that there are jobs for people and that we are working with the private sector, as we have done very comprehensively with companies such as Rheinmetall Defence and Boeing. Just the other evening we had a business reception attended by my key economic ministers. There was an excitement in the room that Queensland is well placed to capitalise on the great efforts we have made to ensure this is a safe place to invest and a safe place to live. We are seeing that with people moving to Queensland. Why would they not want to move to Queensland?

We have had reports from the Port of Brisbane that they had the highest number of imports to Queensland over that Christmas-New Year period. We are hearing about record sales in retail. When I was on the Gold Coast recently they were talking about even more infrastructure investment. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.47 am): I also wish to make a contribution in relation to the report of the Economics and Governance Committee. Unlike the Premier, I will not use the first minute of my contribution to comment on a government that will have been 10 years concluded at the time of the next election, because this side of the House wishes to look forward and chart an economic future for this state. It is a shame that a third-term government still has not found what its economic narrative is. It is disappointing when the Premier comes into this House and chooses to make the issue about the member for Mermaid Beach. That is a great shame.

I will take this opportunity to comment on the process of estimates. First I want to touch on the economic narrative. What we saw in this budget was the biggest broken promise we have seen since the asset sales of 2009. The government went to an election promising an increased debt figure. They said to the public that they were asking for a mandate for \$4 billion but a moment later whacked \$28 billion on the credit card. That broken promise would have been bad enough. It would have been bad enough if they had said, 'And these are the infrastructure projects that we are going to kickstart.' Instead—

Mr Power interjected.

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

Mr CRISAFULLI: Madam Deputy Speaker, I am not taking interjections. I am happy to continue. Instead, what we have is a government that borrowed simply to keep the lights on. That is plain and simple when we see the value to the state and compare that to other jurisdictions that borrowed to build infrastructure. The implications of that will be felt in the years to come.

If members want to see the greatest barometer of the government's level of pessimism in terms of what it is going to achieve, look no further than the unemployment level. The government's own prediction, no matter how rosy it looks, still has it as the worst in the country. That is not the sort of Queensland we want. We want a Queensland that dreams about being the best because we are the best. We have been given the best hand. We have been dealt the best hand with our natural beauty. We have been dealt the best hand when it comes to mining. We have been dealt the best hand when it comes to the quality of our agriculture. We should be the best. To have a government that does not have that aspiration—I am sorry, I will not stand for it. I will not sit by while a third-term Premier, tired of ideas, comes in here and cannot sell the vision for the state.

The Premier mentioned the estimates process. I am not going to defend the processes of parliaments gone by—and certainly not one that will be 10 years in the wilderness by the time of the next election. I will tell members a little something about the estimates process we just went through. It was a sham. It was not what committees were set up for. This place has one house. As a result of having one house the government has the right to come in and put its legislation forward and it does not have to pass an upper house. We accept that.

We accept that that is the system of government we have in Queensland. If we are going to have an estimates process, at the very least ministers should be asked to answer questions. What we had from the chairs of these committees was nothing more than a protection racket. There were deliberate stalling tactics where people were called to answer multiple times to wind down the clock.

Mr POWER: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. As the chair of the committee—the report of which we are debating—I find those comments personally and grossly offensive and I ask the member to withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. For one to take personal offence they have to be named in the chamber and the member was not. He may assume anything he wants, but the reality is that the standing orders do not allow him to assume. The reality is that you have to be named. He was not named.

Mrs D'ATH: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Leader of the Opposition specifically made accusations about the chair of the committee and the chair of committee is here and takes personal offence. The chairs are the chairs. They are not unknown individuals. He says that the chairs engaged in a particular action or activity. They are all identifiable whether he names them or not. Consequently, they should be able to take personal offence and ask that comments be withdrawn.


I also raise the issue, as the member for Kawana and Manager of Opposition Business did in the previous debate, and ask you to rule in relation to the comments being made by the Leader of the Opposition. I believe they go to the processes of the parliament which we have just debated. The debate on the CLA and the estimates process has concluded. This is the debate on the Economics and Governance Committee report. If the Leader of the Opposition wanted to debate the estimates process he should have done that during the previous debate.

Mr BLEIJIE: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Premier just spoke about the estimates process. When one speaks about a process one is able to debate it because we are actually in a debate. The Premier has opened that gate. Members are, respectfully in my view, able to communicate on that and respond to the Premier who talked quite a lot about the estimates process.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have heard many points of order. I am going to take some advice. Member for Broadwater, the member for Logan has taken personal offence to your comment and I ask you to withdraw.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I withdraw. I do wish to follow in the vein of the Premier and talk about the estimates process. I can assure you that I am going to be talking about it to improve it into the future rather than talk about processes from a decade gone by. I intend to chart a course for the future.

The estimates process must be fixed. We will put forward our positive suggestions on the best way to do it. As a starting point, I will be asking the committee to consider having the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and perhaps a member of the opposition act as chairs for estimates. At the very least we need to set up a system where ministers must answer questions otherwise it is all a sham. This place deserves more than that. We will be writing to the committee to ensure that this process is improved.

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (11.56 am): I am very pleased to contribute to the debate on the committee report on the appropriation bill as I did in the debate on the committee report on the appropriation (parliament) bill. I will hold the LNP to account. I will not just talk about our vision for Queensland. I will hold the dishonest LNP to account every single opportunity I have in this parliament.

Of course we had the pathetic straw man argument by the Leader of the Opposition—willing, hoping and desiring the collapse of Queensland; the negativity, the whinging, the whining and the complaining. He is already talking about the only thing that matters to him—October 2024. We read it in the paper: ‘I’m going to win big.’ This is the same arrogance and hubris that was the hallmark of his mentor, Campbell Newman. That is where the Leader of the Opposition cut his teeth—a political hack his entire career; never done anything outside of politics.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr DICK: I will take the interjection from the member for Clayfield. I know how to fill out a BAS because I did it every quarter. That is something the Leader of the Opposition has never done.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the member for Clayfield. Again, emblematic of the arrogance and hubris of the Newman government. He is so quick to denigrate and deride the people of Tuvalu. I say to the member for Clayfield that I am proud to have been an international development volunteer working for three years overseas to help some of the most disadvantaged people in the world. It is something that the member for Clayfield will never do.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr DICK: I will take the interjection. Member for Clayfield, it is ‘Tu-vah-lu’ not ‘Too-va-lu’. At least you could get the name right! They hold themselves up above everyone. Whether you are a fisherman in Tuvalu or whether you are a railway worker in Rockhampton or a police officer working the beat anywhere in Queensland, they put themselves above everyone else.

They are wanting to build another monument to themselves in this parliament. They built one monument to themselves across the road. That is the single infrastructure legacy of the member for Clayfield. It is a monument to himself—1 William Street. Now they want to build another one on the other side of the road—a new Parliamentary Annexe. We will not be spending public money on politicians. We will be spending public money, as I have said consistently, on the people of Queensland, getting them back into work, supporting small business.


They talk about vision. I will tell you what our vision is: it is implementing our economic recovery plan. The objectives in the economic recovery plan are the objectives of the government: safeguarding the health of Queenslanders; backing small business; making it for Queensland—manufacturing trains

in Queensland. While the member for Clayfield and the member for Broadwater were happy to outsource Queensland jobs overseas, we brought them back home because that is what Labor governments do. Those opposite are quiet now, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Another objective is building Queensland—\$56 billion in infrastructure. In the 10 years to 2024 our government will spend \$100 billion on infrastructure in Queensland. What will the federal coalition spend? They will spend \$100 billion across the nation. It is about time we got our fair share. There has been a railway line to the airport in Melbourne and a fast train from Melbourne to Geelong but nothing for Queensland. Supporting our regions, investing in skills, backing in the most precious environment in the world—that is what the Labor government will do.

I thank the members of the committee, led by the chair of the committee, for their work. As I said on the parliamentary appropriation bill, I am not going to denigrate members of parliamentary committees. Whether they are members of the government or the opposition, they play a vital role in the parliamentary system in Queensland. I respect the role of committees in this House. I do not agree with everything they do. I do not agree with every recommendation. I do not agree with every report. What I do is I respect their work. It is a vital part of our democracy and our parliamentary system. I thank the member for Logan and all members of the committee on both sides of the House for their contribution.

(Time expired)

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12.01 pm): What a bizarre contribution from the Treasurer to focus on the personal, on the self-congratulations. It is exactly the reason why there must be something done about this Palaszczuk Labor government. It is important before we even consider the estimates process to reflect on the fact that it had been 539 days between budgets—539 days while this state languished with no clear path. The Treasurer comes in, makes a contribution and reflects on the estimates process in that way. It is no wonder Queensland is in such a difficult financial situation.

In fact, it is timely that the Treasurer pulled out the economic recovery plan because we have not seen it for a while. It disappeared during the estimates process. The glossy brochure that set out the alleged path cost the taxpayers in part \$11.8 million. In figures that came out at the start of this year, \$11.8 million was spent on COVID related advertising in the lead up to the election. How much money was actually spent on the campaign cloaked in public health information that fed into the economic narrative for the Labor Party prior to the election? We saw \$11.8 million paid to MediaCom.

Mr Watts: Fitzgerald wouldn't have allowed it.

Mr JANETZKI: Fitzgerald would not have allowed it. I take the interjection from the member for Toowoomba North. The Fitzgerald inquiry would never have allowed something like this—the misuse of taxpayers' money on this glossy brochure. It was great to see the Treasurer pull out the economic recovery plan again. During the election it seemed that everybody had it plastered to their chest. It disappeared after the budget and through the estimates process. We saw every minister pulling it out, attaching it and pretending to read it. It looked like somebody had opened it for the agriculture minister and told him to 'read there'. I am going to table those, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Tabled paper: Bundle of photographs of the Premier and various ministers holding a document titled 'Queensland's Economic Recovery Plan' [[166](#)].

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): The member for Maryborough and member for Gregory will stop interjecting across the chamber. Take your conversations outside please.


Mr JANETZKI: We saw this brochure used right throughout the election campaign and then we saw it disappear. What did we see in the budget? We saw a \$28 billion increase in the debt levels that had not been foreshadowed before the election. We had waited 539 days for a budget. Then during the budget process it became clear how little was actually going to be spent on infrastructure.

The Australian Infrastructure Budget Monitor said that of the Victorian and New South Wales budgets they would spend 20 per cent on infrastructure. In Queensland only 12 per cent would be spent on infrastructure. On that additional \$28 billion of debt, two-thirds of that would go on operating expenses—simply keeping the lights on rather than investing in key infrastructure projects right throughout the state. We have spent the last couple of months detailing those projects that would be best invested in. It is not a matter of keeping the lights on and just paying operational expenses. It is time for us to get serious. The Treasurer's contribution displayed again the Labor government's lack of seriousness.

The Treasurer, when he should be looking for great ideas across all sectors of the economy, is rolling the Productivity Commission into the bureaucracy. The Productivity Commission that had given really powerful reports on manufacturing and electricity prices is being rolled in because it was delivering solutions that the Labor government did not want to hear. What did the Treasurer do? He said, 'No. We don't want to hear it. We are going to roll it into the bureaucracy,' where it will lose its independent voice.

A glossy brochure will not fix Queensland's economic problems. It simply will not fix it. This estimates process and the Treasurer's contribution highlighted their complete lack of resolve in staring down the key problems facing the Queensland economy. Look at CommSec's analysis recently. Although it could be taken that there were some high level improvements in some of the numbers, at the end of the day we were stone motherless last when it came to economic growth. We are not investing in the infrastructure we need. The Treasurer's performance during estimates was evasive. It was not a clear economic narrative for Queensland. There was a complete failure to consider any solutions that might unleash the private sector, that might improve productivity and that might get behind true infrastructure growth. Shame on this Labor government after six years in power.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism Industry Development and Innovation and Minister for Sport) (12.06 pm): It is with pleasure that I rise to contribute to the debate of the Economics and Governance Committee estimates report. I take this opportunity to thank the officers of the new Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport, which had existed for a little over three weeks at the time of the estimates hearing last year, for all of their work in preparing for the hearing. This preparation in a very truncated time frame was undertaken at the same time the department was going through the process of a significant machinery-of-government change. I extend my appreciation to all of those officers. I also thank the chair, committee members and the parliamentary staff for their work during the estimates hearing process.

It was a great honour to be asked by the Premier to serve in the role of Minister for Tourism Industry Development and Innovation and Minister for Sport and to help the Palaszczuk government deliver Queensland's economic recovery plan. When I make mention of our economic recovery plan, I acknowledge that the member for Toowoomba South has highlighted how important that has been to so many members through the process of responding to the impacts of the global pandemic and the way in which we chart a course going forward. It seems that his remarks were somewhat at odds with the member for Broadwater's contribution.


The member for Broadwater belied and complained significantly—he said that the government did not have an economic narrative. Then, in the contribution immediately before mine, the member for Toowoomba South complained that somehow the government was paying for the promotion of the government's economic narrative. You cannot have it both ways. There are so many examples of the way in which the opposition seek to have it both ways. Their regard and contribution and comments, particularly their contribution to the estimates committee report in their elements of that, are great evidence of that.

I want to take a moment to address some of the comments made by the opposition in that committee report. I heard the suggestion of the Leader of the Opposition, as set out in the opposition statement of reservation, that they want to completely reimagine the estimates process. We saw the LNP reimagine the estimates process once, and their reimagination produced another Newman nightmare. That was the reality. That is what we heard and that is what we saw. We heard echoes of that from someone who was an integral part of the Newman government, the nightmares it brought forward. Also contained within the opposition statement of reservation are statements about delays to ecotourism projects in 2020 which completely disregard the fact that, due to the pandemic, for most of last year traditional owners with land tenure over these projects were subject to strict biosecurity arrangements in community which made consultation nearly impossible. Again they say one thing while completely ignoring the facts.

Despite the pandemic we saw two new ecotourism facilities open in 2020, one by the Spicers group in the Scenic Rim national park and O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat in Lamington National Park. These are great examples of the way in which we have delivered in those spaces, despite suggestions to the contrary contained within the opposition's statement of reservation. These are proud examples of the way in which the government has delivered record funding for tourism since first coming to government in 2015. Our record of responding to the challenges of the pandemic last year is very much in that tradition and, more importantly, looking forward.

As contained in the 2020-21 budget, there is an additional \$74 million in new funding under the Rebuilding Queensland Tourism election commitment to ensure the rapid and enduring recovery of the tourism industry. Not only did our action on borders keep Queenslanders safe from the pandemic but it also put our state at the epicentre of Australian sport, really supporting local jobs. That was another part of the way in which we came through the pandemic. We will continue to work with a range of stakeholders. Support from stakeholders saw COVID Safe return to play for thousands of local clubs and associations, re-opening participation sport and recreation which is so important not only to our economy but to communities right across Queensland.

(Time expired)

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (12.12 pm): The opposition leader described the estimates process as a sham. It goes further than that: it was a complete joke and a waste of time. The government said they were going to hand down a budget after the election. They managed to say to Queenslanders, 'We're going to hand down a budget within one month of the election.' It begs the question: if they could do it a month after the election, why couldn't they do it before the election? Because there were issues in the budget—like a huge debt bomb—they did not want Queenslanders to know. Queenslanders went to the polls at the end of October not knowing the debt level until this slick Treasurer handed down his budget and revealed the huge debt bomb that is there, but there was no mention of it before. When they talked about debt they lowered the expectations of Queenslanders to say, 'It's not as bad as it is.'

You could clearly see the arrogance of this Treasurer during his previous contribution. This is a man who cannot admit that he spoke on the wrong committee report half an hour ago. He then has to own it and try to make us all believe that he meant to do that. He cannot even say to parliamentarians, 'Mr Deputy Speaker, I'm sorry. I'll get up again in five minutes.' No, he had to own it like he meant it; this is the arrogance of the man.

The Parliamentary Annexe, which is the people's house—they own that as well—is falling down. Yesterday there was an issue with concrete falling off the walls, which is hugely dangerous. When I raised the issue he said, 'The LNP wants to build another monument.' No, I never said we want a new Annexe. I said, 'Let's fix it so no-one dies!' If a piece of concrete falls off the wall and someone is walking under it it is now on him, because I said it and he said, 'We're not going to do it because you want to build a new monument.'

If I had it, I would bet you a lot of money that he would have been the first to move into 1 William Street. He would have been the first to say to the DPC, 'Where's the keys?' Better still, after learning from experience I reckon the DPC said, 'Treasurer, this is your special office because we put a keypad on it and not a normal lock and key.' If you recall, when he was health minister he did not trust his department. He had to get a digital lock because he did not want his director-general walking into his office. That is how arrogant this Treasurer is. Rather than just say, 'We'll work with the opposition to fix the Annexe,' he all of a sudden rules it out and plays the card that the LNP wants this money.


If the LNP government did not have a vision for the Queen's Wharf precinct and 1 William Street nothing over there would have happened. I see that the Premier loves to go down there to cut red ribbons on the Queen's Wharf development, which they opposed every step of the way. If it were not for 1 William Street it would not have happened. In response to the Treasurer's comment about upgrading the Annexe because it is a fire, water and safety issue and now there is concrete falling off the walls, the other point I would make is that the Treasurer thinks his priorities are jobs. I do not suspect the Treasurer will be on the tools fixing the Annexe. I suspect that Queenslanders will get the job. The Treasurer may say that he has used a pen to fill out a BAS, but I guarantee he has never picked up a hammer in his life. It is about jobs, but it is also safety—not for members of parliament but for the people who have worked in this place for years.

We know that the election was all about coronavirus and now the vaccine has been rolled out, but what always happens with Labor governments is that in a year or two people will start to see the same old tired Labor issues. They have no economic narrative. They have no economic plan. They are just lemmings who come here to work—if you can call it work. They will have huge debt, which we have already seen. In four years time they will not be able to convince Queenslanders they have an economic narrative or vision because they simply do not.

The best the Treasurer can come up with is, 'We're going to save money on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.' If that is the case the Treasurer would have completely blown that out, because the amount of government expenditure on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter during the election should be worthy of investigation. If you recall, they changed the rules to allow them to continue advertising during

the election. Where is the accountability and transparency? The reality is that this Labor government only knows one thing: spending money they do not have, spending other people's money and debt. The Queensland public will pay the price for that and we will hold the government to account—

(Time expired)

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (12.17 pm): As a member of the committee I rise to endorse report No. 3 of the Economics and Governance Committee. During the estimates process we heard from the Premier and Minister for Trade, the Treasurer and Minister for Investment and the Minister for Tourism Industry Development and Sport. Obviously, the flavour of this estimates compared to previous estimates was COVID and the government's COVID response. We can all reflect on the success we have had in Queensland in responding to the coronavirus. It has been detailed many times in this House. We should note that whilst Queensland has been very successful compared to the rest of the world and even interstate, we have had six deaths and there are six Queensland families who have been impacted.

Notwithstanding that, I note that where we are from a budget point of view is very much part of our Queensland economic recovery plan, but the foundation of that was our health response. As the Premier noted, you cannot repair the economic cost of the pandemic if you do not control health impacts first. You cannot have an economic recovery if people are sick and unable to work. Our response to coronavirus has been world-class, and what we are about to embark on now is the economic recovery plan. As a result of the vision outlined by the Premier, Treasurer and various ministers, Queenslanders can be very confident in what we will experience over the next couple of years.

Specifically, the plan is endorsed by a concept of building back better here in Queensland which will instil greater resilience by supporting the industries we have here in Queensland. I note that many of our Queensland industries responded to COVID-19 by improvising, adapting and moving forward. We are seeing some absolute world-class advancements from Queensland manufacturing industries going forward.

We are backing more local manufacturing—and I have seen that in my electorate with some of our plastics manufacturing as well as the contribution by the Beenleigh rum distillery, which must be noted—as well as backing more skills training. This is quite significant in my electorate with the Beenleigh training centre and the hydrogen centre of excellence. There is a \$20 million investment there and we had the soil turning earlier this month. Beenleigh will be the home of trade training for the hydrogen industry and that facility will have the capacity to train 600 apprentices and trainees a year. That is fantastic news for South-East Queensland.

Obviously, it must be said that the amount of infrastructure investment that is being rolled out as part of this budget is a boon for all of Queensland. Certainly, the road and school upgrades in my electorate are very welcome and there is a four-year plan for those road and school upgrades. This budget unashamedly delivers more teachers, doctors, nurses, police and firefighters. We are often lambasted by those opposite about the increase in the Public Service. It was reported during the committee that the Public Service numbers—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Member for Macalister, I am sorry to interrupt, but we are speaking about the Economics and Governance Committee.

Mrs McMAHON: Yes. This is directly from the Premier during the estimates committee process.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay. I will listen intently to your contribution.

Mrs McMAHON: I am quoting from the Premier to the estimates committee, where she said—


... the September Public Service numbers have grown since the March quarter. They have grown by 0.68 per cent—less than seven-tenths of one per cent.

The Premier reported to the committee—

Nearly 95 per cent of the increased numbers were in the departments of health and education.

I note the commitments we made going forward, and one that is of keen interest to me in my electorate is the wellbeing professionals that are going to be introduced and rolled out into our schools. The Premier said that, of those increases, nine out of 10 are in the front line or in frontline support. That is something that the Labor government does support. We support our frontline workers but we also acknowledge that for every frontline worker there has to be someone else.

(Time expired)

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (12.22 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the estimates report for the Economics and Governance Committee. I thank our secretariat who did a wonderful job. They had a very hard job considering the time frames they were given to pull things together after the budget was handed down.

I want to use as an example the contribution by the Premier in response to a question I asked her in relation to funding for health on the Gold Coast. I will just set the scene. I remember very clearly that on 19 October we had an announcement from the Premier, the health minister and the Labor candidate—which I think was in the halls of the Gold Coast University Hospital—that there was to be a new hospital for the northern Gold Coast. That was the thrust of what was being put forward to the people of the Gold Coast and the northern Gold Coast, and the headline was something like ‘\$160 million: First look at new northern Gold Coast hospital’.


I delved into the funding arrangements around that \$160 million to try to establish exactly where the money was going to be spent to build this northern Gold Coast hospital and, sadly, it turned out to be something of a furphy. We saw that, of the \$160 million, there was around \$105 million or \$110 million of already announced funding for the Gold Coast University Hospital itself to build, I believe, a mental health unit. That is very important, but it had already been announced. That left us with about \$50 million or \$55 million. We then saw another \$5 million to \$7 million for Robina Hospital. Once again, I believe it was a very important piece of equipment that was going to be put in but it had already been announced. Then it was \$40 million for a satellite hospital down on the southern end of the Gold Coast, and it turns out we do not know where that is going to be. We have no idea where that is going to be, but that was the thrust of the whole thing.

The headline in the newspaper was something like ‘\$160 million: First look at new northern Gold Coast hospital’. Of that \$160 million, how much was for the northern Gold Coast hospital? It was \$3 million for planning. Eight weeks earlier, the opposition’s Deb Frecklington announced \$4 million to do exactly the same planning, and there were no frills around that. It was \$4 million to do the planning for a northern Gold Coast hospital and health precinct. We were very clear. However, the headline in the paper and the headline that was pushed by the Premier was that they were going to build a hospital on the northern Gold Coast. Sadly, the people of the northern Gold Coast once again were being treated as pawns in this Labor government’s desire to make sure they were in office for a third term.

They are not building a hospital on the northern Gold Coast. They have \$3 million for planning for a hospital on the northern Gold Coast, and that is as far as they are going. They even identified the site that is owned by the health department, and it is a koala corridor. That is a major issue already because it cannot be built on in its current form. There is \$20 million needed just to get the grounds right. It is absolute rubbish to suggest that the hospital will be built there. It is not appropriate to have it built there.

The \$3 million will go into planning a hospital somewhere on the northern Gold Coast which we desperately need. When I asked the Premier in estimates where the \$3 million was in the budget—and it was not in the budget; it was not a line item—it was, ‘It’s somewhere in there. It’s probably in some of the consolidated moneys, but the \$3 million will be there for the planning.’ At no time has anyone admitted anything. During the election campaign, Labor people were saying, ‘Look at this. We’re building a hospital,’ but it was absolute rubbish. They are not building a hospital. They are planning for a hospital. We desperately need it and I thank the government for seeing that now, following on from our commitment, and we will now see where we go from there.

(Time expired)

 **Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (12.27 pm): I rise in support of report No. 3 that has been tabled on the estimates hearing of the Economics and Governance Committee. Being my first estimates hearing that I attended as a new member, I was impressed by the level of detail in the responses to the hearing’s questions by the Premier, the Treasurer and the minister in covering their budget 2020-21 service delivery statements. It was abundantly clear in reading the report that the Premier’s leadership in responding swiftly to meet the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic through the government’s strong economic recovery plan ensured the greater community responded swiftly to meet the threat to our way of life in Queensland.

The initiatives outlined in the report were supported by a robust and appropriate budget that was led and drafted by the excellent work of the Treasurer in working across government to develop the COVID-19 response measures and the delivery of the economic recovery initiatives. A number of those initiatives have had a huge impact on moving our state forward—in particular the electorate of Hervey

Bay—towards a strong economic recovery by supporting investments in Queensland's capacity, by supporting frontline services in health, education and community services, and by investing in our schools and in more jobs.

The Economics and Governance Committee were further informed about how under the government's Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs plan Queensland and Hervey Bay have begun bouncing back by creating more jobs like those in local governments. These are local jobs that are keeping families safe and strong. These program initiatives alone show how the Palaszczuk Labor government has targeted its focus on the things that really matter in these unprecedented times—that is, returning people to work quickly and safely.

For instance, in the Hervey Bay electorate the Treasurer noted programs like the COVID Works for Queensland program have accelerated the creation of much needed jobs by upgrading recreational facilities and renewing community infrastructure so badly neglected by those opposite when they were last in government. Further initiatives like the Back to Work regional employment package have supported around 1,019 jobs in my area through funding of over \$10 million to date, with further commitments in the 2020-21 budget year for the Hervey Bay electorate and the Fraser Coast.

On the health front, the government's Building Better Hospitals initiatives was a key priority for the Palaszczuk government which will help address growing demand by enhancing public hospital services in adding to the delivery of new health infrastructure in Hervey Bay.

Tourism has an enormous impact on the financial wellbeing of Queensland and, as noted by the minister during the estimates hearing, is one of the top employment sectors. Tourism is vital to the future and long-term growth of the Hervey Bay electorate. Many small businesses rely on tourism to survive. This report outlines many initiatives that the Palaszczuk government will roll out to support this vital economic sector for Queensland and the Hervey Bay electorate.

Initiatives supporting the tourism industry's recovery through targeted initiatives include a \$25 million Growing Tourism Infrastructure Fund and a \$25 million Queensland Tourism Icons Program as well as a \$15 million Aviation Recovery Fund, part of which has planes flying into Hervey Bay from Sydney again. This has come online just in time for our world famous whale-watching season. I would like to thank the minister for his earlier supportive words around this.


Other areas of the report highlight many more initiatives including the safe return and restart of play in the areas of sport and recreation. Many further initiatives came out of the report that are driving strong economic recovery in Queensland, and I will highlight just a few: delivering and implementing the COVID-19 fiscal and economic review and the 2020-21 and 2021-22 Queensland budgets; and delivering the \$7 million Growing Indigenous Tourism in Queensland grant fund and Our Country Indigenous Tourism Development Service. There was also collaboration on options to achieve the government's 50 per cent renewable energy target and on-water security measures as well as implementing payroll tax deductions to help stimulate business in regional Queensland, assisting many businesses across the state of Queensland. Other initiatives included: administering COVID-19 tax relief messages for payroll tax and land tax, which was critical in keeping businesses in the Hervey Bay electorate afloat during the pandemic; and supporting major private sector investment by providing tailored project facilitation services.

In closing, I would like to thank the committee chair, the member for Logan; the committee deputy chair, the member for Mermaid Beach; the committee members; and in particular the committee secretariat for their tireless and diligent work in preparing for the estimates process and ensuring the appropriate level of accountability and scrutiny was applied to these hearings.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the Premier, the Treasurer and the Minister for Tourism Industry Development and Minister for Sport for their work on their portfolio areas and for ensuring that the 2020-21 budget delivered for the people of the Hervey Bay electorate and for the people of Queensland at a time when they need it most. The Palaszczuk government is keeping Queenslanders safe and, as outlined previously, this means job creation is continuing—

(Time expired)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): I call the member for Ninderry. You have one minute.

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (12.32 pm): I rise to make a very short contribution in relation to the estimates hearing for the Economics and Governance Committee and its consideration of the Appropriation (2020-21) Bill. The Economics and Governance Committee's report was tabled earlier this month, and I thank all those members for their valid contributions. The LNP does not oppose the bill, but there are some significant concerns that should be highlighted.


The committee report reflects the finding of the budget estimates process that was conducted in the aftermath of the state election. It should come as no surprise that this process exposed the depth of Labor's economic mismanagement and subterfuge. As a member of the Economics and Governance Committee, I think it is appropriate to start with the state's balance sheet. The 200,000 plus Queenslanders who are currently out of work had very high expectations that the budget would deliver at least some relief if not the prospect of future employment in the post-COVID economic environment. However, all the Labor government was able to manage was \$28 billion in new debt simply to keep the lights on.

Report adopted.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee, Report

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): The question is—

That the report of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee be adopted.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (12.33 pm): I rise to commend the report of the committee to the House. I would like to congratulate the Treasurer on bringing in what we have seen is a strong budget during this COVID-19 pandemic and I congratulate the Premier as well for her strength and leadership in keeping Queenslanders safe during that time.

What we saw during our committee's estimates hearing was that, following our health response, our economic response is getting Queenslanders back to work. Our economic recovery plan is getting Queenslanders back to work. One of the things we heard during the estimates that I loved hearing about from the Deputy Premier was the outstanding COVID Works for Queensland programs that have been keeping so many Queenslanders in work. For example, in July 2020 we saw \$200 million funded into that program—520 projects supporting 4,600 local jobs. The \$50 million Unite and Recover Community Stimulus Package for South-East Queensland councils is supporting over 1,500 jobs. That of course builds on the success of the Works for Queensland program that we heard about. That is a \$600 million initiative—1,802 projects, creating or supporting 20,600 local jobs.

These programs have been a tremendous success. During the estimates process we saw what those COVID Works for Queensland programs have meant to the people in my electorate, for example. In Bancroft that money has gone to upgrade seven local parks in Deception Bay and North Lakes—playground equipment, landscaping and fencing. It has been used to do a mechanical and electrical upgrade at the Deception Bay pool. It is also funding part of the first stage of the new community facility at the old DPI Fisheries site on the Deception Bay foreshore and building a new amenities block at the Uhlmann Road boat ramp. I congratulate the Deputy Premier on that.


What we heard about infrastructure in the estimates hearing showed exactly how well our economic recovery plan is helping out this state. We heard described a \$56 billion infrastructure program over four years. That includes a \$14.8 billion infrastructure investment this financial year, supporting 46,000 jobs, and 27,800 of those would be outside Greater Brisbane.

During this process we heard from the Deputy Premier about the unprecedented infrastructure projects coming through Economic Development Queensland: \$200 million worth of projects over the next two years, 20 infrastructure projects in the pipeline that range from half a million to \$20 million. They will support 650 construction jobs and enable \$1 billion in private investment.

We heard not only from the Deputy Premier but also from the agriculture minister about how our economic recovery plan is supporting our agribusiness sector. For example, we were the first to roll out business support packages in this area, and that was before JobKeeper and JobSeeker. In March 2020 we saw \$1 billion going into the Jobs Support Loan Scheme and in June 2020 we moved to phase 2 of the economic recovery plan. That included \$12.5 million for agribusinesses in our state, including \$5.5 million for digital grants and improving supply chain projects, \$5 million for improving trade relations and \$2 million to help these agribusinesses diversify as well. Our economic recovery plan is not only building recovery in this sector—and I pay tribute to the minister for agriculture in this area; it is also helping build that potential in the agribusiness sector to help smooth that path to recovery in the future.

I want to finish by paying tribute to QRIDA. We heard during the estimates process about the excellent work that they have done. They worked right across Queensland during COVID-19 helping us recover. They ran the Jobs Support Loan Scheme, which supported 87,000 Queensland jobs. They processed over 11,000 applications in that \$1 billion program. I think this shows not only the great work

that the Palaszczuk government has done during this time but also the great work that Queenslanders have done throughout our state, the way they have buckled down, got on with the job and worked together. I commend this report to the House.


