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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, 10 March 2021

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WEDNESDAY, 10 MARCH 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.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Tabled Paper, Withdrawal and Replacement



Mr SPEAKER: In a ruling on 8 August 2017, page 2009, Speaker Wellington made it clear there is a duty on members to make sure that documents they table do not offend the standing rules and orders and practice of the House. Members should not table in the House material which contains words that, if spoken in the House, would be out of order or would enliven the rights of other members of parliament to have withdrawn.

Yesterday the Deputy Premier tabled a document which contained offensive language directed at another member of this House. The document was withheld by the Clerks at the Table. Once a document has been tabled it cannot be altered or otherwise interfered with unless the House otherwise orders, as the document is in the possession of the House. I therefore seek leave of the House to remove and replace the tabled paper with a redacted version to remove the offensive material.

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Tabled Papers, Procedures



Mr SPEAKER: I also take the opportunity to again remind all members of two things: firstly, that you have wide latitude with respect to tabled documents and I ask you to respect that privilege and abide by the standing rules and orders and ensure that your tabled documents comply with the rules; secondly, every document tabled must be processed, published and archived in our strongrooms. As members would be aware, our strongrooms have a finite capacity. I ask that members carefully consider whether they actually need to table documents.

School Group Tours



Mr SPEAKER: I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Vienna Woods State School in the electorate of Capalaba, Nashville State School in the electorate of Sandgate, Acacia Ridge State School and Wisdom College in the electorate of Algester and Indooroopilly State High School in the electorate of Maiwar.

TABLED PAPER

TABLING OF DOCUMENT (SO 32)

REPORT BY THE CLERK

The following report was tabled by the Clerk—

[288](#) Report pursuant to Standing Order 169 (Acts to be numbered by the Clerk) and Standing Order 165 (Clerical errors or formal changes to any bill) detailing amendments to certain Bills, made by the Clerk, prior to assent by His Excellency the Governor, viz—

Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill 2020

Amendments made to Bill

Short title and consequential references to short title—*Omit—*

'Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill 2020'

Insert—

'Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill 2021'

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**Coronavirus, Update; Coronavirus, Vaccine**

Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.33 am): We have another five cases of COVID in Queensland; all are in hotel quarantine. It brings to 37 the number of active cases. In the past five months we have had 170 cases that were overseas acquired and detected in hotel quarantine. This underlines once again the tremendous work done by our hotel quarantine workers. That includes everyone from the police staffing the front door to the cleaners, drivers and hotel workers. Everyone is doing a fabulous job.

Each positive case is treated in hospital until they recover. They get the world's best care. In the past 24 hours there were 7,717 tests conducted. This is exactly what we ask people to do: if you are sick, stay at home and get tested. As of this morning, 11,996 frontline health and hotel quarantine workers have been vaccinated. Yesterday alone we added another 1,904. We have opened new vaccine hubs in Logan and Bundaberg with more opening at the QEII Jubilee Hospital and Toowoomba. Today I can announce that by the end of the week we will open an additional clinic at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, as well as clinics at Redcliffe, Rockhampton, Mackay and Ipswich as part of our rollout. It all depends, of course, on the supply of the vaccine from the federal government. There are 117 million cases of COVID around the world. There have been 2.6 million deaths. Vaccinations give us hope that we will see the end of this pandemic, but we cannot let our guard down.

Tourism Industry, Campaigns

Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.35 am): Queensland is good to go and we are shouting it from the rooftops. Our Good to Go campaign has been one of the most successful domestic tourism campaigns in Queensland's history. Today I can confirm that since I officially launched the initiative on 7 June last year this campaign has generated 25 million visitor nights and a staggering \$3.8 billion for Queensland tourism operators. Now I can confirm we are about to begin an aggressive domestic tourism marketing campaign in Sydney and Melbourne.

On the weekend, homegrown band Busby Marou were hard at work filming our latest tourism campaign in Cairns and Port Douglas. Today I am proud to announce that the team are in the Whitsundays filming our next tourism ad. This campaign will go live at the end of March. Today we are giving Queenslanders a sneak peek. By the time it goes to air we will have captured some of the state's most recognisable tourism experiences to ensure we showcase the very best of Queensland. These include Sailaway at Port Douglas, Skyrail in Cairns, the Mirage Whitsundays at Airlie Beach, the Pink Hotel at Coolangatta, the Emporium Hotel at Southbank and the Mooloolaba Triathlon. This marketing blitz into the southern states is one of the most aggressive domestic marketing campaigns Australia has ever seen.

Today's \$2 million announcement is one of the three major tourism initiatives delivered by our government this week, including more than \$3 million worth of tourism vouchers to entice more people to go to the Far North and \$1 million to support more than 6,500 Queensland students to explore the Great Barrier Reef. This follows more than three-quarters of a billion dollars worth of support announced by my government to support tourism operators throughout the state to rebuild and recover from the devastating coronavirus pandemic.

We are investing in new marketing to promote Queensland interstate because we know how important this industry is to local businesses and local jobs. Thanks to the way Queenslanders have responded to this pandemic, we have become the envy of Australia. We have already seen strong demand from people in Victoria and New South Wales keen to escape to Queensland for a holiday because they know, as we do, that Queensland is the place to be. With campaigns like the latest marketing blitz we are filming this week, we are ensuring we build back better here in Queensland.

Renewable Energy; Hydrogen Industry



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.37 am): When it comes to the renewable energy revolution, Queensland is leading the nation. Already 20 per cent of our energy is generated by renewables. Thanks to job-creating projects like the 180-megawatt Mount Emerald Wind Farm in Far North Queensland, the 124-megawatt Sun Metals solar farm in North Queensland and the 102-megawatt Yarranlea Solar Farm on the Darling Downs, Queensland is on track to reach our 50 per cent renewable generation target by 2030.

Today some of the world's leading experts in renewable energy generation will meet for the 2nd World Hydrogen Summit in the Netherlands—and guess which state will take centre stage? No, it is not Victoria. It is not Tasmania. It is not New South Wales. Today I am very proud to confirm that Queensland's first minister for hydrogen industry development, Minister de Brenni, will address the 2nd World Hydrogen Summit via zoom in Rotterdam. Well done! I created the hydrogen portfolio and committed an extra \$10 million to the Hydrogen Industry Development Fund at the election to grow this sector because we realise the huge potential this resource has to create highly skilled jobs for Queenslanders in the future.

Experts predict that soon there will be a huge demand for renewable hydrogen in rapidly growing markets such as Japan and Korea, and ambassadors for both Japan and South Korea have raised this with me at recent meetings. Taking centre stage at tonight's summit is part of our plan to position Queensland as a leading exporter of renewable hydrogen into the future. We are not just talking the talk; we are investing in renewables to create jobs.

Today I am also proud to announce \$10 million in funding to partner with the private sector to deliver projects that will grow Queensland's hydrogen industry. Round 2 of the Hydrogen Industry Development Fund is officially open. Thanks to our government, we now have more than 7,900 megawatts of renewable energy capacity either operational or committed here in Queensland. Over the past five years, under our government 44 large-scale renewable energy projects have commenced operation, are under construction or are financially committed, representing around \$8.5 billion in investment and about 7,000 jobs. It is a really important industry to this state. These numbers will only grow into the future. Thanks to the way Queenslanders have responded to this pandemic we will be able to build back better in 2021. We will continue to invest in growth industries that have huge capacity to create jobs and stimulate our economy.

Tabled Paper, Redaction and Apology; Bundaberg East Flood Levee



Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) (9.40 am): Mr Speaker, at the outset I apologise for tabling the document containing unparliamentary language and thank you for arranging its redaction. Today I rise to update the House on the progress of Bundaberg's economic recovery. The member for Bundaberg has been hard at work. He is out there every day fighting for Bundaberg and every single job: construction jobs, tourism jobs, hospitality jobs—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

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

Dr MILES: He is indeed an excellent local member. On this side of the House we know that a good secure job lays the foundation for everything. That is why we come to work every day and fight for every single Queensland job, including in Bundaberg. Part of our plan—

Mr Boyce: People are facing financial ruin in Bundaberg.

Mr SPEAKER: I thought it was the former member for Hervey Bay for a moment.


Dr MILES: It is the future member for Wide Bay.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Callide, you are warned under the standing orders. The ministerial statement, as I hear it, is not provocative. I would like to hear the statement from the Deputy Premier.

Dr MILES: Part of our plan for job-creating infrastructure in Bundaberg is the Bundaberg flood levee. The Bundaberg flood levee will protect the city from flooding and be a key component of the region's economic recovery from this pandemic. By delivering 679 jobs, the flood levee will be a boon for tradies, concreters and manufacturers. It is at the top of our disaster recovery infrastructure priority list, and we are fighting for the Commonwealth to step up and deliver their half of the funds so we can deliver this in time before we see another unprecedented flood.

I was in Bundy only the other week and met with the mayor, Jack Dempsey, and the member for Bundaberg. The mayor has a bold vision for the flood levee. To him it is not just a piece of infrastructure. It is not just a wall of cold concrete. It is more than the 679 jobs it will create. It is more than flood mitigation. The mayor sees this as an opportunity for revitalisation for the whole of Bundaberg. He has a vision of the infrastructure delivering active travel options, including dedicated bike lanes. He wants to see the Bundaberg flood levee transformed into a tourist attraction in and of itself, bringing families together to enjoy it as part of an active lifestyle—the ‘Bundaberg promenade’, if you like. We share Bundaberg’s bold vision for the town, just as we support the aspirations of all of our regional centres.

Economy

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (9.43 am): Queensland’s economy is leading Australia’s recovery from COVID-19. Our economic growth in calendar year 2020 was the best in the nation. Queensland’s domestic economy grew by 2.4 per cent, twice as fast as Western Australia’s, while New South Wales and Victoria went backwards. The main driver of our nation-beating economic growth was our strong private sector investment growth. While private sector investment fell by 1.7 per cent across Australia, private sector investment in Queensland grew by 0.7 per cent to \$16 billion in the December quarter, which is the highest growth among mainland states.


Driving our strong private investment growth is the Palaszczuk Labor government’s economic recovery plan that focuses on protecting our health, harnessing industry and creating more jobs. Because we have contained the virus and managed the health response, we have seen a strong rebound in consumer and business confidence. Through the new investment arm of Queensland Treasury, we are working closely with the private sector on exciting opportunities for the future.

As Minister for Investment, I am keen to talk directly with business and industry about the ways government can partner with them and help power more private investment and create new jobs for Queensland. This was seen last week during our very first investor round table where senior representatives from a range of sectors joined me to share views on how government and industry can work together to generate more job-creating investment in Queensland.

The Palaszczuk Labor government is eager and ready to get behind business proposals that align with Queensland’s priorities and demonstrate strong growth potential, particularly around employment. Since 2015 our investment facilitation programs such as the Jobs and Regional Growth Fund and the Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund have helped deliver us more than \$2.4 billion in capital investment and around 2,800 new private sector jobs. This is a tangible return on investment that will benefit communities in every corner of our state for many years to come because confidence builds confidence. The success we have seen through our partnerships with companies such as Rheinmetall and Boeing will encourage more businesses to build, expand and employ here in Queensland. By attracting more talent and ideas to Queensland we will drive further innovation, foster skills and unlock new jobs for our state.

Queensland is not immune to global conditions, but as our economy grows stronger our government will continue looking for new paths to take our state forward because Queensland is open for business. We are the place to be and we want the world to know.

Respectful Relationships Education

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.46 am): Events of recent weeks have prompted important and renewed community focus on matters of sexual assault, consent and reporting. Brittany Higgins has come forward bravely to tell her story of her experience as a young Liberal staffer at Parliament House, Canberra. We heard from child abuse survivor and Australian of the Year Grace Tame. Young people have been sharing their personal stories online on Chanel Contos’s petition—stories of disturbing behaviour including sexual violence during and after their school years.

While I am sure we all agree that it is the responsibility of parents, carers and society more broadly to educate and support young people in addressing issues of sexual harassment, assault and consent, we also recognise that education and schools are part of the solution. We introduced compulsory Respectful Relationships education into state schools in response to the *Not now, not ever* report. In conjunction with the material delivered through the Australian curriculum, Respectful Relationships covers a broad range of topics and I am advised that consent is directly referred to in the year 11 topic of ‘Building ethical relationships’.

However, the Premier and I agree that the time is right to examine the delivery of education on these matters in all Queensland schools. Accordingly, I have asked the director-general of my department to work across the non-government and state education sectors, P&Cs and school communities to explore whether consent and reporting are adequately covered in the Queensland Respectful Relationships education program and the Australian curriculum. I have also asked that the issue be added to the agenda of today's meeting of the Sexual Violence Prevention Roundtable, which includes a senior officer of my department. I will also be writing to members of my Ministerial Student Advisory Council to seek their views on Respectful Relationships education ahead of our next meeting in early May. As always, we urge victims of sexual violence to make a report to police and seek support or advice.

It is disappointing that during a week when we are celebrating the success of women around the world we have a member in this House who is essentially saying in a text that Meghan Markle is a gold-digger. Meghan Markle is not who she married. She is a strong successful woman in her own right. The young people of today deserve better from every member in this House.

Coronavirus, Vaccine; Coronavirus, Prevention



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.49 am): Queensland continues to crush the COVID curve, but we cannot become complacent. Queensland has recorded five new COVID cases overnight, all of which we have identified in hotel quarantine.

It has now been 63 days since there was a COVID case infectious in the community. Since 5 October 2020, 175 of the 192 new cases reported have been identified as overseas acquired and in hotel quarantine, not only demonstrating the absolute importance of our hotel quarantine system in protecting the Queensland community but also highlighting the reality that COVID continues to ravage other nations across the globe.

Queensland now has 37 active cases. Unlike other jurisdictions, all positive COVID cases identified in hotel quarantine are transferred to hospital. That is why getting our phase 1a frontline health workers vaccinated is so important. These are the people who are caring for our positive COVID patients each and every day. By ensuring these health heroes are vaccinated, along with our health quarantine workers and other phase 1a groups, we can protect all of our community. I am proud to see that over the last 24 hours there were 7,717 tests completed by Queenslanders. Testing remains an important weapon in our fight against COVID-19. Again, I remind all Queenslanders: if you are feeling unwell, go and get tested. Make sure you are washing your hands, staying home when sick and maintaining social distancing.


Our vaccination effort continues to gather pace, with two new vaccination hubs coming online yesterday. We now have eight vaccination hubs in operation. I am very excited with the news that the Premier has announced today of a number of new sites opening by the end of the week—most importantly, Redcliffe being amongst them. I once again want to thank all of the amazing health staff who have worked so hard to make these vaccine hubs a success. Yesterday, Queensland administered 1,904 vaccine doses—our best number to date. That brings us to 11,996 vaccine doses administered in Queensland so far. Queensland has always been clear that we would scale up our vaccine capacity over time, and I am happy to see that this approach is being vindicated.

As Queensland continues to vaccinate our population in the absence of community transmission, we cannot lose sight of just how fortunate we are. Globally, there have now been more than 117 million COVID cases and more than two million global deaths. I want to acknowledge that when I was at the PA Hospital recently, talking to some of the recipients of the vaccine who were waiting and being observed afterwards, one of the pathologists I was chatting with said that she was just so proud to get this vaccine. She said that she comes from the Philippines, that her parents are in the Philippines and that her mum is hesitant to get the vaccine. She said that she lost her dad to COVID late last year. As the tears rolled down her face, she said that she just could not believe how fortunate she was to be in Queensland, Australia, and how it meant so much to be getting this vaccination to be protected. I want to acknowledge her loss and grief.

Even though we have not lost many lives here in Queensland and Australia, so many people I have met have lost loved ones overseas. Many of our health workers have family and friends who live in the UK who have passed away. I want to acknowledge their grief as well. While there are some countries that are seeking a swift vaccination for their population, the reality is that only a very small percentage of the global population has been fully vaccinated. That means that we cannot let our guard

down; we must continue to be vigilant and respond to the very real threat that continues to be posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. I want to thank every single Queenslander for all their work. We still have some way to go, but by continuing to work together we will get through this.

Tourism Industry, Good to Go Campaign


 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism Industry Development and Innovation and Minister for Sport) (9.53 am): As the Premier revealed earlier, Tourism and Events Queensland and Queensland talents Busby Marou are currently filming the latest instalment in the state's Good to Go tourism campaign. The next in the series is designed to build confidence in the flexibility of a Queensland holiday and enhance our reputation as Australia's favourite holiday destination. We want to leave no doubt in the minds of interstaters that for wide open spaces, amazing landscapes and flexible bookings, Queensland is the place to be.

The Good to Go campaign will air on commercial television on Sunday night, 21 March, in our two biggest visitor markets, Sydney and Melbourne. We will also be good to go on radio and social media. Already there are almost 2,000 tourism operators carrying the Good to Go stamp of approval on their websites and marketing brochures to let visitors know that they are COVID safe and ready with a world-class tourism experience in Easter.

The Cairns Holiday Dollars website is nearing the 100,000 mark for expressions of interest in one of the 15,000 vouchers, among them a 98-year-old, proving that holiday experiences are for all ages. Operators in Cairns also report a surge in bookings ahead of the voucher draw. New data from Tourism and Events Queensland shows we are rebuilding Queensland tourism better as the country's top destination for one in seven Australians intending to hop interstate for the Easter long weekend. Natural attractions like rainforests, waterfalls and the tropics are overtaking Queensland's world-famous beaches on the bucket lists of interstate visitors. We do have some things a bit more close to home for interstate visitors. For NRL fans it is the Sharks v Cowboys game on the Sunshine Coast over the Easter long weekend. We also have an Easter treat for Collingwood supporters in the clash with the Lions at the Gabba.

In 2019, 650,000 visitors from Sydney and Melbourne generated an Easter bonanza of almost three-quarters of a billion dollars. We are good to go to match that this Easter, to support local jobs and the economic recovery of tourist destinations right across Queensland.

Road and Transport Infrastructure

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.56 am): Knocking on the world's door 12 months ago was a virus that would change our everyday lives. While other places languished and were slow in their response, our Queensland community rallied. Queenslanders, with the leadership of the Premier and the Chief Health Officer, joined forces to tackle the impacts of the pandemic that sadly continues to ravage other nations today. As part of that response, the Palaszczuk government worked with all levels of government and industry to lock in what is now \$5 billion in road and transport stimulus. Because of that, I am proud to say that Queensland today is the place to be. Our collective efforts have meant that construction has powered ahead, keeping Queenslanders in jobs and putting food on the table for hundreds of thousands of households.

I am pleased to advise the House that, on stimulus projects alone, 37 projects are underway right now and another 100 will start in the next three months. The vast majority are in our regions. That includes \$19 million for the Cloncurry-Dajarra road in the north-west; \$35 million for Lawrie Street in Gracemere; \$20 million for the Carnarvon Highway between Roma and Injune; \$10 million for Bundaberg-Miriam Vale Road, which I know the member for Bundaberg will support; and \$15 million for the Capricorn Highway between Emerald and Alpha. These kinds of projects mean jobs for council road crews right across the state, local construction businesses, equipment hire companies and dollars spent by those crews in local cafes, restaurants and hotels. Those projects join 33 others being built on the Bruce Highway as we speak, and another 120-plus projects are in the pipeline as part of our \$12.6 billion Bruce Highway plan.

Over the next four years we will deliver a record \$17.8 billion for regional road projects, supporting more than 16,000 Queensland jobs. That is 66 per cent of our road and transport spend outside the south-east corner. The 130-plus stimulus projects that have either started or will start in the next three months will see jobs created and continue into a pipeline of major projects, including the \$1 billion Rockhampton Ring Road; the Bruce Highway upgrades in Cairns, Townsville and Mackay; and, our favourite, the train manufacturing in Maryborough. It is all part of a \$56 billion infrastructure guarantee—part of our economic recovery plan, making Queensland the place to be.

I am proud to be a Queenslander. I am proud of the effort of all Queenslanders over the last 12 months which has seen our spirit and leadership shine. I know that everyone is proud to be part of an ongoing, world-class pandemic response that is keeping Queenslanders safe, creating jobs and maintaining our Sunshine State lifestyle.

Cyclone Niran; Western Queensland, Grasshoppers



Hon. ML FURNER (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (9.59 am): Mother Nature at times deals a cruel blow to our wonderful Queensland farmers. We have seen the ongoing drought, we have seen the monsoon event over two years ago and now we have seen significant impacts up north as a result of Cyclone Niran. On Saturday I visited Innisfail to see the damage firsthand. It was clear from the air flying into Innisfail that there were large areas of banana plantations that had been devastated.