 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (12.38 pm): I rise to speak on the estimates for the portfolios of state development, regional infrastructure, planning and local government. Firstly, I would like to thank our secretariat for the hard work they did in coordinating the process. I must say that there is a stark contrast between the government and ourselves with regard to the opinions around the budget estimates process. It is fair to say that there were a lot of games being played in terms of the way Labor chairs ensured government members had a very large share of the available time and prevented the good questions of shadow ministers from being asked.

Queenslanders continue to deal with the impacts of COVID and, in this third term of the Palaszczuk Labor government, they were excited to see a budget that might deliver. They were excited because the Treasurer said that things were looking good and that Queensland had made all the right promises, but then 1 December came. Unfortunately, when the Treasurer tabled the budget the bubble burst. The hopes of the opposition and particularly Queensland's 200,000 unemployed were crushed. A debt bomb, predicted to be \$4 billion, went out to \$28 billion. That may be okay if a large amount of money is being spent on infrastructure, but we know that is not the case. As the member for Kawana rightly pointed out a short time ago, why was the budget delivered a month after the election and not a month before it? It was quite clear that bad news would be forthcoming. As is prudent, the opposition and the committee have made their report and will accept the passing of the budget.

In my remaining time I will bring a number of issues to the attention of the House. The Lockyer community certainly needs infrastructure, be it on the Warrego Highway, the Brisbane Valley Highway or Forest Hill Fernvale Road, but unfortunately the budget did not provide for that. That was mentioned in the report of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee.

I commend our leader's earlier suggestion regarding the independence of committee chairs for future budget estimates processes. At least from an independent chair I can expect some more fairness. Earlier the chair of the committee talked about the spend on agriculture. I am not sure if he was reading the same estimates papers I read, because for the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries there was actually a \$44 million cut. Department of agriculture officers right across the state have really struggled to keep up the support of their communities that are much in need. Our local Lockyer community relies on the services of those workers but, again, cuts have meant that these services have been reduced over and over again.

In terms of the performance at the committee, the Deputy Premier had to fill in for the Minister for Water, who was not available at that time as he was unwell with a back problem. I appreciated the comments regarding support for farmers; however, when it comes to part A charges, this government has failed to deliver any savings or cuts for farmers. Our farmers are facing \$6 million of part A charges at a time of COVID and drought. This is one of the biggest issues that sees our farmers having to sell up. It is something they cannot afford. The banks are not happy to talk to them. It is a case of the state government being out of touch with the agricultural community. I plead with the government to give some relief in terms of those charges.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) (12.43 pm): I welcome the tabling of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee report into the proposed budget appropriations for 2020-21. I acknowledge the committee's recommendation that the proposed expenditure as detailed in the budget bills be agreed to without amendment.

The 2020-21 Queensland state budget is a budget that will drive Queensland's economic recovery from the COVID pandemic. Crucial to this recovery is supporting projects that create jobs and support trade and our key industries. It now has been more than a year since we declared a public health emergency in response to COVID-19, but this time last year we were looking at modelling that showed that more than 12,000 Queenslanders would die by the end of the year. That is more than 20 times greater than the total number of cases we have seen. Our Premier's strong leadership has kept Queenslanders safe and we have avoided the devastating scenes seen overseas. As the US and the UK are struggling through their devastating winter, Queenslanders are settling into the new normal.


We always said that our health response would be the first stage of our economic response, and that prediction has proven correct. The Palaszczuk government budget is a jobs budget. The Building our Regions program continues to support local government infrastructure projects in regional and remote communities that create flow-on economic development opportunities and jobs. To date, the

Building our Regions program has approved over \$348 million towards 271 projects across 67 local governments, supporting an estimated 2,770 jobs. We have also committed \$42.5 million to build the Bundaberg East flood levee to protect the people of Bundaberg and to support 679 jobs over three years of construction. With the help of our hardworking member for Bundaberg, we will continue to push the federal government to support this important project.

We are delivering \$200 million over two years for the COVID Works for Queensland program, empowering 77 local governments to invest in hundreds of local job-creating projects. We also are delivering \$100 million over four years for the South-East Queensland community stimulus package to fast-track investment in new infrastructure and community assets in the south-east corner. This is in addition to the \$200 million over two years for the third round of the government's signature Works for Queensland program that is delivering infrastructure and creating jobs across regional Queensland.

As the Minister for State Development, I will be working hard to ensure Queensland is doing all it can to lure new industries to Queensland. What better example is there than Rheinmetall at Ipswich? With the Premier and the whole cabinet, I visited its facility just last week. The Milvehcoe facility is the most advanced military vehicle manufacturing facility in Australia, built in partnership by the Queensland government with Rheinmetall—an initiative that has already created more than 300 jobs. We are also backing Queensland to be a leader in aerospace, space engineering and manufacturing. We are partnering with the Boeing Corporation on the Loyal Wingman project to develop the next generation of uncrewed aerial vehicles, Boeing's largest investment of its kind outside of the United States. These are the industries and the jobs of the future, and we want them to call Queensland home.

Since 2015, we have invested over \$50 billion in infrastructure projects. We are increasing our infrastructure spend to \$56 billion over the next four years—the highest spend over the past decade. This will directly support diverse employment and economic activity across all of our regions, with \$14.8 billion worth of infrastructure investment in 2020-21 estimated to support around 46,000 jobs. Queensland's economic recovery is well and truly underway. The government's vision is that we emerge from the global pandemic stronger and more resilient. We will invest, seize future opportunities, grow the economy, create secure jobs and build a stronger Queensland. I thank the committee for its consideration, parliamentary staff for all their work in delivering the estimates program, and my departmental and ministerial staff for preparing materials to inform the hearing.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (12.48 pm): I rise to speak in regard to this estimates report, particularly in regard to infrastructure and how vital it is in all corners of this state. There was a lack of clarity in the estimates process about the real infrastructure pipeline. In terms of the feedback I am currently getting from the construction industry, particularly civil construction, it is really looking for a clear, transparent pipeline for infrastructure projects. It is not all in QTRIP and it does not actually outline the projects that the industry wants to see the detail of.

Quite clearly, if that is the best the minister can do, it is no wonder we have engineering firms announcing a number of redundancies in the last week or two. That is a major concern because, at a time when we need to capture this level of expertise to help the delivery of small, medium and larger infrastructure projects throughout this state, there is a lack of confidence in some parts of the industry. We need to have a diversity of contractors and suppliers, not just the big tier 1s that can use the might of their position to subcontract others rather than build up the capacity of Australian owned businesses in that infrastructure pipeline. We must have greater transparency and, quite frankly, greater investment in those small, medium and large projects throughout that range of contractors to deliver into the regions.

We have already seen concern expressed given that only a few years ago this state Labor government announced with great fanfare Building Queensland, a statutory authority. I refer to former deputy premier Jackie Trad—I have not heard her name mentioned lately—and an article titled 'Queensland releases independent infrastructure pipeline report' from July 2016 which quotes that former deputy premier, who was in charge of infrastructure delivery and some other interesting infrastructure in her own backyard. The premise of Building Queensland as a statutory authority was that it was going to take the politics out of infrastructure delivery and assessing the priority projects. I will table the article, which states—

'As an independent organisation, Building Queensland is able to provide our government with impartial and expert advice on where we should invest the state's infrastructure funds,' Ms Trad said.

'For the first time, our state now has a clear pipeline of infrastructure projects which have been independently assessed and prioritised based on returns to local communities and our state's economy.'


The article goes on, and I table that.

Tabled paper: Article from govnews, dated July 2016, titled 'QLD releases independent infrastructure pipeline report' [167].

I reference that article because mysteriously, only a few years after that deputy premier was in charge of infrastructure, the Palaszczuk Labor government says that it is not getting rid of Building Queensland but morphing it into the department. When I said that it is getting rid of Building Queensland, it says, 'No, that's not correct. That's an imputation.' It is undoing the statutory authority and putting it back under the department, so I think that is actually getting rid of the statutory authority. We are yet to see that legislation come through the House and be passed, but the point is this: it was only a few years ago that this government said that it was doing it for transparency and independence and taking the expert advice to deliver an infrastructure pipeline, and yet a few years later it is getting rid of that. How about that! What does that say? It says that they cannot get their stories straight for one thing, but industry is saying that it is most concerned—at a time for the rebuild out of COVID and its impacts, when infrastructure is vitally important to the construction industry and jobs in the regions and also important to the ongoing economic prosperity of the various regions—that there is a lack of a real infrastructure pipeline.

We are seeing other states outgunning Queensland. Queensland has racked up the debt but not put it all back into a substantial pipeline of those small, medium and large infrastructure projects. This is a lost opportunity at a time when we should be building Australian owned businesses and delivering infrastructure such as roads and water. My word! We know that the government is not doing many water projects in this state, but it should if it wants to get Queensland going. I know that my colleague the member for Nanango will talk about that. It is time for a real infrastructure plan.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (12.53 pm): The committee report makes clear that the Palaszczuk government is one of commitment to our regions, commitment to our farmers and commitment to the people of Queensland. In the face of the most significant pandemic to face the planet in more than 100 years, the Palaszczuk government has stood firmly behind our farmers. Supporting our primary producers is not a gimmick of the Labor Party. It is not an afterthought like it is for some parties; it is part of our DNA. In the face of the pandemic, this has been a year of—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Order, members! I remind members who are under a warning that no interjections will be made.

Mr FURNER: Thank you for your protection, Mr Deputy Speaker. Agriculture is an essential industry and we were the first state in the nation to have it declared essential so that vital transport, logistics and supply chain operations could continue. We partnered with industry in an unprecedented way to make sure that its important voice was heard and important actions were taken. The Agriculture Coordination Group continues. In the midst of the pandemic we have maintained a strong position, defending Queensland from the highest level of invasive pest threats faced by any state. Because we moved swiftly and we partnered with industry, we are ready for the threat of African swine fever.

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr FURNER: The ongoing response to Panama TR4 sees our expertise making a difference in other continents as well. Importantly, the Palaszczuk government budget is a budget that delivers on the promises we made to Queenslanders and to industry. We are continuing to invest in our biosecurity and will continue to support the industry that is such a vital part of Queensland's plan for economic recovery. That is what the Palaszczuk government does. It supports existing industries and it supports new ones as well.

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr FURNER: The pandemic and its impacts on our export fisheries—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Gregory, you are already under a warning. You will leave the chamber for an hour.


Whereupon the honourable member for Gregory withdrew from the chamber at 12.55 pm.

Mr FURNER: The pandemic and its impacts on our export fisheries was a serious challenge for our fishing industry. It was one of the first affected, with the pandemic almost immediately affecting orders from China, and it was appropriate that it was the first to receive assistance as well. We moved quickly to ensure assistance in the early stages of the pandemic. Throughout all of this, we remained steadfast to ensure that our fishing industry could be sustainable in the future—not just for one season. We owe it to our children and our grandchildren to not let the resource this industry relies on be depleted

beyond repair. We want an industry where there are commercial fishing jobs and a future where we have a thriving and popular recreational fishing industry which in turn supports tourism in many wonderful parts of our state.

We know that estimates is a trying time for all members. I want to acknowledge the effort and the commitment of committee members—all committee members—and in particular the chair, the member for Bancroft, for his excellent chairing during the December proceedings. I want to put on record my appreciation of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries throughout the year as well as during estimates and also to Dr Beth Woods, my retiring director-general, with last year's estimates her last. Her retirement is an end to an era for agriculture. I also want to thank the member for Noosa, who was unable to attend but did submit a number of questions via letter.

With regard to the dissenting report of the committee, it must be terribly disheartening for the opposition to aim so low and still find a way to disappoint. It is clear that the LNP cannot read and understand an SDS still. There are more staff in the department now than when the LNP was in government and yet it makes a valiant attempt to portray this as a cut to staff numbers. In terms of fisheries, Queensland needs to meet Commonwealth environmental commitments. These reforms to fisheries ensure our long-term vision for the sector. The LNP did not table its own reports. Until the LNP learns to read an SDS, the agriculture and fisheries sector can expect nothing more from an ill-informed, whingeing LNP.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (12.58 pm): What an absolute joke of an agriculture minister in Queensland if that is the best he has! He only has five minutes in this House to actually talk up the agricultural industry here in Queensland and he can only make four minutes! That is how important the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sector is to this agriculture minister. That is how important rural and regional Queensland is to this agriculture minister in Queensland. He cannot even make five minutes from the estimates process.

What did we learn through this committee? I thank the member for Lockyer for raising water. Water is a vital issue for the economy of Queensland. What did we learn through the estimates process? We learned that there is a list of broken promises from this Labor government. There is no relief for over 1,000 water users for part A water charges—no relief. Even Peter Beattie gave relief, but there is no relief from this Palaszczuk government.


In Toowoomba in around January last year the Premier stood up and said that she was going to build a pipeline from Toowoomba to Warwick. When questioned through the estimates process, where is the money for that pipeline? There is absolutely zero in the budget because there is no pipeline. This is another fake, false promise from this fake, false government that we have, but it is obvious. Whilst we know that there is no pipeline and no relief for the people of Warwick—no pipeline and no relief for part A water prices—another massive shame from this budget and the election is around irrigation prices and the uncertainty and the lack of clarity.

Debate, on motion of Mrs Frecklington, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Youth Justice

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): My contribution today will be centred on the Youth Justice Act, the need for reform and how we have said that this must be an issue that is discussed this week in parliament. I will not start without first pausing to reflect on those families who have been through so much pain. In recent times families have buried loved ones who were in the prime of their life. Before we debate this important issue we must pause and reflect on the tragic loss for those families of their loved ones.

We must also talk about the families whose stories may not make the news and may not be as tragic in nature but will still have a massive impact on their lives and livelihoods. I talk about the impacts of crime that are felt on communities every day. There will be young tradespeople from suburbs across this state, from Coombabah to Cranbrook to Cairns, who will wake up and go out to their front lawn to hop in a car to go and earn an honest day's pay who will not be able to do that. Their car may be missing. Their tools may be gone. Their car may have been taken on a joyride and burnt for the thrill of it. Their life will change. Their ability to earn a living will change. They will go through the rigmarole of insurance claims. They will have to ring a boss or a client and say that they are unable to do what they said they were going to do through no fault of their own.

There will be children in those same suburbs going to bed whose parents will have to assure them that everything is okay, despite the fact that their house had somebody raid it in the days beforehand. They are impacts that young people do not get over. For those in this House who have been the victim of a robbery, and I am sure that is the majority of people in this House, when you walk into that place it is never quite the same. When you go to that drawer and you open it, the memory of what was there when you first walked into that place is there: the glass shattered on the floor and your items strewn across the ground. It is never quite the same.

We were told that this week was going to be the week that the government acted. Well, it has not. We said from day one that we wanted to see one thing put on the agenda and that was to restore breach of bail as an offence. We did not give a shopping list. We did not say, 'Here are our 30 demands otherwise we will not play ball.' We did not do that. We put one thing on the table and its cornerstone was consequences for actions.

Mr Harper: It was proven to fail and you know it.

Mr CRISAFULLI: The member for Thuringowa walks on both sides of the street. He is an apologist in here but the community champion when he gives the other side of the story up north.

An opposition member: They are calling him out!

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will take the interjection. The community are calling him out because what they needed this week was action. We acknowledge that reform takes consultation, but for the government to not even introduce a bill at this point shows that they do not believe the issue is serious. The government did not agree to the one thing that universally was called for and respected, and that is the return of breach of bail. Everyone on the front line, every police officer who spends the night trying to find a safe place for a young person to go back to, wasting hours of their time when they could be keeping the community safe, has called on the government to do this one thing.

I say to the victims of crime that we will keep fighting for this because we are serious about it. I say to those families who lost loved ones: your son or daughter was not in the wrong place at the wrong time; the criminal, who should have been in a safer place for the community, was in the wrong place. I say to those people who want to know that any good system has the ability to reform people early on in their journey before they fall into a life of crime—which is the view of the vast majority of people in this state because everybody deserves a second chance—that the revolving door of youth justice must end in this state. A 10th, a 15th and a 20th chance is where the community draws a line. They are not talking about stealing a KitKat, I can assure members. It has nothing to do with that. It took a very brave Police Commissioner to call that nonsense out. This morning the minister, who has been an apologist for weak laws, all of a sudden comes in playing the bullyboy card. I would have liked to have seen a little bit of that tough action directed at those offenders. I would have liked to have seen him stick up for people in blue uniforms.

We know that this is a serious matter. We know that the reform will take time. I have said to the government from day one that this is a problem not the making of the Queensland Police Service, this is not a problem the making of the individual groups on either side of the ledger who have campaigned for better conditions for young children when they are being detained or of victims' rights groups which have sought to ensure that the individual matters after their life is turned upside down; the government must understand that these are issues of its own making.

It dates back to a change in legislation in this place that was done in a ham-fisted way in 2015. I acknowledge the government was elected and it might have been surprised about that election, but the reforms that it put in place were ham-fisted. It has sought to make amends time and time again and the problem has got worse. Communities are crying out just to be heard, just to have the problem acknowledged. They want members who are willing to fight for them, not to fight them. They want members who are willing to stand up and acknowledge there is an issue and say the same things that they tell the crowds up there as in this building where it matters, where the decisions occur. Standing up and calling out breach of bail is what is needed.

Mr Healy: That's why we got re-elected.


Mr CRISAFULLI: I hear the member for Cairns crowing about his win, somehow believing that that is a mandate for him to continue to do nothing on youth justice reform. May I suggest to the member for Cairns that his day of reckoning is coming, because his community wants somebody who does the straight talking up there to do the straight talking in here. Right now every one of the members who is serious about protecting their community and speaking out on their behalf would vote in accordance with what every person on the front line is asking for. They are not asking for young offenders to have

the book thrown at them the first time. They are not asking for a system that does not allow people an opportunity to acknowledge the error of their ways. They are asking for a system that clamps down on those habitual, repeat offenders who are destroying lives.

When the government comes in here and says that there is only a handful of offenders, I suggest that that means it must be a much easier problem to solve than if there were thousands of them, but it involves the government being serious. Over the past half a decade we have seen a government that has spent all of its political capital saying that it is not a big issue, that youth crime does not matter, that the solutions are something that is beyond their reach. Right now we have put forward one reasonable suggestion and we will continue to advocate for it.

(Time expired)

Alexandra Hills, Deaths

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (2.10 pm): In Australia, 26 January brings up many mixed emotions, but for the Alexandra Hills community it will forever bring up emotions of tragedy and sadness. Following all the events of 2020, Alexandra Hills went through more than its fair share in January 2021: the COVID lockdown, flash flooding and finally an awful tragedy. Upon reading the news I vividly remember telling my wife that there had been an awful accident at our intersection. I say 'our' because it is the first and last set of lights that we travel through each and every day. Then the horrific details followed: footage of an earlier incident at the same intersection came to light, the tragic details of two people losing their lives and the news that their dog was also missing. I took a walk down to the intersection and I spoke to the first responders. The awful image of that white four-wheel drive and the clean-up of the intersection will forever haunt me.

The next morning I ensured that I was the first person to pay my respects at the site. I may have put down the first set of flowers but it definitely was not the last. Hundreds of people paid their respects. People from all walks of life and from near and far came to pay their respects over the next week and a bit, and I thank them for that. That same day I learned the news that I knew one of the victims. The general public got to know Matt Field's name, but to me he was 'Fatty', a nice mannered kid who got along with everyone in my brother's grade at Iona and a younger brother to 'Ratty', who was in my grade. I was absolutely heartbroken to find out that Matt Field and Kate Leadbetter were expecting their first child, Miles, in a couple of months. My condolences and heartfelt sympathies go to their families and friends.


Four years earlier my wife and I were doing exactly the same thing as Matt and Kate. Mel was six months pregnant with our first boy and we regularly walked our two dogs along Allenby Road. I believe the tragedy has hit so hard in my community because so many in my community do exactly the same thing as they make a start in their lives in such a beautiful area. Good news finally came that day. Our community had found Frankie, their beloved dog, in nearby bushland. I thank everyone from the bottom of my heart for their heartfelt efforts in that search.

I was able to catch up with Matt's brother Andrew and his parents at the candlelight vigil. We shared a beer and a few yarns. It was hard to fathom what had happened, but it was beautiful to hear their loving stories of Matt and Kate. Ratty told me how he and Fatty had bought the house at Alexandra Hills and how happy he was that he sold it to his brother Matt and Kate to start their lives together with Miles.

I want to thank all of the first responders who attended the scene and especially acknowledge the ongoing work that the police officers have done with the families. I thank the witnesses and those who came to the aid of Matt and Kate. I would also like to thank Father Twigg and the Iona community who helped the family through the funeral and provided such wonderful guidance and counselling. I had a few phone calls with Father Twigg in the weeks leading up to the funeral and I could hear how invested he was in ensuring that the families were being looked after.

In the coming weeks we will debate important law reforms that have come as a result of this tragedy. I will have more to say on them, but for now I would like to thank the Premier and the relevant ministers for listening to my many phone calls and acting upon them. At a time when my community called for a response, they listened and they delivered. Again, I pass on my heartfelt condolences to Matt, Kate and Miles and their families. To Fatty, Kate and Miles, may you rest in peace.

Youth Justice

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.15 pm): I cannot let the collective delusion of those opposite during question time go unquestioned this afternoon. I refer to the issue that the Leader of the Opposition has just spoken about, that is, youth crime and the

government's legislative response to it. For far too long in this House we have heard those opposite speak about youth crime and the law but there is a clear line—there is a clear thread—that stretches back six years in relation to the issue, and those opposite must accept responsibility for the fact that they should be doing better to get the law right.

In 2015 the former attorney-general's reforms were overturned. That led into 2016 when 17-year-olds were moved into the youth justice system. From there we saw a particular crisis around watch houses. At the time the police union chief, Ian Leavers, said that there was no plan; that there was more planning done for your average McDonalds store than there was for transferring 17-year-olds into the youth justice system. We saw a change in the law that was fundamentally unplanned for and resulted in the watch house crisis that saw children locked up in watch houses across Queensland. At one stage in Brisbane there were more children than adults in the watch house, all because of the thread that runs back to Labor government law reforms in the youth justice space.


The government then created, out of thin air, a brand new youth justice department to try to address some of the problems with youth justice. They came back into this House and sought more law reform. They changed section 48 of the Youth Justice Act to overturn the presumption of bail. From there we started to see more and more offending such as we have seen in the past couple of months throughout Queensland. That offending has traumatised so many, including those in the community of the member for Capalaba but not just there. Across Townsville and in my own home town of Toowoomba people are sick of the changes that result in these consequences.

This government has had no plan for youth justice. They have never thought through the unintended consequences—not when they changed the law in 2015, not when they brought 17-year-olds into the youth justice system, not when they created a youth justice department and not when they walked into this place in 2019 and changed section 48 to overturn the presumption of bail. Then the police minister went to Townsville and criticised the magistrates. It is their law. It is the government's law. It is Labor's law.

At the start of last year, before COVID, I remember going to a series of crime forums, including with the member for Callide and the member for Clayfield on the Gold Coast. Hundreds of people from the community came because they were distressed about the levels of crime that they saw every day. As the Leader of the Opposition has just said, families have had their cars stolen and their homes broken into. A home is sacred. It is where people should feel safest of all. That sacred trust has been destroyed by repeat offenders and we have seen that time and time again. This government must take responsibility.

The government has foreshadowed that it will introduce a bill this week. By my count that will be their fourth attempt in six years to try to address some of the youth justice problems in Queensland. Do I believe that the latest amendment will address all of the problems? No! We know it will not. Will they go back to the pre-2019 presumption of bail legal position? I do not know. We will wait and see. What we do know is that changing the law four times in six years betrays the fact that they have no idea what they are doing about youth justice. The community must know this because while ever this government stays in power we will see flipping and flopping and a betrayal of the community. No matter where they are they must be held accountable for that, and we will hold them to account in this place.

Townsville, Youth Crime

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (2.20 pm): Townsville has endured great pain recently. A young woman with her whole life in front of her, with aspirations of joining the Queensland Police Service, lost her life on Friday, 5 February after being struck by an alleged vigilante who was pursuing a stolen car in Thuringowa. That young lady's name is Jennifer Board. It is a name that will remain with me and the Townsville community for a very long time to come. This senseless and tragic end to Jennifer's life should never have happened. It has rocked our community and deeply affected all of us. To Jennifer's family, friends and the community, I offer my sincere condolences. Our community is grieving as it comes to grips with this tragic event.

I have reached out to Jennifer's family and have recently personally spoken to Denise Bowen, carer and companion to Jennifer's father, Graham, just the day before Jennifer's funeral. I know from that conversation that the family has received much love and support from so many in our community, and I know that this is an incredibly difficult time for all who loved and knew Jennifer. The day after Jennifer's awful tragedy was not a day for politics; it was a day for her friends and loved ones to gather to support each other and grieve. My wife, Amanda, and I laid flowers at the memorial at sunset on that Saturday afternoon. I have spoken with the principal of the Weir State School, as this occurred right outside the school and I know it has affected many of the students and staff.

As a community, we simply cannot tolerate this lawless behaviour occurring on our streets. Just hours after the tragedy another stolen car in broad daylight was going down the wrong way of Riverway Drive at speed, putting more innocent people at risk, and I have heard reports today of this continued behaviour just hours ago.

Thuringowa is a place where we proudly raise our families, where we connect through a broad range of activities. The good people of my community are law-abiding citizens, but none of us can allow or tolerate this criminal behaviour that places our community at risk. It is just not acceptable. I have told my constituents that I will do all in my power to ensure this never happens again. This means taking tough action and strengthening our legislation around bail. I welcome the recent announcements from the Premier. They are strong but necessary steps and will help make our community safer.

I also echo the calls from police to stop any forms of vigilante behaviour. Police do an outstanding job of arresting and charging offenders and putting them in custody, helping make our communities safe, but I note that in the contributions of the Leader of the Opposition there was not one mention of this despicable vigilante behaviour which was certainly a causal factor in Jennifer's death.


I know that each Townsville MP is committed to the people of Townsville and to tackling this very serious issue to help make our community safer by ensuring these serious offenders are off our streets. I called for a local task force—I thank the police minister, who picked up the phone immediately—to concentrate on catching these offenders and placing them before the courts. Many remain in custody due to the outstanding response from our police, and I commend them for their response in catching those serious criminals.

Our work to date with our five-point action plan, announced last year, has achieved positive results so far. Figures show that youth offending is down by 30 per cent, but we have a very serious problem with 10 per cent of the worst offenders who are responsible for nearly 50 per cent of crimes being committed. We now strengthen that response to target that core group of recidivist offenders.

I know that our communities want more action by government. In the previous term we delivered an additional 104 police. We have committed to another 150. We changed the legislation that said serious offenders must not get bail. Following on from previous contributions by opposition members, I make the point that this is a time to rise above. Those opposite should not get stuck nine years in the past with a proposal proven to have failed. They should join with us. I ask opposition members to join with us when a bill comes before the House, in a bipartisan fashion, to help make our communities safer.

I have read recent media reports of magistrates saying, 'I am required to assess if you are a serious risk to the community. You are and you are not getting bail.' We have introduced a raft of programs to stop people offending in the first place—Project Booyah, Transition 2 Success and the Pathways, Clontarf and on-country programs—but these recent announcements are aimed at the 10 per cent of recidivist offenders who have no regard for public safety. Let's do this. Let's get it through the House. Let's do it for Jennifer.

Townsville, Youth Crime

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (2.25 pm): 'How disgusting is it that we have to wait for someone to be assaulted or killed?' Those are the exact words of Townsville resident Taleisha on 12 February 2020 at the Jubilee Bowls Club in Townsville. Among the hundreds of people listening to Taleisha were the member for Morayfield and police minister, the member for Thuringowa and the member for Townsville. They talked a big game that day. They talked about the tough action they were going to take, how they were going to lay down the law and lock up these juvenile offenders. Here we are, 12 months later, still talking about the same issue. Isn't it tragic that over a year later, Taleisha's prediction has tragically come true—not once, not twice but three times? Five people have died in Townsville, three people have died in Alexandra Hills, and nothing has changed.

According to the Police Service's online crime map, in the year to 22 February 842 cars have been stolen and 3,074 premises have been broken into in the Townsville local government area. That is a disgrace. Everyday people who are going about their lives are having their cars stolen and their houses broken into. Are they angry? You better believe it! I get calls every day from those residents—from the owners of those vehicles, from those occupiers who have had their houses broken into and their cars stolen and torched.

I refer to the battling single mum of three kids who could not afford to insure her car, which was last year stolen and burnt. How does she take the kids to school? How does she do the shopping on a weekend? She is now forced to beg, borrow and do whatever she can to get her kids to school and to

go and get the groceries using public transport because of the actions of these juvenile offenders. Just this morning we have seen more chaos in Townsville. As I stand here, right this minute, the Bruce Highway is closed and at least one person has been hospitalised. Multiple vehicles have been damaged and a manhunt is currently underway.


This is Queensland, not Mogadishu, for goodness sake! This sort of thing is happening every single day of the week right throughout Queensland, yet those opposite will come in here and talk about their five-point plan and how it is making a difference. I can assure them that it is not going anywhere near far enough to address the issue of juvenile crime in Queensland. Government members should try going to Townsville and telling people there that their plan is working. I can assure government members that it is a dismal failure and that people are sick and tired of calling for action from this government. They are sick and tired of listening to the rhetoric and the talk that they are going to get tough on these offenders. They want to see some real action. They want to see some real commitment.

Let me tell members about some of these recidivist, hardcore juvenile offenders that we hear about. They do not care whether they live or die. The detectives who are locking these kids up on a daily basis will tell members that. They have no fear, and that should concern all of us. Members should look at the time. Parents will shortly be going to get their kids from school, but the Bruce Highway is closed because these idiots, these young offenders, are tearing up and down the highway in stolen cars and crashing those stolen cars, putting more innocent lives at risk. How many more people in this state will lose their lives because of the actions of these juvenile offenders?

It has to stop. We have to get tough on this. When we hear that juvenile offenders are doing burnouts in police station car parks, we know that we have a problem. They steal multiple vehicles and go in convoy around the streets of Townsville taunting police. The latest craze is to steal a car and ram a police car because then they prove themselves somehow. That should be ringing alarm bells right throughout this state and definitely should be ringing alarm bells for those on the other side of the chamber. We could have amended the legislation and made breach of bail an offence in one hour today. We were prepared to support it. Where were those opposite when the opportunity presented itself?

(Time expired)

Bundaberg Electorate, Infrastructure

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (2.30 pm): I rise to report on the progress of a range of projects in the Bundaberg region that are key matters of public interest to my community. Since members last met in this House, there have been a series of fantastic announcements and the development of infrastructure projects across the Bundaberg electorate.

I am very glad to report that works along the Isis Highway are now underway. We are working towards making a safer commute for a range of road users. The upgrades, which total \$42.5 million, are vital to the safety of commuters who use this major stretch of road in and out of Bundaberg for their daily drive to work and to access the great family tourism experiences on offer and to transport goods via some nearly 1,000 heavy vehicles each day.

At the announcement of works beginning I was lucky enough to stand with Councillor Wayne Honor and hear from him how important road safety is to the residents who live in his division. These works will see the centre lanes widened to ensure a safer distance between head-on traffic, audio-tactile line marking to alert drivers to the dangers of distraction and fatigue, new asphalt and upgrades to 10 intersections that will widen shoulder lanes and see dedicated turning lanes.

As well as the great work being done along the Isis Highway, I also report that works have started this week on the stretch of road that is Princess Street and Bargara Road. These works will again widen shoulder lanes and upgrade five intersections to assist drivers on what is one of the busiest roads in Bundaberg. Approximately 15,000 vehicles travel along Princess Street and Bargara Road each day. I thank Minister Bailey and the Palaszczuk government for delivering this \$3.5 million road infrastructure project. I remind all members that during the election the LNP only committed \$1 million to that program. That would have equalled a \$2.5 million cut.

A government delivering infrastructure projects is exactly the benefit for regional Queenslanders of having the right health response to COVID-19. A strong health response by the Palaszczuk government is delivering a strong economic recovery plan. I was thrilled to show off the great projects being delivered in Bundaberg to Ministers Hinchliffe, Farmer and Miles in recent weeks.


We are delivering for Bundaberg. We are delivering \$200,000 for the Bingera Football Club so they can kick off their centenary season next year with upgraded field surfaces and better lighting which will see goals flying into the nets. We are delivering for local businesses and innovators such as the proud Bundy based Macadamias Australia. I can report to the House that another local Bundaberg business already taking on the world is expanding into a new phase of their business by investing in the agritourism space. I know that all of Bundy is looking forward to the completion of the interactive visitor attraction that Janelle Gerry and her family provided an insight into for Minister Hinchliffe and myself only a matter of weeks ago.

When we talk about Bundy businesses taking on the world, I have to mention the construction of the new \$3 million Grillex manufacturing facility. How good it is to see the progress of this project. Last year the Treasurer and I toured the site when it was still in its early stages. Only last week Deputy Premier Steven Miles and I were joined by Mayor Jack Dempsey to inspect the site, which is now home to a developing multistorey facility. The Rowland family can be very proud of their business. With the support of our government, they have created 30 construction jobs through this project. That will extend to another 15 ongoing jobs.

I am very proud to inform the House that the new Bundaberg Hospital concept designs have been announced. It is exciting for our region. Not only did we make sure that we kept people safe during COVID-19; we will be delivering a world-class health facility—the new Bundaberg Hospital—for the Wide Bay region. I know that my good friends the member for Hervey Bay and the member Maryborough are very excited about that. It will look after the people in our regions. That is what we on this side of the House do. I am very proud to report that the Palaszczuk Labor government is investing in the local people of Bundaberg. We are delivering for them.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Before I call the next speaker, I remind members that under the parliament's COVID plan we require members to sit only in their allocated seats. I ask members to return to their seats. I was not singling out anybody in particular, member for Surfers Paradise, but thank you for self-identifying.

Crocodiles

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (2.35 pm): We recently saw the death of Andrew Heard from a crocodile attack in North Queensland. I offer my sincere condolences to his family. There have been three crocodile attacks in North Queensland over the last three weeks, with one occurring at the once popular swimming spot of Lake Placid in Cairns.

It was disappointing when the KAP presented its Safer Waterways Bill during the last term of parliament that the bill was attacked and voted down by the government and opposition. It was obvious that no-one from the government or the opposition even read the bill. The bill was designed to save lives by removing crocodiles from popular waterways where there was an immediate danger to people while maintaining sustainable crocodile numbers in North Queensland.

One of the main initiatives of the bill was to set up a Queensland crocodile authority based in Cairns—central to where the issue is—to better manage crocodiles rather than it be managed in the offices of bureaucrats in Brisbane. The authority would have complete control over all crocodile management. The bill also sought to create a multimillion dollar egg harvesting and crocodile industry for Indigenous communities in the Far North.

In an article in the *Courier-Mail* Peter Gleeson warns of the risk that crocodiles pose. I table that article.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 22 February 2021, titled 'Learning to live with killers? What a croc' [[168](#)].

The article states—

Before his death, Andrew Heard warned about the dangers of crocodiles, suggesting they be culled around known hot spots such as Hinchinbrook Island.

Earlier this month, Mr Heard left for a fishing trip in his small dinghy near Hinchinbrook Island and never returned.

His boat, overturned and damaged, was found ...

Mr Gleeson went on to say—

Conservationists and environmentalists argue that culling big saltwater crocs will only make it more dangerous for humans as the smaller reptiles fight for supremacy.

They say educating people of the dangers of crocodile attacks is the answer.

This is absolute rubbish. If a crocodile comes at your dinghy then no amount of education or knowledge will help, Mr Gleeson said.

In my second reading speech on the Safer Waterways Bill on 2 April 2019 I tabled a *Cairns Post* article titled 'Biggest rise in beach closures due to crocodiles in Far North in five years'. In the article, Surf Life Saving North Queensland regional manager said the recent crocodile alerts were a wake-up call for politicians in terms of the change that has occurred to aquatic recreation in Cairns in recent years. The article stated—


We've had these wonderful swimming holes like Ross and Locke, but we can no longer swim at them,' he said.

'The people of Cairns just want their swimming holes back. But (the State Government's) advice is "this is croc country—don't go in the water".'

We used to swim in the Ross and Locke rivers and we used to swim in Lake Placid, but we do not now. The government says that this is their territory, but the people up there say, 'This once was ours.' For decades we would swim and enjoy our pristine rivers, beaches and lakes without the fear or threat of crocodiles. We used to ski in the Johnson and Tully rivers and spearfish in the Tully River, but now if one does one gets torn to pieces. I again warn the House of the damage this poses to the tourism industry. Prominent tourist authorities in North Queensland stated the dangers that crocodile attacks pose to the industry during committee hearings into the Safer Waterways Bill in 2018. The detailed warnings on the damage to this industry were ignored by the committee.

With our tourism industry already smashed by COVID, the last thing the industry needs is publicity from rising croc attacks and deaths. It is a cop-out that the state government keeps using the excuse that our waterways and beaches are croc country and croc habitat when over the last 10 years croc sightings have tripled, which goes to show that the present and previous government croc management policies have been a complete failure. The KAP will be introducing another bill into the parliament that will place the lives of people before crocs.

Indigenous Tourism

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (2.39 pm): One of the first appearances I have made as Assistant Minister for Tourism Industry Development was in my own electorate of Cairns where, along with Minister Hinchliffe, I recently visited the Saltwater Club to announce that they were the recipients of funding from the Palaszczuk government's Growing Indigenous Tourism in Queensland Fund. The Saltwater Club is unique as it is the only organisation preserving and promoting the Indigenous maritime heritage of Far North Queensland and employing, engaging and empowering First Nation people throughout the region. It has partnered with more than eight separate traditional owner groups between Cairns and the Torres Strait.

Blackbird International Ltd was established as a community program in 2003 reconnecting Australian descendants of South Sea islanders recruited and blackbirded with their relatives throughout the Pacific. Blackbird developed a number of community initiatives including Saving Torres Strait Pearls, Finding Family Blong Yumi, Blackbird Adventures and the Saltwater Club.

The Saltwater Club is a social enterprise of directors Sonia Minniecon and Mike Smith. The Saltwater Club will assist with branding and sales with a focus on adventure ecotourism for major events and extended voyages throughout Cape York, the Torres Strait and the South Pacific, connecting the paths of blackbirding, 'Coming of the Light', early explorers and resource raiders.

Last year, 2020, was the Year of Indigenous Tourism, and during 2020 the Saltwater Club partnered with Blackbird International to launch the iconic saltwater based Indigenous maritime cultural heritage ecotourism brand the Pearl Lugger Heritage Fleet. They have been steadily restoring culturally and historically significant vessels including pearling luggers, missionary vessels and outrigger canoes and will be the only Indigenous maritime cultural heritage tourism business in Tropical North Queensland, providing a new tourism product to market.

Although tourism will provide the core of economic viability of the project, they have identified other commercial uses that are under development including sea-country engagement for reef management and Indigenous ranger programs; responsibilities at cultural activities, events and festival and re-enactments; and the introduction of carbon neutral, traditional sail transport options to Indigenous communities, councils and organisations.


The fleet currently comprise three historic pearling luggers. With the \$950,000 from the Growing Indigenous Tourism in Queensland Fund, the club has purchased a 90-foot tall ship, the *Derwent Hunter*, which will become the mothership of the fleet being similar to the pearling and blackbirding schooners of the late 1800s. The tall ship will be sailed from Brisbane to Cairns in coming weeks to kick off Saltwater Club tours in the Far North, sailed by full Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander crew.

It will allow visitors and locals alike to step aboard historic pearling luggers, tall ships and traditional outrigger canoes crewed by First Nation people and experience firsthand what it was like to sail on these vessels 150 years ago. Visitors will be able to hoist the sails and hear the tales of Far North Queensland's maritime frontier. The Saltwater Club is more than a new tourism enterprise; it is also a place where young First Nation trainees will learn new skills in ship building and restoration.

Once fully operational by the middle of this year, the Saltwater Club will deliver 19 direct jobs for First Nation workers. The benefits of this enterprise are expected to be far reaching, with work for up to and in excess of 40 Cairns businesses, suppliers and contractors. I can say that in these current times that would be enormously appreciated. This is a win for jobs, it is a win for the diversity of tourism experiences in the Far North and, as I have said, it adds to the product range.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to working with the tourism industry to create new opportunities for growth. The global pandemic has seen tourism hit hard, particularly in my region in Cairns, but our strong health response means we are able to get on with delivering jobs for Queensland's economic recovery. The Palaszczuk government's budget is putting \$74 million into backing tourism and rebuilding better for the future. Indigenous tourism is crucial to Queensland's diversity when it comes to delivering an international and domestic product.

Youth Justice

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (2.44 pm): Today should be a day of great joy for all Australians and for Queenslanders as the vaccine for COVID-19 is being rolled out. The federal government has secured something in the order of 50 million doses of the vaccine. It is being distributed to the states, and the states, as is right and proper, are distributing it. For the whole state and for Australians we can now see a pathway out of this disease that has changed the way we live, the way we work and the way we come together as a community. It should be a great day of joy for all Queenslanders, but there are those in Queensland, in our cities and in our regions who will not experience that joy—those who have lost loved ones, those who have had their lives immeasurably changed as a result of another threat to their lives and to their livelihoods. Young offenders committing robberies, car thefts and house break-ins threaten lives, threaten jobs and threaten people where they ought to be their safest—in their homes. That threat is becoming a reality far too frequently here in Queensland, with often tragic results for innocent bystanders and everyday Queenslanders.

Our media report diligently on these events and have done so many times over the last few years as community concern has escalated. On several occasions last year I spoke in this place in relation to concerns in my community and more broadly across the community about the government's failure to acknowledge the extent of the problem, of the government's lack of resolve and of their failure to keep the community safe.

We heard today from the minister about Bob Atkinson's June 2018 report. In that report he made four key recommendations, but he said that the youth justice policy must be 'bookended by two fundamental principles—that public safety is paramount and that community confidence is essential'. This government is clearly failing in delivering on those two principles with a tragedy in Alexandra Hills that saw three people lose their lives while out walking and in Townsville where a young woman was killed riding a motorcycle while a vigilante chased young, alleged offenders in a stolen vehicle. Both matters are still before the courts.

In Townsville, where I was less than two weeks ago, the first topic no matter who you spoke to was youth crime. The question is: where are the local members? It seems that two of them are in witness protection and one of them is banned from the precinct, so they are not speaking about it.

In Brisbane, on the Gold Coast and in regional towns and cities the community is calling out for leadership and to be kept safe. In exchange, what they get from this government is platitudes and another knee-jerk reaction, a government that has changed youth justice laws three times in 18 months, member for Toowoomba South—not in five years but in 18 months—not because it cares about community safety but because it was forced to by an outraged community. This is a government with a transport minister who claimed innocent victims 'were in the wrong place at the wrong time' while

walking their dogs and a police minister who trivialised serious community concerns by referring to locking people up for stealing a KitKat—as if that was ever a suggestion that was seriously entertained or made by anyone!

This is a government led by a Premier who initially said, ‘I want answers from the magistrates’, blaming the judiciary for the decisions, and a Deputy Premier who asked why things were not being done or recommendations taken up, blaming agencies and the bureaucracy. This is a government that has systematically weakened youth justice laws and then sought to blame everyone but itself and, in doing so, breaches the primary obligations of a government to keep law-abiding citizens safe.


I listened to the member for Capalaba and the member for Thuringowa. I have no doubt that their regret and sorrow at the loss of life is well meant and well felt. Here is the question they need to answer: why didn’t they do something about it before it happened? Why did it take a tragedy for this law to be brought in when the warnings were clear, when the evidence was there, when it was becoming abundantly clear that an accident, that a tragedy, that a crime like this would take lives? Why has it taken these deaths for change to occur?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): The member’s time has expired.

Mr NICHOLLS: This is a debate we did not need to have had this government acted in time.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member! Your time has expired.

Jordan Electorate, Manufacturing Industry

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (2.49 pm): Approximately two years ago I had the opportunity to meet with representatives of MaxiTRANS, which is Australia and New Zealand’s largest and leading semitrailer maker. At the time the company, which had its headquarters in Ballarat, was seeking to expand its footprint in Queensland and replace its existing facility in Richlands with a new and bigger facility. Fast-forward two years and I was proud to join the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Hon. Steven Miles, and key representatives of the company for the official opening of MaxiTRANS brand new 14,303 square metre state-of-the-art facility in the heart of Carole Park in the Jordan electorate. I am advised by the company that this new facility has been designed to match the equipment levels and standard processes available in their Ballarat facility and will provide MaxiTRANS with even greater capacity.

All of this did not happen in isolation, because as a government we wanted to ensure we did not lose this impressive manufacturer and the many jobs that would flow from such an expansion to another state—and certainly not Victoria. By working closely with the department of state development we were able to support the company through our highly successful Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund. The \$150 million Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund began in 2016 but really became particularly important as part of our Unite and Recover Economic Recovery Plan to enable many businesses to relocate or expand in Queensland. The fund is about bringing contestable projects to Queensland, driving job creation, regional growth, increased innovation and technology, and supply chain development.

Some of the success stories of the program have included the Qantas Group Pilot Academy, Boeing’s autonomous systems development program, Ashurst, BrewDog and BGI International. A fantastic example of how the Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund works is through our support of Aspen Medical. International healthcare provider Aspen Medical has expanded into manufacturing at its Brendale facility, which began the manufacture of PPE equipment. The company provided hospital and medical services to defence forces, remote locations and to mitigate global crises such as the outbreak of Ebola. They commenced production in June last year and began manufacturing hundreds of thousands of face masks per week at a time when securing local production of PPE was very much part of our government’s plan to safely manage the COVID-19 pandemic and demand for PPE into the future.

Our government’s support of the new MaxiTRANS facility means more new jobs for Queenslanders. In fact, the new facility not only means that the existing workforce of 70 staff has now moved to the new facility but up to 70 new operational jobs are expected to be created over the next five years. It was really terrific when we attended the official opening to get a tour of the new facility and to meet with and speak to some of the local workers. They absolutely love the new facility with its increased space, the capacity to do so much more and to learn new skills. This is a really important factor because with new jobs comes exciting opportunities for local TAFEs and universities to work with MaxiTRANS to provide specialised in-house training and skills development programs. This is something that I have already discussed with the company and I am keen to pursue, particularly for

some of our younger jobseekers locally. The very construction of this new purpose-built facility also created 64 jobs. MaxiTRANS managing director and CEO, Dean Jenkins, said the new facility was an exciting expansion for the company, its workers and customers in industries including agriculture, mining, construction, waste management and bulk as well as the food and grocery sector.

We certainly know how important the trucking industry is and the vital role it plays in the transport of essential products from food to medical equipment and in recent times the transport of test kits and masks. It is really important that we take this opportunity to thank the industry for keeping supply chains going during the pandemic. There is no doubt that logistics will continue to play a key role in supporting our long-term economic recovery, and for this we need more semitrailers. With the help of our government MaxiTRANS now has a new facility that will give it more scope and flexibility to expand its Australian manufacturing capability as well as further bolster its after-sales support here in Queensland, which is a very important part of MaxiTRANS' business. By helping MaxiTRANS shift up another gear we have ensured we continue our recovery from COVID-19 by securing the manufacturing industries and skills needed for the jobs of today and, of course, the jobs of the future.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (2020-2021) BILL


APPROPRIATION (2020-2021) BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation (2020-2021) Bill

State Development and Regional Industries Committee, Report

Resumed from p. 48.

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (2.55 pm): Before I begin I would like to put on record my sincere thanks to the Deputy Premier for stepping in for me during the estimates period while I was recovering from serious back surgery. Today it gives me great pleasure to speak about the Palaszczuk government's vision for manufacturing, water and growing our regions. This is a vision that we are delivering every day through an ambitious program of initiatives to improve the lives of Queenslanders right across our state.

In relation to manufacturing, our vision is for a smart, innovative and resilient sector that embraces the opportunities offered by Industry 4.0 technologies, all backed by our 10-year Advanced Manufacturing Roadmap and Action Plan. It is a sector that is tapping into expanding domestic markets in not only Queensland but also Australia and exploring new opportunities in international markets. That means more jobs for Queenslanders right across this wonderful state. Regardless of the LNP's use of a single cherry-picked statistic to claim the opposite, it is a sector that is definitely moving forward.

Over the last five years the Palaszczuk government has seen manufacturing in our state go from strength to strength. Even in the face of a global pandemic and economic headwinds, labour force statistics show that an average of 165,000 Queenslanders were employed in manufacturing in 2020. That means there are now thousands more people in good, secure, long-term manufacturing jobs than when those opposite were voted out of office in 2015. We are delivering these jobs in manufacturing through a range of programs and initiatives designed to prepare Queensland businesses for the future of manufacturing, including our manufacturing hubs in Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton and Gladstone—this list will very soon include Mackay and the Gold Coast—and initiatives like the \$61.5 million Made in Queensland grant program that provides important support for manufacturers to employ advanced manufacturing systems to take their business to the next level.

We are also working with local suppliers to build the capabilities they need to access emerging opportunities for major government and private sector contracts. This includes working with manufacturers to ensure that when the Department of Transport and Main Roads moves to procure new six-car rail sets Queensland manufacturers are ready to deliver them. In the December state budget we announced \$40.5 million for the Making it for Queensland strategy. This includes \$16.5 million to drive the development of advanced manufacturing skills through the creation of Manufacturing Skills Queensland, an independent not-for-profit industry body to support workers, employees, apprentices and trainees.

Our vision for water is that this precious resource, the lifeblood of our regional communities and industries, is secure, affordable and accessible. Since 2017 the Palaszczuk government has committed \$1.2 billion to water infrastructure, including: \$176.2 million for Rookwood Weir—I had the pleasure of visiting that site to see work commence; \$13.6 million for Emu Swamp Dam; and \$3 million for pre-construction activities for Big Rocks Weir plus \$27 million for its construction. We are also fast-tracking studies into raising Burdekin Falls Dam and the Fitzroy to Gladstone pipeline and we are reviewing a private proposal for a water pipeline for Lockyer irrigators, which I know the shadow minister has also been intrigued with.


We committed \$1 million to investigate contingency water supply options for Warwick, including a potential Toowoomba to Warwick pipeline. I will say this very clearly to the member for Nanango: we are currently considering the feasibility report. We have put in \$1 million, so you cannot sit over there and say we have put in zero. There is \$1 million going in and we are now investigating that feasibility report.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr BUTCHER: You can rabble on all you like over there, member for Nanango, but we are getting on with it. We are facilitating feasibility studies under the Australian government's National Water Infrastructure Development Fund as well. In doing so, we are following the same robust, best practice economic, technical and environmental approvals required by every level of government to ensure that the infrastructure built today is an asset, not a liability, for our future generations.

This need could not have been more clearly demonstrated than by the issues we are now seeing with Paradise Dam which, based on the advice of multiple experts, Sunwater has acted urgently to address. These works were a vital step towards ensuring the safety of the Bundaberg community. I can say right now that I support the local member for Bundaberg now in his support of this as well—

(Time expired)

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (3.00 pm), continuing: I am pleased to follow the water minister, given he actually mentioned the word 'Paradise'. What government would rip down a dam in the middle of a drought? I can see the member for Burnett up there shaking his head. We know that the irrigators of that region—Tom Marland and the Bundaberg Fruit & Vegetable Growers—are bringing that case because it is vitally important. We have the member for Bundaberg who cannot even stand up for his community or the farmers in that area.

Mr SMITH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence to that and ask that the member withdraw.


Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw. According to Sunwater's own forecast, levels in Paradise Dam will drop to zero by June 2021. Without significant inflows, Paradise Dam will soon be empty and it will be the member for Bundaberg who has to answer to his community because of the ineptitude of the Palaszczuk Labor government.

I note that the minister for manufacturing was unfortunately not able to attend estimates, and it is good that he is back. When it comes to manufacturing, the Palaszczuk Labor government is flying blind. This minister is completely clueless and obviously was not watching the estimates process. The manufacturing department confirmed in the estimates process that there was no modelling or analysis on the 18,000 manufacturing jobs that were lost in Queensland before COVID. The minister for manufacturing tries to talk about and mislead the House about manufacturing jobs in Queensland. It is quite extraordinary that the department tasked with setting policy frameworks to maintain and attract new manufacturing jobs in Queensland has done no analysis and has no clue about how and why those 18,000 Queenslanders lost their jobs in manufacturing before COVID.

This is the minister for manufacturing yet he is not even in control of the one manufacturing job-creating project—the train project. He is not even in control of that. That has got nothing to do with the actual minister for manufacturing, because unfortunately they do not trust the minister for manufacturing to have oversight of it. It is no wonder when the minister was unable to answer, through the Deputy Premier, what had happened to those 18,000 Queensland jobs and there had been no analysis and no forecasting.

It was disappointing that the minister was unable to attend but it is a bit like the fact there is no pipeline. We have seen no clarity around the Palaszczuk government's promise around irrigation prices. Through the estimates process, we were able to ascertain that again the minister has no clue when it comes to who is going to benefit, what crops are going to benefit and when they are going to change. Why are they pitting one neighbour against another? Why are they pitting one district against another?

The minister talks about 15 per cent, but what about the QCA increase? If the minister had been at estimates, he would have heard that the QCA is going to increase water prices and the Palaszczuk government's reduction is going to happen after the QCA hikes the prices up. Goodness me! That means water prices will go through the roof here in Queensland, and the people who are going to be affected are those in the agricultural industry here in Queensland.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (3.05 pm): I rise to contribute to committee report No. 2. Whilst the LNP opposition agrees with passing the budget, we do hold concerns about the Palaszczuk Labor government's 2020 budget. Debt is increasing by more than what the Labor government promised prior to the election. The government outlined \$4 billion worth of debt before the election, only to reveal the actual increase in debt would be seven times that amount.

While the opposition understands the need to borrow funds to build critical infrastructure like roads, dams and other job-creating projects, we are extremely concerned about the revelations in the budget which show the massive increase in debt has yielded only a tiny increase in the state's net worth. This is in stark contrast to the results in other states where those states have used increased borrowings to fund large infrastructure building programs and jobs in their states.

There is a failure in this budget to address Queensland's high unemployment rate. Queensland has one of the worst unemployment figures in the country. More than 200,000 Queenslanders who are currently out of work were looking to this Labor government to help them—the battlers out there, the mums and the dads; instead, they are disappointed. There is no fast-tracking of projects to stimulate the economy and jobs. There is no shortage of road infrastructure across this state that could do with investment in repairs. There are communities that are still having drinking water carted to them—like Cambooya and Stanthorpe—so those residents can have household water.

Mr Weir: Clifton.

Ms LEAHY: Clifton. I take the interjection from the member for Condamine. The government is out there paying to cart drinking water to these communities. That is showing the failure of investment in infrastructure by this government.

The estimates committee process was a highly politicised process that lacked transparency. The structure of the whole budget process is fundamentally broken. It was a vastly truncated estimates process, and I can remember when we used to have portfolios that would have questions for a whole day, not just an hour. With that truncated process, the government had a responsibility to ensure it was completely transparent. Instead, the Queensland public were served a dysfunctional sideshow of highly politicised estimates committee hearings.


That brings me to questions on notice and the lack of information provided—in particular, in relation to the local government portfolio. The information that was requested through questions on notice has been provided to previous estimates committees, particularly in relation to those programs that are funded by the local government department. The government chose the timing of the budget, and they are now using excuses to hide information that has previously been provided to this parliament. There is no good reason why that information should not have been provided again in this estimates committee process. It shows the arrogance of this Labor government who think they can disregard the parliament and the parliamentary processes and committees. It again shows the lack of transparency and openness of the Labor government and the Labor government's disregard for accountability when it comes to the use and direction of taxpayers' funds.

Further, the government was unable to offer any assurances that costs incurred by local councils in administering the state government's extensive border closure policies would be reimbursed. These costs included accommodation and toilets for police manning these closed crossings in remote areas and constituted a significant burden on those councils along the border, particularly those councils that are described as financially distressed and have a limited rates base.

It has proved difficult for those councils to cover the costs through the COVID Works for Queensland program because applications for that program closed on 12 June 2020. The borders reopened on 1 December 2020 and they would have been unaware of the full costs incurred and the length of time they would be required to fund those border facilities. It is a bit hard to put in a costing for a program that has closed when you do not actually have the full costings because the border has continued to be closed six months past that date.

To claim, as the government did, that councils would have to fund the state government's border closure expenses from the Works for Queensland grants ignores the range of council projects that required additional funding and effectively changes what is an untied grant program to being a tied

grant program. The border closures and their funding could in no way be regarded as part of a measured stimulus program—or maybe that is what the government thinks that is in some areas—when the focus of the COVID Works for Queensland was about stimulus in those communities. The imposition of state government policy had to be funded by councils without consultation, and that is a cost shift.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (3.10 pm): I rise to speak in support of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee report in relation to the Appropriation (2020-2021) Bill and the Appropriation (Parliament) (2020-2021) Bill. The COVID-19 worldwide pandemic has turned the Queensland economy upside down, particularly with regard to our tourism and transport industries. In September 2020, Australia was plunged into its first recession in 30 years. The Palaszczuk government saw this coming, so in May 2020 the Premier, Annastacia Palaszczuk, and the Treasurer, Cameron Dick, announced the first stage of the state's economic reset, the Queensland economic recovery strategy, Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs, which was discussed during the estimates hearing.


The strategy includes maintaining infrastructure investment at more than \$50 billion over the next four years, a \$400 million Accelerated Works Program to deliver new road, bridge and pavement sealing works across the state and a further \$200 million in 2020-21 for the Works for Queensland program to support jobs and to fund productive building projects. In my electorate of Ipswich West alone the Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs projects will see an upgrade of the Mount Crosby Road-Warrego Highway interchange, a specialist STEM building at the Ipswich State High School, a new fire station and police station at Rosewood, a synthetic soccer pitch at Ipswich State High School, a new skate bowl at Sutton Park, Brassall made possible with a \$1.23 million grant to the Ipswich City Council, a multipurpose hall at Amberley District State School, an outdoor learning centre at Leichhardt State School plus many, many other projects. What these projects will deliver is not just new or improved infrastructure for our communities but jobs for Ipswich. As my mother would say, jobs keep a roof over the head and food on the table for the workers involved and their families.

Another issue discussed at the estimates hearing was the great success of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to the wild dog cluster fencing program in Western Queensland that has saved Queensland's sheep industry. As part of the COVID-19 Unite and Recover Queensland Jobs plan, the Palaszczuk government has committed an additional \$5 million in grants for wild dog cluster fencing in Western Queensland. Such has been the success of the program it is estimated that sheep numbers in Western Queensland have risen from an all-time low of about 200,000 sheep to about one million today. We have lambing rates and sheep numbers on the rise, but we need abattoirs and meat processors to take these extra sheep. Initial data indicates the program has created an extra gross regional income in the order of \$63 million for Western Queensland, but the true success of the Western Queensland cluster fencing program will only be delivered if we can process these sheep at Queensland abattoirs.

In September 2020 I was shocked when JBS Dinmore at Ipswich, the biggest meat-processing facility in Australia, announced it would shed 600 jobs, about a third of its workforce of 1,700. This was a tragedy for these workers and their families. However, there is light at the end of the tunnel for our hardworking Ipswich meatworkers with the announcement by Barry Moule, Churchill Abattoir managing director, that he has plans to reopen the Churchill Abattoir, which he estimates will deliver about 600 jobs. In a media statement issued by Barry, he said that he was working to fund the conversion of the Churchill Abattoir from a beef-processing facility to a processing facility able to process sheep as an export centre, but he needs the support of the Palaszczuk government to do so. That is why I am doing everything I can to assist Barry Moule in reopening the Churchill Abattoir, because Ipswich needs those 600 jobs.

I have spoken to the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, Steven Miles, as well as the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development, Di Farmer. I have also requested meetings with the Premier, Annastacia Palaszczuk, the Treasurer, Cameron Dick, and the Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water, Glenn Butcher. I intend to keep doing everything I can to get the Churchill Abattoir reopened.

In closing, I would like to thank my fellow members of the committee, the ministers for their contribution to the estimates process and the secretariat. I commend the estimates hearing report by the State Development and Regional Industries Committee to the House.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (3.15 pm): I rise to speak to the State Development and Regional Industries Committee 2020-21 estimates report. During the estimates hearing the minister ducked for cover from scrutiny. He cannot answer because he does not know what is going on. People want answers about staffing levels, reduced funding for research and development, the invisible drought

policy, mismanagement of the implementation of the vessel monitoring system, what is going on with the native timber advisory panel and export of whole timber logs, the population decline in rural areas and so much more.

DAF's budget is a disgrace. Its only headline item is a cut. The Queensland budget has record spending, record debt and eye-watering borrowings and still DAF is going backwards—backwards in staff, backwards in funding and backwards in services. DAF's budget has been cut by \$44 million compared to actual expenditure in 2019-20. DAF is losing staff and services are not expanding. There are now 30,000 more Brisbane bureaucrats in the government's Public Service led jobs recovery than there were in 2015 yet DAF has budgeted for nine fewer staff than it employed in 2019-20, a drop from 2,124 to 2,115.

The minister has overseen cuts to front counter services and closed DAF offices. Extension services have all but disappeared. The decrease in research and development funding is inexcusable. The government relentlessly attacked agriculture. It has undermined the sector through unfair vegetation laws, blocked new dams, mismanaged biosecurity and closed agricultural education colleges. Under this minister a Labor Party donor delivered a politically motivated report to close the Longreach and Emerald agricultural colleges.


Currently, 67.4 per cent of Queensland is in drought—two-thirds of the state. Parts of Western Queensland are entering their eighth consecutive year of drought. There has been eight years of drought for some, two-thirds of the state is in drought and Labor still has no drought policy. In 2018 the government promised to reform drought support programs and conduct a review. That promise was broken in a politically cynical move; reforms were delayed until after last year's election.

During estimates the minister refused to rule out cutting freight and fodder subsidies for new drought declared farmers from 1 July this year. Everyone knows what that means. It was confirmation that freight and fodder subsidies will be cut. Farmers are under extreme pressure because the much awaited above average rainfall season has not materialised. Access to water is critical and water availability is running low. That is why we need new dams.

At the same time farmers are being squeezed by labour shortages. Shortages mean crops are left to rot in the ground. When it is available it pushes up the cost. If farmers do not get labour, they will not plant crops. Shortages are already being factored into planning. Decisions are being made now. Farmers cannot wait for government to play games. They cannot be fobbed off with green announcements about trial programs which only fail. The government needs to find a solution instead of passing the buck. Canberra has done everything it needs to do. There is no problem with COVID in the Pacific islands and the Pacific islands partnership could help meet the requirements. The minister should know that state government caps are stopping workers coming in.

In 2019 the fisheries department commenced the implementation of vessel monitoring. It commenced the saga of frustration and angst for the commercial fishing industry because of Option Audio's poor quality and service, a saga investigated by the Queensland Ombudsman. Last September the Ombudsman found that the department was sloppy and that it had failed. It failed in its responsibility to ensure the vessel tracking units were fit and proper. It was sloppy because the department had not demonstrated it had sufficiently considered the safety risks linked to the implementation of vessel tracking. That is called mismanagement. Neither the minister nor the department have apologised. They have refused to apologise or compensate fishers for the adverse impacts of their mismanagement.

The minister also refused to provide a clear commitment on the Premier's promise in November 2019 to appoint the native timber advisory panel. That is 15 months ago. The minister has also effectively washed his hands of responsibility regarding regulation and enforcement of proper process around the export of whole timber logs in Queensland. Deliberately curbing scrutiny undermines and mocks the estimates process. It treats how we spend Queensland taxpayers' hard-earned dollars with contempt, treats Queenslanders with contempt and treats the agriculture, fishing and forestry industries with contempt.

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (3.20 pm): It was the Palaszczuk Labor government that led the way in how to manage an economy in the time of a health pandemic. At its core, the plan was and is simple: protect the health and wellbeing of people against COVID-19. When we keep everyday Queenslanders safe by taking a strong health stance, we start to plan for a strong economic recovery. Last year Queenslanders overwhelmingly backed in the government that had the right economic recovery plan, which right now continues to support local businesses, is bringing back and creating local jobs across the state and is delivering key pieces of infrastructure throughout regional Queensland.

As reported in the State Development and Regional Industries Committee report on the 2020-21 budget estimates, this Palaszczuk government is developing our state's economy through investment and delivery of large-scale infrastructure and energy resource projects. Just like so many small and medium businesses have done in my electorate of Bundaberg, this government is seeking to innovate and create new ways of generating development initiatives. This can clearly be seen through the investment in the emerging hydrogen renewable sector, a sector which I know has piqued interest from businesses in my great electorate of Bundaberg.


In the space of local government, the appropriation bill 2020-21 continues its support of regional councils such as the Bundaberg Regional Council by ensuring the Works for Queensland program. The Works for Queensland program took an additional form last year when the government rolled out additional funding to help generate more local projects and create more local jobs. I know from speaking with the hardworking councillors in my electorate just how welcome the government's Works for Queensland program is in communities such as Bundaberg.