On the ground I was pleased to accompany Australian Banana Growers Council chairman, Stephen Lowe, to visit two producers who had suffered significant damage to their properties, one of whom I visited just over 12 months ago. They face a challenging period to get back on their feet, with much of the winter crop lost and major disruption to their operations. The producers I met with faced different challenges, but they are fighting. They are fighting to do what they have to do. They are fighting to keep their staff going because they are going to need them. They are also fighting for their futures. I could see the determination in their faces and hear the passion in their voices. They are hurting. They are hurting so much, and we are standing shoulder to shoulder with them.

I also need to acknowledge work of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries staff who were on the ground quickly at the time of the event to begin assessing the damage and providing support. I am pleased to see that category B assistance for impacted primary producers has been activated to provide up to \$5,000 for freight costs and low-interest loans of up to \$250,000.

The damage has occurred over a wide area, with that assistance activated across the Cassowary Coast, Cairns, Hinchinbrook, Mareeba and Tablelands. Damage and loss estimates from industry have been suggested at up to \$150 million. We are exploring all avenues for providing further levels of assistance to our growers. Now is a time when Queenslanders need to continue to support our growers—an industry worth \$600 million and supplying 95 per cent of the nation with fantastic bananas. I enjoy Queensland bananas on a very regular basis and I am sure every member of this House will continue to encourage their constituents to buy Queensland bananas all year round.

I was also privileged on Saturday morning to visit Winton and see some of the impacts of grasshoppers being experienced there—

Mr Millar: About time!

Mr FURNER: I do not think Winton is in your electorate.

Mr Millar: It is in my electorate!

Mr FURNER: There you go. Anyway, it was great to be there and in several other regions of the state. I held discussions with producers and Mayor Gavin Baskett and some of his councillors. I want to thank Gavin for the pen he gave me while I was there—one of his new additions.

I am pleased to report that as a result of work done, the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority has now issued an emergency-use permit for an appropriate chemical that could be used for spraying to keep grasshopper numbers under control. I table that permit.

Tabled paper: Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority: Permit to allow emergency use of a registered Agvet chemical product for control of grasshoppers in pasture, Permit Number—PER90787 [\[282\]](#).

I would also like to thank the working group and producers for their efforts in getting this approval with short notice.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gregory, you have got out of the gates early this morning. You are warned under the standing orders.

Public Trustee



Hon. SM FENTIMAN (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.02 am): Protecting Queenslanders, especially vulnerable Queenslanders, is a priority of our government. The Public Trustee plays a vital role in assisting vulnerable Queenslanders and provides financial management services to more than 10,000 Queenslanders each year.

Recently, the Public Advocate undertook a review of the critical work undertaken by the Public Trustee. Her report entitled *Preserving the financial futures of vulnerable Queenslanders: a review of the Public Trustee fees, charges and practices* found that many of the Public Trustee's customers appear to receive a high level of service for very little or no cost. However, the report has also identified some opportunities for improvement in the way the Public Trustee engages with its customers.

The report makes 32 recommendations which are broad ranging and relate to the Public Trustee's fees and charges, community service obligations, investment practices and legal services. The majority of the recommendations are primarily the responsibility of the Public Trustee to implement. The Public Trustee has provided a comprehensive response to the Public Advocate's report, and that response can be found in the appendices to the report.

A review of the Public Trustee's fees and charges is already underway and many other reforms have already been implemented or are being implemented through the Public Trustee's customer-first agenda. The government has now finalised a response to the Public Advocate's report. I am pleased to report to the House that we accept in principle the majority of the recommendations in the report and will also now undertake further consultation with stakeholders.

However, as a first and significant step, I can announce today that the government will establish a Public Trustee board that will provide oversight and direction to the Public Trustee. The board will provide increased transparency and accountability and, importantly, enhance public confidence in this critical service. Mr Speaker, I apologise for the weight of this given your earlier advice to members, but I table the Public Advocate's report and the government's response and also take the opportunity to table the Public Advocate's annual report for 2019-20.


Tabled paper: The Public Advocate—Preserving the financial futures of vulnerable Queenslanders: A review of Public Trustee fees, charges and practices, January 2021 [283].

Tabled paper: The Public Advocate—Preserving the financial futures of vulnerable Queenslanders: A review of Public Trustee fees, charges and practices, January 2021, government response [284].

Tabled paper: The Public Advocate—Annual Report 2019-20 [285].

In doing so, I would like to thank the Public Advocate for her reports and especially for her advocacy for the rights of adults with impaired decision-making capacity in Queensland.

Paradise Dam

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (10.05 am): The Palaszczuk government's highest priority is, and must always be, the safety and health of Queenslanders, as demonstrated by our health response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is our highest priority when it comes to the safety of a single region, as with our response to Paradise Dam. Recently, I visited the dam to see for myself the state of the dam wall and talk directly to the engineers working on a solution.

I am advised that Sunwater's essential works to lower and recap the spillway of Paradise Dam are almost complete—improving the safety of the tens of thousands of people living downstream from the dam. A 600-millimetre concrete crest has been constructed on the dam wall, finalising a 5.8-metre lowering, with passive steel anchors successfully installed through the dam's roller compacted concrete layers. These works, based on the advice of multiple experts who recommended immediately lowering the dam wall, have been a vital first step toward ensuring the safety of the Bundaberg community.


With the temporary crest now in place, the risk of dam failure has been reduced significantly. However, the works to date are only interim steps. More remediation will be needed to fix the dam long-term. This is important to address the full scope of risks to Paradise Dam, including the quality of the roller compacted concrete, the secondary spillway foundations and the risk of erosion and scour downstream of the dam but also to ensure that we are meeting the demand for water in the Bundaberg and Burnett regions.

Last month I met with Bundaberg Mayor Jack Dempsey and local member Tom Smith to talk about the community's water needs. I will continue to visit the region regularly and work with local leaders and industry representatives as the remediation of Paradise Dam progresses. Sunwater is briefing the community and industry on the progress of the essential works this week.

The most important lesson we have learnt from the problems with Paradise Dam and the inquiry into the causes of those problems is the need to ensure our dams in Queensland are built to the highest standards possible. That is why Building Queensland, Sunwater and my Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water are continuing to develop a detailed business case to identify the best way forward for fixing Paradise Dam. I anticipate we will be able to choose the best possible

long-term solution by late this year. We will not cut corners on finding the best solution to the issues at Paradise Dam because the safety of Queenslanders and the safety of the Bundaberg region depends on getting this right.

TAFE Queensland

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.08 am): When we prepare our ministerial statements, we always of course have to save the documents on our laptops. My office could think of no better file name for this document than 'TAFE is the best', because today is a very exciting day for TAFE. I am so delighted to confirm that, following a competitive tender process, TAFE Queensland has won a \$36 million training contract under the Department of Defence Pacific Maritime Security Program.

The tender underpins the Australian government's gifting of 21 Guardian patrol boats to 12 Pacific Island countries and Timor-Leste. The new boats will replace the existing Pacific patrol boats that have been in service since 1987. Under the initial five-year contract, TAFE Queensland will deliver vital maritime training to people from the Pacific Islands who will crew the Guardian patrol boats. This contract is incredibly important as it not only will create local jobs but also has the potential to better the lives of Pacific islanders.

It is a contract that was held for almost 30 years by Tasmania. In fact, a media statement from the Tasmanian government in July last year, when the tender first came out, told Queensland to 'keep its hands off' the maritime training project! I am sure everyone in this House is absolutely thrilled for TAFE Queensland. This announcement is well-deserved recognition of the quality and expertise of our fantastic public provider. It is also a credit to their CEO, Mary Campbell, and their expert trainers and support staff who are so highly regarded in the maritime industry.


This would not be possible without the extra funding the Palaszczuk government has invested in training and skills, including \$1 billion in this year's training budget alone. As part of this tender, TAFE will deliver 19 training courses, and the first students from the Pacific Islands are expected to begin training in Cairns in August 2021. The majority of training will be delivered at TAFE Queensland's Great Barrier Reef International Marine College and students will learn valuable maritime skills including how to safely operate, manage and maintain Guardian patrol boats. Training will also take place at TAFE Queensland's Cairns campus to help participants improve their cooking, computer skills, and leadership and management abilities.

TAFE Queensland has a strong track record for supporting education and employment opportunities in the Pacific region. Since 2007, TAFE Queensland has managed the contract for the Australian Pacific Training Coalition and helped to provide quality training to help Pacific islanders gain Australian-standard skills and qualifications for a wide range of vocational careers throughout the Pacific. With the support of TAFE Queensland, the Australian Pacific Training Coalition has positively transformed the lives of over 13,500 Pacific women and men who are now making valuable contributions at their workplaces and to the communities where they live throughout the Pacific region.

Through this new contract, there is also an opportunity to deliver training at some of the campuses across Fiji, Samoa, PNG, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands. This means some students may be able to stay in their communities and undertake training—which is also incredibly exciting.

The Palaszczuk government rescued TAFE, we restored TAFE, we invested more in TAFE, and now TAFE Queensland is kicking goals not just here in Queensland but right across the Pacific. I know TAFE are so proud of what they do—and they should be. The Palaszczuk government is so proud of always backing TAFE. Not only is TAFE the best; Queensland is the best.

Child Protection

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.12 am): There is nothing more important than the safety and wellbeing of our children and young people. Every child deserves to be loved, to be safe and to have hope for the future. Unfortunately, this is not every child's reality. Our staff are called to respond to the most challenging circumstances and they dedicate their professional lives to serving vulnerable children. It is a high calling, and I acknowledge their contribution and I acknowledge their service.

I am proud to be part of a government that recognises the child protection system will always require constant vigilance, transformation and investment. That is why we have recently announced 153 additional child safety worker positions to boost frontline services for our most vulnerable children

and their families. This is part of a \$42 million package to respond to unprecedented demand due to the impacts of COVID and increasing use of methamphetamines including ice, mental health issues and domestic violence.

Since 2015 we have invested more than \$850 million in child and family services to support vulnerable families and have restored and increased child safety staff levels by 550, including 39 this financial year. This 153-staff increase is in addition to a record \$1.475 billion investment in the child protection system this financial year. We are also investing \$1.75 million for the professional development of frontline child safety staff.


Since being appointed as the minister four months ago, I have had the privilege of sitting down with dozens of child safety staff across the state, including child safety officers, and listening to their stories. They are the ones rocking the four-week old baby because he is the one who has no parent willing or able to look after him. They are the ones trying to find a bed for the night for a nine-year-old dealing with trauma and behavioural issues who does not have a parent willing or able to provide for him. They are the ones making sure the two young boys I sat with last week—roughly the same age as my own—are clean, doing their homework, have a safe roof over their heads and a warm meal on the table.

The 153 positions announced today will be made up of 105 child safety officers, 18 senior team leaders, 18 child safety support officers and more than a dozen administration officers. We know the work child safety staff are doing is taking longer and is more intensive because the issues families face are becoming more complex. This staff increase means every child safety officer can spend the time they need to create more meaningful relationships with children and families in need, getting them the help they need when they need it most.

COVID and the increasing abuse of methamphetamines and ice have created unprecedented demand on our child safety networks and more frontline staff means more intensive work with children and families sooner. The first of these new staff will be on the ground by the middle of this year.

MINISTERIAL PAPER


Ministerial Expenses

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (10.15 am): I lay upon the table of the House the public report of ministerial expenses for the period 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2020. This period also includes the recent state election.

Tabled paper: Public Report of Ministerial Expenses for the period 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2020 [\[286\]](#).

NOTICE OF MOTION

Australian Building and Construction Commission

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (10.15 am): I give notice that I will move—

That this House:

1. notes federal Labor's policy to abolish the Australian Building and Construction Commission ('the ABCC');

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my right! Please continue, member for Kawana.

Mr BLEIJIE: I continue—

2. notes Queensland state Labor's support to abolish the ABCC;
3. notes since the ABCC was re-established in December 2016:

- (a) over \$11.2 million in penalties have been handed down by the courts against the CFMMEU and more than 100 of its representatives have been prosecuted for around 1,400 contraventions of the law—

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for McConnell!

Mr BLEIJIE: And—

for matters like coercion, unlawful industrial action and unlawful entry;

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for McConnel, you are warned under the standing orders. Members, this matter is to be debated this afternoon, not now.

Mr BLEIJIE: And—

- (b) of the \$11.2 million in penalties, \$2.98 million relate to 914 contraventions by the CFMMEU and 35 of its representatives in Queensland;
 - (c) this represents more fines, contraventions and officials penalised as a result of ABCC court action than any other state or territory branch of the CFMMEU in Australia; and
 - (d) the ABCC has also recovered around \$600,000 in wages and entitlements for 579 employees in Queensland.
4. supports building industry workers, tradies and small businesses;
 5. supports the rights of all workers to a workplace free from bullying and intimidation; and
 6. calls on the Labor government to support the ongoing role of the ABCC.


Ms Palaszczyk interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Use correct titles please, Premier.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, question time will conclude today at 11.18 am.

State Archivist

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (10.18 am): My question is to the Minister for Housing. When was the minister first aware the State Archivist was leaving?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. After five years of service to the role of State Archivist, that position was concluding. The State Archivist chose to not continue in that he is, as I understand, moving to New Zealand with his family to take up another opportunity.

Quite frankly, if it is a choice between Jacinda Arden and Scott Morrison I can see why he made that choice. I do want to place on record—

An opposition member interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I do not know who that member was, but members will put their comments through the chair.

Ms ENOCH: I want to put on record my thanks and acknowledgment of the work of the State Archivist over the last five years. I wish him all the best.

State Archivist

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Minister for Housing. Was the decision not to extend the State Archivist's contract made before or after the opposition called for him to investigate the Premier's private emails?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. Of course the State Archivist was fully aware of when his contract was concluding. He made his own personal decisions about where he would like to spend the next part of his career. He made those decisions. Again I wish him all the very best. Confidential conversations, as I understand it and have been advised by the department, have been underway for the last few weeks.

Torres Strait, Coronavirus Vaccine

Ms LUI: My question is of the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier update the House on the vaccine rollout in the Torres Strait and is she aware of any alternative views?

Ms PALASZCZYK: I thank the member for Cook for the question. The number one issue that Queenslanders are talking to me about is the vaccine rollout. That is very important to Queenslanders.

An opposition member: What about private emails?

Ms PALASZCZYK: No, they are not actually. They are very concerned about the vaccine.

A government member: They keep going back to it.

Ms PALASZCZYK: That is right. We will come to that later. There is a whole paper on that written by Peter Gleeson. It was a very good investigation. We will come back to that later. There is a lot of time to come back to that and there is a lot of material. There is a lot of current material. I think they are protesting a bit too much this morning when it comes to that.

Let's be very clear about this very important issue. As we know, we are seeing more and more cases of COVID detected in Papua New Guinea. Of course the member for Cook is very well aware of how close her communities are to the Papua New Guinea border. That is why I raised it at national cabinet. We have had discussions with the Minister for Health and the Chief Health Officer about how we can rollout that vaccine earlier in the Torres Strait.

As I said earlier, by the end of this week we will have a rollout of the AstraZeneca vaccine in Mackay, Rockhampton and Ipswich. I can also advise that additional AstraZeneca hubs will also be up and running on Thursday Island and Saibai Island. This once again prioritises some of our most vulnerable communities because it poses an imminent threat. This is a logical thing to do. Of course it will mean greater protection for our communities, especially in the Torres Strait. I also understand that Minister Fentiman and the member for Cook may be visiting Thursday Island in the very near future. It will be great to see how the rollout of the vaccine is going up there.

We know it is very important that people get the vaccine. I hope that every member of this House will show leadership and get the vaccine when the time is right to show added confidence to the Queensland community about the safety of that vaccine. We also expect phase 1b of the rollout of the vaccine to commence by the end of this month. By the end of March we want to start moving into the 1b phase. Just to remind members of the House, that will target people aged 70 and over, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders over 55, and critical and high-risk workers including defence, police, Fire and Emergency Services and meat-processing workers. These are really important issues for Queenslanders. It is absolutely vital that we all show support and get that vaccine because—

(Time expired)

State Archivist

Mr JANETZKI: My question is to the Minister for Housing. When will the minister appoint a replacement to the role of State Archivist given the ongoing calls for his investigation into the Premier's private email accounts?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. The department has advised me that they have an acting interim arrangement to fill that position, and of course there will be a full and proper merit based recruitment process to appoint an appropriate person to that role, as you would expect with any of these recruitment processes.

Regional Queensland, Tourism Industry

Mrs GILBERT: My question is of the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier update the House on the government's strategy to rebuild our tourism industry and support jobs in regional Queensland?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. We know that the member for Mackay is a very strong supporter of the tourism industry and a big advocate for the Platypus Bushcamp at Finch Hatton Gorge—that is going to be a very great experience for people to get up there and see—and the Sugar Shed at Sarina. I know that we visited Cape Hillsborough to see the kangaroos early in the morning, and hopefully people are starting to go back to the Eungella rainforest after the devastation caused by the fires there.

We also know that Mackay is the gateway to the Whitsundays. Areas of Mackay and the Whitsundays are experiencing hardship, especially when we know that the end of JobKeeper is looming at the end of the month. Another very big issue on Queenslanders' minds is the end of JobKeeper and what that means to families. Unfortunately, we have seen no movement from the federal government. These are the issues that are crucial: health and the economy; health and jobs. They are the main issues facing Queenslanders at the moment.

Those opposite may not want to talk about those current issues, but we will as a government because we deliver for Queenslanders. Those opposite have been to three elections recently and the public has overwhelmingly voted not to elect them to govern this state because of the way in which they continue to be a rabble, the way in which they are constantly divided—

Ms Bates: Arrogant and out of touch!

Ms PALASZCZUK: And the way they are constantly arrogant and out of touch. Thank you, I wholeheartedly support the member for Mudgeraba: arrogant and out of touch.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Keep going. We're enjoying it. Keep going!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Here we are, Campbell Newman mark 2.

Dr Miles: Vested interests.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. I take the Deputy Premier's interjection. Four years; yes, that is right. I remember Jeff Seeney going over there and attacking me and telling me that I was going to be sitting there for over 10 years. I will tell you what the people of Queensland know: they know a government that cares about them. They know a government that backs them. They know a government that wants to keep them safe and does not want the borders open. Those opposite wanted the borders open 64 times—

Opposition members interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: We would have had a second wave like Victoria. They know that this government cares about them. We want to focus on our economic recovery. Those opposite are absolutely irrelevant.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mermaid Beach, you are also warned under the standing orders.

Right to Information Application

Mr NICHOLLS: My question is to the Premier. I table an RTI decision from the Premier's department authorising the release of documents to the opposition. A third party has objected to the decision and release has been deferred. Has the Premier objected to the release of these documents?

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 8 March 2021, from Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Mr James Rudkin, to Office of the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Peter Coulson, regarding notice of decision under the Right to Information Act 2009 (Qld)—RTID515 [289].

Ms PALASZCZUK: I have not seen those documents so I will have a look at those documents and I will come back to the House.

Let me finish where I was before because I think it is really important that the member for Clayfield asked that question because the member for Clayfield is largely responsible for why they are all sitting there. They had the largest majority ever elected in this state, and we were a team of seven sitting over there, then we were eight, then we were nine, and in one term due to arrogance, due to cutting 14,000 workers—

An honourable member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take that interjection.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Premier—

Ms PALASZCZUK: And due to the actions of the member for Clayfield—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Premier, I would ask you to come back if you have anything further to add to the question as it was asked.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Mr Speaker, it was asked by the member for Clayfield—

Mr SPEAKER: No. Premier, there—

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am talking about the member for Clayfield.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I am giving you some guidance. It does not matter who the questioner is. It is the content of the question, not the person who has asked the question, that relates to the response that you need to give.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Those opposite talk about RTI. Let me say this: the RTI laws that apply now applied at the same time that they were in office. They are not different laws. What the Attorney-General raised yesterday in this House is of serious concern. What the Attorney-General raised was that when the member for Kawana was the state's first law officer, was the attorney-general of this state, it said very clearly in an RTI that their office routinely deleted emails. I think the State Archivist should do an investigation into the deletion of ministerial records while the first law officer of this state was the attorney-general.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Premier has indicated that she would be getting back to the House. Mr Speaker, I ask, through you, whether the Premier has taken that on notice pursuant to the standing orders and will come back to the House according to that standing order—

Ms PALASZCZUK: No.