I am very proud to report that my office and the office of the Bundaberg Regional Council hold a strong respect for one another and completely support the continued development of infrastructure projects to be delivered across the Bundaberg region. One such project on which both the state government and Bundaberg Regional Council can agree is the construction of the Bundaberg East flood levee. When Julie Stewart, a local business owner of Stewart and Sons Coaches, was made aware that this government was prioritising the development of the Bundaberg East flood levee, she felt a great sense of hope and confidence return to her community and her business. Julie's business saw over \$300,000 of damage during the devastating 2013 floods—a pain and anguish shared with so many flood-affected residents of that horrible natural disaster.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SMITH: Do not worry, I will later sign autographs for my fans opposite. By committing \$42.5 million, the state government is demonstrating its commitment to delivering for the lives and livelihoods of the people of Bundaberg. The delivery of the Bundaberg East flood levee will protect over 600 buildings, will protect the health and safety of people's lives and will create just under 700 jobs.

Just as it did for Queenslanders last year and continues to do this year, the Palaszczuk Labor government demonstrates a strong track record of investing in regional infrastructure. Its ability to keep people safe is again creating more and more regional jobs. Despite the many great investments outlined in this report, it is very disappointing to report that the federal government continues to duck and weave, to run and hide and to attempt to divide the Bundaberg community by refusing to support the Bundaberg East flood levee. Disaster resilience is the responsibility of both state and federal governments. The federal government has a \$4 billion emergency response fund, yet in 20 months it has not spent a single cent from that fund. It needs to stop playing politics with this, come to the table and commit \$42.5 million, just as the Palaszczuk Labor government has done. I thank all of the committee members, the chair and our secretary, Stephanie Galbraith.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (3.25 pm): Members of the opposition have commented on the conduct and purpose of the budget estimates committee process. In my time I have experienced both sides of politics being in government. Certainly there are limited opportunities for non-government members to ask questions. It is a terrific time for the public to see some real robust interrogation of the government and its budget, but that time is consistently encroached upon by the government, which has some ability to control the process. The chairs might do an adequate job, but at the end of the day we are left with a sense that we have heard another string of the ministerial statements, like we hear every day in parliament. The government gets the benefit of doing that. If we are looking at providing the best interrogation of government for the public, we could certainly improve on what we have now.

I am constantly curtailed in terms of the length of questions. I try my best to highlight points to provide context. That was a point I made clear in the process: without context the question meant nothing, yet I was pulled up on question length or preamble. Subtracting parts from the question makes it meaningless. I think some ministers appreciate a bit of context around questions so that things are not just rammed at them. Saying, 'That is too long a question'—it seemed to come up a lot more than it has in the past—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Gerber): Order! The time for debate has now expired.

Report adopted.

Education, Employment and Training Committee, Report

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Gerber): The question is—

That the report of the Education, Employment and Training Committee be adopted.



Ms RICHARDS (Redlands—ALP) (3.28 pm): I rise to speak to the Education, Employment and Training Committee's report on the 2020-21 budget estimates process. The committee made one recommendation: that the proposed expenditure be agreed to. I enjoyed chairing my first estimates for the areas of education, employment and training, also taking in the portfolio areas of industrial relations, racing and small business. These are areas central to our Palaszczuk government's focus on jobs now and jobs for the future to ensure all Queenslanders have a bright future ahead while we continue to successfully recover from the economic impacts of COVID-19.

The 2020-21 budget continues our government's investment and fast-tracking in job-generating infrastructure and essential services for our growing state. Today we heard that Queensland really is the place to be, with more Australians moving here than anywhere else in Australia. Queensland created more jobs than our neighbours in Victoria and New South Wales during COVID, with the ABS reporting 224,000 jobs created from May 2020 to January 2021.

The estimates process, for those on this side of the House, was an opportunity to examine our Palaszczuk government's record investment in Queensland for education, industrial relations and racing, with over \$14 billion in appropriations. We continue to invest in more teachers and teacher aides, employing more than 5,000 teachers and 1,600 teacher aides. We are investing in new and innovative programs in our schools, such as homework hubs and wellbeing specialists.

We are investing in our schools, having built 18 new schools and another four to come over the next two years. We are investing in upgrading existing schools. In my patch I have been delighted to see so much great work going on right across all of our state schools, with more work to come down the track. The air-conditioning is well underway. That was a commitment that our government made to deliver by 2022, and we can see that in the budget process. That is in contrast to the LNP's promise of 2028, so we are certainly fast-tracking.

The estimates process also allowed us to examine the appropriation of \$1.3 billion for the department of small business, training and skills development. COVID-19 has been one of the greatest challenges our world has faced, but we have managed the health crisis so well that our Queensland economy has been on the front foot of recovery. The CCIQ in its latest Pulse survey revealed that general business conditions and the 12-month economic outlook for Queensland and Australia more broadly are rating satisfactorily, so we are definitely on the road to recovery. I want to thank Minister Farmer for all of the work that she has done across the state with the small business roadshows. A lot of valuable feedback and input came out of those which will help inform how we go forward.

We have invested in small business including the QRIDA loans scheme, small business adaptation grants, matched funding with JobTrainer funds and we have commitments such as the Big Plans for Small Business programs that we heard about. I also want to commend the investment in the regional jobs committee process out of Minister Farmer's department. It is an excellent program. The work that is being done by those regional job committees is absolutely fantastic, and Minister Fentiman did a great job in helping us bring that forward for the Redlands, and there is great work being done there with the Redlands Coast Chamber of Commerce leading the way.

We continue to invest in TAFE and in our TAFE buildings. At the Alexandra Hills TAFE there is great work going on with the plumbing centre, the trade centre and new nurses, ensuring that we have the skills and training to create jobs into the future. We are also investing in free TAFE and free apprentices for Queenslanders under the age of 25. We are investing in programs like Skilling Queenslanders for Work. I know that I have spoken a lot about this program in this place, but it really does change lives when you see where they start and where they finish. What that translates to in jobs is an incredible statistic. Similar to TAFE, that program was one of the ones that the LNP took a wrecking ball to when it had the opportunity. Our government is about investing in these vital programs that help create jobs and career pathways.

I want to respond to the LNP's statement of reservation and on their conduct during the estimates process. The behaviour on the day was in part appalling, particularly the performance by a former Speaker of this House and one of our longest serving parliamentarians. It was nothing short of disrespectful to the chair and really quite unbecoming of a member of this place. I note that within the statement of reservation it is some of the same old rhetoric in terms of shielding, not enough time and the fact that the standing orders are too onerous. Non-government members had 62 per cent of the time on that day, so there was plenty of time to have asked the questions that they needed to ask and it is just a pity that they did not think about the questions that they were putting forward on the day.

The statement of reservation also notes that LNP opposition members believe that a complete reinvigoration of the estimates process is essential. We all remember what reinvigoration looked like when the opposition leader sat around the cabinet table. There is one word that comes to mind, and that would be hypocrisy. Our Palaszczuk government is leading the way. We are getting on with the job of delivering for Queensland.

Mr LISTER (Southern Downs—LNP) (3.32 pm): I rise to speak on the committee report for the Education, Employment and Training Committee. It is fortunate that I am able to speak straight after the chair of the committee because my honourable friend the member for Redlands has a very one-sided view on the question of the committee process. Does anybody really expect us to take advice from the government about how the opposition is supposed to hold it to account? I heard the references to an esteemed former Speaker of this House and so I ask those members, including those members who are of the left and pride themselves on being from the protest movement: do they really expect us to sit down there like good boys and girls and behave ourselves perfectly while the fate of Queensland rests in our hands and while every effort is used by the system to shield ministers from accountability, to prevent witnesses from having to answer the tough questions and to bore us with baffle and nonsense from dorothea dixers, for which the ministers are clearly already prepared?

We have a sovereign role in this parliament of holding this government to account. We must hold this government to account for its stewardship of the government and for its expenditure of public moneys, and there were very many things which this government ought to have been held to account on. Considering the process by which we arrived at this budget where we had the committees given from above the timings for their inquiries, which has not happened in my time so far, and given the fact that there was not a budget introduced in the last parliament and the fact that the government managed to borrow \$28 billion rather than the \$4 billion that it had led us to expect, there were many questions to be answered.

The advent of parliamentary committees was a recommendation of Commissioner Fitzgerald in 1989 and he specifically made reference to the fact that in a unicameral parliament with a modern parliamentary system of party politics it was essential that there be proper mechanisms through which the government will be held to account. There is not a person in this chamber who can look me in the eye and say with a straight face that the process that was used at those estimates and the ones before has been anything other than a cynical exercise to waste time and to prevent the opposition from making inquiries into the activities of the government.

Ms Richards: You had 62 per cent of the time.

Mr LISTER: I take that interjection from my honourable friend the member for Redlands regarding 62 per cent of the time, but how good was that time if we were constrained by standing orders which prevent us from inquiring properly into the activities of this government?

Honourable members interjected.

Mr LISTER: I will not be lectured to by that odious rump over there about the expenditure of public funds. It is our job—our sovereign duty—to inquire into what the government does, and every aspect of the committee process has been refined down by this government to shield it from accountability and to make sure that its dirty little secrets are not aired. I might say that there are quite a few, because we hear about the record expenditure in all sorts of fields, particularly education.


Earlier I heard the honourable member talk about extra teachers and extra teacher aides. Why then has there been a continued decline in key education standards during the time of this government? Why is it that we are spending more and more and getting less and less? It would not matter so much if it was not borrowed money, but when we are borrowing money to keep the lights on and borrowing money to pay the salaries of public servants we ought to expect proper results. We want to see our kids educated and be a success. The purpose of the education system is to educate our children. When that is not happening, it is perfectly in order that the opposition should seek to ask why and should seek to expose the failings of the government, of which there are many.

Ms McMILLAN: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. With regard to the issue that has been raised by the member for Southern Downs, he is deliberately misleading the House. There is absolutely no failure in results in Queensland. Queensland results—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Gerber): Member, there is a process for that. Write to the Speaker.

Ms McMILLAN: I will be writing to you about this issue.

Mr LISTER: When you hit a nerve, the interjections come. Apart from just the expenditure and results, there is also a flagrant disregard for proper process in the education department. We are all aware of the scandalous situation where the former deputy premier had been involved with senior members of the Public Service. We have seen some lovey-dovey text messages between the two talking about the appointment of a senior principal at the Inner City South State Secondary College. It is not to the government's credit that to this day there is a senior public servant on a very fat pay packet suspended on full pay while further investigations go on. If the people in my electorate of Southern Downs who need facilities in their schools or need extra hours for their teacher aides and so forth are not getting what they want, it makes it all the harder to accept when we hear of scandals like this. This government deserves to have been held to account. We were not able to do it as well as we wished given the constraints, but we will continue to do so.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (3.38 pm): I commend the Education, Employment and Training Committee for its budget estimates report. I want to acknowledge the work of the chair, the member for Redlands, and the other members of this committee, along with the Clerk and the parliamentary staff. As the Premier mentioned, we have had an election, we had a budget and then we had the estimates process. It is a tribute to everyone in this House given all of the work that happens to make all of this work so smoothly.

The 2020-21 record education budget delivers for every single Queensland student. On the day I would not have minded some of the questions that the member for Southern Downs just raised, but unfortunately—

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Gerber): Order, members! Member for Mudgeraba. Member for Southern Downs, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms GRACE: I do not think the member for Southern Downs asked one question. He comes in here and talks about a process that is overtaken by others on his own side and the poor member has to languish by and not ask any of the questions that he wants answers to. I do feel sorry for the member for Southern Downs who I actually have a lot of time for. I think that his inability to ask questions is an indictment more on how those opposite organise themselves than the time allocated during estimates.

I agree that there are record amounts of money that we are spending in Education and proudly so: our school infrastructure budget supporting jobs for tradies and labourers, our teachers, our teacher aides and the staff who are at the school. Honestly and truly, what we are spending is second to none around Australia. We have allocated \$180 million over three years for new school infrastructure in the non-government sector. We have even improved the amounts that they get as well. There is \$235 million for multipurpose courts that I know a lot of members in this House want. Many have been delivered.

Mr Harper: Hear, hear!

Ms GRACE: I take the interjection from the member for Thuringowa. There is \$433 million for new classrooms and \$45 million for shovel-ready projects. Our budget spend has been \$5.2 billion since we have been in government. We are very proud of what we have been able to achieve. The budget includes a \$100 million pledge to provide psychologists or similar wellbeing professionals in every state school. We are trialling 20 GPs in schools to deliver early diagnoses. That is a fundamental package that we look forward to delivering over the next four years.

For these reasons it is so disappointing that the opposition members did not ask me a single question in the estimates hearing about our new schools, about our new performing art centres or about our new classrooms. They come in here and say how important they are, but during estimates they were too focused on mudraking and throwing dirt. That is really all they were interested in.

The performance of the member for Maroochydore in asking me to somehow answer a question on a matter that the CCC decided that it would not investigate was absolutely laughable and arrogance beyond extreme. Then there was the member for Kawana with his pontificating about how different workers are being treated in the department and tabling documents which basically was all hot air and no substance. We have seen him come into this House and denigrate public servants who have then been referred to the CCC where once again it is found to be hot air and totally unsubstantiated.

They are the games that those opposite play. There were no real questions about the budget or education. There are no genuine questions about or interest in new schools, land we are purchasing or what we are doing with air conditioning et cetera. They just throw dirt. Those opposite know it, the

people of Queensland know it and that is why they are complaining about not having enough time for questions. Let me tell members, there will be four more years to come because the performance of those opposite is not very good.


Mr Bleijie: Arrogant!

Ms GRACE: It is not arrogant, it is a fact.

Mr Bleijie: It is hubris!

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, cease your interjections.

Ms GRACE: It is arrogant to say those opposite are going to win big time because on their performance in estimates they will be sitting there opposite for a long time.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (3.43 pm): As the Liberal National Party's shadow minister for education, I rise to address the Appropriation (2020-2021) Bill and the budget estimates hearings that were conducted during December of 2020. I heard the contribution from the member for McConnel about school infrastructure. As I go around Queensland, students, staff, parents and teachers all talk to me about this government's delayed infrastructure plans and the lack of consultation. When it comes to the new Brisbane inner western suburbs primary school, where already a decision has seemingly been taken with respect to a site at Indooroopilly State High School, I bring to the attention of the House the Stop School 5 campaign that has been launched and the lack of consultation that those residents are clearly highlighting and the concerns they have in relation to transport planning and congestion. There has been a lack of consultation and delayed infrastructure planning.

Now in its third parliamentary term, and after six years of being responsible for the provision of state school education and infrastructure for Queensland's students, parents, teachers and staff, all Queenslanders rightfully expect from the Palaszczuk state Labor government a system of public education that is world class. Unfortunately they are not getting that from this state Labor government here in Queensland.


With a budget allocation of \$14.2 billion for the 2020-21 financial year, such an expectation can rightly be expected by all Queensland taxpayers. The 2020-21 Queensland state budget and subsequent estimates hearings have only further highlighted a system of public education in our state that has been poorly let down by a lack of governmental leadership, accountability and transparency, coupled with a raft of departmental cultural issues. Nowhere is this perhaps more evident than the ongoing saga involving the recruitment selection process for a principal at the Brisbane South State Secondary College and the further revelations concerning interactions between the state government and the Department of Education.

The Crime and Corruption Commission made clear, in its report titled *An investigation into allegations relating to the appointment of a school principal*, that the former member for South Brisbane met a potential applicant for the school principal position as a favour to a fellow member of the Palaszczuk state Labor government. I acknowledge the member for Kawana, the now shadow minister for industrial relations and shadow minister for finance, for the work he did as shadow minister for education in bringing this to the attention of the public because these are important matters of integrity and accountability within government.

On this most basic yet fundamental question—who was the member of the Palaszczuk Labor government for whom the former member for South Brisbane did this favour?—the Labor Minister for Education did not deny she knew who the MP was and, rather than answer a simple question, the minister chose to obfuscate and avoid the question. In fact, the minister stated that to query such an important question of process and accountability was 'ridiculous' and 'laughable'. Sadly, that is exactly how the Palaszczuk state Labor government chooses to view its responsibilities to the people of Queensland when it comes to accountability, integrity and transparency.

It was further revealed during the estimates hearing that Queenslanders are having to pay, literally, for the ongoing governmental and departmental issues and transgressions afflicting Education Queensland, with a number of staff continuing to receive pay and entitlements whilst under sustained and lengthy investigation for a range of serious matters. This is before we get to the botched implementation of air conditioning in Queensland through the rollout of the Cooler, Cleaner Schools program which late last year saw a number of air-conditioning units installed in schools which were unable to be switched on due to power network issues. This goes fundamentally to this government's capacity to formulate programs, implement them and ensure that all of the necessary elements are in place for them to be turned on. This has been an absolute debacle and there are many examples that we could go through, but unfortunately time will not permit all of those.

There is infrastructure spending that is needed right across the western suburbs of Brisbane. Sadly, when it comes to school infrastructure there are still many schools in the western suburbs of Brisbane that are awaiting investment by this Labor state government. In my own electorate of Moggill, Kenmore State High School is still waiting for the state Labor government to deliver a new library and student services administration hub and other modern, dedicated, purpose-built environments, including a sports centre, performing arts auditorium and a new school hall facility. Certainly this state Labor government needs to do a lot better when it comes to educational outcomes not only in Brisbane but across all of Queensland. These concerns are evident from the parents, staff and teachers that I talk to.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (3.48 pm): I rise to speak to the appropriation bills. I thank the committee and our excellent chair, the member for Redlands, for her expert and very patient stewardship of these hearings. I thank the committee secretariat and Hansard. I thank my director-general, Warwick Agnew, and the many public servants from my department who worked tirelessly to make sure that I was well supported to respond to the scrutiny which the estimates process so importantly affords.


While there is much more to be done, our government's economic recovery plan is working. Queensland is the only state to have more jobs created now than before the pandemic, with 29,700 more jobs. In fact we are experiencing the fastest growth and outperforming both Victoria and New South Wales. That is no accident. It is because of our economic recovery plan that Queensland is making such strides. Of that plan's six main focus areas, small business, which employs one million Queenslanders, and skills and training are key.

Thanks to the excellent questions put by government members, I had the opportunity to speak about our investment of over \$1.4 billion into employment, small business and training. Programs such as our no interest loans and COVID adaptation grants have supported small businesses to survive and grow. There is our \$140 million Big Plans for Small Business initiative. Our free TAFE and free apprenticeships programs have supported over 28,000 young Queenslanders. Over 59,000 Queenslanders have been helped into jobs through our Skilling Queenslanders for Work and Back to Work programs and our \$100 million TAFE infrastructure program is rolling out facilities across the state that will ensure Queenslanders have the opportunity to get the right training for the right jobs. The committee did some excellent work in examining those and other really important initiatives for the state. Unfortunately, none of those were matters that members of the opposition were interested in.

I was absolutely fascinated to read their statement of reservation. In fact, I thought that perhaps I was reading some kind of joke book because they say they believe that Queenslanders deserve a government that will face up to issues such as failing small businesses and chronic unemployment. When I think of the top two or three issues facing small businesses in Queensland at the moment, I think most people would put JobKeeper right up there at the top. However, I am yet to hear anyone, certainly not my shadow or people from that committee, talk about JobKeeper and say that they have picked up the phone to talk to Scott Morrison about the industries and the sectors that really need targeted support. I have held 13 small business roadshows so far and the shadow minister has been to only one.

I can tell the House what people are talking about: they are talking about JobKeeper and they are talking about the need for a skilled workforce. Theirs is the party that, when in government, slashed anything to do with skills and training. In fact, the only policy they had going into the last election was to reform the skills task force. When they were last in government the sole responsibility of that task force was to completely emasculate TAFE and introduce private providers into the system. We have heard stories of students who completely lost their futures because of the structure that their government put in place. Those are the two issues that small businesses from across the state talk to us about—there are probably about 1,500 of them—and the opposition is yet to raise those issues as things that are important.

In the estimates hearing members opposite asked about emails but they did not ask about the impact of COVID on the economy. They asked really detailed questions about numbers in tiny geographical areas but they did not ask about important things such as outcomes for apprentices and trainees. They asked questions that were never going to be able to be answered on the spot yet they put in their statement of reservations that they want to face up to issues. Until we start hearing from them about the issues that are really important to small businesses, no small business is going to take them seriously.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (3.53 pm): Just like no child safety advocate takes this minister seriously because she is a failed child safety minister and just like no youth justice worker takes this minister seriously because she is a failed youth justice minister, small business will not take the minister seriously because she will be a failed small business minister. She is moved from ministry to ministry and failure to failure. That is all this minister has in common.

Ms FARMER: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence at the member's comments and I ask him to withdraw.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Gerber): The minister has taken offence. Do you withdraw?

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw.

Ms Bates interjected.

Ms Farmer: I take offence.

Mr BLEIJIE: At what? How do you take offence at someone standing up and wanting to speak?

Ms Farmer: The reason you have no women—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Members, cease the cross-chamber chatter.

Ms Farmer:—is because you are a patronising—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Cease your interjections!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence and ask the member to withdraw.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bulimba?

Ms FARMER: I think there is a point of order that I have already made and I ask you to rule on it.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bulimba, you are asked to withdraw. Do you withdraw?

Ms FARMER: I withdraw. Could I ask—

Mr BLEIJIE: I said nothing. I cannot withdraw if I did not say anything.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Kawana withdrew his comment.

Opposition members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, you made a gesture. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. Let us talk about the estimates process. The minister who just spoke talked about the great questions that the government members asked. They were drafted by her office. If they were such great questions drafted by her office why did she have to read the answers? If they are such great policies, every time she got a dorothy dixer why did she have to ask her director-general to tell her what to say? It is because she is a failed minister. She does not know what she is doing. She never has and never will. They will keep moving her from portfolio to portfolio because she fails in everything she touches in government. That is the reality of the minister who just spoke.

Let us talk about Minister Grace Grace, another failure who is moved from portfolio to portfolio, bearing in mind that she is a former QCU heavyweight union official. That is what Minister Grace Grace was.

Mr HARPER: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. He has completely lost it.

Mr BLEIJIE: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The members are using standing orders in a disorderly manner. There is actually a standing order against abusing the standing orders. I was speaking about Minister Grace.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, I will take some advice. Member for Kawana, I have ruled on the point of order. Let us move on.

Mr BLEIJIE: The Minister for Industrial Relations was asked questions about crane truck operators, and this shows how the government operates and the uneasy cosy relationship that they have with the CFMMEU in Queensland. The CFMMEU put up a Facebook post about crane operators and a type of crane that we have been using for 30 years in Queensland without incident. Neither director-general nor any department official could say that there has been an incident with any of those cranes.

During the caretaker election period, overnight the government shut down all the cranes in South-East Queensland because the CFMMEU put up a Facebook post saying that they were not safe. It just so happens that none of the businesses using those cranes had a little cosy deal with the CFMMEU as part of their certified agreement, so overnight they shut down every crane operator using those particular cranes. Of course, it was a workplace health and safety issue. The minister said that it was a safety issue and that just because an incident has not happened does not mean that it will not. If only they had been that proactive in the youth justice space for the past six years. They are banning cranes for something that may happen but that all of the research and engineering said had not happened and would likely not happen. That related to the crane operators.

Then, of course, I tabled a public interest disclosure. I assume that public interest disclosure is from many of the inspectors currently working for the government in the department of industrial relations. There are over 100 pages of information with respect to the uneasy cosy relationship between the Office of Industrial Relations and the CFMMEU, including issues of secret phone calls and workplace health and safety officials going to sites despite there being no safety breaches reported but just because the union had asked workplace health and safety to do it.

How are businesses meant to have confidence in an independent workplace health and safety body when there are allegations that they are at the beck and call of CFMMEU officials in Queensland? That is wrong, which is why it is currently before the Queensland Crime and Corruption Commission being thoroughly investigated. However, they were dismissive of that issue. The minister dismissed it. Her own department is complaining about it, but she will not listen to her own departmental employees because she listens to the unions. If she goes against the unions, that threatens her preselection.

She will always back the unions rather than her industrial relations workplace health and safety officials. I say to the workplace health and safety officials that are the whistleblowers in her department and this government: please keep emailing the documents to me, because the more you send to me, the more I can keep referring to the Crime and Corruption Commission, as I am currently doing. They have it under investigation at the moment. That is the reality of Minister Grace Grace and how she runs the department. Other than a royal commission, some light should be shone on Workplace Health and Safety and the Office of Industrial Relations. That is the best form of disinfectant.

I remember that when I tried to table this document every Labor committee member tried everything they could to make sure that document did not see the light of day. I know why. If you read it, you will understand why. They wanted to go and have a private committee meeting: 'Let's discuss it.' They were filibustering. There is no-one in this place who knows more about filibustering than me. I know a good filibusterer when I see it, and Grace Grace was on fire that day. I can tell you that. She was on fire that day, more than me. We will keep highlighting these issues. The estimates process is broken and needs urgent reform.



Mr O'ROURKE (Rockhampton—ALP) (4.00 pm): I rise to speak in support of report No. 2 of the 57th Parliament's Education, Employment and Training Committee regarding the 2020-21 budget estimates process. The committee made one recommendation: that the bill be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.


Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the Hon. Grace Grace, Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing; and the Hon. Di Farmer, Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development for their response to the committee's examination of the budget estimates and the passion they bring to their respective portfolios for the people of Queensland.

It was a pleasure to be part of the estimates hearing, covering service areas that are at the heart of this government's COVID response to the prosperity of all Queenslanders through our jobs and skills agenda. The 2020-21 budget continues our government's investment in job-generating infrastructure and record spending in core services essential to meet the needs of our growing state. It means more teachers and teacher aides and investment in our schools, TAFE and apprenticeships and skills programs to make sure that we have the people with the right skills to take advantage of the opportunities created by economic growth across the state.

The Department of Education budget for controlled items is \$10.29 billion for 2020-21, which is a slight increase on the 2019-20 actual expenditure. This increase is justified due to a number of items; for example, the growth in enrolments, additional expenses associated with the National School Reform agenda, the bilateral agreement, funding for election commitments and the transfer of racing functions to the Department of Education. Total capital purchases for the education department for 2020-21 is forecast at \$1.65 billion. The capital works budget is largely for construction and refurbishment of school education facilities. This investment supports thousands of jobs across our state.

Free TAFE, payroll tax incentives and discounts, Skilling Queenslanders for Work, Back to Work, small business grants and COVID adaptation grants are all initiatives that are focused on supporting Queenslanders and our small businesses through COVID. This support to our small businesses has helped them to invest, diversify and grow. It has allowed Queenslanders to get the skills they need to get jobs or keep jobs. I acknowledge the Minister for Employment and Small Business and the Minister for Training and Skills Development and the support provided to the people in CQ.

The Department of Employment, Small Business and Training budget for controlled items is \$1.46 billion in 2020-21. The committee has recommended that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation (2020-2021) Bill 2020, for the committee's areas of responsibility be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (4.04 pm): I rise to speak to report No. 2 of the 57th Parliament's Education, Employment and Training Committee to do with the estimates process. From the outset, I would like to jump onto some of the comments made by the opposition when it comes to the estimates process itself. As one of my constituents who had the interest to watch the estimates process said to me recently, 'What is the point of government members asking government ministers questions?' I said, 'They are asking them Dorothy Dixers.' He said, 'Isn't the role of the opposition then to hold the government to account? What is the point of the government members trying to hold their own government to account when all they are asking is advertising publication questions?' He has a great point. The last government member to hold the government to account was the former member for Bundamba, Jo-Ann Miller. She was a great voice and great fighter for her people in the Ipswich area.


Moving on to some of the topics that have been discussed here today, we were talking about new schools. The government was talking about how wonderful it is that all these new schools are being built on the northern Gold Coast and throughout Queensland. We certainly support the idea of that, but we also need to understand catchment areas. One of my local schools has been progressively and dramatically shrinking in population over the past few years. That is because there are additional schools being built around it in the Coomera electorate. Coomera State School is losing staff and losing deputy principals. Some of these staff have been at the school for many years and they have become very proficient in that local community and much loved, but because the school's population continues to drop they are losing resources. It is down to about 500 students.

At a P&C meeting, one of the community members asked a question about the classrooms which are now sitting idle. About eight classrooms at one of my local schools are sitting idle because we are building all these new schools to the north and this is taking population away from this little school. Coomera State School is almost 150 years old. It has a long history in our local area and is second only to Pimpama State School as the oldest school in the region.

We need to be very focused on how we build new schools and what potential impact they will have on existing schools. The existing schools have the resources and facilities to cater for students. As I say to my local residents, you need to be very careful as sometimes new schools have teething problems, whereas a lot of the schools that have been around for a long time have ironed out those problems over the years.

Another topic mentioned at one of the P&C meetings was air conditioning. The vast majority of schools in my Theodore electorate have managed to air-condition almost every classroom. They were on track with fundraising. A lot of them keep saying to me, 'It is lovely that the government is giving us some money, but we should get some recognition as P&Cs for all the hard work we have done over the years.' Everybody seems to jump on board, saying, 'The government is doing this and the government is doing that,' but fundamentally these schools have already done the hard work. These parents and families have done the hard work. They feel it could have been done far sooner than it was. These issues certainly are a bit of a bugbear for my community.

I mention independent public schools. It is a philosophy and a program that has worked quite well in my area. There is a fear that independent public schools program will be terminated in the future. There needs to be some type of promise or guarantee from the government that independent public schools will be around for a lot longer. They are a great way of engaging with the community, to get community members on side to work with the school. It helps with fundraising and it helps with building bridges with different cultural groups. It is a fantastic initiative. I say to the minister that the issues of school catchment areas and independent public schools need to be addressed.

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—ALP) (4.09 pm): I would like to thank the Minister for Education and the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills for their genuine and fulsome participation in their estimates appearance and for the important information provided

about the significant investment the Palaszczuk government is delivering right across this state. I said in my first speech just before Christmas that one of the driving reasons I sought to be in this chamber is my core belief in the power of a good education to shape lives and provide opportunities for Queenslanders. This is particularly so for Queenslanders we strive to serve—Queenslanders who most rely on Labor governments for strong and healthy public services. This budget delivers in spades.

I was impressed with the significant investment in new and updated schools right across the state. As the minister said this morning in a ministerial statement, I believe, there would not be an MP in here who could not point to infrastructure investment in their electorates. This represents a reflection on our government's commitment to the education of the next generation, providing better learning environments for our students and staff alike.

In particular, I was very pleased that during the hearing the education minister confirmed the funding commitment for a new multipurpose hall for Wilston State School. I have already met with the school leadership and P&C representatives and we are all looking forward to cooperation and hard work as we deliver on this important and much needed project, particularly considering this marks their 100th year. Apart from the important education benefits from this investment, it, of course, also creates significant work for local businesses and workers through the design and construction stages.

I will now move to the Employment and Small Business and Training and Skills Development portfolios. I was very proud to be part of the team that reinstated the fantastic program, Skilling Queenslanders for Work. I know the minister is absolutely passionate about Skilling Queenslanders for Work and its transformative ability to give people the skills and training to get into the workforce, secure good jobs and provide for their families.

I highlight the work of one such organisation from my electorate of Stafford. The Multicultural Community Centre in Newmarket is a fantastic community institution. I would like to highlight just one element of the variety of work that they do. Their leadership has partnered with the state government, through the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program, to provide opportunities for often vulnerable Queenslanders, recent migrants and refugees, especially women. The MCC Skilling Queenslanders for Work program gives women a chance to build a career, with a very high success rate of transitioning into the workforce. Importantly for this cohort, this pathway is often the very first time participants have had an opportunity for a pathway to an independent income. That is no small feat. It is just one example of the great outcomes investing in skills and training can create.


I would like to thank the chair, the member for Redlands, the deputy chair and other members of the committee. On the whole, I think it was mainly a very productive hearing. Sadly, that was not the case for some members who were given leave to appear on the day. The utterly staged performance by members like the member for Maroochydore was a new low for estimates. It was nothing short of absolute disdain for the chair and quite disgraceful behaviour.

That unparliamentary intervention from some opposite could not take away from the important information provided by the ministers and their departments setting out the significant investment in education and training, building on our Labor record and delivering on our election commitments. For us it is a social priority. It is an economic priority because we need a highly skilled workforce to continue to attract new businesses and support growth for Queensland business. Of course, there is also this government's laser-like focus on the jobs that are created in that process.