Mr BLEIJIE: If I can finish my point of order, Mr Speaker—

Mr SPEAKER: The Premier has indicated that she is not taking that on notice under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I can advise in response to the member's question that the same processes apply under the RTI as they did under the LNP. Third parties are entitled to object and I am not the third party.

Job Creation

Mr MADDEN: 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 Ipswich West for his question. I am pleased to let him know of another job-creating project in Toowoomba that is improving the city. Amenities buildings at two of Queens Park's most popular locations will be upgraded, making them more accessible and modern, with works starting this month. Construction of the Botanic Gardens amenities building on the Lindsay Street end of the park will begin very soon, while the Vera Lacaze park amenities upgrade on the Margaret Street side of the park is expected to start later this month. Both projects were the latest instalments of the \$12 million Queens Park Revitalisation Project, which is jointly funded by the Palaszczuk government's Building our Regions program and the Toowoomba Regional Council. Almost \$2.8 million has been invested in Toowoomba as part of round 5 of the Building our Regions program, supporting 18 jobs during the construction phase and helping to drive the region's economic recovery.

Another project that would create jobs, keep Queenslanders safe from COVID and help us get back to normal faster is of course the national quarantine centre proposal at Wellcamp. It would provide rooms for a thousand returning travellers, as well as 300 staff. It would keep Queenslanders safe, as well as create jobs in construction.

I was pleased to see that both Western Australia and the Northern Territory have now joined Queensland in tearing up those ridiculous invoices from the New South Wales government. I was surprised to learn there is one member of this House who thinks we should just pay that bill—who thinks we should send Queensland's money to New South Wales—and of course that is the Leader of the Opposition. He is so loyal to his LNP mates in New South Wales and Canberra that he thinks we should just give them the money. I can advise the House that Gladys is so appreciative of the member's support that she has sent up a gift for the Leader of the Opposition—

Mr SPEAKER: Put the prop down, Deputy Premier, or I will warn you under the standing orders.

Dr MILES: It is his own honorary New South Wales jersey—so appreciative she is.

An honourable member: Table it.

Dr MILES: There is not room. Today the New South Wales Premier has said that the border restrictions that kept Queenslanders so safe are an embarrassment, and this is the same Premier that the Leader of the Opposition supports. He needs to decide: is he a Queenslanders or is he going to put this jersey on and be a southerner? He is so afraid to stand up to them that he wants us to send Queenslanders' money to New South Wales. I tell you what: we will not be doing that.

Premier and Minister for Trade, Email Accounts

Ms SIMPSON: My question is to the Premier. Why has the taxpayer funded Solicitor-General been brought in to fight the Premier's email battle, which she says is a party political matter?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. As Premier of this state, I am entitled to get the Solicitor-General's advice.

Mrs D'Ath interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The Minister for Health will cease her interjections.

Integrity

Mr MELLISH: My question is of the Treasurer and Minister for Investment. Will the Treasurer update the House on funding for integrity agencies undertaken by the Palaszczuk government, and is the Treasurer aware of any alternative approaches to integrity?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Aspley for his strong and principled representation on the north side in this House. On integrity, the sanctimonious lecturing has been coming thick and fast from the opposition over the past week.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Buderim, you will direct your comments through the chair. You are warned under the standing orders.

Mr DICK: Talk is cheap, so let us look at the actions of the LNP when in government in relation to integrity institutions in this state. During their term in government, the LNP cut funding to the integrity commission by four per cent. By contrast our government has increased funding by an average of 13.2 per cent every year since we were first elected. Our government has also provided more than \$357 million to the Crime and Corruption Commission—a budget almost 2½ times more than the LNP provided to the then CMC. Funding for the CCC under our government increased by 3.6 per cent per year over the past six years, and we have delivered \$216.6 million to the Queensland Audit Office—an increase of 66 per cent on the funding provided by the LNP.

We know what the LNP did in government—they cut—but what have they been doing in opposition? The member for Nanango has had to apologise to the member for Toohey, as we heard in the House yesterday, for a defamatory comment that she made in the leaders debate. To be fair to the member for Nanango, that was the highlight of her time as Leader of the Opposition. Then we have the LNP's own proceeds of crime: the party fundraiser where they wanted to frighten pensioners with false claims about crime so they could shake them down for \$20—cheques payable to the LNP or, in the alternative, BYO brown paper bag, non-sequential notes preferred.

We have all heard about the letter from the member for Maroochydore to the State Archivist about emails. That is so rich coming from the person who was notorious for being the most biased Speaker in the modern history of the Queensland parliament. That is rich.

Ms SIMPSON: Mr Speaker—

Mr DICK: Oh, here we go!

Ms SIMPSON: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. That comment is offensive and untrue, and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has asked that the comment be withdrawn, Treasurer.

Mr DICK: I withdraw. The member for Maroochydore's investigation should of course extend to the member for Kawana, the then Attorney-General who divulged details of a private conversation with a justice of the Supreme Court. In 2013 Queensland's worst Attorney-General published a media release calling on Queenslanders to delete any suspicious emails they receive. I table a copy of that media release.

Tabled paper: Media statement, dated 17 December 2013, by the then Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Hon. Jarrod Bleijie, titled 'Avoid grins who prey on generous Queenslanders' [290].

Thankfully, his chief of staff took the same advice and advised publicly they were deleting emails to avoid RTI scrutiny. This is an opposition that lives and breathes double standards. They are happy to say one thing to the world and do another thing when they are in government. They are riven by disunity—

(Time expired)

Premier and Minister for Trade, Email Accounts

Mr MINNIKIN: My question is to the Premier.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Treasurer, you are warned under the standing orders. Comments are consistently not being directed through the chair. A question has been asked and I have asked that they be heard in silence.

Mr MINNIKIN: My question is to the Premier. Following my question to the Premier on 28 February 2017 and to preserve the integrity of the Office of the Premier, will the Premier hold an investigation into her private emails in order to finally clear up this issue?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I say to the member for Chatsworth that I have tabled the Solicitor-General's advice. That is definitive advice from the Solicitor-General for all members to see and it is transparent for all of the public to see. I am glad that the member for Chatsworth asked me a question.

Ms Simpson interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Maroochydore will cease her interjections.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am more than happy. We heard yesterday from the Minister for Police that those opposite were having a fundraiser about crime—I loved hearing about that—the Longman LNP Crime Forum of which the member for Clayfield was a guest speaker, charging \$20 a head. It appears that the—

Mr MINNIKIN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order is relevance. The question was quite specific. This has nothing to do with the question.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I have answered the question. I am continuing.

Mr SPEAKER: No. The response still needs to be relevant to the question as it was asked under standing order 118(b). Do you have anything further to add, Premier?

Ms PALASZCZUK: All I want to add is that the member for Chatsworth held his own business breakfast and that was a fundraiser about the then health policy of the Newman government. They have form when it comes to this.

Mr MINNIKIN: Mr Speaker—

Mr SPEAKER: Premier. Premier—

Ms PALASZCZUK: Disgraceful, member for Chatsworth, disgraceful.

Mr SPEAKER: The Premier will resume her seat.

Mr MINNIKIN: Mr Speaker, I again rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 118(b). This has nothing to do with the question asked. I ask you to rule accordingly.

Mr SPEAKER: Under standing order 118(b) I ask the Premier to resume her seat.

Wage Recovery

Mr KELLY: My question is of the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Will the minister update the House on Queensland's new wage recovery process and outline how this process will make it easier and quicker for Queensland workers to recover unpaid wages and superannuation?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for Greenslopes for his question because he knows that the values set on this side of the House are that all we want for workers is a fair day's pay for a fair day's work. They are the values under which we live every single day to protect the rights of workers. The Palaszczuk government is committed to doing all we can to ensure that we address—

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Everton, you are warned under the standing orders. I have given you some guidance.

Ms GRACE:—wage theft.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: You are now warned under the standing orders. I can go further if you like.

Ms GRACE: The record speaks for itself. Wage theft is a very serious issue. Where a worker is working and their employer refuses to pay them correctly, underpays them or does not pay super, they have to have an avenue so they can get paid. We held a wage theft inquiry and Adriaan Burgess told the inquiry about his attempts to recover unpaid wages through the federal system. The federal government has let down workers in this country day in, day out when it comes to recovery of wages lost to wage theft. He said that it took him five years to try to recover the wages under the federal system and it was still ongoing. That is absolutely disgraceful. Mr Burgess said—

We need a quicker way to get our wages back. It is not fair. We have bills to pay. We have rent to pay. It is hard enough with COVID. We really need a decision made by parliament to make it quicker for us to recover our wages.

I am very happy to say that the Queensland government, once again, is coming to the rescue. Last week a new wages recovery system commenced. That means ripped off Queensland workers will have an easier, cheaper and quicker way to recover wages and other entitlements they are owed. We have had to step in where the federal government has continually ignored this very important area. The new streamlined process means workers who have been underpaid can recover what they are owed more easily, as I said, but it goes further. It includes penalty rates, superannuation and unlawful or unreasonable deductions from wages. Some employers will actually take money out of workers' pay

packets if they are under at the till. That is what they will do. Making a claim will be done through a simple, online process available through the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission and there is no application fee.

We are looking forward to working with these workers who have been the victims of wage theft and making sure that a resolution to their claims process is quick and easy. It is only a Palaszczuk Labor government that has introduced this system this week to make sure that workers are protected. I cannot wait for the motion. I have a lot more to say on this. I cannot wait for this afternoon. I thank the member for Kawana.

State Archivist

Mr KRAUSE: My question is to the Premier. When was the Premier first aware that the State Archivist was leaving?

Ms PALASZCZUK: From memory, the Minister for Housing advised me yesterday.

Health System

Ms PEASE: My question is of the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Will the minister please update the House on what the Palaszczuk government's priorities are in the health portfolio, and is she aware of any alternative approaches?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for Lytton for her question as I know she is very passionate about the Palaszczuk government's priorities over the next four years, particularly in health. We know our priority is rolling out the vaccine to Queenslanders over the next few months and keeping them safe from COVID-19. While we are doing that, we are also investing in jobs and capital infrastructure to improve our health systems. That includes seven satellite hospitals which we are really excited about, new secure mental health facilities at the Gold Coast University Hospital, new and replacement ambulance vehicles and power assisted stretchers. There are new, improved facilities at many, many hospitals right across the state.

There is another priority over the next four years, and that is those opposite. While we are focused on the priority of the people of Queensland and keeping them safe, supporting jobs and growing our economy, those opposite seem to have a different priority, particularly the Leader of the Opposition. We know this because we have the three volumes of 'The War Within'.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my right will put those down. They are being prominently displayed and it could be perceived to be a use of props.

Mrs D'ATH: I read through this to see what the priority of the Leader of the Opposition and the LNP is over the next four years. I looked at the third instalment and its final chapter. Down the bottom there is an ad that says, 'More laughs, more thrills and more chills'. It looks like the Disney Channel might be running a story on the LNP as well. I am happy to table those.

Tabled paper: Bundle of media articles regarding the Liberal National Party [\[291\]](#).

The Leader of the Opposition talks about being humble and learning from the past. On 14 February he said—

'I believe I will be premier. I believe [the LNP] will win in 2024, and I believe we will win big,' he said.

How is that for arrogance? At the same time during their love-in at the Sunshine Coast the member for Surfers Paradise asked a very relevant question, 'What happens when they tire of this bloke?', talking about the member for Broadwater. The member for Broadwater said—

If we get our house in order, if we stop this internal machinations and cannibalising each other, we're going to get fit for office—

Mr Power interjected.

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

Mrs D'ATH: The quote continues—

and when we do I intend to deliver generational government for Queensland.

Peter Gleeson describes it as—

... the party is a powder-keg of distrust and vengeance. ... Think Netflix's House of Cards, Queensland-style.

One LNP member said—

If these guys were a listed company, they'd all be gone ...

They have presided over mediocrity and treachery for years.


This is the party and this is the Leader of the Opposition who says he is going to lead the LNP into the next election and win big, but all he is focused on for the next four years is their internal dysfunction—

(Time expired)

Interruption.

PRIVILEGE

Correction to Record of Proceedings


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (10.49 am): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. I said that the Minister for Housing advised me yesterday. I meant Monday.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Premier, for the clarification for the benefit of the House.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Resumed.

Termination of Pregnancy

 **Ms BOLTON:** My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. As it has now been over two years since termination of pregnancy was removed from the Criminal Code, would the minister please update the House on the effects this has had on termination statistics, supports for pregnancies and access to contraception in efforts to reduce terminations in Queensland?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for Noosa for her question. It is an important question and it is important to update the House on what has progressed in the two years since the passing of the Termination of Pregnancy Act. I am very proud to be part of a government that delivered that act for the people of Queensland. International Women's Day and Queensland Women's Week are an important time to remind ourselves of the important legislation that was brought into this House and passed.

In relation to the statistics about the number of terminations in the public and private sector, I can advise that in 2019 there were 9,496 terminations. This number has been stable since 2017. In fact, this is a lower number and it has been decreasing since 2013. In 2013 we saw over 12,000 terminations. There were over 11,000 in 2014; 10,800 in 2015; over 10,400 in 2016; and now we are seeing numbers in the 9,000s. That shows that the passing of this legislation has not led to an increase in the number of terminations. It has led to a focus and a willingness for women to come and get proper, safe help. I am so glad that we put protection around those clinics so that people do not get intimidated and harassed as they go in to seek support and treatment.

We have been providing financial assistance to Marie Stopes Australia, including during COVID. I am advised that, as part of the COVID-19 immediate support measure grants, \$413,000 in grant funding was provided to Marie Stopes International last year. This is on top of its funding of \$1.65 million from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2022. This is an international not-for-profit organisation that focuses on women's health, reproductive health and providing support. It has clinics right across the state and the country to ensure that women, wherever they are, are getting that support and can access telehealth appointments, assistance and advice.

We know that women get terminations for a whole lot of complex reasons. No-one should try to put themselves in the shoes of a woman who has to make that very difficult decision. That is a personal decision that that woman has to make—sometimes that young girl has to make—and we should respect that right and make sure we continue to provide whatever support we possibly can. I thank the member for her question. I know that when it comes to MS-2 Step, a medical abortion medication, the number of certified prescribers in the state has increased to support women.

(Time expired)

Tourism Industry, Events

Mr O'ROURKE: My question is of the Minister for Tourism Industry Development and Innovation and Minister for Sport. Will the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government proposes to kickstart Queensland's business events industry and is he aware of any alternatives?

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I thank the member for the question and note his really strong enthusiasm for events in Rockhampton and supporting local jobs in the city's economic recovery from the global pandemic. I note the very important business event of Beef Week coming up in May. With your indulgence, Mr Speaker, I also acknowledge the students from Nashville State School in my electorate—4017—in the chamber here today.

We know that Queensland's tourism industry has been particularly hard-hit by the pandemic. It also had a dramatic effect on the state's blooming business event, conference and convention industry. The great work of Queenslanders in listening to the expert medical advice of the Chief Health Officer to stay COVID safe with social distancing, the closure of international borders and videoconferencing technology all created a perfect storm, hitting the business events industry. The Business Events Council of Australia estimates that almost \$36 billion has been lost around the nation in planned conferences and conventions that have not gone ahead because of the pandemic.

The Palaszczuk government's new national business events program will make Queensland the place to be for COVID-safe business conferences. Our new business events program will offer incentives to corporate Australia to pull the plug on videoconferencing and host business events here in Queensland. In 2018-19 we supported 18 international business events around the state worth more than \$81½ million to the economy, benefiting local accommodation and transport providers, restaurants and caterers. This pivot is around targeting national conference events and seeing the business community from across the country choose Queensland as the place to be.

I see that federal Treasurer Josh Frydenberg has finally seen that Queensland is the place to be and is back on the conference circuit. At his breakfast earlier this week local businesses in Cairns were hoping for a substantial announcement on continuing or better targeting JobKeeper, but he came empty-handed and left business leaders disappointed and devastated. He also had a business breakfast in Brisbane this morning for anyone who wanted to hear about the Morrison government's economic agenda for Australia—or, as it would seem, the killing of the economic hopes of Australia without a targeted focus going forward. Yesterday we heard about the \$20 charge for a crime forum. This morning's business breakfast had a \$990 charge to attend to get nothing but a cold shoulder.

(Time expired)

Julia Creek Rural Hospital

Mr KATTER: My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. The new \$8.4 million Julia Creek Rural Hospital was downgraded to a level 1 facility in November, displacing inpatients and drastically reducing the level of service. Being mindful of the government's prioritisation of \$265 million to build new satellite hospitals in South-East Queensland, will the minister explain why she has so far failed to meet with the Julia Creek mayor and others to resolve this serious issue?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for his question. I think he might have said in that question that we are privatising our satellite hospitals. These will be government-run facilities.

Mr Katter: Prioritise.

Mrs D'ATH: Prioritise? My apologies to the member. This is an important and very serious issue. We are concerned about the multipurpose health service at Julia Creek, as the member knows. I have met with him to talk about this. The North West Hospital and Health Service executive also met in November—a 2½ hour meeting—with the mayor and deputy mayor to talk through possible outcomes going forward. They included the general practitioner from Cloncurry being available two days a week in Julia Creek; the arrangement being supplemented by telehealth services, which is available 24/7; nursing staff being available face to face five days per week and on call 24/7 outside of shift hours; patients continuing to be transferred to Cloncurry, Mount Isa or Townsville hospitals depending on their needs; and all emergency acute and critical care services remaining unchanged.

I can also advise—the member may or may not be aware—that on 5 March this year representatives from the North West Hospital and Health Service and the Office of Rural and Remote Health met with the mayor and councillors of the McKinlay Shire Council to discuss the workforce issues and concerns and the continued downgrade to level 1. The mayor and councillors have agreed that a way forward would be to form and meet with a collaborative group. That included themselves and representatives from all health service providers that service Julia Creek including the primary health network, the RFDS, the HWQ, the Chief Nursing Officer and the Deputy Director-General, Healthcare Purchasing and System Performance Division to develop a sustainable plan that meets the needs of their community. This meeting will be organised by the Office of Rural and Remote Health for the end of March.

The Department of Health has previously provided the North West HHS with information from expression of interest applications completed by doctors who indicated a willingness to be deployed to the HHS as part of the COVID-19 workforce surge response, but it has been extremely difficult. Queensland Country Practice, Queensland Rural Medical Service and Darling Downs Health administer a senior medical relief program to provide short- and medium-term placement and they are struggling to find someone. The Commonwealth funded rural workforce agency had been promoting this vacancy since late November and has been unable to find someone. This is a collaborative effort, but we understand that it is a challenge attracting professionals to the regions. Whether it is health professionals or other professionals, it is very hard. We will continue to work with the member. I have not had a direct request for a meeting. I am happy to meet with the local mayor and local HHS, but I am pleased that the executive director—

(Time expired)

Moreton Bay, Community Safety

Mr WHITING: My question is of the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services. Will the minister outline some important changes that police have put in place to support community safety in the Moreton region and update the House on any alternative approaches to community safety?

Mr RYAN: What a great question from the member for Bancroft, and I acknowledge his strong support of police. There are some changes happening in the Moreton region and they are all about boundaries and knowing where the boundaries are. In the member for Bancroft's electorate, Mango Hill and North Lakes are coming into the Moreton district which is all part of the commissioner's vision around strengthening boundaries to have better local responses from police and better support for community safety. That is all going to come within the north coast region, so there will be new boundaries there.

It is important to know your boundaries. It is important to know where your boundaries are so you do not cross them. Our government knows the boundaries. Our government backs the commissioner's new boundaries, but there are some people in this House who do not know where the boundary is. When it comes to mixing policing and politics, those opposite do not know where the boundary is. When it comes to charging people to attend a community forum, those opposite do not know where the boundary is. It is all about boundaries. Yesterday I spoke about a community forum which the LNP masqueraded as a political fundraiser for the LNP. In its description of the forum under the heading 'LNP' those opposite said—

Join us for an informative evening as our experienced panel give their view on current laws.

They wanted to talk about policy—fair enough—but you cross that boundary when you seek to politicise the Queensland Police Service by putting a police officer's name on that invitation. That officer rejected the invitation. That officer did not attend the forum and I commend that officer. I commend that officer but condemn those opposite for seeking to politicise the Queensland Police Service and for crossing that boundary.

In fact, they do not know where the boundary is and, true to form, they do not change their colours. They do not learn from the lessons of the Fitzgerald inquiry. They continue to blur the line when it comes to policing and politics. They continue to blur the line when it comes to overreach and when it comes to engaging in conduct which is inappropriate. They do not know where the boundary is. Those opposite do not know where the boundary is when it comes to charging people to attend a community forum. They do not know the boundary when it comes to respecting our police and the good work that they do. I condemn them for that and call on them to apologise to the Queensland Police Service for seeking to politicise it and to members of the broader community for charging them to come to a community forum. What a disgrace on such an important issue like this. What a disgrace.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Clayfield, you are warned under the standing orders. Comments will be directed through the chair, and there is a reason for that, members.

Olive Downs Mine, Approvals

Mr WEIR: My question is directed to the Premier. Can the Premier confirm that the government approved the Olive Downs mine whilst in the middle of a court process? Given Labor's refusal to approve New Acland stage 3, was this approval solely because of the involvement of Labor lobbyist Cameron Milner?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question and I reject the premise of his question.

War on Wrecks

Ms RICHARDS: My question is of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister update the House on the progress of the Palaszczuk government's War on Wrecks program?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the member for Redlands, who has done a magnificent job as chair of our War on Wrecks Taskforce. This program, started by the Palaszczuk Labor government, is cleaning up waterways all over Queensland of abandoned boats, wrecks and all sorts of things. With the amount of coastline we have, it is not surprising that we have nearly 265,000 registered vessels across Queensland. Unfortunately, while most boaties do the right thing, there are a small minority who do not and that is what this program is all about—that is, taking environmental hazards and navigational hazards out of the way.

I am pleased to report to the House that since July 2018, when the member for Redlands took over as chair of the War on Wrecks, more than 750 vessels have been pulled from the water or made seaworthy—that is a huge number—and Maritime Safety Queensland is eyeing off 360 other wrecks that are targeted for removal. They are excellent environmental outcomes. I thank the member for Redlands for her hard work and for all of the work that goes to the salvage businesses, the wrecking yards and the jobs that are generated by this good environmental policy.

There is one listing ship out there that is probably beyond salvage, and that would be the 'HMAS LNP'. It is a tale of a fateful ship. It set sail on an ill-fated voyage in 2008 when the Libs and the Nats got together and ever since the weather started getting rough. The tiny ship was tossed. If not for Clive Palmer's superyacht, then the LNP's SS Minnow would be lost.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, before you take us on a three-hour tour, I do need you to come back to the question as asked. You are straying from that under standing order 118.

Mr BAILEY: Thank you, Mr Speaker, for your guidance. I am coming back now to the issue of wrecks. What we see is the opposition lost on an uncharted desert isle reliving the *Mutiny on the Bounty*. We have seen thousands of words of leaks and of infighting over recent weeks about who caused them to go on the rocks, how to repair the hull and how to get them out of it. The question is: will the member for Broadwater prevail as first mate, or will skipper Clive Palmer prevail? Will we have superyacht domination continuing? That is the question, but we all know one thing: we all know that someone is going to walk the plank. There is no doubt about that, and will it be the underperforming LNP party room? We will wait and see, because leading up to the state convention it will be a case this year of what movie will we see? Will it be *The Poseidon Adventure*? Will it be *The Perfect Storm*? Will it be *Jaws*? Will it be the *Life of Pi* or indeed will it be *The Abyss*? We all know that at the convention someone will get wrecked and someone will walk the plank, but we know that they will be plunging to new depths, and that is for sure.

Sunnybank State High School, Asbestos

Dr ROWAN: My question is to the Minister for Education. Can the minister explain why parents and staff were not advised of potential asbestos exposure of children and staff at Sunnybank State High School for nearly two months after the incident?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for the question because it gives me the ability to put some issues on the record. This incident happened while we were in caretaker government and this is an issue that we on this side of the House take very seriously. Asbestos is one of those issues where we have never strayed from our responsibilities. I do object to the premise of the question because it is not necessarily correct because, as soon as the department was made aware that there was an issue with regard to that, immediate steps were taken for rectification. The department came in with occupational health and safety representatives and all remedial work has been done.

Mr Crisafulli: Notification? Were parents told?

Ms GRACE: Everything has been done according to the manner in which you deal with the serious issue of asbestos, Leader of the Opposition, because that is the way we on this side of the House conduct business. We do not hide staff under the carpet. We do not let serious issues like this wallow on like wage theft and nothing being done to address it. We address this in a very serious manner.

The school restricted access to the four blocks while this was done. Within an hour of advice of the incident—the member opposite may want to listen to this—a clean-up crew, the hygienists, were dispatched and the site was completely decontaminated. These precautions were put in place to ensure

that all students and staff were kept informed and safe. As soon as they found out, everybody was informed and every avenue was covered. This happened some time last year. We were in caretaker mode. All of us would have been on the streets campaigning. It was around October or November.

Parents and staff were advised almost immediately in relation to where we were coming from. Remediation work has been completed and I am informed that that contractor is no longer going to be engaged. These are serious issues and need to be taken seriously. The Minister for Public Works has done an excellent job with our procurement. Under contract conditions, if contractors are not performing in accordance with the contract, if they let us down when it comes to health and safety and not taking precautionary measures, we take action. It is a credit to the Minister for Public Works that we have that clause in our contracts. Action was taken immediately. That contractor is no longer engaged.

I thank the member for the question. I really do. I have worked around health and safety all my working life to protect workers from the terrible pain of mesothelioma and asbestosis and as a doctor I know the member would be in exactly the same boat. We take it very seriously. We acted very quickly. The contractor is no longer engaged. The health, safety and wellbeing of everybody is our primary, No. 1 issue.

Social Housing

Ms LAUGA: My question is to the Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts. Will the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is building new social homes and creating jobs in Central Queensland?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for Keppel for her question and her commitment to ensuring that social housing continues to be at the forefront of our conversations. Recently I joined the member for Keppel and the member for Rockhampton at Frenchville in Rockhampton where we turned the sod on works commencing on a new social housing construction project as part of the Palaszczuk government's Works for Tradies \$100 million stimulus. Works for Tradies was announced in June last year by the former minister for housing and will support around 240 construction jobs and see the commencement of 215 homes by the end of this year, including 25 in Central Queensland. This is in addition to the record investment of \$1.6 billion in the Housing Construction Jobs Program to build more than 5,500 social and affordable homes, supporting some 450 full-time building and construction industry jobs a year for the next 10 years.

At the Frenchville site the members for Keppel and Rockhampton and I met with the local tradies who have benefited from the program, with the project seeing up to 15 local tradies involved over the next six months. Construction is forecast for completion later this year, providing five one-bedroom and two two-bedroom apartments to social housing stock for the Rockhampton area. I am very pleased to be able to say that two of those apartments are designed to Livable Housing Platinum Level, making them particularly suitable for clients who mobilise in wheelchairs. In addition to the Frenchville project, contracts have been awarded for a further five new homes in the Rockhampton region and another 11 programmed across the Central Queensland region under our Works for Tradies program.

The \$1.6 billion Housing Construction Jobs Program is moving rapidly to meet its targets. In fact, the program has already exceeded its first three-year target with contracts awarded for the commencement of over 2,200 new social homes, of which more than 1,300 have already been completed. This is a huge difference to what we saw under the former LNP minister for housing, the member for Everton. In the year 2013-14, at the height of the member for Everton's influence in this sector, how many social homes were actually commenced in Rockhampton?

Mr Lister interjected.

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

Ms ENOCH: Zero! How many social homes were commenced in Logan? Zero! How many social housing properties were commenced on the Gold Coast, in Ipswich, on the Sunshine Coast? Zero! In fact, across the whole of Queensland in 2013-14 only 79 social homes were commenced under the LNP and the leadership of the member for Everton. The fact that the Leader of the Opposition has put him back in that spot means nothing has changed on that side.

Recycling Modernisation Fund

Mr O'CONNOR: My question is to the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs. Queensland is the only state to have not signed up to the Recycling Modernisation Fund, holding back tens of millions of dollars worth of investments in waste management infrastructure. What is the reason for the hold-up?

Ms SCANLON: I thank the member for the question. We are negotiating right now with the federal government around the agreement. That is under the Deputy Premier's portfolio but, of course, when it comes to waste that is under my portfolio. We are doing a range of things when it comes to supporting businesses through the resource recovery scheme. There have been millions and millions of dollars we have invested with industry to try to not only reduce the amount of waste we see in Queensland but also provide job opportunities as well.

It was this side of politics that introduced the waste levy that those opposite did not support. As a result of that waste levy we have seen a massive reduction in the amount of waste that we see going into landfill and going into our waterways every year. We have also been able to use those funds for things like the resource—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms SCANLON: Those opposite are not interested in waste, Mr Speaker. We know that they are not interested in resource recovery or waste because they opposed those measures last term. Those funds are used to partner with business. They are also used to support not-for-profit organisations, such as schools, to put in place infrastructure so that they can also reduce the amount of waste that they see, and create jobs. We know that we create three times as many jobs in resource recovery compared to putting rubbish into landfill. It is not only environmentally sustainable, it is economically sensible. That is why we are implementing our waste measures. It is why we have introduced the plastics bill that we are debating in this House. It is why we banned single-use plastics. It is why we brought in the Containers for Change program, which I know those opposite were very critical of when it was being implemented. I think they think we have all forgotten about what happened under the Newman government when those opposite repealed the waste levy and we saw dump trucks coming from Melbourne and New South Wales into Queensland.

It is only this side of politics that has a strategy to tackle waste. We will work with the federal government, but when it comes to investment in resource recovery we far exceed the contribution that is currently on the table from the federal government. We welcome more investment and we will continue to work with them.

Apprentices and Trainees

Mr WALKER: Mr Speaker—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr WALKER: Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is great to have a fan club.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left, there is absolutely no call for that sort of behaviour when I have asked clearly that questions will be heard in silence. I hope I am making myself clear. I will allow some additional time because I was interrupted, as was the questioner. Member, you can ask your question and I will give the minister one minute to respond.

Mr WALKER: My question is to the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development. Will the minister update the House on how the government is supporting apprentices and trainees and is she aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms FARMER: I thank the member for his question and for his interest in skills and training. The Palaszczuk Labor government has a strong focus on skills and training—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Members to my left, the minister is not being provocative. The standards must rise in this House if we are to have a proper question time. Minister, you have 51 seconds remaining.

Ms FARMER: With regard to our free apprenticeships for under-21s, our free TAFE for under-21s has been extended to under-25s—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, there is one Speaker in this House who will manage time. I do not need 12 members yelling out 'clock'.

Ms FARMER: I want to mention another special program, the JobTrainer program. I thought the Leader of the Opposition might be interested in it because we know from the *Courier-Mail* that they have been having a little bit of trouble in the past few weeks. I refer in particular to the Certificate IV in

Leadership and Management. The core units are: implement operational plans, lead effective workplace relationships, communicate effectively as a workplace leader and lead team effectiveness. Because we support TAFE across the state, there is a course available at the Southport TAFE. He is able to go there and for the cost of \$48—


Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. I will pull you up. Question time has now concluded. Members, I remind you that there is a relevance provision. It must be the case that the answer is relevant to the question as asked.

WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING (PLASTIC ITEMS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 9 March (see p. 396), on motion of Ms Scanlon—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (11.20 am), continuing: It is wonderful to continue this debate considering the answer that was just given by the brand new environment minister. The brand new environment minister is quite new to this parliament and I get that. Just as the member for Lytton needed a bit of a history lesson last night, perhaps the Minister for the Environment does not realise that it was the LNP that announced the container deposit scheme back in 2016. Where was the Labor government then? It was nowhere to be seen! I cannot table my phone to prove it but the member for Moggill, as the then shadow environment minister, and the member for Clayfield, as the then leader of the opposition, announced it in Bundaberg, where we were able to talk about the fact that the Palaszczuk Labor government had done nothing in this space.

It is the LNP that is interested in practical environmental outcomes. It was the LNP environment minister who brought in this policy. It was the LNP that introduced the single-use plastic bag policy, and I acknowledge the former environment minister, the member for Glass House. It is the LNP that is leading the way when it comes to environmental activism in this state. It is members of the LNP who are able to hold our heads up high and lead the policy debate in this great state. It was through leadership that we introduced those policies—and they followed. The Queensland Labor Party is clueless so they have to look to this side of the chamber on many issues. Congratulations go to my colleague the former shadow minister, the member for Moggill, in this space.

I want to thank the year 6 students of St Mary's Catholic College in Kingaroy. I know the member for Lytton does not think they deserve to be represented in this great House. I went and I listened to them and this issue is exactly what they were talking about. It is why that school, like so many of our schools, have led the charge, pushing members on this side of the House to say how wonderful it would be to bring back the container deposit scheme.

I am very pleased with the Cherbourg MRF, the material recovery facility, which I started talking about last night. It has won state awards. It processes hundreds of thousands of cans and bottles each week. It is quite incredible. The centre employs 15 young Indigenous people in Cherbourg—Andrew Beckett might say that he is not so young; I give a big shout-out to Andrew Beckett who runs that facility—and it employs eight workers in Kingaroy. The centre is open six days a week and they process hundreds of thousands of containers each and every week. The MRF is also looking to expand and value-add to their recycled products, which is another policy that the LNP brought in through the last state election campaign.

I can see the environment minister over there cackling away because she is thinking, 'Great! I'll go and look up that policy release because then I'll have another job to do next week.' I encourage the Palaszczuk government to look into glass recycling for road surfaces, which is a great idea.

Mr Watts interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I thank the member for Toowoomba North. I would like to table this article from the *Brisbane Times*.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Table it please, member for Nanango; do not use it as a prop.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The headline reads: 'LNP pledges container deposit plan'. I am sure the environment minister would like to read that.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Brisbane Times*, dated 5 June 2016, titled 'LNP pledges container deposit plan' [\[292\]](#).

With the little bit of time that I have left I want to congratulate the federal member for Brisbane, the Hon. Trevor Evans, who handed down the National Plastics Plan last week, and once again congratulate the member for Bonney. As the shadow environment minister he is trying to encourage the Palaszczuk government to catch up to all the other states and sign up to that plan. Why is it that the Palaszczuk Labor government is so lazy and slow when it comes to signing up to national agreements? Every other state in the country bar Queensland wants to sign up for another practical environmental outcome, but not the Palaszczuk government.

Now that the member for Bonney has suggested it in the parliament today I am quite sure that the Deputy Premier and the environment minister will rush back to their little offices to do that, because once again it is the LNP leading the charge in this space and it is the Palaszczuk Labor government that follows. If members opposite dare question our right to have a voice in this House they do so because it is the LNP and the members on this side of the House who have the ideas and it is the government that follows our ideas.



Mrs MULLEN (Jordan—ALP) (11.26 am): I note that the member for Nanango did not mention the revocation of the waste levy as an achievement of the LNP. I certainly think they have a future in recycling and I am rooting for the member for Surfers Paradise.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I draw to your attention to the warnings that have been issued earlier. The member for Nanango might have some concerns.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Sandgate, for your guidance and for reminding me to alert the following members that they are on warnings, which continue until the lunch break: Nanango, Callide, Gregory, McConnel, Mudgeeraba, Mermaid Beach, Buderim, Woodridge, Everton, Logan, Clayfield and Southern Downs. Members, be aware that you are on warnings and cease your interjections accordingly.

Mrs MULLEN: I rise to make a short contribution to the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020. Like many members in this House, last Sunday I attended the yearly Clean Up Australia Day activities in my electorate. This is the fifth year that I have participated and I am always happy to see so many members of our community joining us for a morning of litter collection.

Over the past five years I have noticed that we are collecting less and less rubbish. I could put that down to having an incredibly responsible and environmentally conscious community and that may be the case in some instances. However, I believe the biggest change has come from the key initiatives and law changes that the Palaszczuk government has made since our election in 2015 and that are making a transformative difference in our communities.

Our banning of single-use plastic bags has been an important change. With the help of our wonderful local Scouts groups on their canoes and kayaks, we used to fish out huge amounts of plastic bags from the Springfield lakes. We do not see those large numbers any more, which is particularly good news for local birds and wildlife.

The container refund scheme has also had an incredible impact in the community. Plastic bottles and cans formed by far the greatest volume of rubbish we would collect from our parks, roadsides and waterways. Because the Jordan community has embraced the container refund scheme with great gusto, it is now particularly rare to find a plastic bottle or can. Our local charities are particularly benefiting from this initiative. I want to give a special shout-out to Our Lady of the Southern Cross Parish and the wonderful Father Mauro. Since the scheme was launched the church has raised more than \$20,600, with all of these funds being used to support those in need within our community. This is an amazing effort.

We know that government policies and laws can have an important and transformative impact on our local communities and on our natural environment and wildlife. The Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020 makes amendments to the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011 to introduce a ban on single-use plastic items. This, of course, includes single-use plastic straws, stirrers, plates and cutlery. The bill also provides for other items to be added by regulation following a consultation process.

It is clear that our Queensland communities want to be and are deeply engaged in this important issue. It is rare at times to get overwhelming numbers of submissions on Queensland laws, despite our best efforts to engage our communities, but during consultation on options with this bill it was incredible


to see that 19,622 submissions were received and that 94 per cent of these submissions supported the introduction of a ban. This is an overwhelming expression by our community that they want something done about single-use plastic items in Queensland.

I am pleased also that the government has provided some flexibility with regard to the start date, recognising that where we were at the beginning of 2020 is very different from where we are now following the onslaught of a global pandemic. Businesses, particularly small businesses, have been affected, and I think it is incumbent on our government to listen to the voices of our small retailers, coffee shop owners and cafe owners. The ban will commence on proclamation so that the Queensland government can monitor the impacts and determine an appropriate date to start the ban.

For many of our local businesses in the Jordan electorate, I am already seeing the banning of single-use plastics like plastic straws before the ban has even been imposed. I want to particularly acknowledge my office neighbours, Raw Energy, a fantastic local cafe that has been using paper straws and bamboo cutlery for a long time now. Tim and Kristie, a fantastic young couple who own this business, have told me they have been committed to reducing waste from their business and understand the incredible benefits it brings to our local environment.

We have also included a range of practical exemptions in this bill, including where the item is supplied to an exempt business such as a hospital, pharmacy, school or medical or dental clinic, or to a business that supplies an exempt business. This recognises the need to provide access to certain items such as a single-use plastic straw to meet the temporary or permanent disability and healthcare needs of individuals.

The bill also provides for other items to be banned. We know that many in our community wish to go even further, supporting a ban on coffee cups, expanded polystyrene takeaway food containers and cups and other plastic items. I commend the minister's amendment to the bill which will seek to include expanded polystyrene items. There will also be a review that will help determine how effective the ban has been and the level of awareness among the community and businesses about the ban and banned items. I congratulate Minister Scanlon for her ongoing commitment to this important policy change, which I know is supported broadly by our wider communities. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (11.32 am): As a member of the Health and Environment Committee, I rise to make a contribution to the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020. I support the bill as it is compatible with LNP values broadly with regard to protecting our environment and living sustainably. In particular, for me, our oceans, bays, rivers, reefs and broad marine ecology have always been of important value. It fuelled my interest to study marine science at James Cook University many years ago. What flows into Moreton Bay Marine Park through our river systems can be good for the marine environment, like fresh water and certain levels of nutrients; it can be neutral; or it can be destructive, like all forms of non-biodegradable material.

As the member for Cleveland, now Oodgeroo, I have attempted to lend support to good environmental programs and outcomes in my electorate, whether to do with single-use plastics, container recycling schemes, marine research or koala protection, among other areas. With regard to this bill and the marine environment, protecting turtles, dugongs and other marine life in our Moreton Bay Marine Park is critical. Sustainable fishing practices in the bay are also important so that commercial, recreational and charter fishing can occur at sustainable levels. Protecting and growing the reefs in Moreton Bay is also important. According to some scientific reports the reef material is growing, and that is good news.