I thank the ministers, committee members, the secretary and the departments for their participation. I thank my colleague the deputy chair, the member for Southern Downs. He may not have asked a question on the day but he did make a good point in his contribution today. He asked whether 62 per cent of time being used for theatrics instead of actually asking questions was time well spent.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr SULLIVAN: Sixty-two per cent of questions, member. Thankfully, the ministers provided important information that people across the state care about and that people in my community care about, particularly those who are trying to get ahead in life through these skilling and training programs.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (4.14 pm): Apparently Labor members do not think integrity issues are pertinent to estimates. I think it is time that a lesson was provided to some of their backbenchers who are crawling to the minister and to the Minister for Education who does not get it or does not want to get it. Estimates is a process where they should be available to answer questions. We have seen scandal after scandal from this Labor government, particularly with regard to inappropriate behaviour, and still they want to claim, 'Nothing to see here. You shouldn't be asking these questions in estimates.'

Since when was estimates an opportunity for Labor members to block questions about integrity? This is one of the worst estimates processes I have seen. It was an absolute protection racket. Labor backbencher after Labor backbencher tried to provide their amateur hour interpretation of standing orders.

Ms Richards interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Gerber): Member for Redlands, cease your intersections.

Ms SIMPSON: It was embarrassing and a disgrace. We have a Labor minister presiding over the education department who has failed to appropriately address the fact that a former senior member of the cabinet, former deputy premier and member for South Brisbane, Jackie Trad, was involved in scandalously approaching education department officials surrounding the appointment of a high school principal in South Brisbane. This matter was investigated by the CCC. I can tell members that when one reads the report one will find no glowing, let-off-the-hook statements with respect to the behaviour around how this was handled. It is an absolutely appalling situation.

How dare Labor members come in here in an effort to crawl to ministers and try and say that integrity issues do not matter. Yes, they do. I make no excuses for going into bat for the LNP team and, most importantly, the Queensland public when it comes to integrity. They care about accountability. Estimates has become an absolute joke. It is easier to ask basic questions outside the estimates process rather than ask them at an estimates committee. I have been on many estimates committees before. I can say that this is some of the worst protection racket behaviour from Labor backbenchers.

Ms Richards interjected.


Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Redlands, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms SIMPSON: They were interfering in questions of minister that should have been answered. If those ministers knew their portfolios and had the ticker to stand up for integrity and accountability issues then they should not have had a problem answering those questions. They should have said to their backbenchers, 'It is okay. I will answer these questions because I understand the importance of coming clean and being up-front and honest with Queenslanders.'

We have had scandal after scandal. Why should the opposition, standing up for the people of Queensland, not ask questions around the recruitment processes that were under a scandal cloud after the former member for South Brisbane had talked to some of the candidates for principal of a high school in her electorate? Let us not forget that. I appreciate that there are members opposite who want to forget about that. That behaviour was completely inappropriate. The fact that it happened and they want to somehow brush it under the carpet and then claim it is terrible that we wanted to ask questions around the government's integrity shows that they have a lot to learn.

It is time that the estimates process and committee structure were reformed. There has to be an ability to ask questions in a free flowing way—the way the system was intended. We have seen probably the worst example of obstruction from Labor backbenchers doing the bidding of some of their colleagues in cabinet and interfering in the process of questions being asked on behalf of the people of Queensland.

As outlined by the Leader of the Opposition, it is time that the estimates process is reformed. We have had the situation where the process of asking questions has been interfered with inappropriately. We have had a record low number of hours to debate legislation. The majority of legislation has been subject to gag motions from this Labor government. We have seen the sitting days of parliament cut. Many times serious legislation has not even gone through the proper committee process. The 'Pineapple' legislation was one of the worst examples of having to fix up mistakes that resulted from the abuse of process. It is time there was accountability. The estimates process has to be reformed.

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (4.19 pm): I rise to speak to the estimates committee report for the Education, Employment and Training Committee. Prior to getting into the detail of the estimates committee report, I would like to table a copy of the Isolated Children's Parents' Association prospectus. I met with members of the association in the cafe before speaking today. They are a great bunch of people who are dedicated to ensuring that all rural and remote students have equity of access to a continuing and appropriate education. I commend the association for their work in advocating for rural and remote students across Queensland.

Tabled paper: Brochure from Isolated Children's Parents' Association Queensland titled 'Access to equitable education: Strengthening rural & remote communities through education' [169].

I note the comments of the member for Theodore previously with respect to air conditioning. For the member for Theodore's benefit, I want to put on the record that we are on track to air-condition every classroom, every library and every staff room in Queensland state schools by June next year. Of

650 schools to be air-conditioned when we made that commitment, nearly 500 already have operational air conditioning in less than 12 months. It has been an extraordinary effort by the Department of Education to roll air conditioning out across those schools. We are on track to deliver that commitment.


After the great efforts during COVID last year and as we move into the 2021 school year, I am so excited for what lies ahead for schools and the Department of Education over the next four years. Our students, teachers and school communities were very excited and happy to go back to school and hopefully—touch wood—this school year is a full school year as per normal given that last year was such a disrupted year. The schools, the Department of Education, the students and the teachers adapted so well in such a challenging time through the global pandemic.

At the last election we made a series of commitments all designed to ensure that we continue to give our students a world-class education that sets them up for a great future. That includes a \$1 billion boost to education infrastructure investment over the next four years. I note that the Minister for Education said this morning that there is probably not a member in this House who has not had investment in infrastructure at their local schools. I think that is testament to the work that the Palaszczuk Labor government is doing to deliver quality infrastructure so that all of our students and teachers right across Queensland have state-of-the-art teaching and learning spaces.

I am particularly proud of our \$45 million Local Schools Local Jobs plan, which will upgrade training facilities in 26 secondary schools across the state and prepare students with the skills they need to move into secure, well-paid jobs in their local region. Skilling young Queenslanders is essential to ensure that our youngest and brightest minds are prepared for the jobs of tomorrow and Queensland's economic recovery. I am proud that the Palaszczuk government's Local Schools Local Jobs plan includes investments like \$2 million for Gladstone State High School to upgrade training facilities to prepare students for jobs in the hydrogen industry; \$2.25 million for Woodcrest Secondary College to upgrade trade training facilities to prepare students for jobs in aviation engineering; and \$2.5 million for Rockhampton State High School to build an aquaculture training and research facility to prepare students for jobs in this fast-growing food industry.

It is about creating training opportunities for students at our local schools that match the local economy and the skills demand for that local economy. This investment of \$45 million under this plan will build and upgrade training facilities in schools such as metal work and welding equipment to support future jobs in the mining sector; horse stables to support future jobs in the agriculture sector such as farm managers, animal trainers and equine veterinarians and nurses; commercial standard kitchens to support future jobs in the hospitality sector; and new science laboratories to support future jobs in advance manufacturing such as product designers and automotive engineers. Local Schools Local Jobs will deliver modern facilities across Queensland that teachers, parents and students can be proud of.

Over the next four years we will deliver close to 6,200 new teachers and more than 1,100 new teacher aides to meet student enrolment growth and maintain our nation-leading teacher to student ratios and class sizes. On top of the existing student numbers each year, we are seeing 8,000 additional students in Queensland schools every year. That means that we need to employ more teachers, we need to build more schools and we need to build more classrooms at our schools as well. Add this to our Turn to Teaching internship program to support 300 aspiring teachers to move into Queensland state schools, new homework centres in 120 schools and sanitary products into schools, we have a clear plan and vision for the next four years and beyond for education in Queensland. I commend the committee report to the House.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (4.24 pm): I think I have about 2½ minutes. That is ironic in that during the estimates process I had only 15 minutes to talk about racing because of the truncated aspect of the estimates hearings. So we did not get a chance to look at those issues that are important to the raising industry—that is, the state of the Eagle Farm track and what is going to happen in the future with regard to that track and the wagering tax and how much of that is going back into the industry. People are constantly talking about the industry not getting their fair share at the moment. We did get a chance quickly to talk about the size of the Racing Queensland bureaucracy and whether the industry is getting value for their investment and also about the Martin inquiry into the inhumane treatment of horses and the progress that is happening there. Those issues are incredibly important, but the opposition got around 15 minutes to talk about those issues which simply was not enough. I cannot do them justice now.

Mr Stevens interjected.

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach. They do not care about racing and the racing industry knows that. They know that very clearly. In the short time that I have been the shadow minister I have been getting that feedback very clearly. I cannot do justice to those issues now as they deserve.

While I am on my feet, I want to speak about an issue that I heard the member for Theodore speak about, and that is the issue of independent public schools. The softening process has begun. In today's paper we saw a leak of some so-called rorting of the system. This will be a complete fabrication by the Labor government as they start the softening process to get rid of IPS in our state—one of the great initiatives of the LNP government which is so embraced by our state school principals and their communities, and this mob will get rid of it.

Mr Stevens interjected.

Mr MANDER: Again, I take the interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach. The unions hate it. The unions hate it because they have less control over what happens in schools. The principals and communities that have IPS love it. They want to keep it. They want to make sure that they can continue to have the authority and the delegations that they have at the moment to make the education system better for our students. This mob will get rid of it on philosophical grounds, not on outcomes, because that is what they do.


Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Member for Everton, that concludes the debate.

Report adopted.

Health and Environment Committee, Report

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): The question is—

That the report of the Health and Environment Committee be adopted.

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (4.27 pm): I rise to endorse our Health and Environment Committee report and the recommendations around the budget. There are a number of budget highlights that I will go into in my contribution. There is record investment in Health; record investment in the 16 independent hospital and health services across our state; and record investment in the Queensland Ambulance Service. The Health budget also funds the Queensland Mental Health Commission; the Office of the Health Ombudsman; the Council of the QMIR, our research institute; and Health and Wellbeing Queensland.

One of the biggest highlights during 2020 and COVID was the \$1.2 billion health package allocated as part of Queensland's economic recovery plan, *Safeguarding our health*. That funding package covered a range of equipment and services associated with managing and containing COVID-19. We should be very proud of that commitment. That package included funding for fever clinics, doubling emergency department capacity, intensive care units, acute care services and regional aeromedical services for remote communities. The package also included the purchasing of additional ventilators and stockpile of personal protective equipment, or PPE; it allocated \$250 million to address the surgery backlog arising from the pandemic; and there was a massive injection into a mental health and wellbeing community package.

There is also \$265 million in funding to build seven satellite hospitals. That will enable acute hospitals to safely manage patients via alternative models of care across South-East Queensland. That program includes Bribie Island, Caboolture, Redlands, Pine Rivers, Ipswich and QEII. This is a great investment in health. After working in the health committee in the previous term, one of the things I was very proud to have seen was the commitment and budgeted amount of \$171 million to the people of Queensland around palliative care. That funding package goes through to 2025-26.

The Queensland Ambulance Service saw record investment. In the budget I was very happy to see the completion of new ambulance stations. I know that many members here had investments in their electorates—

Ms Boyd: Kirwan.


Mr HARPER: Thank you, I will take that interjection. I was very happy to recently open the new Kirwan ambulance station, and I thank the minister for allowing me to do that. The minister visited that facility just recently. We also had a \$40 million funding commitment for the Kirwan Health Campus, and I look forward to seeing that come to fruition over this term.

In relation to the other portfolio area that we cover, which is the environment, we saw record budgeted amounts for 2020-21 for a range of things, including: \$10 million over four years for the Reef Credits Scheme; \$10 million for Reef Assist; and increased funding of \$10 million over four years for

projects supporting ecotourism, including upgrades to national parks and World Heritage areas. I was interested to see \$5 million to support the implementation of the South East Queensland Koala Conservation Strategy.

In wrapping up, one of the points I wanted to make was that the statement of reservation from the LNP mentions that 'the Minister did not apologise to the Rockhampton nurse' who was involved in the COVID outbreak. I ask the LNP: when are you going to apologise for closing the Barrett Centre? That is an absolute disgrace. I would not sit there laughing about that because people lost their lives. The member for Mirani commented that fundamental economic indicators in Queensland were in 'bad shape' with 'rock bottom levels of confidence'. Maybe the LNP will be interested in this article from the *Townsville Bulletin*, which states 'Business confidence soars after government stimulus in Townsville'. I think that is a fantastic way to wrap up.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Business confidence soars after government stimulus in Townsville' [170].

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (4.32 pm): I rise to make a very short contribution with respect to the estimates process, particularly with reference to the Health and Environment Committee. On reflecting on the estimates process and preparing to rise in the House today, I have to say that it all seems like a bit of a blur because it was all so quick. Sadly, 2020 was a year that many of us would like to forget. It was a tragedy in many respects, but the great tragedy was the financial mismanagement of those on the other side of the House. We saw all sorts of promises made during the lead-up to the election. We saw the election cycle come and go. Sadly, we saw those on the other side re-elected. Then we were exposed to two very quick weeks back in parliament and then a very truncated estimates process.

The theme was very much 'You can trust us,' in spite of the fact that all sorts of promises made prior to the election were blown by the budget delivered by the Treasurer. We were told, 'Golly gosh! Gee whillikers! We said there might be a \$5 billion blowout because of COVID and the challenges of 2020, but we're going to have to borrow another \$28 billion.' I have to say that in the short time this government has been re-elected Queenslanders do not have a lot of confidence in those on the other side of the House and nor should they. We have seen the Health 2020 report from the Queensland Audit Office, and what do we read in that report? We read about the fact that waitlists have gone up again. Yes, I know that everybody will want to hide behind the fact that it was COVID, but the fact is—


Mr Harper: It's not hiding. It's actual fact. No-one is hiding anything.

Mr MOLHOEK: I take that interjection from the member for Thuringowa. COVID was a fact, but it should not be an excuse for not treating people who are chronically ill. We had an eight per cent increase in wages and salaries last year through the health system to the year ended June 2020—that is just for the first six months, by the way—but a seven per cent decrease in the number of Queenslanders receiving important, urgent or essential surgery. That is a disgrace. That is inexcusable. In the Auditor-General's report we also read that 11 out of 16 health services reported operating losses. What confidence can we have in the estimates process when it is all rushed through? The Treasurer and health minister come along and say, 'Nothing to see here. Everything is going to be fine.' But for the previous 12 months, as we hear from the Audit Office, 11 out of 16 health services had already blown their budget for the previous year, and now we are asked to trust them to make sure that the budget is going to be 'just fine' this year.

What else do we hear from the Auditor-General's office? In the report into the implementation of the financial supply chain management system we hear about more IT failures by this government. For a system that should have cost \$135 million to install, already costs have blown out by \$30 million. The implementation was delayed by some six or seven months, I believe, and at the time over \$540 million of vendor invoices were paid late. That means that Queensland businesses were not being paid on time and not being looked after. We heard from the Minister for Small Business today, who tried to tell us what a great job she is going to do and how much she cares about small business. That \$540 million is a large sum and it is hard to comprehend, but that represents 32,359 separate invoices. As at the end of October there were still almost 9,000 invoices not paid and well overdue. I do not have a lot of confidence in this government's ability to deliver on its promises, and that is without even looking at things like the capital works statement. What a disgrace!

Southport and the Gold Coast, the areas I am very proud to represent, represent 14 per cent of the state's population, but how much is in the capital works budget for the Gold Coast? Less than three per cent, and there is very little for health services. It talks about some sort of outlier or regional type health centres, which is a nice, innovative idea, but we are expecting the population of Townsville to move to the Gold Coast by—

(Time expired)

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (4.37 pm): I was pleased to attend the 2020 estimates hearing as the new Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. At the outset I want to pay tribute to all of our hardworking health professionals right across Queensland for their dedication. They have certainly gone above and beyond the call of duty in recent times, and I know they are still working just as hard in 2021 not only to collectively fight against COVID-19 but also provide a world-class hospital and healthcare service for the people of Queensland.

The Palaszczuk government understands the importance of our health system. That is why the budget handed down by the Treasurer last year delivered record funding for our health system of \$21.8 billion to support our health professionals deliver services in Queensland. This is an increase of 9.5 per cent on the previous financial year. We are getting on with the job of ensuring Queenslanders have access to the services they need. That is why we are investing over \$1.6 billion to fund an expansive capital works program to deliver improved and new ambulance and health facilities. However, while new and improved hospital and health buildings are important, what is more important is the people who deploy their skills in those facilities to support Queenslanders' health. That is why we are providing for an extra 9,475 doctors, nurses, paramedics and allied health professionals over the next four years.

Turning to those opposite, it is disappointing but not surprising that they continue to, firstly, not understand the standing and sessional orders of this House and, secondly, call for witnesses to attend but then not ask them a question. The Manager of Opposition Business on 3 December 2020 stood in this chamber and demanded that the Chief Health Officer be present and allowed to be questioned. He concluded his monologue by stating—

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—

He went on to say—

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.

I responded by stating, 'The Chief Health Officer will be there and will be able to respond to questions.' Fast-forward a week to during the estimates hearing, and guess who was available and ready to answer questions pursuant to the standing orders: the Chief Health Officer. Guess how many questions those opposite asked the Chief Health Officer: zero. On review of Hansard, I am advised that the shadow health minister did not even mention the Chief Health Officer once.


What happened between 12.36 pm on Thursday, 3 December—when the member for Kawana was beating his chest demanding the CHO be present and be asked questions—and a week later at 9 am when the opposition did not ask the CHO a question and did not mention the position? One can only assume that the opposition are fully supportive of our amazing Chief Health Officer and the actions taken by this government to protect Queenslanders during COVID-19. Despite the views of those opposite, the Palaszczuk government fully appreciates the high calibre advice from the Chief Health Officer and thanks her and her team for their support during COVID-19.

I thank the committee for their detailed examination of the budget and look forward to their ongoing contribution to ensure that Queenslanders continue to have access to world-class health care. I would like to also thank my department for their efforts, particularly in preparing for the budget and estimates hearing. The team, which was so ably led by Mary Weaver, did a great job and I thank them all for their efforts.

We have heard a lot from those opposite during this debate about parliamentary processes, but conveniently they forget about what they did when they were in government. The reality is that the statistics speak for themselves. Over the entire seven days, 51 per cent of the time was utilised by non-government members, compared to 37 per cent by government members. In terms of questions, 25 per cent of questions were asked by government members, while 75 per cent of questions were asked by non-government members. That is around 323 questions by government members, compared to 991 questions by non-government members. If those opposite cannot get the information they want out of 991 questions, then they should pack up and go home.

I note that questions were asked about sitting days and the virtual parliament. At the outset, I want to thank the parliament for their efforts in setting up contingencies to enable continued democracy in the people's house. I note that those opposite only complain about estimates when they are in opposition. I understand they have spent more time in opposition than in government—and it has been a very long time—but there is a reason for that. When they are in government, the people of Queensland

see the damage they do and the people have made a choice over and over again. They have chosen the Palaszczuk Labor government three times in a row now because they know the Palaszczuk government is delivering for the people of Queensland.

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (4.42 pm): I rise today to state again the LNP's reservations regarding the crippling debt into which Labor and this government are leading the state with a glib resoluteness that ignores the sad fiscal realities Queensland finds itself in. On the Gold Coast, tourism has been hit hard by repeated border closures. Jobs have been lost, spending is down and families have been separated. It has been a difficult year.

During the election campaign, Labor promised to keep spending down. It promised to leave Queenslanders with \$4 billion in debt—a frightening enough figure but understandable in these difficult pandemic times during which our economy has suffered so much. However, when the Treasurer rose last December to introduce this bill, the whole truth was revealed: \$28 billion. That is \$28 billion that your children, their children and likely their children will be paying off because this profligate government cannot keep public spending in check. Despite significant help from the Commonwealth, Labor seems to ignore the economic realities. The times have been tough for Queensland. Already saddled with a seven per cent unemployment rate, this additional \$28 billion does not add to the state's net worth. It does not add to the infrastructure that we need to get this great state working again. This budget gave Labor the opportunity to apply the financial levers to help manage the Queensland economy. Instead, we get a \$28 billion black hole.


For everyday Queenslanders, it does not improve health outcomes—which, as a nurse, I am passionate about, as everyone in this place knows. We have more health and hospital services running at an operating loss—11 out of 16—so the doctors and nurses who should be focusing on fixing people are worried about fixing the back room. Already we know that eight HHSs across the state will lose millions of dollars from their budgets, but the biggest cut—\$17.9 million—was saved for the Children's Health Queensland service. That is right—the people who look after our sickest kids.

There is no mention of rural maternity services. Just last week, I visited the Darling Downs where I was shocked to learn that one labour ward in the Chinchilla health service was being used as an office. Women and bubs deserve the best health care that Queensland can offer, no matter where they live. They should not be forced to drive hours away from their family and community support to deliver their babies. The same goes for mental health services, as my colleague and shadow assistant minister for mental health, the member for Southport, will confirm. Just because you live outside Brisbane does not mean you should not be able to access the very best health care that Queensland can offer. As I have said before in this place, there is a reason why Queensland Health has one of the biggest budgets in the government. It is literally life and death. Sadly, Queenslanders know how inept Queensland Labor is in managing this most vital of portfolios.

We have a minister who is not up to speed on her portfolio and a department that is not managing it for her. There is no transparency on health staffing levels, and performance data has been hidden for 12 months. The department is hiding those figures. It does not hold information on the value of lost or stolen drugs. We know that assaults against medical staff are getting worse; they are up by 40 per cent according to recent media reports. There were 700 frontline staff attacked in my region on the Gold Coast, and there was nothing in this budget to assist with improving their safety and security. Instead, they get IT systems that do not pay them or underpay them. We still do not know when the S/4HANA IT system will be fixed or when the vendors who are owed millions of dollars will be paid.

The botched rollout of the ieMR is already shaping as the next payroll disaster—and that cost Queenslanders \$1.25 billion. Labor will spend millions on renaming a hospital while patients are treated in corridors and storerooms. They will stand in front of hospitals, as backdrops to shameless media stunts, when behind the doors our hardworking medical staff do not have the right equipment, the protection they need and the support to save Queensland lives.

Finally, this week marks a critical juncture in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic that so drastically altered all of our lives last year. I urge those opposite to do the right thing and make sure these vaccines are spread equitably across this great state so that all Queenslanders have the best chance of a healthy 2021, reunited with their families and friends.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (4.47 pm): I rise to speak to report No. 2 of the Health and Environment Committee on the 2020-21 budget estimates. I would like to say how delightful it is to follow the member for Mudgeeraba because it gives me an opportunity to talk about some of the mistruths, injustices and complete fabrications she goes on with. It is very, very disappointing. I would like to talk about Gundu Pa, the Wynnum-Manly Community Health Centre. It is on the site of the old Moreton Bay Nursing Care

Unit, which was the home of 85 residents and which the opposition closed. Those 85 residents lost their homes that day. Those people have had to live without an aged-care facility in the area, simply because the Newman government decided that it was not worth keeping. As a government, we look after the health of our locals and we built Gundu Pa, the Wynnum-Manly Community Health Centre. That centre continues to grow and continues to be really well attended by all of our local community. It will also be joining with the satellite hospitals that are coming up around the area.

The member for Mudgeeraba also talked about the vaccine. Obviously, she did not listen to the numerous accounts that were given in parliament this morning and is unable to understand that there will be an equitable delivery. The federal government is working with the GPs to make sure that happens.

I would like to continue with the debate on the committee's report and the committee's recommendation that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation (2020-2021) Bill 2020 for the committee's areas of responsibility, be agreed to without amendment. Firstly, I would like to thank the committee for its work and, of course, I would like to thank the chair, the member for Thuringowa, for his outstanding leadership of the committee during the hearing. I also thank my parliamentary colleagues and the secretariat for their constant professionalism. May I also acknowledge my fellow committee members, the member for Southport, the member for Mirani, the member for Pumicestone and the member for Oodgeroo.


I would like to acknowledge the Hon. Yvette D'Ath, Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, and the Hon. Meaghan Scanlon, Minister for the Environment and Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs, and their departmental officers for their cooperation in providing information to the committee throughout this process. May I take the time, on behalf of my community, to also acknowledge the previous minister for health, the Deputy Premier, the Hon. Steven Miles, and the department and, of course it goes without saying, our wonderful Queensland Chief Health Officer, Jeannette Young, for their outstanding efforts during a world pandemic in keeping Queenslanders safe.

This budget is a commitment to Queenslanders, delivering on key priorities such as a strong health response from the Palaszczuk government. This budget will support our economic recovery from the global COVID-19 pandemic by supporting Queensland communities with what they need. Following medical advice—expert medical advice—and working together with health professionals and frontline agencies has allowed us to follow the road to recovery and place our state economy in a stronger position than those around the rest of Australia. For the Palaszczuk government jobs have always been at the forefront of what we deliver for Queenslanders, and there is additional staffing until 2024 for doctors, nursing and allied health staff.

This budget will see an increase of \$8 billion since the 2019-20 financial year as the Queensland Health total budget for controlled items is \$29.822 billion in 2020-21. Despite the unprecedented year, our government has been able to deliver a budget during 2020, including a \$1.2 billion health package allocated as part of Queensland's economic recovery to safeguard our health. That funding package covered a range of equipment and services associated with managing and containing the COVID pandemic including fever clinics—and Gundu Pa was one of them; they stood up and provided fever clinics during the pandemic on a couple of occasions.

I would like to acknowledge the great work of our Queensland Police Service for standing up as well. I would also like to take a moment to acknowledge the great work of Queensland Health with the transfer of title to Winnam, our local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander co-op, of the property at the old Wynnum hospital site for the relocation of a residential aged-care facility.

We also reviewed the environment and Great Barrier Reef, and science and youth affairs. They will deliver a number of policies around environment, Queensland parks and wildlife and conservation services, science and heritage protection services. My electorate borders the wonderful Moreton Bay Marine Park and I am very proud of the great work that our Queensland Parks and Wildlife officers do there. They work closely and provide great expert advice with regard to our War on Wrecks program. I also look forward to our work with regard to the seagrass inquiry. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (4.52 pm): It is fantastic to be back in this place today to outline some concerns about the environment, the Great Barrier Reef, science and youth areas after the estimates hearing late last year. I will start with the government's \$500 million Land Restoration Fund. Only one-fifth of the announced funding for this carbon-farming initiative has been allocated despite it being an election commitment from way back in 2017. The minister also confirmed at estimates that the green bond intended to pay for this has not even been issued yet. The only commitment of a time frame we could get from the minister to deliver this huge program was 'over a period of time'—astonishingly vague for something that is meant to be a flagship and for such a large amount of money.

Concerns have been raised about how difficult the LRF is to access, particularly the engagement process with landholders. We found out that those sessions cost over \$360,000 with around \$260,000 spent on consultants. I think it is clear there is not a great deal to show for that. Those issues need to be addressed or the most important people in making this work, regional Queenslanders, will not be on board and a key carbon capture initiative will not go anywhere near reaching its potential.

In fire management we saw through Service Delivery Statements 2-46 that the government did, in fact, reach and slightly exceed their target for planned burns to reduce fuel loads in Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service managed estate. This is a broad figure though, referred to regularly to seemingly make it appear as though adequate management is being undertaken. It is another example of the issues we have with the resourcing provided to manage our national parks. With over half of K'gari burnt to a crisp, it raises questions about this one in particular and how this precious UNESCO World Heritage site is overseen.

The review into the management of this large-scale destruction of almost 90,000 hectares of land on the island must be handed to the government by the end of March and we would expect it to be released shortly after by the responsible minister. The committee set up to advise the management of K'gari was disbanded in 2019 to be replaced by a single committee. That process began in November 2019, but we were told at estimates it has not been completed, with the department citing the impact of COVID-19 and the caretaker period. That is despite expressions of interest for membership and the chair position closing on 11 December 2019—before COVID-19. This needs to be sorted out.

At the 2020 election Labor committed to deliver a climate action plan 2020 to 2030 to sit alongside the Climate Adaptation Strategy 2017 to 2030 and the Climate Transition Strategy. Considering the former of those reports cost \$3 million to produce it was surprising to hear the minister commit to producing this new document internally within the department. I commend the government for what will surely be a first—putting together a strategic document without paying consultants to do it. There was not much clarity on the difference between this plan and the previous two. It raises questions about whether this is more virtue signalling rather than tangible action. If the minister has further information on the difference this new plan will provide, especially given it covers the same time frames as the others, I would be happy to see it.

On protected areas, the budget allocated \$28 million over four years, much less than the \$80 million committed by the LNP at last year's state election. Labor pledged to reach 17 per cent of Queensland's land area as an election commitment in 2017, but so far they are sitting at 8.24 per cent, an increase of not even half a per cent since the 2015 budget. In the next year their target is to increase this by just 0.1 per cent to 8.25 per cent, an incredibly disappointing lack of ambition.

I also asked the minister at estimates what Queensland's annual carbon emissions are. The latest data provided was from 2018 and the figure was 171 million tonnes of CO₂. I looked at the state greenhouse gas inventory where that figure came from to compare it with what Queensland's emissions were in 2015 when this government came to power. In 2015 that figure was around 152 million tonnes of CO₂, so under Labor Queensland's carbon emissions have increased. Labor has, in fact, overseen a 12½ per cent increase in Queensland's carbon emissions.

If we look at emissions reductions from 2005 to 2018, Queensland's emissions have decreased by the smallest amount of any state with the exception of WA, which saw an increase. That is in a time period when Labor have been in power for 10 of those 13 years. In those years we could not even begin to quantify the number of times that they have promoted their climate change credentials. They are not even one-third of the way towards delivering or achieving their 2030 target. It is one thing to have plans and targets, but they mean nothing if you do not achieve them. This lack of effective action to reduce our emissions and protect the unparalleled environment we have in Queensland, in particular our Great Barrier Reef, is extremely concerning.

It is clear that this is a government who always promote their environmental credentials, but it is all talk with little delivery.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Walker): Before I call the member for Gaven, I remind the member for Chatsworth that there was a warning given about where we sit today. Is that your correct seat?

Mr Minnikin: It is not my correct seat, Mr Deputy Speaker. I shall move.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: There has been a warning. I will get some advice. Member for Chatsworth, were you disrespecting the chair with your earlier comment?

Mr MINNIKIN: No, Mr Deputy Speaker. If I have, I will apologise to you.



Hon. MAJ SCANLON (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (4.58 pm): It was interesting hearing the member for Bonney speak about talk versus action on climate change given those opposite do not even have an emissions reduction target. They have members of their own political party who refer to renewable energy as a fantasy. It is a bit rich coming from the opposition given their appalling track record at both the federal level and the state level when it comes to action on climate change and even acknowledging the science of climate change in this state.

Can I first thank the chair of the committee, the member for Thuringowa, all of the committee members and all of the staff in the Department of Environment and Science for their hard work and assistance in pulling together the budget given the very difficult year we all experienced in 2020. Protecting our environment is a key platform under our budget and a key part of our economic recovery because we know many of the initiatives that we fund not only protect the environment but create jobs as well. This budget allocates \$989 million to protect our environment and is spread over a range of initiatives.

First, I turn to the Protected Area Strategy, which I note the opposition member also referred to. We have allocated \$60 million as part of our initial investment to grow our protected area estate. The breakdown is: \$28 million for extending the public protected area estate; \$8 million to continue the Nature Refuge Program; and \$24 million to expand the Queensland Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program. That is a key aspect of this proposal, because it is one thing to grow our protected area estate but we actually need people to be able to manage that protected area estate. That is what we on this side of the House are doing: growing the amount of rangers that we have. That is in stark contrast to those opposite, who oversaw a 33 per cent reduction in staff in the former environment department. They also oversaw a reduction in the number of positions of rangers on the ground. We need people to be able to manage this land if we are going to increase it. That is a key part of our platform.

We have also significantly invested in the Great Barrier Reef. We know the huge economic potential of the reef in terms of its impact on the tourism industry. It generates \$6 billion annually and thousands of jobs in the Far North Queensland region particularly. This is why we are investing to address not only climate change but also water quality. We know that that is one of the greatest impacts to the Great Barrier Reef, and we are doing that through a range of initiatives.


We have also announced our \$500 million flagship land restoration program—a program announced by this government that I have not heard the opposition commit to. Again, it is interesting that those opposite are criticising a project that they themselves have not committed to. I am very pleased, though, that \$93 million of that has already been delivered across 19 projects to help build carbon-farming industries across Queensland. This is creating revenue streams for landholders while sequestering carbon. It is a great initiative for a state like Queensland that has such a large land mass. We have so much potential to reduce those emissions.

We have also allocated substantial money to our National Parks Works and Jobs Boost Program to upgrade a number of the facilities within our national parks. I had a meeting today with the member for Springwood. Around his area we have an investment in the Daisy Hill Koala Centre. In my electorate there is investment in the Nerang National Park. There are also the initiatives to put in place renewable energy measures at Mon Repos and walking tracks on Magnetic Island. There is a range of investment across the state in our national parks. I was particularly interested to see in the LNP statement of reservation some comments which were positive. I am a bit confused in terms of the LNP's position on the reef, particularly in terms of water quality. They said—

The Great Barrier Reef is now listed as critical and we will back any practical action to protect this unparalleled natural asset and help it adapt and become more resilient.