I wish to put on record my thanks to the committee secretariat and my fellow committee members for their work, though the bulk of the work was already done in the last term by the previous committee. The policy objectives of the bill are to enable a ban on the supply of single-use plastic items by amending the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011 to ban the supply of particular single-use plastic items, starting with straws, stirrers, plates and cutlery. In terms of plastic use, we know that a total of 3½ million tonnes of plastics were used in Australia in 2018-19. Some 84 per cent of plastic used is sent to landfill and approximately 13 per cent is recycled. Australia uses around 70 billion pieces of soft plastic, such as food wrappers, each year.

The problem is not going away easily. We are using more and more plastic, and that is expected to double worldwide by 2040. One million tonnes of Australia's annual plastic consumption is made up of single-use plastics. Too many of these and other plastics end up in our oceans each year, with an oft quoted 2016 study reporting that by 2050 there will be more plastic than fish by weight in the ocean. Some 99 per cent of seabirds worldwide are expected to have ingested some amount of plastic by 2025. In Australia alone, around 130,000 tonnes of plastics leak into our marine environment each year. These are considerable concerns.

In terms of Moreton Bay, more particularly locally in terms of my electorate of Oodgeroo, the health of Moreton Bay is critical to the bay's marine ecology and our coastal way of life. I want to thank the various marine care groups across Moreton Bay and the Redlands Coast area for the work they do. I have had the pleasure over the years of working with some of these groups to help clean up waterways of plastic debris and other rubbish. The reefs and river systems of Moreton Bay are important to the marine ecology of the bay and, together with water quality nutrient flows and reducing plastics and other pollutants, we can make things better for current and future generations of Queenslanders and our interstate and international visitors.

As I have often in this House, I also acknowledge the work of the University of Queensland marine station at Dunwich on North Stradbroke Island. A lot of both Australian and international students go through that station. The university does great work there. The students study a whole range of species including manta rays, turtles and sharks. One of the areas of research that to me is fascinating is the impact of plastics on turtles. This research is absolutely critical. To those who conduct research into the impact of plastics on turtles and other marine life, I say well done. It is important to identify which plastics have the greatest impact so we can zero in on the worst affected areas. Some plastics mimic jellyfish in the water column. Of course, jellyfish are one of the food sources for turtles. Some plastics sit in the water column in a particular way which entices turtles to eat them. We need more funding into marine research in partnership with facilities like the UQ marine station at Dunwich and others who do a wonderful job in that regard.

Specifically in terms of the islands of the bay, a healthy Moreton Bay is critical to the ecology around and on the bay islands, including pristine North Stradbroke Island. On North Stradbroke Island, Minjerribah, the container scheme is important, as it is across all of the Redlands Coast region. I supported the container scheme when it was announced firstly by the LNP in 2016, and I continue to support it as the government took up our idea. We in the LNP then provided bipartisan support when the legislation was introduced.

I have to say that I was not so excited at the rollout of the container scheme program on Straddie. One would have thought that if the environment on North Stradbroke Island and Moreton Bay was as important to the government as they say, they would have had some sort of program that would have included a container collection centre on North Stradbroke Island as part of the original plan. Sadly, they did not. The government did not think that highly of pristine North Stradbroke Island, nor Moreton Bay. If the residents of Straddie, again overlooked and excluded by this government, wanted to be involved and included in the recycling scheme they needed to go through quite a painful process. They had to drag their recyclables across the island, then onto the ferry terminals, hopefully keeping all of them in bags, then onto the ferries, then across the bay, then onto another ferry terminal at Cleveland, then onto a bus or a car—it would have been interesting if you had big bags to go onto a bus—and then find the single container return centre in the Cleveland district. The residents had to hope that they did not lose any items along the way, on North Stradbroke Island or in our pristine Moreton Bay.

We do not need more plastics polluting the bay and our waterways. I call on the government to take more care of the environment when it comes to North Stradbroke Island and Moreton Bay. The government can go beyond this bill and support other things in terms of the environment like the rolling out of more artificial reefs in Moreton Bay—at Wellington Point, for example—to take pressure off the natural occurring reefs. On North Stradbroke Island we do not want to see plastic rubbish, especially in environmentally sensitive areas. Educating tourists and visitors to dispose of rubbish and recycle is important.

People go to the North Stradbroke Island headland area—Point Lookout, for example—to see the natural beauty of the point. They want to experience the beautiful wilderness scene of native bushland, kangaroos, koalas and look out to the ocean to see dolphins, turtles and whales frolicking around. They of course need to find a camping ground that is open, and it is tough if they want to use a tent when it comes to the new camping restrictions imposed. What they do not want to see is litter or plastics blowing across beautiful pristine areas, nor do they want to see other ugly forms of pollution in beautiful areas like the visual pollution of the unwanted development on the pristine Point Lookout headland. Sadly, the government is not dealing with this visual pollution despite Quandamooka objections. I support the bill.



Mr McCALLUM (Bundamba—ALP) (11.41 am): I rise to speak in support of this bill. It is the latest step in the Palaszczuk government's strong commitment to waste reduction and protecting our environment. By banning single-use plastics like straws, stirrers, cutlery and plates, we are taking the next steps towards a cleaner, greener Queensland. The Queensland waste strategy provides a

framework to reduce the amount of waste produced and ultimately disposed of by promoting more sustainable waste management practices for business, industry and households. This is exactly what this bill will help achieve.

I would like to see Queensland become a zero waste society, where waste is avoided, reused and recycled to the greatest possible extent. Today we continue that journey with more proactive measures to reduce waste and make a very real difference to our environment and the jobs that depend on it. Last year Queenslanders told us this is what they want. We asked Queenslanders to decide the future of single-use plastics, and overwhelming they were in favour of a ban. In fact, 94 per cent of the almost 20,000 respondents supported the proposal. Now we are delivering. This bill will ban the supply and sale of single-use plastic straws, stirrers, cutlery and plates. Importantly, the bill recognises the needs of vulnerable Queenslanders and considers the needs of the disability, aged-care and health sectors by providing appropriate exemptions.

Last year's public consultation process showed there was also strong support for banning other single-use plastics like expanded polystyrene takeaway food containers and cups. I am extremely pleased that the minister has brought forward an amendment to this effect. There are preferred alternatives to these products available that are far less harmful to our environment. The start date for a ban on single-use plastics will be no earlier than 1 September this year—giving our businesses time to source appropriate replacement products like paper straws, bamboo cutlery and plates and wooden drink stirrers.

Waste is an issue that is being discussed not only in Queensland but also across the nation. The Palaszczuk government has acted to help reduce waste and protect our environment. We banned single-use plastic bags, removing about 900 million bags a year from landfill. Then we introduced the hugely successful Containers for Change program that has seen more than 150 million containers recycled in our local Ipswich community and over \$15 million paid to Ipswich residents, boosting our economy as we continue our safe and strong recovery from the COVID pandemic. More than 193,000 Queenslanders are now registered for the scheme, which has helped create more than 650 new jobs across the state. Studies show more than a 35 per cent reduction in container litter since the hugely successful program was launched.

It was our government that also reintroduced the waste levy after it was scrapped—the same levy the opposition and One Nation voted against.

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr McCALLUM: This has resulted in an almost 60 per cent reduction in the volume of waste coming into Queensland from interstate.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order! Members to my left. Member for Gregory, member for Condamine and member for Warrego, cease interjecting.

Mr McCALLUM: Without this levy we would have reopened the floodgates for interstate dumpers. Waste is an important issue in our community that comes with considerable legacy and involves all levels of government. I take this opportunity to reiterate that the proposal to build a waste-to-energy facility at Swanbank is not appropriate for our rapidly growing community. A job-creating, state-of-the-art recycling facility would be better for our community and our economy or the project should be moved to a more suitable location away from our fast-growing, highly populated area. There needs to be greater focus on avoiding the creation of waste altogether, alongside reuse and recycling. We need less waste and more job-creating recycling which is better for our community, the environment and the economy. That is exactly what this bill helps achieve by banning single-use plastics.

We have also invested nearly \$27 million in recycling projects that will create jobs and support businesses in the resource recovery sector while reducing the amount of rubbish sent to landfill, which I am proud to say includes local projects in Ipswich. We expect this to support the creation of more than 300 new jobs, see more than 957,000 tonnes of rubbish diverted from landfill each year and result in \$126 million in additional capital investment into the Queensland economy. Our holistic approach to waste—both in terms of rubbish reduction and infrastructure investment—will help ensure our stunning Queensland environment is protected and preserved for future generations to enjoy. I commend the bill to the House.



Ms LEAHY (Warrego—LNP) (11.47 am): I rise to contribute to the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020. I wish to thank the members of the respective committees and the committee staff for their review of these bills and the submitters who consequently, on more than

one occasion, made submissions on the content of the bill. The key objective of the bill is to enable a ban on the supply of single-use plastic items starting with straws, stirrers, plates and cutlery. In conjunction with the bans, the bill provides a head of power for further bans at a later date.

The bill makes provision for additional items to be banned through regulation and requirements that must be met prior to making the regulation to ban additional single-use plastic items. Firstly, the bill says the public must be consulted about any future ban; however, the legislation is silent as to the time frame or how widely that consultation will be undertaken.

This has raised concerns with the Australian Food and Grocery Council about future bans. In its submission the AFGC recommends an amendment to this section in order to prevent unintended detrimental environmental and community outcomes. The AFGC said the bill needs to be amended to require that, before including another product or class of banned single-use plastics, an assessment against a defined criteria must be undertaken. The omission of any such assessment may lead to perverse outcomes such as substitution of items that may cause greater environmental damage or health or safety risks for the community. We also need to be very careful that we do not end up with more items in landfill which causes an impost on the local government sector.

Banning single-use plastics is only one side of the equation; education is on the other side. This was emphasised in the Natural Resources, Agricultural Industry Development and Environment Committee report. Some submitters spoke of the need for any education campaign to commence as soon as possible to provide enough time for consumers to prepare for the ban and for businesses to source alternatives—that is particularly important in regional areas where they do not have a lot of suppliers—as well as to provide enough time for businesses to renegotiate contracts, arrange logistics, retrain staff and inform their customers.

The NRA emphasised that this education needs to commence as soon as the legislation is passed. The committee also heard evidence that the education campaign should be targeted at retailers as well as individuals. That will be quite difficult in some regional areas that no longer have newspapers. They simply do not have a lot of that information that can be put out there. They do not necessarily have access to the internet or the ability to find some of that information on the internet. Ms Ebony Johnson of the NRA stated—

I think there is a really strong argument for consumer education as well as retailer education and tying that together. Retailers are often the educator of consumers at the point of sale. We found that was absolutely critical during the [plastic] bag ban.

Several submissions supported this, detailing the benefits of a wider anti-littering campaign alongside the introduction of the ban of single-use plastic items. I often receive calls to my office about the littering along our highways and roads. Any campaign to try to reduce littering is absolutely welcome.

This legislation bans single-use plastic that is a plate, a bowl, an item of cutlery, a straw, a stirrer, or is prescribed by regulation to be a banned single-use plastic item. I note the amendments in relation to polystyrene containers and material. When it comes to cutlery, it means utensils for eating food and includes chopsticks, splayds and sporks. A straw attached to a juice box, a fork included in a prepacked salad, a spoon attached to a yoghurt container or a plate forming part of a frozen meal are items not banned as single-use plastic items. I think it is very important that people know what is banned and what is not banned.

Originally the legislation was to come into force on 1 July 2021. This was decided prior to COVID-19. I note that the minister stated the commencement date will be no earlier than 1 September 2021. There is also a need for a grace period for the transition. Without a grace period a supplier may be forced to put all of their current stock straight into landfill. That would be an undesirable outcome and it would be counterproductive.

The bill also provides for certain businesses and undertakings to be exempted from the ban. An exempt business or undertaking includes a school or a healthcare business—for example, hospital, aged-care centre, pharmacy, medical and dental clinic. I note that it does not include child care which may cause some complications in the future. There are many not-for-profit organisations across Queensland that provide breakfasts and lunches at schools that are not just provided through tuckshop. These organisations are run by volunteers, and this is repeated across many schools and volunteer organisations across the state.

Whilst the government is banning single-use plastics, I ask that the government do so carefully and to not make it harder for volunteers, particularly those in our schools who undertake that important role of providing breakfast for many disadvantaged children. I am advised that in the community of Chinchilla some 300 breakfasts are provided by some of those not-for-profit organisations. I do not want

to see it become more difficult for those organisations to provide breakfasts to those children. I ask that the government consider further transition mechanisms should it become evident that these volunteer organisations operating in schools, but not actually part of the school, are experiencing difficulty with this ban.

One of the complications of this bill is compostable plastics. There is an exemption for these items if they are made with compostable plastics, but there are questions as to whether these plastics are always disposed of in the correct way and if Queensland has the facilities to do this kind of composting in all areas. Queensland is a very, very large state. It is not always easy to make sure that we have an amount of these particular plastics to make it viable and worthwhile to compost them.

One of the problems is that in communities with smaller populations it is not economical to compost these plastics, nor is it economical to transport small amounts of waste over long distances. Compostable plastics need to be processed in an industrial composter. If they go to landfill they produce methane gas, adding more to our emissions. It is counterproductive. Until our waste facilities are up to date and there is education on what to do with compostable plastics, there will continue to be more added to landfill.

It does pose the question: what action is the Labor government taking to ensure that all communities have the ability to compost these plastics and reduce landfill regardless of where they live in the state? After all, it is the state Labor government who are reaping billions of dollars from the waste levy and who should be leading by example when it comes to compostable plastics.

Local governments manage landfill across the state. They cannot do all the heavy lifting, especially those who have a declining population base. Queensland is the only state that has not announced how it will match and invest the Commonwealth's funding commitment of \$190 million commitment in the Recycling Modernisation Fund.


National Waste and Recycling Industry Council CEO, Rose Read, has been critical of Queensland trailing behind other states and territories who are already using their fund. She said—

This is no time for Queensland to be complacent. According to the National Waste Report 2020, in 2018-19 Queensland's resource recovery rate was 48.7%, well below the national average of 63% for the same period.

Queensland makes up about 17.8% ... of Australia's waste generation ... but is sending more than 26.8% ... of the 22Mt total going to landfill.

A further complication of this legislation is that of the cross-border issues that will arise until similar legislation is enacted in New South Wales. Queensland is banning single-use plastics ahead of New South Wales. If you are in Mungindi, you will be able to use a plastic straw in the cafe on the New South Wales side of the border. However, when you have a drink in the Two Mile Hotel on the Queensland side of the border you will have to use a metal or paper straw. Queenslanders in that part of the state often shop in New South Wales but they will be subjected to the ban. However, New South Wales residents will not be subjected to a ban until legislation is brought forward in that state.

Again we will have a situation that has not been thought through for border communities. This cross-border confusion for border residents demonstrates the need for the Queensland government to have a real cross-border commissioner to provide advice and solutions on matters that impact border residents such as this legislation. The New South Wales government has flagged that they will bring in legislation. However, it is unclear when this will occur, and until then that confusion will continue for those border residents and businesses in those border communities.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (11.56 am): Our communities and our community groups are calling on the government loud and clear to act on the proliferation of single-use plastics currently clogging our community streets and waterways. As a former member of the committee that looked into this legislation, I rise with pleasure to support it.

Like many members of this House by the sounds of it, on Sunday my daughter Allegra and I headed out with some local Oxley families for Clean Up Australia Day. It is a tradition we have been participating in for many years now. Most of the items we collected were of course single-use plastics. I must say that generally speaking the streets were fairly clean, even though we collected along a main thoroughfare road—Oxley Station Road.

I have cleaned up many locations throughout Mount Ommaney. Generally, like the member for Jordan, I have found a year-on-year reduction in waste. I do believe that the recently introduced container refund scheme has a lot to do with that. I thank Yvonne who organised the clean-up that I participated in in Oxley, but there were several in my electorate of Mount Ommaney. I hope everyone in Queensland had as easy a clean-up as I did.

As I said, I think the reduction in waste is due in large part to the passion that our communities have shown for leaving the world a better place than we found it. This is seen clearly in the sheer number of environmental groups that we have in Mount Ommaney who drive the legislation that we are seeing today.

Our Rotary club of Sumner Park has long hosted monthly rubbish clean-ups along the Centenary Motorway. Former president Dennis lamented that the No. 1 type of rubbish that was found was Macca's detritus. I took that information to the local owner of Macca's—Chris. He listened to the community feedback and he voluntarily placed notices in the window of the drive-through asking people not to litter. That is just one example of good corporate citizenship trying to assist with this legislation.

Another much younger cohort who are equally passionate about the environment are the students at Jindalee State School. They have adopted a local waterway where again we find a lot of single-use plastics. Jamboree Heights are also driving waste reform in their own school with their waste warrior captain role.

As many speakers have already noted, we know that kids are often the driving force behind environmental and legislative change. Pretty much every school in Mount Ommaney has an environmental initiative. On a more wideranging note, the member for Townsville has been a proud champion of the campaign by a schoolgirl from his community who drove the banning of plastic straws with her Straw No More campaign. This is a fantastic example of advocacy that can come from the youngest in our community to drive the legislative change we are introducing today.

As I touched on earlier, the much awaited Containers for Change scheme has proven the willingness of the widespread community to embrace green initiatives like this one. The bill has received widespread support from a number of submitters, but more informally I think we know that it has the support of our local electorates. Since its launch a few years ago Containers for Change has gone absolutely gangbusters in Mount Ommaney. Groups such as the Corinda and Middle Park P&Cs have at various times used the collection of these bottles as fundraisers, making it a double win for the coffers of our hardworking P&Cs as well as our environment.

As we look to the future, some families are also throwing back to the past when things were less disposable. Disposable nappies are a godsend for many families, mine included. That said, many families in our community have sought out cloth nappies like those created by the amazing local business bubblebubs. Bubblebubs has made modern cloth nappies for eco- and budget-friendly families. They are big business. This company has won several international awards and they export internationally. Their innovative owner, Vicki, created this product as a labour of love over 10 years ago. I am sad to say that she passed away earlier this year at a very young age. We can see that families are embracing products like these cloth nappies to reduce their carbon footprint. In many ways they are ahead of the curve; they are certainly ahead of the legislation.

By the time we banned plastic bags a few years ago my local Boomerang Bags in Oxley and Centenary had already put hundreds, if not thousands, of re-usable bags out into our communities. You may have seen me carrying my beautiful red bag around parliament. Ahead of the legislation we are introducing today they are now offering nifty little lunch kits featuring re-usable straws, knives, forks and beautiful little cloth wraps to store it in. We have also seen businesses that are keen to get in on the act of helping the environment. Many businesses right across Queensland have participated in the ecoBiz program, sponsored and promoted by the Queensland Chamber of Commerce, and have proactively worked ahead of this legislation to phase out single-use plastics so that by the time the legislation comes in they will be well and truly compliant.

I also want to acknowledge that during COVID it has been really difficult for a lot of the hospitality businesses which were moving away from single-use plastics. In the House we have to use plastic bottles rather than the glasses we have always been able to use. We are using plastic and disposable knives and forks for the first time in many years. I do want to acknowledge that COVID has been a setback for a lot of businesses in terms of introducing this legislation—and certainly in complying with it—but I know that once we are through the worst of it they will be keen to get on board and continue to reintroduce more sustainable long-term options.

My daughter Allegra loves to say 'The world is not your garbage can.' It is a popular children's song. I think our kids 'get it'. They know that we should not be throwing our rubbish on the ground, clogging our waterways and poisoning our planet. In keeping with the musical theme this morning, to quote the late, great Whitney Houston, 'I believe that children are our future and we should let them lead the way.' Judging by the number of young people who were out and about on Clean Up Australia Day, they know what is up. This piece of legislation is a key piece of the puzzle to keep Queensland beautiful. I commend the bill to the House.



Ms BOLTON (Noosa—Ind) (12.03 pm): Since the 1950s all of the plastic that has ever been produced has ended up in our environment. As plastic is non-biodegradable it is still present in one form or another, causing incalculable damage to our environment, wildlife and ultimately ourselves. However, because it is versatile, cheap to produce and provides convenience in a throwaway society it has become one of the most difficult to wean ourselves from. Queenslanders and Australians have done a remarkable job working to change their behaviours through cleaning up, recycling, repurposing and transitioning away from the ‘plastic fascination’; however, behavioural change alone has not been enough and has led to the necessity to legislate further.

As we have heard, the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020 amends the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011 to ban the supply of single-use plastic items starting with straws, stirrers, plates and cutlery. This is in addition to the single-use bags that happily no longer clog our waterways and the plastic and glass bottles which are no longer roadside courtesy of the Containers for Change program. This was especially evident during Clean Up Australia Day recently.

This bill seeks to achieve a further reduction of 20 per cent in plastic pollution resulting from single-use plastics by 2023. I can hear you. It is not enough; however, I believe the level of support from everyone will speed up now that there is serious intent. Each of the 13 submissions to this inquiry supported the principle of a ban on certain single-use plastic items. Of these, six had previously submitted to the original inquiry during the 56th Parliament, including the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation, which agreed that banning these items, with appropriate exemptions, is consistent with the approach being taken in other jurisdictions.

In addition, updated submissions from stakeholders, including the Boomerang Alliance, reaffirmed their previous support and have been instrumental in Noosa’s efforts. Initiatives such as Plastic Free Noosa have seen our businesses already do what this bill is legislating. How fortunate I am to live in an electorate committed to these efforts. We are also so very proud of two of our youngsters, George and Carter, who developed e-PAC. The e-PAC has all of the essentials you need to get rid of your plastic desires. The cool coconut shell bowl is sensational and I recommend it highly.

There were a couple of concerns from submitters. These have been addressed by the option of allowing healthcare businesses such as pharmacies and hospitals, as well as other outlets, to provide plastic straws in recognition of the need to provide accessibility for people with disability and healthcare needs. There is considerable community support to expand the range of banned plastic items including takeaway food containers, plastic takeaway cups, polystyrene cups and containers, and oxo-degradable plastics. The bill does allow for additional items to be banned in the future by regulation following community consultation. It also provides for a review of the ban within two years of its commencement.

With regard to concerns about the implementation date, 1 September 2021, the impact of this ban on businesses was highlighted by the National Retail Association, which said that with COVID-19 restrictions and associated supply chain complications the proposed implementation date warrants ongoing consideration. The one thing we want to avoid is a trash and burn versus replenish and replace strategy to prevent large quantities of banned items ending up in landfill all at once.

The extensive stakeholder consultation undertaken in preparation for this bill is appreciated. It has been very effective, and I thank the Department of Environment and Science and the minister for this. It included the establishment of a stakeholder advisory group and interdepartmental committee with peak bodies representing those impacted, including: retail, hospitality, tourism, food service, disability, aged care, local government and environmental sectors. It is invaluable that these bodies continue to meet and advise on various matters relating to the implementation of the ban.

I thank the committee and the considerable number of submitters to both the 2020 and 2021 bills, attendees to the public hearing and public briefing and the department for their comprehensive work and consultation. I also thank our fabulous residents and organisations back home in Noosa and across Queensland who have for many years fought so hard to de-choke, clean up and educate around the consequences of our plastic fascination which, thankfully, is starting to wane. Keep up the incredible work. Do not forget that it is up to every single one of us to make a difference. Legislation can only go so far. If you are coming to Noosa do not forget to grab your e-PAC on arrival.



Ms HOWARD (Ipswich—ALP) (12.08 pm): I am pleased to support the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020. The Palaszczuk government is committed to reducing the devastating impact of plastic on our environment and marine life. Plastic waste affects our oceans,

waterways, groundwater and soil and even ends up in our food chains. Around eight million tonnes of plastic waste leak into the ocean each year, which is equivalent to dumping more than 170 wheelie bins of plastic into the ocean every minute.

The Ellen MacArthur Foundation, which has done extensive research on the New Plastics Economy, reports that given our projected growth of consumption in a business-as-usual scenario our oceans by 2050 are expected to contain more plastics than fish by weight. This is an alarming statistic and one which shows we need to take urgent, swift action to change our habits in terms of dealing with plastic waste. Plastic residues have been found in marine wildlife such as turtles, fish, whales, seals and birds and can even enter our food chain through seafood. Poor management of plastic waste in industrial processes contaminates our soils, and each time we do a load of washing microfibres in clothing get released into our waterways.

In Ipswich, multiple landfill sites take in hundreds and thousands of tonnes of rubbish each year, much of it likely to be plastic waste that has only been used once and then thrown away. The large landfill facilities in Ipswich, which actually sit adjacent to fast-growing residential suburbs, are not getting any smaller and the waste companies operating them still seem to have major issues complying with their environmental obligations.

Only last week, we heard that the Department of Environment and Science had fined Cleanaway \$26,000 for releasing contaminated water from its stormwater facility, exceeding its prescribed limits. The department has recently issued an EPO to BMI Group ordering them to stop releasing contaminated water into Six Mile Creek at New Chum. Last year Cleanaway was issued an environmental protection order for two fires that broke out at its resource recovery areas. Bio-Recycle at Swanbank were fined \$300,000 last year for brazenly exceeding the amount of waste they were licensed to dispose of by 125,000 tonnes between 2017 and 2019 and unlawfully exceeding the approved height of their landfill by one metre, even though the Ipswich City Council had rejected their application to increase their landfill height.

These landfill companies are not the only ones causing problems and flouting the rules. Two composting companies in Swanbank—WMI and NuGrow—have been penalised repeatedly for generating gut-wrenching odours, making daily life a misery for residents living in Ripley, Flinders View, Silkstone, Booval and Raceview. No amount of fines or penalties appear to stop these companies from flagrantly breaking the rules and doing it again and again, because the bottom line for them is profit. Corporate social responsibility does not seem to be on their radar.

These examples show that the waste industry in Ipswich is in urgent need of a shake-up. The people of Ipswich are fed up with their city being used by companies that abuse their environmental obligations and disregard community values just so they can turn a quick profit. Is it any wonder then that so many people in Ipswich are against the proposed Remondis waste-to-energy facility after what they have had to put up with already? An incinerator in Ipswich would not only be the last straw for many Ipswich people who are already fed up with the odours; it would also fail to support our goal of Queensland becoming a zero waste society where waste is avoided, reused and recycled.

An incinerator relies on large quantities of non-recyclable rubbish, including plastic waste, being converted into enough energy to power homes and businesses. This begs the question: how can that be a viable business model going forward when Queensland's goal is to eliminate unnecessary waste as much as possible through reusing and recycling products and materials?


We are already fast moving down the road of removing plastic waste with our single-use plastic bag ban, our Container Refund Scheme and now with this bill—a ban on single-use plastic utensils and cutlery as well as polystyrene food containers and cups. Our government is also investing in infrastructure and markets that will encourage the recovery of plastics to make new products, create new industries and jobs, and eliminate unnecessary waste going to landfill or ending up as litter.

We have already seen fantastic results with the single-use plastic ban generating a 70 per cent reduction in plastic bag litter and the Container Refund Scheme generating a 35 per cent reduction in plastic container litter. The banning of single-use plastic utensils, straws, containers and cutlery will take us one step further. These items predominantly end up in landfill as they are unable to be recovered for recycling, and they can also contaminate recycling streams creating more waste for landfill.

Surveys that have been done on litter show that a major source of plastic entering the environment is generated from single-use plastic items, including plastic straws and cutlery. During the consultation stage of the bill 19,622 submissions were received, and 94 per cent of those submissions supported the bill and 90 per cent supported introducing the ban as of 1 July 2021. This gives businesses time to transition to alternative products and source suppliers but it is great, as many of the

other speakers have said, that so many businesses are already doing this and have been for some time. The Boomerang Alliance have said that many of the big fast-food chains like McDonald's have switched from plastic straws and cutlery and that retail food services and hospitality sectors are in support of the ban and changing their procurement practices.

Queensland is in the process of delivering a fundamental shift in the way we deal with plastic waste, and I am confident that we can stay the course because we have already seen the results in action. I want to commend the former minister for the environment and the current Minister for the Environment for their outstanding contribution to addressing the urgent issue of waste reduction. I am proud to be part of a government that is doing such good work. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (12.15 pm): I am pleased to rise in the House to speak in support of the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill. I would like to take the opportunity to recognise the work of the committee, in particular the members on this side of the House who have contributed to this amendment bill over the course of several terms—including the member for Buderim, the member for Condamine, the former member for Bundaberg, the member for Oodgeroo and the member for Southport. I also recognise the contribution of those opposite and the committee support provided by the parliamentary staff.

This is a very important piece of legislation and I am very pleased to support it. In August 2016, the Whitsunday Regional Council voted unanimously to submit a policy motion to the Local Government Association of Queensland for inclusion at their then upcoming conference in October. This policy motion to ban the single-use, lightweight, non-biodegradable plastic bags was subsequently endorsed. This really started the conversation in Queensland and showed the leadership of the Whitsunday Regional Council, given the pristine environment that they operate in and that their residents live in. I was proud to be at that LGAQ conference where, as a former local government deputy mayor, we were pleased to support that motion. It is fantastic to see an extension of those initiatives now played out in this draft amendment bill.

I would like to highlight some of the potential unintended consequences of this bill in regards to local government. While we all want to ensure that minimal waste ends up in landfill, there needs to be a continuing dialogue by the government with local governments across the state. Many local governments have invested significantly in landfill sites—utilising their ratepayers' funding—to meet strict environmental regulation, as they should do, but there will be ongoing unintended consequences around their assets, the life of those assets, the depreciation of those assets and how local governments raise revenue through the collection of waste. It is important that the government continues to have an open dialogue there. I know local governments are committed to reducing waste to landfill, but there will be an impact on the balance sheets of local governments.

I would also like to highlight, as other members have highlighted, the benefits that will be delivered by this legislation in a local context. I look forward to welcoming my colleague the shadow minister for environment to the Whitsundays in the very near future. He will be meeting one of my amazing stakeholders and community organisations, Eco Barge Clean Seas. If members have not heard of Libby Edge, they need to google her because she is an amazing woman. As their founding chair, she is dedicated to protecting the local marine environment. She established the organisation after realising the effects of marine debris on the local marine life. The project initially began through the Whitsunday Marine Debris Removal Program in the Whitsundays. The group also protects our local waterways through the Clean Streets and Clean Creeks program, as well as caring for turtles at the Whitsunday Turtle Rescue Centre, and it is fantastic.

Mr O'Connor: Are we going there?

Ms CAMM: We are going there. Eco Barge also runs education and awareness activities in the local community about marine debris and the importance of thoughtful waste disposal. It is important to note—and I certainly urge the Minister for the Environment to come and meet with Libby Edge—that when she announces on her Facebook page that she is heading out on Eco Barge to one of the beautiful Whitsunday islands, less than three hours later it is fully subscribed with volunteers. On their last trip out to Border Island on 8 February, which was trip No. 349, six volunteers removed 90 kilograms of marine debris from that island.

Libby does not receive state government funding. It is a registered charity that has some loyal corporate partners but she is always looking to increase the number of partners. Her team comprises a dedicated committee along with 55 members and over 1,600 volunteers. Their efforts to protect the natural environment have so far seen 208,483 kilograms of marine debris and litter removed from the Whitsunday Islands since July 2019. It is just a fantastic community organisation.

As this amendment bill outlines the exemption for schools, I would like to encourage the government to continue the dialogue, as we do as local members in our communities, with our schools and P&Cs, in particular P&C run tuckshops, to further engage and encourage schools to participate in initiatives where they can reduce their single-use plastics. I know many of them already are doing that. I would like to highlight Cannonvale State School, a wonderful school in our local community.

Mr Kelly: Hear, hear!


Ms CAMM: I take that interjection. I know that the member for Greenslopes has a deep connection with Cannonvale State School and it is fantastic. It is a great school led by a very competent principal. I highlight their sustainable efforts to ensure that the reef remains healthy and continues to thrive. They have a project that is led by year 6 students who encourage recycling, nude food and reduced electricity consumption. The school has also adopted the local Cannonvale Beach and participates in events such as World Tree Planting Day, which is also fantastic.

I would also like to highlight the impact on our natural environment and in particular our turtle populations across the Whitsunday community but more broadly globally. The Mackay and District Turtle Watch Association is a volunteer group that dedicates their time to the cause. They do amazing things across the northern beaches of Mackay. They tag turtles, maintain records and undertake citizen science around our turtle species. During the nesting seasons members have to excavate turtle nests and relocate them. They are very mindful of our beaches and the community. While we do not focus on Clean Up Australia Day in North Queensland, we participate later in the year as part of our 'clean up the north' initiatives. I know that this amendment bill is going to be very much welcomed by the Mackay and District Turtle Watch and Queensland turtle conservation groups across the state.

I would also like to highlight the impacts that single-use plastics have had on birdlife across our community and recognise an outstanding advocate, Daryl Barnes. He is a former president of Mackay Birdlife and was recently awarded the Environmental Achievement Award for his contribution to environmental conservation and education. I have spoken at length with Daryl about the impacts of single-use plastics, on both our native birds across the community but, more importantly, the shorebird population and species that visit our shores each year from all over the world, from places like Serbia and Russia. This legislation will ensure that many species that are somewhat vulnerable will be supported in such a way that they can remain sustainable across the globe.

I would like to take a moment to outline and recognise also the concerns that were shared by my shadow minister in his initial words around the need for our state to sign up to the Recycling Modernisation Fund. That fund will generate \$600 million of recycling investment across the states with the support of the federal government and will obviously attract industry investment as well. It should not take the significant amount of time that it has already for our state to sign up to it. This government continues to lag when it comes to signing up to federal government initiatives and partnerships. As a state that wants to generate jobs and keep people safe, we really should be leading the charge on this. I encourage the government to act with haste in the sign-up to the RMF.

I would also like to formally highlight and endorse the member for Nanango and the member for Glass House in their instigation as previously outlined with regard to plastic bag bans and their leadership in this. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (12.25 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill enabling a ban on the supply of specific single-use plastic items starting with straws, stirrers, plates and cutlery. I was very pleased to hear the minister say yesterday that, after considering the results of a consultation that was carried out at the end of last year and the beginning of this year, she will be seeking to amend the bill during consideration in detail to include polystyrene takeaway food containers and cups. That is excellent. I noted that 98 per cent of the people who gave feedback supported the inclusion of these items in the ban.

At the outset, I want to say how proud I am to be a member of a government that is so deeply committed to the environment and at so many different levels. The member for Mount Ommaney spoke earlier of the ecoBiz program enabling small businesses to save costs and save energy, adopting more sustainable practices. We have our investment of over \$340 million over five years in the Great Barrier Reef. We are implementing sensible tree-clearing laws to protect vegetation habitat. We have our \$500 million Land Restoration Fund. We have our target of 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030. We have established our \$500 million Renewable Energy Fund. We have established CleanCo, a publicly owned clean energy company. Of course, the member for McConnel talks all the time about our

\$97 million Advancing Clean Energy Schools program that is reducing energy costs at more than 800 state schools through the installation of solar systems and other energy efficient measures. I am absolutely thrilled that so many of the local schools in my electorate are beneficiaries of this policy.

The Premier highlighted only this morning the fact that she had established a separate ministerial portfolio for hydrogen. How fantastic it is to know that Queensland has already earned a place on the world stage with our minister for hydrogen addressing member countries on what our plans are around hydrogen. I congratulate him for the passion he has already shown for his mission.

As I said, protecting the environment is something I am personally absolutely passionate about. I know it is something that the people of my community are passionate about, including our kids. There is no school in my electorate where our adults of the future are not speaking up about the importance of looking after the environment and about individuals taking responsibility for their actions. I could not even begin to list all of the ways they are doing that. It is all about the kids actually making those choices.

I cannot speak about these programs in schools without particularly mentioning the Tangalooma EcoMarines program. I think I have attended every single one of their annual events to celebrate what they do. Morningside State School and Bulimba State School are active participants in that program at the moment. In fact, I think Bulimba State School started in that program at the beginning. The effect of that program is that our kids then go home and encourage their parents and the rest of their family to develop some responsibility. The impact of it simply could not be overestimated. All my local schools have been active participants in my eco forums as have the increasing number of local businesses that are taking it upon themselves to establish sustainable practices in every aspect of their business.

When we are talking about this space, I want to give a big shout-out to the Bulimba Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee and my local bushcare groups. B4C, Cannon Hill Bushcare Group, Seven Hills Bushcare Group and the Perrin Creek group are all very active bushcare groups and are very much centred around waterways. I have very much enjoyed my interactions with them and going out and working with them. I also mention Myuna and the Majestic Outlook group, that are groups of local neighbours, friends and families who are really committed to exercising their responsibility.

The legislation before us follows a resolute determination by this government to address the pervasive impacts of plastics on our environment and wildlife. We banned single-use plastic bags in 2018. I thank Boomerang Bags, run by Christine Cameron, who filled the void with her mighty team of volunteers making lots of boomerang bags. We introduced the hugely successful container refund scheme. How proud were we that Queenslanders were such enthusiastic early adopters! The minister said that nearly three billion containers have been returned for refund since the scheme was introduced. We released our Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy, identifying this and the way forward for improving management and recycling of plastic. That included *Tackling plastic waste: Queensland's plastic pollution reduction plan*, which came out of that strategy. I was pleased to see that the next stage of that, on which consultation will be held, seeks to include items such as coffee cups, other plastic cups and heavyweight plastic shopping bags. I am sure this will be welcomed by my community.

I know that many cafes and takeaway stores all over Queensland have already stopped using single-use plastic. The cafeteria here in Parliament House was a very early adopter. Yesterday I ate my delicious broccoli and feta salad out of a little cardboard box with a non-plastic knife and fork. It is just great to see Parliament House showing leadership.

I want to thank successive ministers for their consultation with industry on this, because this does have an impact. I know that great care and consideration has been given to educational awareness, to making sure that retailers can manage stock control and to allowing time for new products to be developed so that these things are affordable. I am particularly excited about the opportunities for one of my local business owners, Hannah Bird, who last year set up her company New Envi for this very purpose. I know that she will do so well. I note that, after consultation with industry on this legislation, the ban now will come into effect on 1 September 2021, just to allow industry to have everything in place.

I thank the Health and Environment Committee for its excellent work on this. I acknowledge the leadership of our current minister, the member for Gaven, and previous environment ministers, the members for Murrumba and Algester, who have really shown enormous leadership in relation to this. I thank the previous ministers for attending my eco forums, the topics of which were banning single-use plastic bags and the rollout of the container refund scheme. I am after a commitment: I will invite the current minister to come out and talk at my next eco forum. I know that people will love having her there. This legislation represents wonderful work, and I commend the bill to the House.



Mr POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (12.32 pm): I, too, rise to support the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020. As a number of members have mentioned, it seems like a very logical progression from what we as a parliament have achieved—first with container deposit legislation, then with the ban on single-use plastic bags and now plastic items—that we should debate this bill today. It is something that both sides of politics support; indeed, the LNP led the charge on container deposit legislation and plastic bags. We are pleased to be supporting this additional step today. I do not think there is a member in the House who was not active on Sunday morning on Clean Up Australia Day. I think we all would acknowledge that, whilst this year we saw fewer containers—it is very worthwhile hanging on to them these days—and fewer plastic bags, we still would have seen plenty of plastic in what was returned to us.

I was able to join the joint Clean Up Palmwoods—Clean Up Australia Day activity put on by the Palmwoods Scouts in conjunction with the Palmwoods Community and Business Association and fed by the great Palmwoods Warriors Football Club. I sat behind the barbecue, making sure everyone had a good feed that morning. I also acknowledge Leigh Martinuzzi Real Estate for its sponsorship of that event. There were plenty more activities going on around the electorate. Jo Turner led her famous Obi Obi clean-up in Maleny while the Maleny Blackall Range Lions were also cleaning up along Landsborough Maleny Road, and the Glasshouse Mountains Advancement Network, GMAN, did a great job down in Glass House Mountains.

It is my hope that, once we pass this legislation, over the coming years we will find less plastic as we travel around on Clean Up Australia Day. As others have mentioned and as written in the explanatory notes, the principal policy objective of this bill is to amend the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011 to ban the supply of single-use plastic items, starting with straws, stirrers, plates and cutlery. The bill seeks to achieve a reduction in plastic pollution resulting from single-use plastic by 20 per cent by 2023.

I want to focus on two aspects, both of which express a level of frustration. The first occurred during my tenure as the state minister for environment from 2012 to 2015 when we were exploring container deposit legislation and plastic bag legislation. When I went out on the water with the likes of Dr Colin Limpus AO—I acknowledge that Colin received his Order of Australia last year; I congratulate him on that very well deserved accolade—he would point out to me that it is not plastic bottles or even plastic bags that are the biggest frustration for marine life, particularly turtles; it is actually those shards of hard plastic formed when a takeaway food container degrades in the sun and in the water. They look remarkably like baby jellyfish floating around on the surface of the water. It is those that are ingested by the turtles that cause the damage.