Yet last week Senator McDonald said that we should scrap our reef regulations. Some LNP members say that they support measures on the Great Barrier Reef and other LNP members say that they do not support them.

I am very proud to be the minister of this portfolio. I know that it is incredibly important to my generation. I think it is great that youth affairs is also encompassed within this portfolio. It means that we are able to engage with young people around their future. That is why we are delivering a climate action plan: to set out what will happen over the next 10 years. The opposition member is right: we do have an emissions reduction target of 30 per cent. We will make sure that we meet it.


 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (5.03 pm): I rise to make a contribution to this debate as a member of the Health and Environment Committee. I thank the secretariat and all of the members of that committee. In this budget it was good to see funds allocated to upgrade Sarina Hospital. I hope that small regional towns such as Mount Morgan and Sarina are supported into the future by the government so they can look after their local communities and remain in service.

The health and environment portfolios would have to be two of the most important, given the current COVID-19 pandemic. They will also be instrumental in paving the way forward for farmers and graziers to negotiate their way through the new regulatory framework which has been in some ways off target and has caused a lot of hardship for farmers in reef catchment regions. Regulations are being handed down with little consideration of the time frames or the extra cost that people on the land must absorb as they struggle to implement the many changes government has thrust upon them.

The financial audit report for 2020 shows that 11 out of our 16 hospital services reported operating losses for the 2019-20 financial year. That is three more than in the previous year, despite only one hospital having budgeted for an operating loss in 2019-20. Some seven hospitals have now made an overall loss since they were formed back in 2012. To give a dollar amount, 11 HSSs within Queensland have suffered from a combined operating loss of \$82 million since 2012. On a positive note, there was an increase in the number of frontline health employees of four per cent. I cannot thank them enough for what they have done for us in Queensland during the pandemic.

It also concerns me greatly that there were 43 deficiencies reported in the audit, including 13 related to the implementation of the new IT ordering system; a lack of signed service level agreements between the department and the HHS and outstanding balances; inadequate procurement procedures and policies; financial reporting and reconciliation issues; and deficient asset valuations and processes. It was disappointing to hear from the Health Ombudsman that complaints have doubled in six years since the new system was introduced, with 9,703 complaints received over that period. It was also concerning to hear the results of the medical training survey done in the state and around the country. Some 28 per cent of the 4,300 Queensland doctors in training surveyed reported experiencing a lot of bullying, harassment, discrimination and racism.

I can already see that my appointment to the Health and Environment Committee will prove both very interesting and challenging, but I look forward to working with my fellow committee members to address the various issues going forward—making sure that we do the best for our farmers and the best for the health system in looking at cutting costs to make the HSSs a more viable proposition.

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (5.06 pm): I rise to endorse the Health and Environment Committee's 2020-21 budget estimates report. For us on this side of the House, health is a cornerstone issue. There is nothing more important in our communities. This government knows that the basis of all opportunity and all fairness relies on a strong, equitable and accessible public health system. To have a job, you must have your health. To keep a job, you must keep your health. The proof of that has been seen like never before over the past 12 months.

When the crisis hit, we on this side of the House knew instinctively that to have a strong economic recovery we would need, before all else, a strong health response. It is a simple proposition. One would not think it would be a controversial one. Queenslanders backed it and the Palaszczuk government, because we backed them by putting their health first. The Premier stood firm against the critics, especially the irresponsible, relentlessly negative approach of the opposition. Even those opposite admit that Queensland's health response has been the best in the world. It hurts them to admit it, but they know it is true. The jewel in the crown of the Palaszczuk government's 2020-21 health budget is our satellite hospitals program.

Mr Tantari interjected.

Ms KING: I take that interjection from my colleague the member for Hervey Bay. It is indeed a magnificent program. Satellite hospitals are a world-leading, new model that will deliver more health care closer to home in our communities, a public health infrastructure program that will deliver more jobs and better health care. The Palaszczuk government is building not one, not two but seven of them right across South-East Queensland. We are investing \$265 million so that our health system can build back better and we can get Queenslanders back to work.


For our communities in Pumicestone, Labor's satellite hospitals are just what the doctor ordered. For Bribe residents, that means our frail and elderly people not having to travel hundreds of kilometres a week for treatments like renal dialysis or chemotherapy. For those living in Caboolture and surrounds, their new satellite hospital will mean being able to seek care in a calmer and more home-like environment. As much as our community holds Caboolture Hospital dear, some services are simply better delivered in the community and close to home.

I will be working hard every single day with the communities that make up Pumicestone—from Bribie Island to Beachmere, to Caboolture and beyond—as we work through the all-important community consultation and health service planning process for our new satellite hospitals. While the LNP is talking down our satellite hospitals locally, we are getting on with the job of delivering more health care closer to home for the people of Pumicestone, and I could not be prouder.

The contrast could not be greater with those opposite, who have long been missing in action when it comes to Caboolture Hospital—our key healthcare delivery site for the people of Pumicestone and northern Moreton Bay. They famously called our massive redevelopment of Caboolture Hospital a political stunt and said that it was not needed. Shame on them. Just as they are missing in action on Queenslanders' health, those opposite are missing in action on the health of the people in Pumicestone.

It was not enough that they cut the guts from our local health services, marching 932 nurses out the door when they were last in government. It was not enough that they would have continued those cuts had they won. They also wanted to throw open Queensland's borders in the midst of a global pandemic and put our health and our economic recovery at risk.

The work of keeping Queenslanders safe has never been more important. This Palaszczuk government's health response means that we can supercharge job creation and our wonderful Queensland lifestyle can adjust to the new normal. I look forward to seeing my electorate of Pumicestone continue to flourish as we build back better from COVID-19 thanks to the government's health response. I offer my thanks to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services and the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs for their commitment to the estimates process, as well as the secretariat and parliamentary staff and of course my fellow committee members. I commend the 2020-21 estimates report of the Health and Environment Committee to the House.

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (5.11 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate of the estimates report of the Health and Environment Committee. The headline issue is that, despite record borrowings with debt increasing by \$28 billion, there is insufficient investment in infrastructure—job-creating, growth-creating infrastructure—across Queensland and particularly in the Redlands coast and Cleveland area. The government has borrowed to keep the lights on rather than invest heavily in infrastructure, and this imbalance is hurting Redlanders and needs to be addressed. In terms of health and ambulance services and Redland Hospital, for the years I have been the member for Cleveland and now Oodgeroo under the Bligh and Palaszczuk governments—that is, nine of almost 12 years that I have been in the House—there has been little state funding to upgrade Redland Hospital. Redland Hospital is being treated as the poorer cousin and has fallen behind comparatively to other hospitals.

It is to the shame of this government that it has ignored the health needs of Redlanders for so many years. It rejected my calls for an ICU to start with and it took a community campaign, pressure from myself and the federal LNP's \$30 million commitment before Labor finally, and belatedly, dusted off its chequebook and promised to go halves in ICU beds and car parking with Andrew Laming and the federal LNP. Imagine what would have happened if COVID had been far worse than it has been in Queensland and what would have happened in the Redlands without an ICU unit and not a single ICU bed. Due to this government's mismanagement of Queensland Health we were not ready for a major COVID outbreak in the Redlands coast region, so belatedly Labor has promised a small ICU for Redland Hospital. While it is small beginnings, it is urgently needed and I call on the government to fast-track its construction.

There is then the decision to give away the land around the hospital—the land that is needed for the hospital's future expansion to provide for the growing and ageing Redlands population. Future generations of Redlanders will hold this government to account for selling out their health. Then there are the cuts to dental surgery. It saddens me to report that patients have been advised that Redland Hospital is not doing adult dental surgeries that require anaesthesia. Redland Hospital adult oral health patients requiring anaesthesia are being referred now to other hospitals, some of which are hospitals with extensive waiting lists already. In some cases there are patients with disabilities and family members now have to take them much further than is optimal, and that is not helping their situation. Let us contrast this with the LNP's record in government that saw Labor's dental waiting list at Redland Hospital dramatically reduced from approximately 10,000 patients down to almost zero.

I could comment on the Cleveland satellite hospital. There has been an absolute debacle in terms of the satellite hospital in the budget mentioned by the Treasurer and labelled as the Cleveland satellite hospital and later on seemingly corrected, with other ministers making comments about it being for


Redlands and other local members saying it is for Redland Bay. There seems to be confusion in the government about where it actually should go. Was it originally for Cleveland, which would make sense, near the Redland Hospital? Did it get moved for political purposes? The government needs to come clean and answer these questions.

Then there is the ambulance ramping which is growing rapidly again across South-East Queensland hospitals. Reports of up to 18 ambulances ramped in one morning at Redland Hospital very recently shows that the system is letting Redlanders down. In terms of palliative care, while the government is increasing palliative care funding—and we welcome it—it is insufficient to provide the care that terminally ill patients need across Queensland and in the Redlands.

I want to use the remainder of my time to mention some environmental issues. In terms of Stradbroke Island, we have the headlands overdevelopment and the whale centre that needs to be located somewhere else but instead the government is building it on sensitive environmental land in pristine areas of Point Lookout. Conservation groups and the majority of Quandamooka people are against it and only Jackie Trad and her cronies support the clearing of this pristine and environmentally sensitive point near the headlands. A Quandamooka Truth Embassy has been developed in protest with the Quandamooka people wanting to be heard, and this government needs to hear them. There has also now been an inquiry announced—a financial investigation—by the Office of the Registrar of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporations into QYAC. There have been questions about QYAC's alleged financial irregularities that this government will not investigate, and I table a copy of the letter of this federal investigation into those finances and encourage the government to do likewise and come out with the truth.

Tabled paper: Document, dated 23 February 2021, regarding authorisations under the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 [\[171\]](#).

(Time expired)

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (5.16 pm): It is really pleasing to be part of the Palaszczuk Labor government. This is a government that delivers the health, infrastructure, personnel and resources that Queenslanders need. Regardless of where they live in Queensland, the budget handed down last year will support them and their families. In the Mackay region the Palaszczuk government is investing \$493 million into the Mackay HHS, ensuring that our region has the resources to keep pace with our growing community. We are also restoring frontline services cut by those opposite with extra nurses, doctors, teachers and police, but there is always more to be done. The health budget delivers \$21.8 billion of funding which includes a record capital budget to build new hospitals, health facilities and ambulances stations and an infrastructure program that will support over 4,000 construction and health jobs.

The Palaszczuk government delivers for all Queenslanders, including \$1.8 million towards \$17.5 million worth of improved facilities at the Bowen Hospital site which is in the footprint of the Mackay HHS; \$2 million in upgrades to the Cunnamulla Hospital; \$9.9 million towards the now completed \$20.2 million redevelopment of the Blackall Hospital; \$7 million towards a \$10 million upgrade of the Emerald Hospital; and \$21 million towards the \$93.1 million worth of construction projects to improve facilities at the Atherton Hospital site. These are just some of the examples of a long list of how the Palaszczuk government is delivering health services right across Queensland. As a fifth generation Mackay local, I am a proud regional Queenslanders. As assistant minister for regional health infrastructure, I am passionate about ensuring that Queenslanders, no matter where they live, have the services that they need.

While I am on my feet it would be remiss of me not to call out the behaviour of those opposite during the estimates process and in particular the shadow minister for health. The member for Mudgeeraba should hang her head in shame. I understand that she goes around putting 'RN' after her name. However, the nurses that I know have compassion and the member for Mudgeeraba's bedside manner leaves a lot to be desired.

Mr Harper: She has none.

Mrs GILBERT: No, that is right. The member for Mudgeeraba's line of questioning on several occasions was very aggressive, but her question in relation to the chief legal counsel of the department was appalling, trying to make out that the person who holds that position was away from their job through some fault of their own or some sinister reason. The person was away on leave due to a deeply personal matter dealing with a distressing situation for them as they are cared for their gravely unwell


parent. Our thoughts are with them in this challenging and difficult time. This was a prime example of how the member for Mudgeeraba never lets the facts get in the way of trying to score a cheap headline. Shame on the shadow minister.

I also read with interest the member for Mirani's statement of reservation regarding the process where he said—

With Government members holding 50 per cent of the Committee's membership, 50 per cent of time during the Inquiry's hearings was lost to such questioning.

This statement is incorrect and misleading and should not go without correction. I am advised that during the hearing around 30 per cent of the time was in government questions, around 53 per cent was in non-government questions, around 22 per cent of the questions were from government members and around 78 per cent were from non-government members. These statistics speak for themselves. The member for Mirani should correct the record.

I would like to commend the committee for its work on the estimates committee and also thank the department and ministerial staff for their work in preparing for estimates.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (5.21 pm): I start by saying what a great pleasure it is to speak in support of this committee report. I acknowledge and thank the committee for the great work it has done on this report, as it does with all of the bills and reports that it brings to this parliament.

Before I get into talking about the substance of it I would like to rebut some of the myths and nonsense that has been peddled by those opposite. Some of what they are saying, as I will get to, is quite dangerous. The member for Southport repeatedly talked about the fact that we had a rushed estimates process. The last time I checked, the number of days that we sat in estimates mirrored every other year that I have been here as a member of parliament so there was no rushing of the estimates process. Perhaps he needs to look back to the time when those opposite were in government and they crammed the entire estimates process into just two days. It takes a great degree of hubris and arrogance to accuse us of rushing an estimates process when that is their track record.

The member for Southport, as many opposite like to do, comes in and tells us what a fantastic team they are and how brilliant they would be if they were every running Queensland, yet it seems they are unable to prepare for an estimates process even though they have done it many, many times from opposition.

Many members have come in here and continued to peddle the economic nonsense that was peddled by those opposite during the election process which was rightfully rejected by the people of Queensland: no taxes, no borrowings, no service cuts, no staff cuts, balancing the budget, growing everything, building the new Bradfield scheme and the gold plated Bruce Highway but not today or in 100 days, or in a year's time or even 10 years—in 15 years time! We are looking at an economic school that does not resemble that of JK Galbraith, it resembles that of JK Rowling, the economic school of magic.

I do want to turn to a serious matter and that is the notion peddled by the member for Mudgeeraba. She gives comfort to the anti-vaccination movement when she comes into this place and peddles the line that there will be inequity in access to COVID-19 vaccines, after being told repeatedly by the health minister today that we will be rolling out the COVID-19 vaccine equitably across this state. This gives succour to those in the anti-vaccination movement. Many people are vaccination hesitant. We know that. When one destroys confidence in the vaccination process one is doing great damage to the people of Queensland. As the Chief Health Officer has clearly said, the only way that this vaccine will work is if every single person gets it. Anybody who destroys that confidence is being irresponsible. If they are a health professional it is doubly, triply, quadruply irresponsible.

In the small time I have left I will turn to the estimates process. When I look at the highlights from the budget, we should rename last year the year of the CHO. It was the year of the Chief Health Officer of this state stepping forward and leading. The fever clinics we stood up, the additional ventilators we stood up, the additional investments that we have made into our public health capacity, the money put forward towards addressing surgical backlogs created by the actions we had to take and, importantly, the money put into mental health to deal with the long-term effects of COVID-19, are outstanding examples of why we are in government. We know how to use the health budget to keep Queenslanders safe. That is exactly what we did in 2020. I feel really sorry and sad for those countries around the world that were not able to pull this together. We saw health system after health system after health system around the world collapsing. We are still seeing that. When we see those health systems collapse we see people dying and, in particular, health workers dying.


The fact that we were able to create so many more ventilators was incredible. That we were able to put in place procedures to make sure that we had the capacity to ventilate people if we needed was incredible. The fact that we are able to roll out a vaccine less than 12 months after this disease has been identified is a modern miracle of medicine. We have kept Queenslanders safe. This is a great budget.

Report adopted.

Transport and Resources Committee, Report

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Walker): The question is—

That the report of the Transport and Resources Committee be adopted.

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (5.27 pm): I rise to speak to report No. 2 of the Transport and Resources Committee regarding the Appropriation (2020-2021) Bill. Sadly I was unable to attend and chair this year's estimates proceedings due to illness, but I watched very keenly from where I was. I will try to limit my contribution to one as an observer who wished he could have been there. I would like to start by thanking the Treasurer for delivering the budget as promised in extremely difficult times and also the Premier, health minister, and Chief Health Officer for keeping us safe and providing some sense of normality in a very unnatural time in all our lives. Thanks to our committee secretariat, Hansard and all who pulled it together for us, particularly at that time of year. I have been hearing those opposite bleat about the short time frames. I did not think there was, but I always have faith in the parliamentary staff. They were practised in unusual timings and procedures during the Newman years so no doubt it was a breeze for all concerned.


Special thanks to my friend and colleague, Chris Whiting, the member for Bancroft, for chairing the day for me in my absence. I was pleased to see some vital transport projects in my electorate were referred to. I would have asked about them had I been there. The Dakabin station disability upgrade is going ahead in leaps and bounds. The community is very grateful to see this coming along. The member for Bancroft and I are both amazed at the speed the Deception Bay Road highway interchange is progressing and we thank the minister for getting this back in QTRIP after it was cut out during the Newman years. The only major project that I did not hear mentioned that I would have asked about is the Petrie roundabout upgrade which will remove a bottleneck that has plagued commuters in my area for years. The service relocations and resumptions are completed, the contract has been let and it will be underway soon.

During the Department of Transport and Main Roads session, I witnessed something I never expected to see and hope to never see again. The member for Maroochydore, who is a former Speaker and is looked up to by many in this place, showed such a blatant disregard for process that she was asked to leave under the standing orders. I was shocked and the few people who I had encouraged to sit with me and watch estimates were as well. It was pretty despicable. During the estimates process overall there seemed to be a general disregard for process from those opposite. No Speaker accepts that behaviour in this chamber and I hope we can have more decorum from members at the next estimates hearings.

The extra Works for Queensland funds delivered in the budget are providing great outcomes in my area. Along with Moreton Bay regional councillors from divisions 2, 8 and 11, we in the community are very excited. It means more jobs helping local tradies to get through the COVID pandemic. Our roads, schools and communities are being well serviced by our government and, once again, the estimates process highlighted that.

As a chair I am always interested in the timing of the questions during estimates and how those opposite complain that they get an unfair proportion of the time. Last year was no different in that non-government members got 53 per cent of the time and government members got 42.4 per cent of the time. There were nine hours of hearings and those opposite interrogated ministers for just over five hours. It is pretty hard to whinge about that. They asked 180 questions. If they had asked decent questions, there would be even less to whinge about.

Finally, I turn to the opposition's statement of reservation or 'statement of rhetoric', which is a more accurate name for it. They call for a different estimates process, which is frightening as last time they were in government they held all the hearings in two days. That did not last as it was a failure and, in my opinion, provided far less scrutiny than the process we undertook late last year. As an observer—I was not there, although I wish I had been—I want to thank all who did participate. I look forward to chairing the hearing next time around.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (5.31 pm): As the House turns its attention to the recent budget, Queenslanders should be aware of the unusual circumstances in which we do so and I am not referring to coronavirus. In last weekend's *Sunday Mail* Queenslanders read that the 56th parliament is the only one this century to have spent less than 1,000 hours in session. I table that news article for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Sunday Mail*, dated 21 February 2021, titled 'State Labor sits down on the job' [\[172\]](#).

The newspaper also reported that in a data period stretching back to 1998 last term's Labor government is the only one to have averaged less than 10 hours on sitting days. That is a hallmark of a government that shirks scrutiny. Therefore it comes as no surprise that the government refused to deliver the budget prior to the recent October election. The government went to the election stating that under Labor the debt would increase by only \$4 billion but, when the budget was finally released some five months later than is conventionally delivered, we discovered that the debt is actually projected to increase by \$28 billion. More alarming still, the extra debt is not to build infrastructure that will increase the state's net worth, as is the case for New South Wales and Victoria. In Queensland the extra debt is just to keep us staggering along. It is to keep the lights on. Labor's 41-page glossy brochure is not an economic plan, despite ministers appearing clutching it desperately at every opportunity. The repeated use of that photo prop has become something of a laughing matter right across the state, but it is a sad joke about lost opportunity and infrastructure.


Having delayed the budget delivery until after Queenslanders voted, the Labor government really owed Queenslanders a frank and fearless estimates examination of that budget. Instead, we were insulted by a deliberately truncated estimates process where questions were dodged and the Labor committee chairs ran a protection racket for Labor ministers. That shirking of responsibility might be good politics for Labor, but it is devastating for the honest administration of Queensland and ultimately it is devastating for our democracy. After three terms of Labor and facing another four years it is apparent that the conventions that ensure transparency are breaking down. Our parliament is not sitting as it should. Not only are debates artificially shortened; our estimates process has been deliberately frustrated. I say 'deliberately' because the methods used by the Labor committee chairs to protect ministers and bureaucrats from awkward questions were similar from hearing to hearing. The problem with shirking scrutiny is that it leads to a perception of cover-ups and integrity issues.

In Transport and Main Roads, which is one of the most critical areas for infrastructure investment in a state as big as Queensland, we saw multiple issues of integrity highlighted during the estimates hearing. The Minister for Transport and Main Roads has had previous issues with the use of a private email account for ministerial purposes. During the estimates hearing the LNP sought further information about the use of that private email. Unfortunately, the acting chair's ruling prevented a thorough examination. To the thoughtful observer all that means is that questions still remain about the minister's actions.

The LNP also sought clarification around the interaction between the Department of Transport and Main Roads and Mr Jim Soorley. While Mr Soorley is a former Labor lord mayor of Brisbane who once earned a crust as a Labor connected lobbyist, apparently he is no longer registered as a lobbyist under Queensland law. His connection with Wilsons Boathouse seafood restaurant and any interactions with the department on their behalf deserve the raised eyebrows they received. Unfortunately, no further information was forthcoming.

Another issue concerning the role of a lobbyist raised at the hearings was in regard to the Labor government's decision to build trains in Maryborough. Much was made of that commitment during the election campaign. In this context it is highly relevant that the LNP raised the role played by registered lobbyist Evan Moorhead. A purported architect of Labor's re-election campaign, Mr Moorhead is a former ALP state secretary and—surprise, surprise—a registered lobbyist. The only company with an established train manufacturing workshop in Maryborough is Downer and—surprise, surprise—they are a client of Mr Moorhead. The LNP highlighted that Mr Moorhead had multiple meetings with Minister Bailey's senior adviser prior to the government's pre-election announcement. The LNP asked what was discussed at those multiple meetings. We also asked if other train manufacturers were given equal access. Minister Bailey did not provide a response. That seems to be the standard practice. Once again a lack of response means questions remain. It is still unclear what level of influence was exerted by the ALP aligned lobbyist when the policy was being developed. It is also unclear if the subsequent deal is the best value for money for Queensland taxpayers.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (5.36 pm): I do not think it is any great secret that this government supports manufacturing Queensland trains in Queensland. We have had that policy since before the 2017 election, but for those opposite it seems to be a revelation. We all know that they ordered trains from overseas that were not disability compliant. That was an incredible botch-up that we are still recovering from and still have to rectify. We are doing that with Queensland workers. It is a \$330 million project. That was another botch-up by the member for Clayfield when he was the treasurer of this state. How do you have a record majority and then lose it in three years? That is extraordinary. There are a few theses on the Newman government and how not to do things in that, but I digress.

I acknowledge and thank the committee for their work on the budget estimates process and for their strong interest in roads and transport. I extend my thanks to the member for Kurwongbah for his continued hard work as committee chair and to the member for Bancroft who stepped in as acting chair at short notice. I acknowledge and thank the member for Maryborough and Assistant Minister for Train Manufacturing and Regional Roads. He is a member who is very well versed in both areas.

Those opposite have been prattling on about a lack of infrastructure. They seem to have missed our record budget of \$26.9 billion worth of infrastructure in the transport and rail space, worth 23½ thousand jobs, which is about 50 per cent more than that spent on infrastructure in the last year of the Newman government. Let us look at the facts. We have a record \$56 billion infrastructure program. The Gympie bypass has started. Cross River Rail never would have happened under those opposite. Given the cuts they made when last in government, if the LNP had been elected the jobs that are driving our economy at the moment would not be there. The Bruce Highway is being upgraded from Edmonton to Gordonvale. The M1 is being upgraded. There was not a single new dollar for the M1 when the member for Clayfield was the treasurer of this state and the member for Broadwater sat at the cabinet table with him. They ignored the Gold Coast and they ignored infrastructure. We saw unemployment spike. We saw economic growth plunge to 0.7 per cent. It had a zero in front of it when they were in power!

We are seeing an investment in road and rail infrastructure right across the state. In the cape the five-year peninsula development project is happening because of this government. There are Bruce Highway upgrades. We are seeing a \$17.8 billion commitment to areas outside Brisbane. Sixty-six per cent of the budget is going to regional Queensland. That might explain why we have a whole bunch of new members from regional Queensland. I welcome to our ranks the members for Hervey Bay, Bundaberg, Nicklin, Caloundra and, of course, Pumicestone.


Four stimulus packages have been added due to our economic plan for recovery from COVID. It is the same sort of net gain as seats that we won at the election, coincidentally. We are seeing those projects coming into the economy, creating jobs and confidence—a very good spread right across Queensland, not just in coastal areas but into western Queensland, south-western Queensland and north-west Queensland. We are making sure that job spread is strong right across our state, because we govern for the whole state.

We saw the LNP at the last election leave their costings until the last two days, and they absolutely botched it. They used a fund to raid regional road projects—\$700 million, including the Sunshine Coast—to pay for the second M1. It was an incompetent piece of economic behaviour and policy. The economic superiority of this government is one of the many reasons we won the election.

I note the opposition's statement of reservation on Cross River Rail. It would not happen unless a Labor government was in power. We know that; that is very clear. We will continue. It is going well. We saw the Auditor-General's comment on it: on time, on budget. No matter what sort of ridiculous comments are made by those opposite, we are getting it done.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: I hear them pipe up. They cut it not once but twice. They tried to cut it twice. How is that working for them? How is opposition? Are they enjoying it over there? They have been rejected because they continue to knock back Queensland. They did not back us when it came to health advice, our economy and people's health. The Leader of the Opposition is quoted as saying that our world-leading health response was tantamount to throwing a doona over your head. He abused our health leaders as punch-drunk bureaucrats. This an opposition that does not learn and loses seats every time. Its performance on the budget was pathetic.

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (5.41 pm): Firstly, I would like to congratulate the staff and the members of the Transport and Resources Committee for the great work they did in terms of the preparation for the estimates process.

I would like to start by quoting Budget Paper No. 1. Page 43 sets the framework for the tone with which we went about our estimates questioning. It states—

... at all times our government will continue to respect and honour the trust and confidence placed in us by Queenslanders.

That word ‘trust’ is interesting. They use the words ‘trust’ and ‘integrity’ but then bring in the member for Miller and Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Last week I held meetings with delegations in Mackay and Rockhampton. Whether they be bus drivers and bus operators or heavy vehicle operators—it is almost an absolute misnomer—people do not equate trust with this particular minister.

The member for Gregory, who spoke before me, set out in the statement of reservation a range of issues that related to integrity. He mentioned Wilsons Boathouse. In the interests of time, we will prosecute that at a future date. I want to talk about other issues, including Cross River Rail, rail safety and the maintenance backlog.

In relation to the vexed question of Cross River Rail, we have made it perfectly clear that the LNP supports the need for Cross River Rail. We have also gone to great lengths to say that we do realise that if the assets—

Mr Bailey interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Member for Miller.

Mr Bailey: Don't lie.

Mr MINNIKIN: That is not parliamentary. Madam Deputy Speaker, I take offence at the use of the word ‘lie’ towards me. I ask that it be withdrawn. I take personal offence.

Mr BAILEY: I withdraw.

Mr MINNIKIN: Before she left, the previous minister said that Cross River Rail was on budget and on target. The current minister has repeatedly said that Cross River Rail—the \$5.4 billion project—is on track and on budget. We will need to do a bit more research—and we will—in relation to ANZ Research's Australian Major Projects report of February this year. I refer to page 11. As I go down this list of projects throughout Australia I see that Cross River Rail has a cost projection of A\$6.7 billion. That is something we will continue to prosecute because, to be quite frank, we do not trust the minister's integrity when he gets up in this chamber and says, ‘This project started off at \$5.4 billion but, despite a complete change to the scoping of the project’—some of that we raised during the estimates process—‘it will still be \$5.4 billion.’ It will not be \$5.4 billion. It is interesting that in a document released only a matter of days ago there is another authority saying 6.7. My take will be—kerching!—just wait and see the cash register continue to grow. We have grave concerns about Cross River Rail.

I would also like to point out that the minister, as we all know, was described by the CCC as foolish. That is something that will never be erased from his parliamentary record.

If we have a look at the whole essence of Cross River Rail, if we go back to basics, the reality is that Infrastructure Australia never supported the project. We go back to the gift that keeps on giving: the previous member for South Brisbane. I go back to an AAP Australian Newswire dated May 2017. It states—

Queensland Deputy Premier Jackie Trad has been contradicted over claims Infrastructure Australia has no issues with the ... business case.

It goes on—


But—

there is always a ‘but’—

Infrastructure Australia on Friday said it did have concerns about the proposed rail tunnel.

“IA has a number of outstanding concerns with the Cross River Rail business case and we have advised the Queensland government of these concerns” ...

The bottom line is: trust and integrity are anathema when it comes to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Disgraceful!

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement) (5.46 pm): I rise to speak to the Transport and Resources Committee report for the 2020-21 budget estimates. As others have done, I thank the members of the committee as well as the other members who participated in the hearing for their time and their interest in the portfolios of energy, renewables and hydrogen and public works and procurement. I pay a

particular tribute to the ongoing leadership of the committee chair, the member for Kurwongbah, Shane King. In doing so, I also would like to acknowledge and thank the member for Bancroft for chairing the committee in the unfortunate circumstances of the member for Kurwongbah's absence last year. I thank the opposition committee members for their time at the estimates hearing process. I also acknowledge the work of my agency in preparing the materials to enable that process to occur. I acknowledge the report that we are debating here tonight.

In December I welcomed the opportunity that the estimates process provides, as other members have said tonight, to examine the many and varied ways that the Palaszczuk government is delivering for Queenslanders. This is a budget that, as we said at the time—the report reflects this—delivers on our commitment to ensure the economic recovery of Queensland, a budget that was endorsed by Queenslanders at the 2020 election.

That budget and the estimates process confirm our commitment to remain steadfastly focused on what matters to Queenslanders: that they have a secure, well-paying job; that their cost of living remains affordable—particularly their energy costs were noted in the report; and that Queensland has reliable sources of energy for the future. We are doing that.


It was disappointing to see those opposite, during the hearings and in the report, talk down the potential for Queensland. In particular, I refer to their continued approach of talking down our renewables potential in Queensland. In doing so, they talk down and undermine the job creation capacity that comes with a renewables boom in Queensland in things like energy infrastructure construction, transport, manufacturing and resources capacity across the state.

It was disappointing to hear the member for Callide jeopardise the estimated 570,000 jobs that would be created in those industries when he deliberately sought to undermine the renewable energy projects in his electorate. As I said earlier today, it is no surprise that the member for Callide and many members of the LNP in Queensland describe renewables as a fantasy. However, we did hear during the process that a further 192 projects have been proposed across Queensland's three renewable energy zones.

I recall at estimates the irony of those opposite wanting to talk about government accommodation and criticising visitors for being accommodated in a building following the member for Everton's orchestration of the sell-off of government accommodation as part of Campbell Newman's building fire sale. In stark contrast, what our budget shows is a significant commitment to frontline services—a \$56 billion infrastructure budget—without any sell-offs and without any fire sales.

It was also disappointing that those opposite took the opportunity at estimates and in the report to talk down Far North Queensland and undermine a community that has really struggled with international border closures by criticising the management of the Cairns Convention Centre. I assure those members opposite that the tourism industry in Cairns has full confidence in the management of the Cairns Convention Centre as do I. I recommend those opposite cease their smear campaign, particularly at this difficult time.

It is a difficult time in Cairns. Those opposite left it up to everybody else to call on the federal government to continue JobKeeper support for Queensland's most affected regions. At every turn those opposite refuse to protect Queenslanders in their time of need. At the time we were considering the estimates they had called for the borders to be opened 64 times. They refused to listen to the health advice that kept Queenslanders safe.


 **Mr BOYCE** (Callide—LNP) (5.51 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Transport and Resources Committee's estimates report on the Appropriation (2020-2021) Bill. Once again it has been made quite clear to me that the estimates process does not work as it should. In fact, I think it is rather farcical. What I have seen is a government and its ministers involved in instituting a process of unaccountability where we are, in many cases, unable to question or examine properly the performance of government. This has been outlined clearly in our statement of reservation attached to the committee report.