The National Retail Association is still seeking some clarity around what is meant by ‘bowls’ and ‘plates’. In reading the bill, I am not convinced that we have addressed what those takeaway containers are. I will come to why I think that might be the case. I read from the committee’s report around the definitional concerns of the NRA. It states—

We re-emphasize our submission in that retailers require clarity on the definition of items and what products are and are not banned under these terms to be able to take timely action.

We believe the current legislation provides adequate explanations of most of the items to be prohibited however the legislation still lacks clear definitions for ‘bowls’ and ‘plates’.

For example, many retailers use lidded bowls as takeaway containers and need certainty that these items would be considered containers and not captured as bowls under the legislation. Additionally, retailers who supply catering products need clarification about the size and diameter distinction separating a plate from a platter. Providing more clarity on the differences between bowls, containers and tubs as well as the differences between plates, trays and catering platters will help to address retailer concern and uncertainty on these issues.

Not only would it address retailer concern; it would also address community concern that perhaps we have not extended this appropriately to include what needs to be protected. I know that there will be a review of this in two years and that that provides us an opportunity to come back and have a look at these, but I go back to the conversations I was having some eight years ago where we knew that the bigger issue was these takeaway containers.

The NRA made a submission around what it considered the government’s pragmatic decision to allow exemptions for certified compostable items, in particular bowls and plates. The NRA said—

We maintain our original position that at this point in time, certified compostable options such as those lined with polylactic acid (PLA) are the only viable and safe alternatives for many businesses. For example, the only disposable bowl alternative available to hold heat and liquid is fibre (cardboard or bagasse) lined with a bioplastic film such as PLA.

We do have a situation where, as much as we probably want to get rid of those hard plastic takeaway containers, we have not yet come up with a solution to get home in a safe way the Chinese, Thai or Indian from our favourite takeaway, given it is hot and often liquid based. The government needs to work with the industry over the coming years to come up with solutions, because that will ultimately address much of the plastic pollution that we see in our waterways.

The other concern I have has been expressed by a number of others. Like all members out there on Sunday on Clean Up Australia Day, I have been contacted by countless school students pleading with us to ban plastic straws, so it is ironic that in doing this we are exempting schools. The Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia said it very well when it said—

While schools have been exempted from the ban, WMRR acknowledges—

the former committee's—

fourth recommendation that this exemption is reviewed as part of the two-year review. WMRR continues to strongly advocate against this exemption. Schools should not be allowed to distribute, sell, or use banned plastic items unless it is to persons who require these products due to a disability or medical requirement. There is an opportunity to drive generational change through this ban, with school aged children being champions of this initiative given many are currently participating in initiatives such as *nude food* (eliminating single-use packaging in lunch boxes), which should continue to be encouraged.

These young people are indeed the champions of this kind of legislation and in many ways they are the reason we are debating it here today. It is those younger people who have contacted my office demanding that we do this that we are delivering this for, but we are then exempting the main environment in which they operate. I echo the calls of WMRR that this issue be looked at within two years because what I think we will find is that many schools will have already transitioned away from these single-use plastics in those two years, so having an ongoing exemption is kind of pointless. I do acknowledge that in a number of cases, as the WMRR said, we need to make sure that if there are reasons for disability or a medical requirement plastics continue to be available, but that is an exemption around a particular need, not around a particular location such as a school.

There is a lot of positive in this, and I note that polystyrene containers are going to get picked up through amendment. That is another positive step in the right direction. Let us face it: the world did not end when we phased out single-use plastic bags and it did not end when we brought in container deposit legislation, and so it is not going to end in doing this. In fact, we are making the world a better place and therefore this legislation has my support.



Hon. MC BAILEY (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (12.41 pm): The Palaszczuk Labor government has a strong track record when it comes to protecting our environment. We went to the 2015 and the 2017 state elections with commitments to introduce strong native vegetation laws to better protect Queensland's environment, and that is what we have delivered. However, the LNP opposition voted against that and of course the so-called Greens party MP for Maiwar moved amendments to water down those tough tree-clearing laws, much to his shame. Under the previous government, the equivalent of a thousand football fields was being cleared every day. Despite the interference of other parties, including the so-called Greens party, it was the Palaszczuk Labor government that implemented these tough tree-clearing laws once a majority was possible in this House in 2018.

In addition to implementing strong tree-clearing laws, we took swift action to ban single-use plastic bags. Protecting our environment is one of the most fundamental things that we must do in all aspects of our everyday lives. We also implemented the container refund scheme. I have seen firsthand in my own electorate of Miller in Rocklea the huge popularity of the Containers for Change program. It is well used by my local community. This scheme allows people to collect and return the eligible containers to the recycling exchange for the refund payment. It supports our local community groups and charities by households donating the 10-cent refund from each container. I had the opportunity to visit the Salvos store in Sherwood as the program kicked off in 2018.

It is worth noting that approximately 300 million tonnes of plastic waste is produced every year and about half of that is designed to be used only once and then thrown away. Queenslanders use three billion drink containers every year—a staggering figure—so I still encourage everyone to get involved in this fantastic program. We have seen huge success from the program, but we are also taking the next step and that next step involves plastic straws, stirrers, cutlery and plates being consistently among the top 10 littered items found on beaches and in our marine environment. When littered, these plastic items break up into increasingly smaller pieces that persist in the environment and act like sponges, collecting pollutants from the environment. When mistaken for food, they pose a mortal threat to our wildlife, causing many deaths.

This legislation will ban single-use plastic items like straws, stirrers, cutlery and plates to protect our environment for future generations. We made an election commitment to consult on the inclusion of single-use expanded polystyrene takeaway food containers and cups in the first tranche of the single-use plastic items ban. From a recycling perspective, these single-use items are also difficult to recycle and can contaminate recyclable items collected through kerbside collection services, leading to the disposal of otherwise recyclable resources—an outcome we want to avoid. The ban introduced by this bill will element a substantial amount of single-use plastic items from use and avoid the environmental impacts that result from the waste items entering the environment. I look forward to the fact that at future Clean Up Australia Days we will see less and less of these sorts of pollutants in the environment because of these laws that we will pass here today. I will certainly be voting for the bill and commend the bill to the House.



Mr MICKELBERG (Buderim—LNP) (12.45 pm): I rise to address the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020—a bill which is, for the most part, the same as the lapsed bill of the same name introduced to the House immediately prior to October's election and which was considered by the then Natural Resources, Agricultural Industry Development and Environment Committee, of which I was a member. During the previous committee hearings into the lapsed bill I had the opportunity to receive submissions from many interested parties and we conducted hearings in Brisbane, Cairns and Yeppoon. During those hearings the bill had widespread support, including from key businesses and lobby groups such as the National Retail Association.

We know that of all the plastic used in Australia 84 per cent is sent to landfill. With Australians consuming around 100 kilograms of plastic each year, this bill addresses a considerable problem that is growing year on year. It is a problem that residents in my electorate are rightly concerned by. Just on the weekend, along with my daughter Lara and son Alex, I joined 40 other members of my community to participate, as many other members did, in the Clean Up Australia Day. My four-year-old son, Alex, was particularly motivated to fish every single little piece of rubbish he could find because he wanted to ensure 'that it didn't make the turtles and fish sick'. Having your four-year-old son educate you on the adverse effects of plastic on the marine environment is an instructive experience and it made me reflect on the importance of the kind of practical environmentalism that we could all employ to tackle problems that seem insurmountable—practical environmental initiatives like the single-use plastic bag ban and the container deposit scheme, both of which were first proposed by the LNP and subsequently adopted by the government with bipartisan support.

During the hearings of the previous committee, submitters to the bill, as I said, were generally supportive. However, a number of issues were raised in relation to the implementation of the bill which I now want to address. Specific concern was raised in relation to the need for greater clarity on the commencement date of the provisions in this bill, as we have heard. Both the NRA and the Australian Food and Grocery Council have asked for adequate notice to ensure an orderly transition for industry. Noting that many businesses have existing contractual arrangements and hold a considerable amount of stock, such a change needs to be phased in to ensure that businesses are in a position to adapt. Because of its inconsistent approach to this bill, the government has created unnecessary complication and uncertainty. I ask the minister to listen to the businesses that will be impacted by these changes and to work with them to implement these important changes in a collaborative fashion that acknowledges some of the challenges which businesses are required to overcome.

One of my principal concerns during the previous committee consideration of the bill was in relation to compostable plastics. As we have heard, plastics which are compostable through industrial processes are excluded from the ban implemented by this bill. However, during submissions to the previous bill it quickly became evident that in many parts of Queensland compostable plastics end up in landfill in the exact same way as all other single-use plastics. They end up in landfill because many Queensland councils do not have the industrial processing capacity to compost the waste generated by these so-called bioplastics.

All the good intentions to remove single-use plastics from the Queensland supply chain will mean nothing if the state government does not do more to ensure that all parts of Queensland have the capacity to process compostable plastics which will largely replace the single-use plastics from the food and drink sector. The federal government has announced a \$190 million commitment in the form of its Recycling Modernisation Fund, but the state government remains silent on how it will match that funding and how it will invest to ensure that that capability on the ground is able to be improved to achieve the objectives that this legislation seeks to deliver.

Another issue raised during the committee hearings was the fact that schools, as we have heard, are expressly excluded from this legislation. The committee heard from Alison Foley, the director and founder of Ten Little Pieces—an empowerment movement that encourages people to make a difference

by collecting 10 little pieces of rubbish anywhere, anytime and with a particular focus on educating children. Alison spoke to the committee on the importance of children driving change and how this is a game changer over the short term but also in the long term. I will read from Alison's contribution—

I think we have a massive opportunity. The children that I interact with take on board the knowledge and the effect of their purchasing and consumption decisions very quickly. If we do not lead by example and use the schools as a method of dominating and pushing through for a much more sustainable and ecologically sound operational environment then it feels hypocritical. It feels as if we are not leading by example and providing them with the best chance. What we see in schools is that the children drive the change. They say, 'We don't want soy fish with our sushi. Can we have our sushi in paper bags? Can we have waste recycling stations within the school? Can we have composting facilities? Do we do litter-free lunches or plastic-free lunches?' Kids are one of the strongest agents of change because they do not have the blinkers and the barriers to change that perhaps adults do. What we find is that we give kids information with the methodology and the best practice that is available to us. These changes are not difficult, but they can be led very strongly with messaging from the government that there is an alternative, especially if government is going to incentivise the transition away from single-use plastic in school canteens. It is a simple strategy, but my belief is that that will have enormous ripple effects.

I note that the government has said it intends to review the application of this legislation in schools. For the reasons so clearly expressed by Alison Foley I encourage the government to consider the transformational educational effect that normalising the removal of single-use plastics in schools will have.

A final issue I wish to mention is the lack of law enforcement in relation to littering and the general lack of education as to the effect of littering. The previous committee heard testimony about the problem of littering on the Sunshine Coast. The point was made that there are sufficient bins yet many forms of litter continue to accumulate across the coast. This was never more evident than on the weekend given the copious bags of rubbish that volunteers fished out of the lake and gardens in Brightwater.

An honourable member: Disgraceful.

Mr MICKELBERG: It is disgraceful. It is striking that around children's play equipment there were cigarette butts shoved into the cracks of chairs and in the building while a bin sat nearly empty less than 30 metres away. Clearly the littering problem needs to be attacked through several different approaches and not just removing some of the items from the supply chain. The issue of cigarette butts is an interesting one given they too contain single-use plastics along with biological hazards and a multitude of other carcinogens. I understand there are few alternatives to the cigarette butts that are currently sold, so given that they cannot be easily removed from the supply chain greater enforcement and education must be considered.

During the hearings of the previous committee we heard that littering is largely the responsibility of local council officers. While QPS officers can issue littering infringements it is understandable that that is not a priority policing issue. I was disappointed to learn that in the last financial year the Sunshine Coast Regional Council issued only five littering infringements and in the year prior only three littering infringements. None of those infringements related to the insidious problem of cigarette butts. I believe that the Sunshine Coast council is abrogating its responsibility to keep our community clean. However, I am sure it is not on its own among councils in Queensland.

To be clear, I also believe that the state government is failing to meet its responsibilities, an example of which is in relation to the enforcement of no-smoking areas which should be undertaken by Queensland Health environmental health officers or the QPS. I call on the Sunshine Coast Regional Council, Queensland Health and the Department of Environment and Science to do more to ensure compliance with the existing littering rules and smoking provisions.

I note that the minister has foreshadowed amendments to expand the scope of this bill to ban the use of single-use expanded polystyrene. In my opinion this is a positive move. However, given the previous committee recommended exactly that course of action in its report tabled on 28 August 2020 it is puzzling why the government chose to not include expanded polystyrene in the bill which we are now debating when it was tabled initially. Such a course of action would have helped remove some of the uncertainty that businesses have and are experiencing in relation to the implementation of this bill.

In conclusion, this is an important and welcome initiative to remove single-use plastics from the supply chain in Queensland. However, if those plastics are just replaced with compostable plastics that end up in landfill, this initiative will be for nothing and it will fail. I ask the government to do more in relation to education on littering and in relation to littering enforcement. It is important that they are given greater attention than has historically been the case. However, noting all these matters—and I would like to see those areas addressed—I will be supporting the bill.



Hon. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (12.54 pm): It is great to stand up to support the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill. I am proud to be part of a government that has a strong track record when it comes to protecting our environment. I welcome students from Runcorn State High School in

the member for Stretton's electorate. Today we are debating banning single-use plastic items which I know is very close to their hearts. The products that we are banning through this bill are straws, stirrers, plates and cutlery.

At the moment there is an exemption for schools. One of the main reasons for the exemption is that we do not want to see students who need a plastic item have to request it and be singled out. I know that schools right throughout Queensland would embrace what is in this bill and take it on regardless of whether they are exempt. Once something is banned it is very hard for a school, a hospital or a pharmacy to use that item. At the moment those places are exempt, but we will review it. I know that schools are leading in this area and I congratulate Runcorn State High School because I know their school would be at the forefront. As Minister for Education I am very proud of the work that teachers, students and the community do together in relation to littering and single-use plastic items. Keep up the good work. It is great to welcome you here today.

The community continues to be concerned about single-use plastic items, particularly where it ends up in our waterways, in our seas and in areas of landfill. As a result of the initiative of the previous minister we now have this bill before us. I am also concerned about the amount of rubbish generated through packaging. That is the next issue we need to look at. I would like to see national rules around the size and amount of packaging.

When a bill is tabled in parliament it goes to a committee for investigation. During the committee's inquiry we get submissions. We had nearly 20,000 submissions to this bill, with well over 94 per cent in support. There is great community support for this bill. We have already banned single-use plastic bags and this bill is the next step. In my electorate of McConnel—one of the best electorates in the whole of Queensland; I know everyone would be saying something different to that but forgive me—restaurants, cafes and schools are already at the forefront when it comes to implementing what is in this bill. In a way we are catching up. I am pleased to see some flexibility with the start date. I think there is a preference around 1 July because businesses are still recovering from COVID. As I said, many businesses in my electorate are already doing this.

On Saturday I was at the Brisbane Racing Club in my role as the Minister for Racing. The Brisbane Racing Club had about 10,000 black plastic straws that they were wondering what to do with. They commissioned an artist, Colleen Lavender, to make a sculpture with the remaining 10,000 plastic straws. She made a sculpture of Black Caviar. I have a photo of it, along with Nev Bell, the chair of the BRC. It is on a wire backing. What she ended up doing with these plastic straws is amazing. Colleen was a jockey many years ago. She worked for a trainer at the Coonawarra Penola Racing Club. This plastic waste has been turned into art.

This bill is a great start. It will hopefully protect our waterways and our oceans. I think we can go further as the years go on. It is a pleasure to be a minister in a cabinet where we take these matters forward. We have the best environment ministers, Minister Scanlon and the previous minister, Minister Enoch, who have worked together to bring this bill to the House. With those few words I commend the bill to the House.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (2.00 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020. In July 2020, Labor's then minister for the environment and the Great Barrier Reef, minister for science and minister for the arts introduced the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020 to the Queensland parliament. It was subsequently referred to the former Natural Resources, Agricultural Industry Development and Environment Committee for further consideration. By the end of August 2020 the committee had tabled its report with five recommendations, most notably that the bill be passed.

As we know, with the dissolution of the 56th Parliament of Queensland the bill lapsed and this year was reintroduced into the 57th Parliament of Queensland, with no changes made to the draft legislation. The bill was sent for further consideration and consultation to the Health and Environment Committee. I note that the committee's sole recommendation was that the bill be passed. As per the bill's explanatory notes, the principal policy objective of the bill is 'to enable a ban on the supply of single-use plastic items, starting with straws, stirrers, plates and cutlery.' The explanatory notes further detail the objective of 'reducing plastic pollution resulting from single-use plastic by 20 per cent by the year 2023'.

Plastic pollution has both significant physical impacts, particularly with respect to marine life, and chemical impacts from persistent organic pollutants. There is also a significant body of research on the health impacts of plastics, including linkages to various cancers, diabetes, other endocrine disorders

and immunological and rheumatological disease. Microplastics and nanoplastics entering the human body through ingestion or inhaling can have adverse impacts, including genotoxicity and tissue necrosis.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge all year 6 students at St Aidan's Anglican Girls' School, located in Corinda in the western suburbs of Brisbane, which is the school that my daughter Lucinda Rowan attends. Recently I had the opportunity to visit and discuss the role of elected representatives, the processes of our parliament as Queensland's pre-eminent institution and the importance of civics and citizen education as well as the mechanics for how draft legislation is introduced, scrutinised, debated and passed, particularly that which pertains to Queensland's environment. Certainly we discussed the legislation that we are now debating in the Queensland parliament. I thank and acknowledge year 6 teachers Josephine Mitchell, Krisztina Mesch, Jann Manser and other staff for the opportunity to visit the school and be a part of the year 6 student education program. We also had the opportunity to talk about the container refund scheme and a ban on single-use plastic bags, which I will turn to later on.

As with other practical environmental and waste-reduction schemes, this plastics ban will require time for both businesses and the community to be educated on and ultimately to understand and adopt this initiative. However, as we have seen from the experiences of more than 60 countries around the world as well as in other state jurisdictions in Australia, businesses and communities are willing to embrace measures that ban or limit the utilisation of single-use plastic items. To that end it is worth drawing the attention of the House to concerns raised by industry and retailers about the proposed start date for the implementation of the ban.

Whilst the bill as presented in July 2020 proposed a start day of 1 July 2021, understandably that was postponed when the bill was reintroduced earlier this year with a date to be no earlier than 1 September 2021, in recognition of the ongoing economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. I note that both the National Retail Association and the Australian Food and Grocery Council have stated that adequate notice needs to be provided to facilitate an orderly transition by industry away from single-use plastic items, particularly as it can take six to 18 months for businesses to make such a change given the contracts and orders that are in place.

It has been suggested that to impose a start date without a grace period for suppliers may in fact have adverse consequences, with businesses potentially forced to dump all current stock straight into landfill. Clearly that would not be in the best interests of our environment and conservation efforts more generally. Coupled with ongoing concerns with regards to the lack of specific definitions of certain single-use plastic items to which this bill will apply, it is imperative that such issues are addressed by the Palaszczuk state Labor government before the ban is enacted.

That being said, notwithstanding those concerns it is worth noting that this legislation and its intent to reduce the consumption of single-use plastics have been generally supported by all those who submitted to the committee, including environmental, local government and retail groups. Indeed, I take this opportunity to acknowledge and commend the many retailers, food outlets and businesses of all sizes that have already, in their own way, sought to proactively take positive steps to phase out single-use plastic items, limit packaging and promote greater recycling.

As the Liberal National Party's shadow minister for education, I would like to briefly raise another concern that was highlighted in both committee reports on this bill. Concerns have been raised by environmental groups about schools being exempt from the single-use plastics ban. That exclusion has been made in order to recognise that there may be students, teachers and staff who have healthcare and/or disability needs that could require the continued utilisation of single-use plastic items, including straws and cutlery.

Whilst I acknowledge that the exemption is to be reconsidered as part of the legislation's proposed two-year review, it would be appreciated if, as part of the debate, the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef could provide the House with further detail and clarification on the rationale for the exemption of schools and whether that exemption was based on consultation with students, parents, teachers and staff. Having said that, I acknowledge the contribution of Labor's Minister for Education, the member for McConnel, the Hon. Grace Grace, before we adjourned for lunch today.