I concur with what the member for Kawana said in his address earlier today where he highlighted the fact that the government has delivered a budget one month after the state election, having claimed that they could not deliver a budget before the election because of COVID-19. This was obviously only a ploy to hide the state of Queensland's economy from everyday Queenslanders before the election. It was just another example of a government that has manipulated the process to become unaccountable. The government will now blow out the state's debt to somewhere in the vicinity of \$130 billion. This is a concern for every Queenslanders because at the some point in time somebody will have to pay it back.

I would like to conclude with some thoughts on the energy sector. At estimates I asked questions of Minister de Brenni with regard to the AGL wind farm at Coopers Gap in my electorate which, of course, he sidestepped and did not answer. I note that this morning the minister made reference to a statement I made with regard to the renewable energy sector being an illusion. That it is because it cannot provide reliable, frequent base load power. The minister knows this. It cannot provide power 24/7 and never will. This is what industry and business needs to survive.

We have seen the results of the closure of base load power supply in South Australia and Victoria. We are about to see it again in New South Wales with the imminent closure of Liddell Power Station. The government is taking us to the future with a 50 per cent renewable energy target. That will require the closure of some of the base load energy supply in Queensland at some time in the future. As such, I predict load shedding and lack of supply for Queenslanders.

I close by acknowledging my fellow committee members and thanking Ms Deb Jeffrey and her staff for preparing our papers and reports.

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (5.54 pm): I welcome the tabling of the Transport and Resources Committee's report on the proposed budget appropriations for 2020-21. I acknowledge the committee's recommendation that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the budget bills, be agreed to without amendment. I also take this time to thank the acting chair on the day—the member for Bancroft—committee members, my department and all those who participated in the hearing for taking the time to take part in this very important role in our parliamentary system.

The 2020-21 Queensland state budget delivers for all Queenslanders, and especially delivers for our crucial resources sector as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Palaszczuk government understands the critical role this industry will play throughout the recovery—from the \$49 billion it brings to the Queensland economy and the more than 68,000 people it employs, particularly in regional Queensland. We are backing the sector with more than \$29 million invested in exploration grants, initiatives and COVID-19 support for explorers and miners. To help keep explorers' boots on the ground, we are reducing their operating costs and have waived \$9.8 million in rent along with freezing exploration fees and charges at their current rates until March 2021.


In the gas sector, work has begun on Queensland's \$5 million gas infrastructure study that could open the Bowen Basin as the next gas frontier and potentially create 1,000 construction jobs. New gas infrastructure could boost the development of gas production in the Bowen Basin and make more gas available for Queensland manufacturers, leading to more affordable gas and supporting jobs across our critical supply chains and industries.

Coal, including steel making metallurgical coal, will continue to play an important role in jobs and economic growth for many years to come. In September last year we approved what will become Queensland's third largest metallurgical coal mine. The mine will have a production life of around 80 years and is expected to produce up to 15 million tonnes of metallurgical coal for steel production each year.

We are also providing relief in other areas of my portfolio wherever we can to make sure we help those who are doing it tough. That is why we have waived state rent for around 72 tourism businesses operating on state owned land until 31 March this year. We recognise that the tourism industry has been one of the hardest hit by this pandemic.

In August last year, the Geological Survey of Queensland was proud to launch two new data platforms for use by industry and the public at large. I know that the member for Gregory was particularly interested in this project. It will significantly improve the work of our industry explorers and it will remove the risk of failure that we had remanded in the old systems. It was delivered ahead of time, on budget and is free to use.

The Palaszczuk government supports the resources sector for the royalties and the jobs it generates, particularly in regional Queensland. Under the Premier's watch \$21 billion has been invested in or committed to resource projects creating some 8,000 jobs. The 2020-21 Queensland budget proves that the Palaszczuk government understands the importance of the resources sector. The budget provides more investment opportunities and potential jobs for the resources sector and sets Queensland on the path to recovery. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (5.58 pm): I rise to speak to the Appropriation (2020-2021) Bill. I would like to thank the LNP committee members: the deputy chair, the member for Gregory, Lachlan Millar; the member for Toowoomba North, Trevor Watts; the member for Callide, Colin Boyce; and the member for Lockyer, Jim McDonald, who stepped in to fill a vacancy.

The estimates process was run with an extremely tight time frame with very little time to prepare to ensure that we were holding the government to account. Some of the issues that we were able to pursue in this time were as follows. Let me begin with the Minister for Energy.

The opposition sought to get some clarity about the phase-out of obsolete tariffs and the concern around this phase-out, particularly for the agriculture sector. That answer was vague at best. Of great interest and disappointment to the people of the Burdekin was the redirection of \$100 million in promised funding originally meant to be spent on the Burdekin Falls hydro-electric scheme.

An opposition member: Gone.

Mr WEIR: That funding has gone to the Karara wind farm project. On the subject of wind farms, it was very disappointing to hear that the minister was more interested in personal attacks rather than answering questions from the member for Callide regarding issues concerning the Coopers Gap Wind Farm.

This minister likes to talk loudly and at great length about all the hydrogen projects in Queensland, so I was astounded when neither the minister nor the director-general could answer a question as to how much government funding was for green hydrogen projects and how much was for brown hydrogen projects, instead taking this question on notice. The response was provided prior to finishing that all the funding was going to green hydrogen, as I expected and as I thought the minister would know. The fact that the minister could not answer this question regarding public moneys for this much vaunted project says much about how much the minister is across his portfolio.


Now let me turn my attention to the session on natural resources. This is a minister who had absolutely no understanding of his brief and simply read long, rambling bureaucratic responses to the questions asked of him. It was no coincidence that this session was held after dark on a Friday night. Questions were put to the minister regarding the high number of successful appeals against property valuations, the long-running dispute on Keswick Island, fossicking laws and stock routes, among others. All questions were answered in the same manner.

The minister spoke in the estimates hearing and again today about his support for coal. This is cold comfort to the workers at New Hope Acland mine who are about to lose their jobs or to those who have already lost their jobs. These workers have called on this minister to step in and grant the approvals to save their jobs. However, the minister refuses. Instead, he intends sitting on his hands awaiting another full hearing of the Land Court which is set down for November—long after reserves of coal will have run out. The objectors have already stated their intention. If the decision does not go in their favour, they will appeal—and so the saga goes on.

During estimates the minister tabled part 1 of the Queensland Coal Mining Board of Inquiry into the Grosvenor Mine tragedy. The minister informed the committee that hearings will resume in the first week of March. However, there is a problem. Recommendation 7 of the report raises concerns as to unintended consequences regarding the introduction of industrial manslaughter into the mining industry. Further to this, the chairman of the inquiry, Mr Terry Martin SC, has written to the minister requesting an amendment to the legislation such that, whilst a witness's right to claim privilege against self-incrimination is maintained, the board has the power to compel witnesses to give evidence to the inquiry, stating that similar powers exist for coroners presiding over inquests.

For that to happen, the minister will need to move these amendments before the House rises this week. If this is not done, the final report of this very important inquiry will be compromised. I have stated that I would not play politics with this inquiry as we want to ensure that the findings of this inquiry are implemented to ensure that this does not happen again. However, if this inquiry is hamstrung by this minister's inaction, all bets are off. The ball is in the minister's court.

I would like to wish policy adviser Mark Neville all the best in his new career and thank him for his hard work and all he has given to this party and to this team.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (6.03 pm): I am excited to be on the Transport and Resources Committee because it means I get to spend the next four years diving into the nitty-gritty of the many fantastic road and rail projects right around Queensland. We can start right in the heart of Mount Ommaney with the Sumners Road overpass, which is rapidly nearing completion many months ahead of schedule. As I drove across it earlier this year, it was amazing to think that this project had been almost fully completed during my first term, and this included a substantial redesign of the initial project to upgrade the capacity of the bridge from two lanes to a total of six lanes. That is an \$80 million project and a lot of parts and equipment are being procured locally.

The Sumners Road overpass runs over the Centenary Motorway. Last year federal member Milton Dick and I were delighted to announce that the state and federal government would be fifty-fifty co-funding this very important project. The design and business case of this project was already funded by the state government. However, the next stage will be equally funded by the state and federal government, with construction due to start in 2022. That is a \$112 million commitment from both of those levels of government.

Just to the south, the Rocklea to Oxley section of the Ipswich Motorway was also all but completed as at Christmas, with Minister Bailey, the Minister for Main Roads, recently on site for the final landscaping and planting being carried out by the team. That is a \$400 million project. Again, funding is fifty-fifty from the state and federal governments. That means hundreds of local jobs. As I have mentioned before, Transport and Main Roads uses over 90 per cent Queensland materials sourced from local suppliers like Wagners Concrete at Wacol. That creates a second layer of jobs in the procurement of equipment and materials to construct these world-class projects, and it is a real credit to the department and to the minister.


The Queensland government is one of the largest procurement agencies in our state, and we know that where we spend our money matters because it helps to drive jobs. Road projects like this right across Queensland are driving jobs and investment and, in the face of COVID, these jobs have never been more important. Good, secure jobs—like the 100 or so construction jobs on the Sumners Road overpass or the more than 100 construction jobs on I think it is called Upper Ross Drive, also known as Riverway Drive!—are at the heart of everything this government does.

In addition to the many road projects being undertaken, we also have railway upgrades right around the south-east corner designed to get cars off the road such as the park-and-ride upgrades happening at Springfield and Darra in my electorate and the full disability upgrades happening at stations like Dakabin in my good friend the member for Kurwongbah's electorate. It is a strong jobs agenda driven by strong advocacy from local members.

The Queensland government is also investing \$145 million to establish three renewable energy zones right across Queensland. This member of the committee is very excited about that. In these areas we will undertake strategic network investments; we will streamline the development of new renewable energy projects; and we will work to match industrial energy demand with our cheap, clean renewable energy that will operate 24 hours a day. Spanning from Far North Queensland to the Darling Downs west of Brisbane, this investment will grow Queensland's position as an investment destination for renewable energy and create more jobs as part of our COVID-19 road to recovery blueprint.

Strengthening Queensland's industries is a critical part of our economic recovery. Staged and coordinated clean renewable energy infrastructure investments will attract new projects to these zones. More renewable energy is expected to place downward pressure on prices, boosting local industries and bringing down prices for consumers. I am really excited about it and I know that the people of Mount Ommaney are too.

I will finish by thanking the many witnesses who appeared, also our secretariat and our impromptu chair, the member for Bancroft, Chris Whiting, who stepped in at the last minute for the member for Kurwongbah. The member for Bancroft was actually meant to be my replacement if I went into labour, so he was there ready and waiting and stepped into the breach at the last minute. It is really good to have the member for Kurwongbah back, and I look forward to working together as a committee over the next four years.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (6.08 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the Transport and Resources Committee report on the budget. Before I get into that, we need to ask ourselves why do we have a budget and why do we have elections. The answer to both of those questions is to make sure that when we tax people their money is spent appropriately, wisely and in the way that the government outlined that it would spend. I am concerned that going into the election people were informed of a \$4 billion potential blowout that would be required to get us through COVID but then after the election—strangely enough, just a few weeks after the election—the budget papers were prepared and the people of Queensland, bearing in mind that we now have a four-year fixed term, were told, 'We have made a terrible mistake. It is not \$4 billion; it is actually \$28 billion.'

That is not very transparent, and it is a complete manipulation of our processes to ensure we get good governance of the state and good stewardship of taxpayers' dollars. I think the Queensland public would be rightly feeling that they have been duped, because they thought they were voting for \$4 billion worth of debt but they got \$28 billion worth of debt. Some of the people who will have to pay that debt back were not able to vote because they were too young, but when the time comes it will be their tax


dollars that will be used to pay the debt back. Even more concerning for someone who is 17 and out there chasing their first job while trying to work out how they are going to earn the tax to pay that money back is that, as we read in the budget papers, the outline in the forward estimates confirms that Queensland will have the worst unemployment figures in the country. That is not very reassuring for people who were misled in the lead-up to the election over the \$28 billion debt.

Where is this \$28 billion going? The purpose of the budget is to explore where this money is going. What we found out is that, unlike other states, it is not going towards infrastructure. A lot of this budget is just going to keep the lights on for Queensland and to make sure government can keep on functioning. We find ourselves in a situation where we are living beyond our means. It is now intergenerational theft because the next generation is going to have to pay for the things have been consumed as a result of the mismanagement of this government in the current term.

I also want to talk about the fundamentals of our budget system. Why do we have a budget? Why do we go through estimates and what is its purpose? We have heard all of the statistics. You got 180 questions; we had 51 per cent and 42 per cent. These numbers all sound great. The reality is that, as everyone can see, if you get questions on notice just a few hours before that is not particularly helpful. That is what happened on this occasion, and it is incredibly disappointing in relation to the transparency of taxpayers' dollars. More than that, we found a whole bunch of filibustering and defence coming from the people who should be accountable to the people whose money they are spending.

The job of opposition—of everyone in this parliament—is to hold the executive to account for how it spends money. Sitting on the committee are backbenchers from all sides of the aisles who should be rightly concerned when questions are not being answered succinctly and properly and people are just trying to burn time, because the people who are being misled, the people who are being disappointed and the people who are being let down are the Queensland taxpayers, who fund everything—everything—that this government does.

Everything that this executive does is funded by taxpayers in Queensland. This was an opportunity to bring some transparency, to build some trust, to show some integrity and tell people what is actually going on. What did we find? We found a whole bunch of smoke and mirrors. We found a whole bunch of filibustering. We found no transparency. We found that the government is afraid of the people of Queensland finding out what is going on with this executive. That is what we found and that is what this process was about—making sure they could ensure the people of Queensland do not know how this government is spending their money so badly.

 **Mr WALKER** (Mundingburra—ALP) (6.13 pm): Jobs, jobs, jobs—a COVID-19 economic recovery plan. That is right, the Palaszczuk Labor government is all about the people of Queensland. I know it is difficult for people on the other side of the House to hear that, but we do have a plan. I know that the opposition has no plan and no vision for this great state, as we continually hear negativity, bagging, interjecting and they will not allow this side to speak. It was clearly demonstrated time and time again during the campaign that the opposite side of this House has no vision, no plan. It was also clearly demonstrated by the opposition leader in his budget reply speech, which was a sad attempt to show that he has a handle on what is needed in this state.

Mr Nicholls: I see you got your memory back.

Mr WALKER: I will take that interjection. Everything I hear from the other side of the House is all negative. The interjector just now mentioned we had no tracking bracelets in Townsville. We had plenty there.

Mr NICHOLLS: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am all for robust debate and I do not mind people taking interjections, but when they deliberately mislead the record by misquoting what was said and in fact making it up I do take a point of order. I take offence and I ask the member to withdraw.

Mr WALKER: I withdraw. Welcome aboard. I rise to speak—

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Withdrawal must be unconditional and without qualification.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Member, you have been asked to withdraw.

Mr WALKER: I withdraw. I rise to speak to the Transport and Resources Committee estimates report. I am honoured to be a member of the Transport and Resources Committee, which is ably chaired by the member for Kurwongbah. I would also like to thank the member for Bancroft for filling in during estimates whilst the member for Kurwongbah dealt with a health matter. It is great to see him back in good health. Welcome back!


Economic recovery and supporting jobs are the key priorities of the Palaszczuk Labor government. I know it is hard for the other side to understand that. It must be stressed that this has never been more important as we continue to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. It is only with a plan and the strong leadership of the Palaszczuk-led Labor government that this state can move forward.

The recently released Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program invests \$26.9 billion over the next four years to keep Queensland on the move. This pipeline of works will employ more than 23,000 jobs—that is right, over 23,000 Queensland jobs—and more than 16,000 jobs in regional Queensland. The Minister for Transport and Main Roads, the member for Miller, has mentioned on several occasions how important it is to invest in nation-building infrastructure and to create thousands of jobs—more than 23,000 jobs. I love the sound of that. We are investing in the people of Queensland, jobs and nation-building infrastructure.

My electorate of Mundingburra has new infrastructure currently being built to address traffic noise along University Drive in Annandale. This \$7.4 million investment will address a very important issue for those residents and create 38 jobs during the project. The people of Annandale love this type of investment in their community. These are the important issues that impact the people of Mundingburra, and we are listening and investing in infrastructure to address those issues.

I am passionate about my seat of Mundingburra. I went to the people of my electorate with a commitment to four-lane Stuart Drive from University Drive to Bowen Road Bridge in this term of government. That commitment of more than \$46 million is a very important investment in infrastructure and jobs for my region. It is a real game changer—jobs, a plan and investment in the seat of Mundingburra. New school zones have recently been installed on Ross River Road which are very important for child safety. I would like to thank the minister for joining me in announcing those very important pieces of infrastructure to protect our young people who attend school on Ross River Road.

There is also an important investment in the highway upgrade at Haughton River south of Townsville. We stressed that during the campaign. In total, that is an investment of over half a billion dollars in the Bruce Highway. It is a massive project, a huge investment and it is very, very important for that part of the state.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (6.19 pm): It is extraordinary to follow the member for Mundingburra. This is a situation where Labor members on the other side have attacked members of the opposition, including me, for holding this government to account over integrity issues, yet they are stone-cold dead silent in regard to the behaviour of the member for Mundingburra and the way he has been banned from his own community after being caught on a drunken night out.

Mr WALKER: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence and I ask the member to withdraw those comments.

Ms SIMPSON: I withdraw. The member is a disgrace to his community. I also want to raise the issue with regard to—

Mr WALKER: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I want those comments withdrawn. I find them very offensive.

Ms SIMPSON: I withdraw. The member for Mundingburra has let his community down and the silence of the members opposite in condemning his actions tells plenty.

The integrity issues of this government are legion. We had a situation where a former deputy premier of this Labor government thought it was appropriate to get involved in interviewing principal candidates for an appointment in her electorate. We have a Minister for Transport who certainly does not want to be held to account or to answer questions about integrity, which are things he should do as outlined in his charter letter. We have a Minister for Transport who undertook public business on his private email account in his role as a minister of this government. Members opposite think this is a trivial matter but it is not. It is a potential corruption risk. The fact that members opposite have tried to trivialise the use of private emails for public business by ministers of the crown and have then not come clean about it really tells a huge story about the contempt and the arrogance they have for this parliament and the people of Queensland.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Ms SIMPSON: Perhaps the minister would actually like to answer the question about whether that 2015 email was authentic and what other interactions the minister had with the Premier by private email.


Ms ENOCH: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The debate is with regard to the estimates report, and I would ask you to bring the member back to the actual topic.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Member for Maroochydore, I ask you to get back to the long title of the bill.

Ms SIMPSON: The estimates committee is tasked with holding this government to account and the minister has to answer questions about integrity. The minister interjected, Madam Deputy Speaker, but he does not want to answer the questions when I respond. Will this minister actually answer whether that 2015 email that we tabled is in fact authentic in regard to his interactions with the Premier of Queensland?

The arrogance of this Labor government—which thinks simply being elected gives it a mandate to do anything—needs to be called out, and that is what we are doing. We have also called out what happened after this government went to the election indicating they would borrow \$4 billion in order to fund COVID promises, particularly in respect of infrastructure. We support there being appropriate borrowings to build the right infrastructure to help the vast areas of this state recover and to underpin our economic development. However, this government have indicated they intend to borrow \$28 billion, so they did not come clean in the lead-up to the election. In addition, they will not utilise the majority of that for spending on infrastructure, whereas we have seen other states extend their borrowings and have a much stronger focus on infrastructure.

We believe that spending properly on infrastructure is something that the state desperately needs, particularly when we look in the transport and main roads area where there has been a huge underspend on maintenance. This may be a laughing matter for government members but it is time this government were held to account for their broken promises and their failure to answer basic questions that are asked in estimates committees. They have backbenchers who run the biggest racket I have ever seen in estimates, where they interfere in legitimate questions being asked through either their ignorance or the fact that they are operating under orders to interfere. It is time the estimates process was reformed.

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (6.25 pm): I rise in support of the Transport and Resources Committee report of the 2020-21 budget estimates of the 57th Parliament. Continuing to provide Queensland homes and businesses with an affordable, clean and reliable energy supply underpins our economic plan for a post-COVID recovery, and that is what this budget continues to do. Our government has already supported over 7,000 renewable energy jobs and over \$8.5 billion in renewable investment that has increased our generation capacity by more than 4,600 megawatts of clean energy. Renewables currently make up over 20 per cent of our energy mix, and we are well on the way to meeting or exceeding our 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030.

Queenslanders now own their first new renewable energy generation in 20 years, with our publicly owned CleanCo building a new wind farm near Warwick as part of a precinct that will create over 400 jobs and supply up to nearly 700,000 homes. CleanCo has also given certainty to Australia's largest solar farm, to be built near Chinchilla, creating up to 400 jobs and 400 megawatts of renewables, as well as a \$380 million wind farm in Far North Queensland which is going to create an additional 150 jobs.


Our commitment to renewable energy is delivering locally right across the state, with our meteoric solar PV take-up, our growing electric vehicle superhighway charging stations and putting solar on our schools. Since 2015, the Palaszczuk Labor government has proudly been putting downward pressure on power prices right across our great state by backing renewables. I commend the report to the House.

Report adopted.

Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, Report

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): The question is—

That the report of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee be adopted.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (6.27 pm): I rise in the House to support the proposed expenditure as detailed in the Appropriation (2020-2021) Bill 2020 for the following areas of the committee's responsibility: justice and Attorney-General, women, the prevention of domestic and family violence, police, corrective services, and fire and emergency services. Consideration of the budget during estimates allows for public examination of the responsible ministers and the chief executive officers of agencies within the areas of responsibility I just outlined. The committee's recommendation is that the proposed expenditure for the committee's areas of responsibility as detailed in the appropriation bill 2020 be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

On behalf of the committee, I thank the ministers and their staff for their attendance and for providing detailed answers to questions from the committee during the estimates hearing. During the estimates hearing held on 14 December 2020 for the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, non-government questioning time ran for 3.52 hours and government questioning time ran for 2.13 hours, with the total time for the estimates hearing being 6.54 hours.


I would now like to speak of some of the important aspects of the estimates hearing as highlighted by the ministers. The Minister for Police informed the committee of the government's investment in policing. The budget represents a watershed moment in the state's history. The Palaszczuk government's investment in policing is the largest in three decades. More than \$600 million will be invested over five years to deliver an extra 2,025 police personnel. It is worth noting that the opposition committed to delivering less than half that number of police personnel.

The committee was also told of the vital role police have played in the front line of Queensland's response to COVID-19. Police on the borders and in hotel quarantine and airports have played a critical role in helping stop the spread of the virus. Queenslanders can be grateful for the dedication and professionalism of police during the pandemic, and the government's significant investment in the Queensland Police Service will only enhance its capabilities. The LNP's lack of commitment to policing was brutally exposed during the election campaign and they now have nowhere to hide on this matter. The Palaszczuk government is making landmark investments in policing and corrective services. It is about community safety. Considering the times in which we live, community safety has never been more paramount.

The Minister for Women informed the committee about the action the government has taken on legislating coercive control in the domestic violence scenario. The minister advised the committee that there is ongoing legislative reform that the government has embarked on in response to the *Not now, not ever* report on the important issues of sharing better information between agencies in relation to domestic violence cases and there has been a lot of work done across agencies. The minister went on to advise the committee that there are now high-risk assessment teams in place where domestic violence services work with police and are co-located to make sure that information is being shared.

Of course, as we know, there is always more work that can be done in this space. That is why as a government we have an election commitment to legislate and criminalise coercive control. The legislation to deal with this dangerous behaviour by perpetrators—to criminalise behaviour such as isolating women from family and friends and restricting access to money—is underway. However, this legislative change must go hand in hand with educating frontline responders and the community about recognising the signs when it comes to perpetrators and coercive control behaviour. Family and friends of victims will often be the first to recognise this type of behaviour and, in order for frontline services to be able deal with the issues, education is paramount.

The year 2020 proved to be challenging for Queenslanders, women and families. Under the COVID restrictions, the issue of domestic and family violence was more relevant than ever. The United Nations has noted that domestic violence is a shadow pandemic and it continues to persist across all of society.

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (6.32 pm): I rise today to make my contribution to the estimates debate. As the deputy chair of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, I firstly would like to thank the committee secretariat for all of the work they do in relation to the committee. I also feel at this point it is my duty to put on the record that from where I sit as the deputy chair of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee the estimates process is a very constrained process, highly controlled by the Labor chairs, where every effort is made by the government to avoid in-depth probing and ultimately to avoid scrutiny—the very thing that the estimates process is meant to afford the people of Queensland. As a first-term MP I thought it really was quite disgraceful and disappointing to witness this.

I agree with the member for Maroochydore: reform is needed because the estimates process does not do what it is meant to do. Labor members use the process to ask Dorothy Dixers and then avoid the opposition's questions altogether. The Labor chairs even actively shield the ministers from the probing questions—probing questions that rightly should be asked, probing questions that taxpayers expect us to ask in order to understand how the government is spending their hard-earned taxpayer money.

During my contribution today I would also like to hone in on something that I sought answers to during the estimates process, something which is particularly important to my community, and that is the importance of our local police beat, particularly at Elanora. In 2005 prior to the Elanora Police Beat opening—and it is important that this House understands the history—there was headline after headline


of youth related issues in the media. The Palmy Army and Southside Soldiers were common phrases amongst locals. Disturbances were regularly occurring, particularly at night-time, in the community. People were assaulted outside family restaurants and many police incidents were seen at the McDonald's outside The Pines in Elanora. I do not want to see a return to those days.

Our local police beat at Elanora has been instrumental in curbing this crime over longer than a decade. In the Currumbin electorate officers at the neighbourhood police beat have an amazing and now longstanding relationship with school principals and school communities including Elanora State High School and the Palm Beach Currumbin State High School. The police beat is also involved in raising awareness of domestic violence issues. The success of the program cannot be underestimated in my view and has been demonstrated by the high community acceptance of the neighbourhood police beat in Elanora. The primary reason for their success is that individual officers take responsibility for their area consistently and over a long period of time. Ultimately, the community trust those officers, and this has led over a long period of time to a reduction in crime. It is this partnership with key stakeholders within the community, built by these officers over a long period of time, that makes the neighbourhood police beat at Elanora so successful.

It is for this reason that honourable members can imagine my concern when my questioning during the estimates process revealed that Labor may indeed scrap the Elanora Police Beat. They may scrap it in favour of a mobile police unit, a mobile police unit which will have a rotation of officers rostered on—not even dedicated to the Currumbin electorate, completely defeating the purpose of a neighbourhood police beat within the community. I will continue to fight for this service to be retained within the Currumbin electorate.

During the state election campaign the opposition campaigned for more police. We fought for additional police officers for the Palm Beach Police Station to protect the northern part of the Currumbin community as well as a \$1 million investment to combat hooning. When it comes to providing extra funding to tackle crime, the LNP gets it.

The LNP members of the committee rightly have concerns about the Palaszczuk Labor government's ability, based on its track record, to deliver upon its main election commitment: to increase police personnel over the next five years. Given Labor's ambitious commitment, the opposition spent considerable time during the hearing trying to get a better understanding of how the Queensland Police Service intends to deliver on this commitment, and the minister's response came up well short. The government could not guarantee that we in Currumbin would not lose officers if they scrapped the police beat. This is not good enough for my electorate, and I will continue to fight for this invaluable service for Currumbin.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (6.37 pm): Honourable members have to look at what they do, not what they say. I am always happy to answer the LNP's questions if only they will ask me questions. It was not until the last session of my estimates hearing that I received one question from the LNP. We went for hours and hours and it was the last session on QFES, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, when I got one question.

Those opposite come into the chamber and they say, 'Ministers don't answer questions.' The member for Currumbin just said it. The member for Currumbin just said the ministers at her session did not answer questions. If she wants us to answer questions, give us the questions; I am happy to answer them because I am happy to talk about the achievements of the Palaszczuk Labor government. I am happy to talk about our record investment. I am happy to talk about why our investment in the police space is double the amount they would have made had they been elected. I am happy to talk about our investment in firefighters, increasing the number of firefighters whereas they wanted to increase them by none—357 for us; zero for them. There are 2,025 police personnel for us; less than half for them. There is also our investment in corrections where we are building new prisons, where we are restoring public operations of prisons compared to their election commitment of privatising prisons, sacking public servants, undermining the operations of the publicly run corrections system here in Queensland.

I am always happy to answer the questions. Those opposite just have to ask those questions. For them to come into the House and say that we do not answer questions is actually misleading. One need only look at the transcript to know that fact.

At estimates we heard about this government's record investment in the agencies for which I have responsibility. There is a massive investment—the biggest investment in 30 years—in the Queensland Police Service. It is one of the most historic investments. There is over \$600 million to grow police personnel over five years by an extra 2,025. Over the next five years there will be 150 extra

police officers in the south-eastern region, which includes the Gold Coast. I think the commitment from those opposite at the last election was a handful for a couple of stations on the Gold Coast. We are talking about 150 for the south-eastern region, which includes the Gold Coast, over the next five years.

Of course, our investment goes further than that. It is about investing in the infrastructure that we need not only to support police now but also to support the growth in police numbers. We see new police facilities right across the state being funded as part of our \$300 million police capital works infrastructure program. That supports new facilities such as at Kirwan in Townsville—a new \$30 million facility. It will support a new police facility at Caloundra South—the first time ever. There will be a new police facility out at Ripley.


Mr Bleijie: That's because it's a new estate. Of course it's going to be the first time ever!

Mr RYAN: What did those opposite commit at the last election? Nothing for Caloundra South, nothing for Kirwan and nothing for other locations across the state. We are committing to the infrastructure that our police need to deliver the good services they do every day to keep our communities safe.

We also are investing in corrections. We heard about our massive investment in that space. At the new prison at Gatton, shovels will hit the ground in the next month or so. That is a \$650 million capital works program which supports jobs and infrastructure for Queensland Corrective Services so that it can continue to do its good work in keeping our communities safe.

We have massive investment in Queensland Fire and Emergency Services as well, supporting the good work they do every day. We are working with the Rural Fire Service—providing more equipment, providing more appliances, supporting the rollout of more experts in bushfire mitigation. We are supporting the work of our fire and rescue service with new appliances and new equipment, and we are growing the number of firefighters over the next five years by 357.

When it comes to investing in emergency services, police and corrective services, this budget shows that this Labor government delivers. We support the workforce, we provide for their equipment and infrastructure needs and we grow the workforce so that they can get on with what they do best, which is keeping us safe, supporting community safety in Queensland.

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (6.42 pm): I will make some comments in relation to the report of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, in particular in relation to the Attorney-General and justice portfolio. When we look at the report, at the budget highlights for justice services and at the questions we asked which were answered by both the Attorney-General and officers of the department, one word comes to mind: sclerotic. That is, it moves at glacial speed. Nothing happens fast in this department. All of it seems to take forever. Some programs were set up in 2013—the review of the Property Law Act, for example. Some \$360,000 has been spent. Two eminent academics provided a comprehensive report to the government in 2017. We are yet to establish a committee to investigate the changes. We are in 2021, and the government says in answer to questions that it hopes to have something in place by 2024. Congratulations! It has taken 11 years to fundamentally look at one piece of legislation. We know that the Trusts Act, the Succession Act and the Body Corporate and Community Management Act are similarly under review. Someone has been appointed. I think the director of the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation has been appointed to look at the BCCM Act, and the director of the BCCM body corporate mob has been put in charge of looking at the Property Law Act. Talk about being all over the shop! Talk about a waste of money!

The budget highlights state that the government will solidify changes and recommendations implemented over the last three years in the coronial system, but there is no more money for any more coroners. The backlog that is still there, that is growing day by day—regrettably—is not getting any better. There is more funding for registry staff but not for the appointment of more coroners from the magistracy to actually undertake more coronial inquests. One quick look at the Coroners Court website shows how long some of those cases are taking. It is a tragedy because, as we all know, justice delayed is justice denied, and that is happening more and more. Nothing sets that out more than the tragic case of young Mason Jett Lee which took far too long to come to a conclusion.

The other point we have been discussing all day is this government's inability to have a youth justice policy that works and to stick to that policy for any time period. The budget highlights states—

- continuing to embed appropriate diversion intervention programs to support defendants in the criminal justice system ...


There is not one mention of looking after the victims of these crimes! There is not one mention of what they will do to make sure the laws are appropriate for the increasing incidence of youth crime throughout this state. That work, again, is sclerotic. It will take forever.

We asked questions of Mr MacSporran from the CCC in relation to the practice of ALP hacks—Cameron Milner and the bloke who used to be the member for Waterford—hanging around at level 41 of 1 William Street. While Mr MacSporran did not comment particularly in relation to that matter, he clearly said that it presents a corruption risk, as was the use of emails. We have our old friend the member for mangocube sending them off to stacia1. Again, it is a clear corruption risk in this government.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): The member will use correct titles.

Mr NICHOLLS: Yes, the Premier, whose email address was stacia1. We had then also the complete waste of money with the old Labor mate Peter Carne, the former Public Trustee, who sat on the public payroll for 12 months after being given a show cause notice. He collected \$385,000 and also billed the taxpayers of Queensland another \$37,500 for education. This is for a fellow who should already have the skills, qualifications and experience for carrying out the job. Then, on the day before his show cause notice was due to expire, he tendered his resignation. There were no comebacks to the people of Queensland and no advice or evidence as to what was being done. The estimates process, for me, highlighted the ongoing sclerotic nature of the Attorney-General's department.

(Time expired)

 **Mr HUNT** (Caloundra—ALP) (6.48 pm): I rise to speak in support of the proposed expenditure following the estimates hearing of 14 December of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee. Thankfully, the Attorney-General was able to outline the ongoing reform program that this government has tirelessly worked on in response to the groundbreaking *Not now, not ever* report. The Attorney-General was able to inform the hearing of the high-risk teams that work with police in domestic violence services to ensure that all the collected information in this space is collated and shared in accordance with the recommendations. There is still work to be done. As much as we would like to think that this problem can be eliminated entirely, the tragic events of this week demonstrate that there will always be a need to seek and develop further safeguards.

This government will legislate to criminalise coercive control. Perpetrators who marginalise their partners, isolate them from friends and loved ones, control and completely dominate their financial independence are now on notice. Loved ones are invariably able to identify this insidious behaviour, which all too often coalesces into violence and tragedy. We know that a staggering number of Australian women will experience physical or sexual violence at the hands of a current or former partner—one in six by most reckonings.


Similarly, we are also aware that pandemics and natural disasters see a spike in domestic and family violence, and COVID-19 has been no exception. In what has now become the Premier's trademark, she acted early and decisively and committed \$7.5 million for family and domestic violence services that were experiencing increased demand. The Attorney-General was further able to advise that the Queensland Family and Child Commission found that Queensland's blue card system was one of the strongest checks in the country for those seeking to work with children. Queensland's no-card no-start laws from August of last year make our system stronger and safer. The capacity now exists for people to apply for a blue card online and prior to formal engagement with an employer.

It was a genuine pleasure to hear from the member for Morayfield and the minister about the largest investment in policing in three decades. This equates to a tangible increase of over 2,000 police officers, or 150 extra police in each region, and \$300 million for capital works which, I am happy to say, will also deliver a brand new police station in Caloundra South, which is welcome news for the electorate. The budget will also roll out the new mobile police beats, a virtual police station on wheels to bolster the all-important police presence that goes towards crime prevention—policing out in the community where they are needed most.

In corrective services, a portfolio near and dear to me as a former custodial officer, \$241 million in Capricornia doubles the capacity of that centre. With a corresponding increase in staff, the safety of those officers will be enhanced. Perhaps more significantly, the \$650 million for the Southern Queensland Correctional Centre will provide a welcome relief as part of a proper and serious solution around prisoner numbers and an enormous boost to regional employment and a stimulus to that local economy. Even more importantly, this centre will be publicly owned which is not, as characterised by some, wasteful spending but rather a genuine commitment to the safety of our custodial correctional officers. Publicly run jails are immeasurably safer than private ones and the fact that this is not recognised by all members of this House is alarming.

We have heard from the LNP that bringing prisons back into public hands, costing \$100 million over four years, is wasteful spending and totally unnecessary. Spending on the safety of our custodial officers is never wasteful spending. The therapeutic nature of some of these units will represent a


genuine commitment not only to the wellbeing of the prisoner demographic but also more significantly to the officers dealing with those prisoners. It would be a shame if those who have no experience in correctional centres denigrate this capacity. For our CCOs dealing with prisoners with mild and severe cognitive and behavioural impairments, this is a serious matter. While our CCOs must deal with prisoners who autocannibalise, it would be instructive for them to hear of wasteful spending used in relation to their future. Spending on the safety of custodial officers is never wasteful and I am delighted that the minister shares this belief with me. It was reassuring to hear him promote these measures in the committee hearing. I commend the 2020-21 estimates from the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee to the House.

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (6.52 pm): Tonight I rise to speak to the appropriation bill and in particular the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee report. I acknowledge and thank the members of the committee and also the secretariat for their ongoing hard work. This government keeps talking and setting up task forces. It keeps a dialogue going instead of taking action and implementing legislative and structural reform to support the survivors of domestic violence and reduce the number of victims of this very preventable and horrific state of play. We see more investment yet we see more women, more children and men dying at the hands of their intimate partner, parent or abuser. I speak to stakeholders all across this state and, while we welcome the dialogue around coercive control, during the estimates process I asked the minister what legislative reform had been taken 10 months after that horrific tragedy. Recently we saw an announcement which took just on 12 months, yet the opposition responded immediately with the announcement of a comprehensive DV policy, with coercive control being one of the measures.

How much longer do those victims have to wait before we see real tangible action? Nine women in this state have died since Hannah Clarke and her children. My colleague pointed out the impact of the length of time coronial inquiries will take to ascertain what role coercive control had in their deaths. The government has also failed to recognise non-lethal strangulation. Legislative definitions of 'choke', 'suffocate' or 'strangle' were outlined during estimates in my questioning of the minister. The response that we got was that there will be a watching brief. While the minister watches, women and men continue to be at risk. Then there is how this will be monitored and how this will be defined. Advocates are continuously raising that due to this lack of clarity perpetrators are not facing prosecution, and the statistics attest to that. After speaking with local police services across the state, I learned that there are many who are charged but never face prosecution because of the lack of clarity around these definitions in the Criminal Code. This is a serious issue and one that has been raised repeatedly since I have been elected. This was demonstrated through the lack of funding commitment made to the strangulation institute, which I recently visited, and I certainly hope that this is rectified in the upcoming budget process.

I also want to acknowledge broadly the services in Queensland, in particular Micah Projects here in Brisbane as well as other services that I have recently visited right across the state in Cairns, Townsville and the Gold Coast, and all of those who are at the coalface who are dealing every day with the impacts of this insidious, violent crime that we call domestic and family violence. I also want to acknowledge the hard work of the services in my own region: the Mackay combined women's services and the domestic violence service in Mackay as well as the Whitsunday Counselling and Support Service that are at the coalface. While I acknowledge the government's additional funding of \$7.5 million to domestic and family violence due to the impacts of COVID-19, many of these services have since outlined that it is what happens to those victims they are trying to help day in and day out when that money is gone that needs to be considered. The demand for service far outweighs what they are adequately resourced to do, and it is not slowing down; it is getting worse.

While we continue with talkfests in this parliament, while we appoint more task forces and while we are laissez faire in the media about how important are the lives of women, children and other victims—be it men or the elderly—more people's lives are being taken every single day, as we saw reported in today's paper. I certainly send my condolences to that family. There is more that can be done and there is quicker action that we can all take, so I urge the government in that consideration and commend my comments to the House.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (6.57 pm): It gives me pleasure to speak in support of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee report. During the estimates process we heard of the important work done in the last term of the Palaszczuk government in fostering safer communities and contributing to keeping Queenslanders safe, because caring for Queenslanders' safety and wellbeing is a key pillar for our economic recovery. Firstly, I must acknowledge the outstanding performance of the Queensland Police

Service during this reporting period and throughout the global public health emergency. It has been an extraordinary year and the Queensland Police Service has demonstrated once again the depth and breadth of its capability.


During the estimates process we heard how police have been at Queensland's front line helping to stop the spread of COVID-19, how they spent 250 days on our roads and borders turning around vehicles and in our airports and our quarantine hotels playing a critical role in crushing the curve. The minister and commissioner of the Queensland Police Service detailed the Queensland Police Service's disciplined and effective response to this crisis, with border controls preventing the virus from reaching our community and contact-tracing teams acting quickly to contain a handful of breaches. I want to congratulate and thank our Police Service.

We also heard about an area that is extremely important to me and to my electorate, and that is the Palaszczuk government's ongoing reforms to prevent domestic and family violence. There has been and continues to be an enormous amount of reform and investment in responding to domestic and family violence since the release of the *Not now, not ever* report. The Palaszczuk government has allocated \$152 million to the Office for Women and prevention of domestic and family violence for this financial year. This represents an increase in funding for counselling and crisis responses to keep women and children safe and court based support for both victims and perpetrators. There has also been an increased investment in women's shelters and mobile centre based support services with seven new shelters built across Queensland since the election of the Palaszczuk government in 2015 and programs through the department of housing that will find anyone escaping domestic and family violence a place to stay that same day. No-one should have to sleep on the street or in their car because they are fleeing violence.

Debate, on motion Ms Bush, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Alexandra Hills, Deaths

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (7.00 pm): The tragic event that took place at Alexandra Hills on Australia Day 2021 will remain in the minds of Redlands residents for many years to come, if not forever. It was a day of incredible shock and unbelievable sadness with the loss of innocent young lives taken far too soon, happy and hardworking young people who were building a bright future together and eagerly awaiting the arrival of their first child. Matt Field and Kate Leadbetter and their unborn baby, a son we later learned the couple had lovingly named Miles, were killed when they were struck by a recklessly driven four-wheel drive at a location known to just about everyone living in the Redlands. The location is prominent. It is one of the busiest roadways and carries thousands of vehicles every day.


Floral tributes, baby items, cards and notes grew outside the former Red shop, as locals and people from all walks of life came together to pay their respects, as well as try to come to terms with what had occurred in our close-knit and generally safe community. Kate and Matt were out doing what so many of us do every day. They were enjoying the simple pleasure of walking their dogs when the unthinkable happened. They were tragically hit by an out-of-control four-wheel drive only minutes from their home. A 17-year-old repeat offender, allegedly under the influence of an intoxicating substance, was at the wheel of the Toyota Landcruiser at the time. The vehicle had been stolen earlier from a home in nearby Cleveland. There are too many vehicles being stolen by juveniles right across the state. Alarming, this vehicle had been involved in a reckless ramming incident at the same intersection only a short time before the tragedy occurred.

On behalf of the people of my electorate I extend our heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of Kate, Matt and baby Miles. We understand the heartbreak and the pain you must be going through with the loss of your loved ones. Our thoughts and our prayers continue to be with you throughout this difficult time. I also wish to acknowledge and thank the first responders and witnesses who rendered assistance at the scene under what would have been extremely shattering circumstances. Their efforts are to be commended and I sincerely hope that each of them is coping as best they can after experiencing such a horrifying situation. I also wish to thank the member for Broadwater and Leader of the Opposition, David Crisafulli, for his words of comfort to the community and for immediately coming out to a community vigil in Cleveland.

The Redland community and Queenslanders throughout the state are uniting to call for an end to rampant youth crime. They know the system is not working as it should be. It was encouraging to see a large number of interested local residents and 22 expert agencies come together on Friday, 12 February to participate in discussions about our youth justice system. I look forward to reporting on that in the future in this House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Before I call the next speaker, we have had two speeches in relation to the incident at Alexandra Hills and that is understandable. However, there are certain elements of that matter that may be subject to sub judice aspects of the standing orders of the parliament. I make no ruling in relation to either of the members' speeches in relation to that matter but I would encourage any members considering making speeches in relation to that matter to seek advice from the Speaker and/or the Clerk to ensure that your speeches remain within the standing orders of the Queensland parliament.

Macalister Electorate; McKeon, Ms M


 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (7.04 pm): The future is bright for young people in Macalister. Not only are our schools about to benefit from a big infrastructure spend courtesy of our election commitments, but our future tradies are going to receive cutting-edge, world-class training in Beenleigh. Beenleigh High's new hall, Carbrook State School's expanded administration building, Mount Warren Park State School's massive roof refurbishment project and Windaroo State School's new outdoor learning spaces will be a massive boost to our state schools. Having been able to touch base with each of the principals in the past two weeks I can confirm that discussions are already underway with department infrastructure staff on each of these projects.

The Macalister Youth Advisory Committee for the 57th Parliament has also convened for the first time this year. Fourteen young people from a range of education and work backgrounds have put their hands up to ensure that the voices of young people have the ability to influence policy and decisions. I look forward to their contribution, their advice and their projects going forward over the duration of this term.

This year has also seen the official sod turning of the \$20 million expansion of the Beenleigh Trade Training Centre, the Plumbing Industry Climate Action Centre, to not only expand and cater for increased training capacity but also to become home to the Hydrogen Centre of Excellence. Beenleigh will be positioned to become the home of future hydrogen workforce training. It is further proof of our commitment to workers and tradies in Queensland that this government backs them, their skills and their ability to be the best in the world at what they do. Skilled jobs and secure employment is what we believe in.

While I am ambitious for the young people of Macalister, no-one can ignore the contribution of our senior citizens and the community organisations that they participate in. Many of our electorates have organisations like Quota and in Beenleigh one of the driving forces of Quota Beenleigh has been Moya McKeon. Moya had been present at every changeover dinner I have been to and was a driving force behind the QuoCKas, a group of Quota volunteers that go into our primary schools to assist with reading and donate books to kids of all ages. I joined Moya at several schools to do reading over the past term and when I checked in on her during the height of the COVID pandemic last year she was looking forward to getting back into schools to continue the QuoCKa program. When Moya passed away last week, Beenleigh lost a giant in the volunteer community. While we will take the time to mourn her at a service this coming Friday, I know that there will be Quota volunteers, both senior and from Junior Quota, who will carry on her work because that is what good communities do. Vale, Moya McKeon.

Youth Crime; Beasley, Mr J

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (7.07 pm): Tonight I rise again in this parliament to remember Jacko, Jack Beasley, the young man from Parkwood who was taken far too soon in an horrific stabbing in the middle of Surfers Paradise. It devastated his parents, Brett and Belinda, his brother, Mitch, and our whole community. In the just over a year since, I have been proud to stand with them to call for change under their motto 'detect knives, save lives'. Earlier this month the government finally acknowledged there is a problem with youth crime.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): We are unsure whether this matter is still before the courts so the advice in relation to the Alexandra Hills matter stands in relation to this. Members are very welcome to note sympathy but getting into the specifics of cases does potentially offend the standing orders of the parliament in relation to sub judice.


Mr O'CONNOR: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I am aware of that. What was announced was that in party precincts, starting on the Gold Coast, police will be given metal detector wands and the ability to search potential offenders. This is the first time parliament has sat for the year so we need to see more detail on these changes and we need to see it this week. We do not know yet whether this will involve changes to their powers or if it will be based on the successful hotspot model adopted in the United Kingdom.

What we do know is that it should not have taken this long. It should not have taken more tragic deaths in our city. Five people have been stabbed to death on the Gold Coast since late 2019. Many more have been seriously injured by knife crime. Just last week a 14-year-old allegedly stabbed a 16-year-old during an altercation at Coomera station. Thankfully the wounds were not fatal. Where are we as a society if we have 14-year-olds carrying around knives and pulling them out in a fight? There is a toxic culture amongst some young people to think that they need to carry a knife for protection when they head out.

Brett, Belinda, Wayne, Debbie and everyone who forms the basis of the Jack Beasley Foundation have channelled their grief into an inspirational passion to do everything they can to make sure that no other community goes through what they have. They have not reached that goal yet. This commitment for policing changes is a good start, but if we do not fix the knife or gangster culture it will all be for nothing.

The JBF is working on an education program based around Brett's and Belinda's story, which they want to see in local schools. That is how we can show young people the consequences that those split-second decisions can have. That is how we can show that those decisions can rip apart communities. The Queensland Police Service, under the exceptional local leadership of Chief Superintendent Mark Wheeler, who has been alongside the Beasley family since the very start, is helping but more support is needed to get the program up and running. The rest of the changes announced by the government are ones that I genuinely hope make a difference because our community is sick and tired of seeing families such as the Beasleys ripped apart by senseless youth crime.


Bancroft Electorate, Infrastructure

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (7.10 pm): Today we have heard about the record spend on infrastructure by the Palaszczuk government this financial year and we are certainly seeing evidence of that in the seat of Bancroft. I can report to the House that we are charging ahead with our local projects. For example, every day I pass the Deception Bay Road overpass project on the Bruce Highway, as do tens of thousands of other people who travel up and down the highway. It is a \$163 million joint program with 80/20 funding from the federal and state governments, involving two three-lane bridges over the highway and two major intersections. As I have said, the project is progressing extremely well. The abutments and pylons are about to be cast to seat the 28-metre-long girders that each weigh 64 tonnes. Dozens of those girders will probably be used on the project. Later in the year a 500-tonne crane will be in place on the highway to put them into position. You can also see the piling for the northbound onramp being constructed and where the new weighbridge will be relocated. As I said, it is a huge project that is much needed and much appreciated.

In another part of the electorate, at North Lakes work is progressing on the sports fields at Kinsellas Road and North Lakes State College. The rejuvenation of adjacent fields is another much needed project. Each winter 1,800 football players use those joint council and state school fields. They are very well used. We managed to get \$1 million for the project through the schools component of the Activate! Queensland program and I thank Minister de Brenni for that. It is very much welcomed. The North Lakes State College and the council are working in true partnership. Thanks go to Scott Lutteral, the business manager at North Lakes State College, and Tony Clarke from the Caboolture sports group. The turf has been laid and the LED lights have been installed. The amenities block will be next and the tender is being awarded for that. That is much needed because North Lakes State College has an award-winning women's Rugby team that needs a changing shelter. A shade shelter will then be built and, budget permitting, some spectator seating will be provided.

I want to mention the funding for the Deception Bay athletics track, which is very much appreciated. On 7 October 2020 we announced that a re-elected Palaszczuk government would give \$1 million to that project. Once again it is a joint project between ourselves, the federal government, which is contributing \$1.5 million, and council, which is putting in funding as well. I am really pleased with the progress. We have had early meetings to put together a project team. From looking at the scope of the project I know that it is hugely appreciated by the athletics clubs in the area.

Mermaid Beach Electorate, Housing

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (7.13 pm): I rise to highlight the failing of the Palaszczuk government to address an issue that is causing great concern for the residents of Miami and North Burleigh in the Mermaid Beach electorate. The influx of troubled people with drug, alcohol and mental health conditions who are being placed in short-term accommodation in older Gold Coast motels, in an unsupervised and unsupported capacity, has led to the residents in those areas feeling threatened, intimidated and generally unsafe in an area that was previously a very desirable residential suburb. Following last year's election I wrote to Minister Enoch and basically received an attacking political response that in no way addresses the genuine concerns of the people of Miami, who have a right to feel ignored by this Palaszczuk Labor government.


We understand that troubled folk need care and attention, but to throw them into unsupervised and unsupported inappropriate accommodation because of a lack of proper alternatives provided by the Palaszczuk Labor government is a sad indictment of that government's housing policy. Local residents should not be inflicted with bad behaviour in their neighbourhood because the Palaszczuk Labor government cannot come up with a just and fair outcome for people who have lost their way in life. People who are not in control of their actions from time to time are susceptible to repeat offending when they are not supported in their personal endeavours to return to normal society.

The district police are well aware of the problems that those short-term inhabitants have created. They have increased their patrols to those areas in an effort to contain the issues. However, with the increased demand on police resources to man border closures and hotel quarantine duty, policing has become a case of satisfying those statewide health concerns first and other complaint issues are dealt with on a when-can-do basis.

This is a serious issue that the Palaszczuk government must address. I am circulating a petition in the Mermaid Beach electorate to enforce the depth of feeling that this irresponsible housing policy has had on a peaceful, desirable and harmonious residential area of the Gold Coast. The housing minister, Ms Enoch, must take charge of her portfolio policy and redirect those troubled persons into supervised and supported accommodation. The combination of those troubled people and the youth crime outbreak on the Gold Coast has left residents feeling abandoned, forgotten and disillusioned about why they cannot feel safe in their own homes. One young woman, whom I cannot name, is so terrified that young vandals will return to attack her after stealing her car keys from her bedside table that she lives in a constant state of fear and sleeplessness. That criminal behaviour has to be curtailed.

The police advise me that 50 or so hardened youth criminals who are creating the problem—and they are aware of those young thugs—must be locked away from law-abiding society until their behaviour can be corrected. The police are aware and are working tirelessly for the community, but it is not their responsibility. They should fix their policies.

Legacy


 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (7.16 pm): Some 60,000 Australian service personnel were killed in World War I and more than 150,000 were wounded, many dying soon after. Realising the dire circumstances of the tens of thousands of veterans, widows and children left behind, those who returned set out to help them. In 1923, Major General Sir John Gellibrand formed the Remembrance Club in Hobart. Another returning soldier, Lieutenant General Sir Stanley Savige, was inspired to establish a similar club in Melbourne that was named Legacy.

Legacy grew out of the ashes of World War I. Originally returned servicemen took on the duty of caring for and supporting widows and children. They later became known as legatees and to this day it is the legatees who volunteer the support that Legacy provides to its beneficiaries. Currently there are approximately 4,000 legatees throughout Australia, some having served Legacy for more than 50 years. Late last year I became one of them—a new Legacy legatee. I have two clients: Ciana, a 12-year-old girl who lost her father who served as an Australian naval diver, and Joyce, a 92-year-old Rockhampton woman. Joyce lost her husband who served in the Australian Army in World War II. I would like to acknowledge in this place the legatees of Central Queensland: Brian Hollins OAM, our faithful Chairman of Legacy Rockhampton and Central Queensland; and Carol Gorton, Belinda Engstrom, Michelle Ponton, Lorraine Harry, Russell Coombes, Joy Coombes, Kelly Kiddle, Jan Catip, Fran Waterson, Tom Polley, Jenny O'Donnell, Barbara Lawrence, David Nunn, Noel Gardner, Sue Conrad, Keanu Jones, Ann Botting, Bronwyn Hill and Graham Rutherford. We are supported by our outgoing CSO, Scharryn Kneen; our new CSO, Jo-anne Peace; and administrator Mary Scully.

Legacy is still caring for tens of thousands of widows who have lost their loved ones and been affected by their partner's service in the Korean War, Malayan Emergency and Vietnam War, as well as campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan and in peacekeeping operations across the globe. Legacy started as a small organisation with local legatees assisting local families. Today, there are 45 Legacy clubs, plus one in London, providing emotional, social and financial support. In the trenches of the Western Front during World War I a soldier said to his dying mate, 'I'll look after the missus and kids.' That has become known as 'the Promise' and it is still kept today.

Our community at Legacy is devoted to enhancing the lives of families of veterans who have served in war, peacekeeping and humanitarian missions and have died or become seriously injured either in service or subsequently. Legacy is an amazing organisation supported by the work of our dedicated legatees, volunteers, staff members and widows. Those individuals make up a dynamic community of people, ranging from schoolchildren to senior citizens. It is with their assistance that Legacy is able to continue working to support our veterans' families.

Gympie Electorate, Growth

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (7.19 pm): Gympie is experiencing high growth. Government can no longer ignore the data. Growth is putting pressure on local infrastructure and services. Water security needs to be addressed. Works and investigation need to start on raising Borumba Dam to provide water security for residential, industrial and agricultural users. Gympie Mayor Glen Hartwig has publicly said that we have less than 10 years.

Like many areas of the state, police services need significant investment. The police are stretched on the Cooloola Coast, with issues caused by the influx of people and accidents. The permanent population of 6,500 swells by thousands during the peak tourist season and on weekends. The current Rainbow Beach Police Beat is not a police station. It does not provide the same level of service. The Cooloola Coast urgently needs additional personnel and resources, including a properly designated police station.

Growth is also putting pressure on the Mary Valley. The Imbil Police Station needs additional personnel as well as an upgrade. There is increasing pressure on local state controlled roads which I frequently raise with the minister. The Mary Valley Highway safety upgrade report was due last year. It must be publicly released. Road access to Rainbow Beach and Tin Can Bay needs to be improved. The upgrade of the Coondoo Creek Bridge was welcomed, but traffic is often held up and passing lanes are needed to make the road safer for everyone.


Another issue affected by growth is the education of our children. Local high schools are under pressure. Enrolments at James Nash and Gympie state high schools are bursting, with private schools picking up the slack. We should plan for significant growth.

Gympie needs a new fire and rescue station. The land was bought in 2014 and is ready for a station. A previous minister said that construction would start in 2022, with completion in 2023. The minister needs to advise the community if it is still on track.

The government needs to keep its eye on the ball in relation to service delivery at Gympie Hospital. I have been receiving numerous complaints from local doctors about service delivery at our Gympie Hospital. It is wonderful that a new hospital was built on the Sunshine Coast, but it is more than 100 kilometres away. Locals need services in Gympie. Gympie's hospital is on a constrained site at the top of a steep hill and parking is poor. The closure of the private hospital is putting pressure on the public hospital. If the current hospital is unable to meet its community service delivery obligations, then planning for a new hospital needs to start.

We need to see the review of the Cooloola Coast's health needs which was due in February last year. The government can no longer ignore the needs of high-growth regions like Gympie.

Stretton Electorate, Chinese Lunar New Year

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (7.22 pm): At the outset, I want to acknowledge the presence in the gallery of my mother, my father and my brother Grant, who works for the Therapeutic Goods Administration in Canberra and has been involved directly in the COVID vaccine approval and rollout.

I rise to talk about a very important cultural celebration that happens in my local community every year: Chinese Lunar New Year. I am proud to represent the most multicultural seat in Queensland where there are many cultural celebrations. Chinese Lunar New Year is always a big one. For obvious reasons there were fewer public events to celebrate Chinese Lunar New Year in 2020, so it has been

fantastic to see so many events coming back this year. Local businesses, schools and shopping centres have shown their support. In fact, it seems that everywhere I turn in my local community there is someone in an ox costume or an inflatable ox.

There have been so many community celebrations so far. Last weekend I was pleased to attend the Chinese New Year celebration of the Lions Club of Brisbane Chinese. I commend Laurita Chu and all the Lions Club members for their hard work. I also attended the Lunar New Year celebration hosted by the Federation of Taiwanese Associations. I particularly recognise Florence Day for all the work she has put in again this year in hosting such a wonderful event.


Prior to those events, I attended a celebration of the Year of the Ox at the Chung Tian Temple which is always a fantastic occasion. Michael's Oriental always hosts an entertaining celebration for Chinese Lunar New Year. In the past, the lion has drunk a XXXX, but this time the lion outdid itself by seemingly drinking an entire bottle of wine. Before any members get too concerned, I think there might have been a trick involved in that one, perhaps—potentially at least.

I also particularly recognise the efforts of Sunnybank Hills State School for their annual Lunar New Year celebrations. As they have in the past, Sunnybank Hills State School hosted cultural performances, including drumming, a choir and ballet. Plus they had one of the most energetic lions I have ever seen. Well done to principal Geoff Mill and the team at Sunnybank Hills State School.

I can inform the House that the years of the ox are 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997 and 2009. I have it on reasonable authority that the member for Surfers Paradise was born in the Year of the Ox. The member for Surfers Paradise and other members born in the Year of the Ox would be pleased to know that people born in that year are considered to be strong, fair, calm, reliable and conscientious. However, they are also said to be very opinionated, can be stubborn and hate to be challenged. I am sure no members of this House share those qualities! Interestingly, Barack Obama, Margaret Thatcher, Saddam Hussein and Robert F Kennedy were all born in the Year of the Ox.

Finally, I commend all community members for the Chinese Lunar New Year celebrations and I say xin nian kuai le, gong xi fa cai—happy Lunar New Year.

Glass House Electorate, Student Transport Assistance Scheme

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (7.25 pm): When the department of transport starts dictating the educational decisions of parents across the electorate of Glass House—indeed, across the entire state of Queensland—you know something is seriously wrong. I have had many families contact me over the course of the last 12 years with school transport issues—parents like Lisa West in Mooloolah Valley trying to send her kids to their catchment school, Maleny State High School, and parents in Delaneys Creek trying to send their kids to Woodford or Kilcoy High. In each instance I have made representations to Transport and Main Roads. In each instance, those parents have been knocked back. Why? Because of STAS, the Student Transport Assistance Scheme. What is STAS? It is a policy of subsidising public transport to the nearest school of residence. The fact that this may not align to the education department's catchment does not enter the equation.

I recently wrote to TMR in relation to STAS issues negatively impacting the Mount Mee State School and Mount Mee community. Mount Mee State School is an awesome school, but, like many small schools, day 8 can be dreaded, with a difference of one or two kids resulting in a loss of a third of the teaching staff. There are currently two families residing at Ocean View, within the Mount Mee education department catchment, who have children with special needs who are desperate to attend Mount Mee State School, but there is no bus service to the school. It heads to Dayboro State School instead. When I wrote to TMR asking them to reconsider, the response I received astounded me. It states—

There are currently no plans to change the network as it is designed according to the STAS policy which supports connectivity. It is good to know that the priority is connectivity and not education. It goes on—

There is a Special School Unit at Dayboro SS and any child residing in the Ocean View area requiring transport to this special school is eligible to travel on the respective school buses servicing this area.

As I said, that sounds like TMR is dictating or directing educational outcomes. It goes on—

In many instances, designated bus service areas do not align with DoE boundaries. The boundaries set by DoE are not fixed or static ... changes to catchment boundaries will mean students' enrolment eligibility does not align with STAS service eligibility, which is consistent across the state.


I am sorry, but schools like Mount Mee have had very consistent school catchments. Everyone else in the world is learning to be fluid and shift with the times. Clearly TMR needs to catch up. Finally it states—

This position has been adopted by all successive governments since the inception of the scheme.

Well, shame on all of us as politicians that we have clearly never had the intestinal fortitude to challenge and review this. It sounds to me that the STAS policy is long overdue for significant review and reform. Quite simply, students living in the catchment of a school should be eligible for subsidised transport to that school.

Today I launch a parliamentary petition calling for an urgent review of the state government's Student Transport Assistance Scheme. I want parents and teachers to determine the school children attend, not transport officials.

Redcliffe Electorate

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (7.28 pm): This week marks seven years since the people of Redcliffe put their faith in me and elected me to be their representative in the people's house as the member for Redcliffe. It is seven years since the people of Queensland had their first chance to reject the Newman LNP government and chart a positive pathway forward. The people of Redcliffe spoke loudly and proudly.

Since then, I have had the privilege of serving my community not only in this chamber but also in shadow cabinet and then cabinet—advocating daily for them and all Queenslanders. I want to acknowledge the individuals and community groups that I have worked with and advocated for over these past seven years. Three people I met back in 2014 have been on a journey with me for the past seven years. They are Connie, Ashton and Stewart. I want to acknowledge Connie, who is in the gallery tonight.

These amazing people came to me with a problem and a solution. They wanted Queensland and Australia to enact lemon laws to deal with faulty new motor vehicles. As everyone in this chamber knows, we passed laws in Queensland to support these measures, but more needed to be done. I can report that recently the Australian Consumer Law has been changed to deliver those changes—clarifying that if a product or service has two or more minor problems it is considered a major problem. The threshold of \$40,000 has been lifted to \$100,000 in line with Queensland's law changes. This is all because of these wonderful people who never gave up and never surrendered. Thank you. We did it.

Over the years we have seen record investment not only in our Redcliffe community but also in the wider Moreton Bay region. One of my proudest achievements for the peninsula is the Redcliffe Peninsula rail line—a line that was promised for many, many years and was delivered by federal Labor and state Labor governments working together with the local council. I was proud to represent the people of Redcliffe in the federal parliament and now to have the privilege of serving the people of Redcliffe in the state parliament.

We have seen record investment in our hospital and health services and we will soon see the start of the planning for a major expansion of the hospital. Those who know me know I am passionate about education. I am pleased that the Palaszczuk government has increased the number of teachers, teacher aides and school staff over the years to ensure that our students get the best possible education. We are rolling out air conditioning in all of our schools.

I could stand here for hours and talk about all the investment that the Palaszczuk government has put into our community, but, unfortunately, time does not allow. In the time remaining I want to give a shout-out to my amazing community.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: Be careful. I will take you up on the offer. As I said before, Redcliffe is more than just a collection of suburbs. It is truly a community—a community which thrives from year to year. Over the past year our wonderful community has stepped up and supported each other. Redcliffe is certainly the place to be and is indeed the best electorate in Queensland.

The House adjourned at 7.31 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, 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, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Skelton, Smith, Stevens, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Watts, Weir, Whiting