I wish to acknowledge and thank all Queenslanders who not only continue to recognise the importance of practical and sustainable environmental initiatives but also embrace such initiatives, even at a micro level, in order to effect real and positive change. There is perhaps no greater example of that

than what happened last Sunday, Clean Up Australia Day, in my electorate of Moggill. It was terrific to join my fellow Liberal National Party colleagues—Councillor James Mackay, councillor for the Walter Taylor ward; Councillor Greg Adermann, councillor for the Pullenvale ward; and Julian Simmonds, the federal member for Ryan—for an early Clean Up Australia Day rubbish collection in Chapel Hill, at the Chapel Hill Community Garden and the Green Hill Reservoir. At that event it was also terrific to have the assistance of my son Angus Rowan and his good friend Joe Vandeleur, who are both students at Ambrose Treacy College.

Following that event I joined our outstanding local Cubberla-Witton Catchments Network volunteers for their annual Clean Up Australia Day event in Kenmore. In addition to the Cubberla-Witton Catchments Network volunteers, in the electorate of Moggill we are very fortunate to have a number of truly incredible and dedicated volunteers and creek catchment environment groups, including the Moggill Creek Catchment Group, the Pullen Pullen Catchments Group and The Hut Environmental and Community Association or THECA.


Those groups routinely go above and beyond not only to look after our environment and ensure that plastics are not within our waterways and other important green-space areas but also to further educate our community and, indeed, future generations on the need to preserve and protect our great natural and native fauna and flora. That is why I am always delighted to provide my support wherever possible to those outstanding local organisations in the electorate of Moggill. Importantly, those groups also work with other local Scout and Girl Guide groups. Last weekend it was a pleasure to attend the Kenmore district Girl Guides AGM, as well as the recent Kenmore Scouts wolf awards presentation.

As the LNP's shadow minister for environment and heritage protection and shadow minister for national parks and the Great Barrier Reef in the 57th Parliament, I provided bipartisan support for the implementation of important practical environmental and conservation initiatives that have delivered real benefits to my community and communities right across Queensland. This included the introduction of the container deposit refund scheme and a ban on single-use plastic bags. I table some relevant articles from that time.

Tabled paper: Bundle of media articles relating to container deposit plan and recycling [\[293\]](#).

In the electorate of Moggill, our local Kenmore Rotary Club continues to actively encourage and manage container refund locations. Recently, a new bag drop site has been established under the Containers for Change scheme at the Kenmore Bears Rugby Club.

Whilst recognising the broad support that this legislation has across multiple sectors, it is important that the Palaszczuk state Labor government ensures that Queenslanders and Queensland businesses are appropriately made aware of the forthcoming changes, with sufficient time allowed to adopt and adhere to the legislation. I take this opportunity to acknowledge the LNP shadow minister for the environment and member for Bonney, Sam O'Connor MP, for his commitment to achieving bipartisan support for this legislation.

 **Mr SKELTON** (Nicklin—ALP) (2.10 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020. I note the inclusion of expanded polystyrene in the definition of banned single-use plastic items and I am grateful for it. This legislation aims to remove single-use plastics from our daily lives and thus assist in the preservation of wildlife and waterways and reduce litter on our roads and in parks or ending up in landfill.

I am pleased to announce that the idea of reducing, recycling and repurposing has been embraced in my electorate of Nicklin. Many businesses have adapted practices that act in support of the aims of this important legislation. Waste management is not only necessary for the protection of our environment; it also supports local jobs as we transition to a sustainable economy. Removing single-use plastics is responsible governance which has community support.


My region is extremely proud of its environment and heritage. Groups and individuals all do their bit in this space. Businesses, in particular our small businesses, have adapted and contribute greatly to the aims of this bill. We take the war on waste seriously in the hinterland. Envirotech waste management and Ecosafe Wastewater Treatment in Nambour, Sutton's in Cooroy, Drop'n'Go and Pete's Village Bakery are container exchange points in Yandina. Urban Depot in Nambour offers a drive-in swap service and does a pop-up run to Kenilworth on Tuesdays. I did note one of the members opposite wanting some sort of scheme like that for some of his more remote areas. I thank Jason Irwin at Urban Depot for extending his service and his employment of our local young people. Also in Nambour, Cartridge World and the Timber Recycling Shed offer recycling services. Auto parts are recycled in Yandina, and Pac Food in Nambour is committed to creating environmentally friendly food packaging products.

We have a unique business in my now home of Palmwoods called Salads at Palmwoods, one of the few lettuce and herb farms that sell their produce in compostable bags. Marnee and Nick are examples of the community and business adapting to change and securing our future. I cannot forget the exceptional community participation in Clean Up Australia Day last Sunday. I would also like to thank personally our community champion for this month, Mr Norm Morwood, for his ongoing work in removing waste from our beautiful region.

It has been great to hear of the bipartisan support for this bill, but I would like to note in this chamber the absence of a party that is so called 'for the environment'.

Mr Mickelberg: Keep dreaming, mate. You were elected on their preferences.

Mr SKELTON: I take that interjection. It is great to see the bipartisan support in this chamber for this bill and for our environment, but I would like to remind the members opposite of their deplorable record on environmental policy. In the spirit of International Women's Day I quote Ms Emmeline Pankhurst: 'It's about deeds, not words.' I am proud to be part of a government that actually gets things done.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (2.14 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill as the former deputy chair of the Natural Resources, Agricultural Industry Development and Environment Committee in 2020 when this bill was referred to the committee for consideration. My LNP colleagues on that committee—the former member for Bundaberg, David Batt, and the member for Buderim, Brent Mickelberg—made significant contributions to the outcome of this bill and its potential to generate less litter for all of our environments, land and sea. David Batt was heavily involved in a recycling project with plastics in Bundaberg at the time of the bill's referral, and it is a pity he is not here today to speak to this bill.

An opposition member: He'll be back.

Mr WEIR: I take that interjection. The objective of the bill is to enable a total ban on the supply of single-use plastic items by amending the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011, starting with banning single-use straws, plates, stirrers and cutlery.

In the latest data for the reporting period 2017-18, Australia consumed 3.4 million tonnes of plastic and recycled 320,000 tonnes, an increase of 10 per cent from the previous year. Unfortunately, eight million tonnes of plastic end up in our oceans each year which is a terrible indictment on our society—the throwaway generation.

As a recreational fisherman, I hold grave concerns for our fish and marine animals who inhabit the oceans, with plastic creating huge issues for them in their natural environment. Turtles are swallowing plastic items or becoming entangled and either dying or being seriously injured. The more plastic we can remove from our environment, the better we will all be.

The committee had the fortunate opportunity to visit the turtle recovery facility on Fitzroy Island with founder Jennie Gilbert. A very dedicated team of volunteers works at the facility, where it can take up to three years to rehabilitate some of these turtles before they are released back into the wild.

There has been no clarity provided by the government as to the start date of the single-use plastics ban. The bill originally had 1 July 2021 as the commencement date. Then the minister advised during her introductory speech that it would be no earlier than 1 September 2021. Now the start date will be confirmed once the bill is passed in parliament. Business owners need to have adequate notice of the start date to ensure a well-managed transition from single-use plastics. The LNP supports the call by both the National Retail Association and the Australian Food and Grocery Council for sufficient notification to be provided and a period of grace given to make sure current stock or orders do not end up in landfill all over Queensland.

There have been concerns raised by stakeholders regarding the lack of clear definition guidelines provided by the department. This has resulted in stakeholders taking the step of assisting the department in creating a document that will specify what will and will not be allowed. Without this specific information, it will be difficult for businesses to ensure the supply of containers and the correct containers are ordered. Many retailers provide lidded takeaway bowl containers. Are these captured in the legislation? There is a concern regarding bowls and plates and the definition of each, and there is no sizing definition for a plate compared to a platter, no matter what the dimensions.

Currently there are very few viable alternatives that provide safe storage of food for both the consumer and the provider, particularly when storing hot or liquid food items. Bowls made from cardboard or bagasse lined with a type of bioplastic film are one alternative; however, they present safety issues, with lids dislodging from the pressure created by the heat or the steam from hot food, causing the risk of spills and potential burns. These definitions need to be addressed and clarified so that retailers can prepare and ensure they are compliant for the start date of the ban.


Compostable plastics will be exempted from this ban. This has created a complication as these compostable plastics are not always disposed of in the correct manner. Does Queensland, particularly rural, regional and remote Queensland, have the facilities to manage this type of composting? With waste disposal administered by local government and the facilities differing from one council to another, some will have industrial composters while others will not.

Compostable plastics are required to be processed by an industrial composter. If they are allowed to go into landfill they have the capacity to create methane gas, adding to emissions. Many waste facilities are currently not capable of correctly disposing of compostable plastics. Therefore, they will continue to go into landfill until the facility can be upgraded. The committee visited the Cairns waste facility and saw the significant investment that that regional council is making in this regard.

As we heard in question time this morning, Queensland is the only state which has not announced how it will match and invest funds from the Commonwealth government's Recycling Modernisation Fund—a \$190 million fund from the Scott Morrison government. We are still waiting for an answer to that question.

Each generation brings another challenge in dealing with waste. There is another one that is looming that I would suggest that the minister turn her attention to. I refer to the millions of solar panels that will be replaced in the not too distant future. What is the plan for them and wind turbines when they reach the end of their life? I understand that in some countries they are simply buried. This means that they will become the next generation's problem. This is a question that the public is looking for an answer to and there would be no-one in this House who has not had that question posed to them.

One other aspect with regard to this bill is litter that finds its way into waterways. That is litter that does not go through the system. We need a more concentrated effort around a litter campaign to address that issue. It was encouraging to see the recommendations put forward by the previous committee taken up in this report. Once again, I thank those who served on that committee. We will be supporting the bill.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.21 pm): I support the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020. I think that is the 12th time I have heard that speech. I make this appeal to the LNP speech writers: please have an A and B version or an A, B and C version so that I do not have to hear the exact same—

Ms Farmer: Or at least personalise it.

Mr KELLY: Personalise it. Maybe we would hear at some point in the speech someone forget the part where it says 'insert personal story here' and that would get read out. That is the 12th time I have heard the same things said.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr KELLY: I say to the member for Chatsworth that normally I come in here and talk about the fact that the LNP say, 'We are going to do this. We are going to do that. We are going to do the other,' but now I think the LNP have a new one, 'We were going to do it.'

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr KELLY: To do that, member for Chatsworth, you actually have to convince the people of Queensland that you are capable of governing, can be trusted to govern and will deliver on your commitments. That is what those on this side of the House have done. That is why we get the opportunity to come in here and introduce the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill.

I spoke on the previous bill in relation to this matter. I happened to be the chair of the agriculture committee that reviewed that legislation. I acknowledge the great work of the chair and committee members of the former committee that considered this bill. This bill is dealing with a problem of our own creation. When we created plastic it was an amazing invention, but the very things that make plastic amazing also make it very difficult to deal with. Its durability has made it extremely difficult to deal with. It is useful in many forms, but unfortunately it does not break down and stays with us forever.

When we introduced the first round of plastic bans I felt that that would be the first iteration of many plastic bans. I am so pleased that this bill allows the minister to add additional items to the list of things that need to be banned. The bill is clearly supported in my community. In fact, I would go beyond that. I would say that the community is not supporting this bill but demanding this bill. They are wanting these actions that we are taking.

On Clean Up Australia Day I went up to the Mount Gravatt lookout to start the day. It was great to see the folks from the Mount Gravatt Environment Group up there. They sent me down a path to do some cleaning up. I was with some kids from the Victor Scouts group. We had a pretty boring day because there was nothing to pick up. It was great up there. It was great to have so little to pick up. The last time I did Clean Up Australia Day up there there was quite a bit of rubbish. I was talking to the amazing Mike Fox from the Mount Gravatt Environment Group and he said that the first year they did it they picked up something like 65 bags of rubbish. This year they were lucky to pick up 10. That is an incredible outcome.

I then went down and saw the good folks of the Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh community who had taken it upon themselves to clean up Seville Park in Holland Park. They go there every Sunday morning for their cultural activities and felt that it would be great for them to take part in Clean Up Australia Day. Again, there was not much rubbish to pick up.


Then I headed over to Coorparoo common. There was a young couple there, Ryan and Amanda, who had organised a local community clean-up. I went with a family from Loretto and we worked our way along the riverbank. We got to a spot that I had cleaned up about four years ago. The last time I was there I would have picked up in an hour and a half about 120 to 150 containers, cans, bottles and lots of single-use plastic bags. I am really pleased to report that this time I picked up about four cans and bottles and zero plastic bags. If that is not testament to the fact that the legislation passed previously is working, I do not know what is.

It is not all good news because there were countless other smaller plastic items of a whole variety, many of which feature in the bill we are debating today. We are going to remove these additional types of plastics. I am hoping that next time I go back to Coorparoo common and that section of the creek that there will a lot fewer plastics there.

I am pleased about the provisions in the bill that have allowances for people with disability or people who are requiring care, particularly because of age. I have worked as a nurse in both the disability care sector and the aged-care sector so I know that we certainly need to have those tools available to us as healthcare professionals.

I think the member for Glass House might have said at one point that we got rid of plastic bags and the sky has not fallen in. That is exactly what we are expecting this time around. One thing that has happened with this is that it has created jobs. I am seeing those jobs created in Coorparoo. We have a new container recycling scheme depot starting up in our area. They are advertising in the community. They are looking for workers. It is great to see those jobs being created in my community. People want to be able to recycle closer to home. These are the sorts of jobs we need as we recover from COVID. It is good to see that we will be creating even more jobs. We have to make it easier for people to make the choices they want to make. That is what this bill is doing.

We are doing good things for the environment. We realise that we do not have to make a choice between the environment and jobs. We can have both. We are doing a great thing by creating the jobs we need for the COVID recovery. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (2.27 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill. In a previous life and before politics I ran my own small business—Townsville WaterSports. I was out on the water every day conducting guided jetski tours. Long before stepping into this House I was advocating for change around the use of single-use plastics and other plastics to reduce the amount of plastics in our oceans that I was seeing on a daily basis. There is an estimated 5.25 trillion macro and microplastic pieces floating around our oceans as we speak. That means about eight million pieces of plastic are making their way into our oceans every day. That is an alarming figure that should have everyone in this House standing to attention.

The legislation before the House goes a long way to reducing the amount of single-use plastics here in Queensland. I commend the bill. I think it goes some way to fixing this global problem and it is a problem that we see on our shores right here in Queensland. The KAP and I have long advocated for the ban of single-use plastics, especially straws. In 2018 we fronted the media in Townsville in silly Hawaiian shirts on 'Tropical Friday' with some pina colodas at The Ville casino to make that point and lead the charge.

Other people across Queensland have led the charge too. I acknowledge people in the Hinchinbrook electorate like Amber Archandra, who works alongside the Tangaroa Blue group to clean up plastics on our beaches and islands in the area. Plastic Free Hinchinbrook has been advocating for the ban on single-use plastics across the Hinchinbrook electorate. It is great to see that this legislation before the House will make it a legislative requirement for businesses and people to stop using them.

There is a gentleman who won an Australia Day award in the Townsville part of the Hinchinbrook electorate. His name is Dave Dudley and he heads up TIDY. It is a group of people who get out there and volunteer to clean up our outdoor spaces in places where illegal dumping has occurred. We have seen an increase in illegal dumping in the Hinchinbrook electorate as the Townsville City Council has been forced to close different dump points in the area because of the increased charges on local governments when it comes to processing waste. I see that as being a problem in the future when it comes to illegal dumping. We are seeing a sharp rise in illegal dumping at the moment in the Hinchinbrook electorate.

Many members in the House today and yesterday have spoken about their involvement with Clean Up Australia Day over the weekend. Unfortunately, I was not able to make it this year, but I have supported Clean Up Australia Day in previous years. I have a post here from Ariel Scuderi, a local Hinchinbrook lady who got involved and went to Hinchinbrook Island and cleaned up one of the beaches over there. I remind members that Hinchinbrook Island is the largest island national park in the world, and we are very proud to have it in our electorate. Unfortunately, the disrepair of the beaches because of the plastics washing up on the shore at the moment is not something to be proud of.

Ariel's Facebook page states, 'Clean up Australia Day, Hinchinbrook Island edition ... one pile ...' I am not going to table the picture because it is very hard to print anything from the level 12 printer at the moment. The pile of rubbish was nearly this high. She said that pile that washed up on that section of the beach on Hinchinbrook Island would not have even been from a quarter of the beach. So Hinchinbrook Island is one of our national parks that needs some attention right now.

As I said earlier, a lot of this problem can be solved locally in terms of what is washing out of our local waterways, but pressure needs to be put on the federal government to put pressure on other governments around the world to help solve this problem globally. Developing nations are going through the process of mechanisation and commercialisation of their industries, and a by-product of that is single-use plastics, which we are seeing in our oceans and washing up on the shores of Queensland beaches right now.

I note the acceptance of and support for the Containers for Change scheme. I commend Josh and Louise from MAMS plant hire for heading that up in the Hinchinbrook electorate. They have done an awesome job not only in processing but also in getting the message out to Hinchinbrook residents that this is where you drop your containers off. Everyone has benefited from the scheme. We are seeing fewer plastic bottles on the highways and roads. Unfortunately, that does not affect what is washing up on our beaches.

This bill provides for disability and aged-care facilities and schools to be exempt from the single-use plastic ban which includes bans on straws, plates, stirrers and similar items. That will give an opportunity to those places of care and schools to make the transition in their own time away from single-use plastics which I think is already being supported by a lot of schools across Queensland as we speak. It is great to see that with the public push out there a lot of businesses have taken this on board before being forced legislatively to do so.


A person I have worked well with over the last couple of years to help her advocate for a reduction in single-use plastics and especially a ban on plastic straws in Queensland is a young girl who lives in the Hinchinbrook electorate. Her name is Emily Walker. Emily came to me quite some time ago and she said, 'Mr Dametto, I need to get in front of the minister to tell my story and to advocate.' During the regional parliament in Townsville during the 56th Parliament, I was proud to be able to set up a meeting with the then minister for environment. Minister Enoch at the time took the opportunity to hear firsthand Emily's story and about her Straw No More advocacy group.

It was heartening to talk to her at the end of last year and say that legislation has been introduced into the House. I was a little late phoning Emily this morning as she was at school, but I had a chance to talk to her mother and pass on my congratulations on behalf of Queenslanders for her advocacy. She has done a lot of work, even though it was one person, to enact change in this parliament and across Queensland which I think is pretty special for a young kid.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Mr DAMETTO: Thank you. I take that interjection. The KAP will be supporting this legislation. I am more than happy to back this as it passes through the House. It is something that we have long advocated for. Hopefully we can all work towards having a plastic-free Queensland one day. In the interim, there are lots of things that we can do to reduce our footprint. We can stop using Glad Wrap

and start using more Tupperware containers or containers that are not single-use plastic. We can make sure that we are making environmental choices every day and educating people that there is a better way to do things. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (2.35 pm): I am pleased to speak in support of the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020. This bill will see the banning of some single-use plastics items and follows on from previous legislation introduced by the Palaszczuk government that banned lightweight plastic bags, reintroduced the waste levy and saw the introduction of the compulsory beverage container deposit scheme.

On 3 December 2020, the Hon. Meaghan Scanlon, Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs, introduced the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020. The bill was referred to the Health and Environment Committee, chaired by the member for Thuringowa, Aaron Harper, for detailed consideration, with the committee's report tabled on 12 February 2021. In a previous incarnation, this bill was originally introduced into the 56th Parliament and referred to the Natural Resources, Agricultural Industry Development and Environment Committee, on which I was proud to serve.

I acknowledge the presence in the chamber of the former chair of that committee, the member for Bancroft, as well as the member for Mount Ommaney, the member for Buderim and the member for Condamine, who we heard from not long ago. I thank the committee members of both the Natural Resources, Agricultural Industry Development and Environment Committee in the 56th Parliament as well as the Health and Environment Committee in the 57th Parliament, the secretariats of each of those committees, the submitters and the Hansard reporters.

With the war on waste, more needs to be done at all levels of government. As waste, polystyrene poses a serious environmental problem, so I was pleased to see the recent announcement that the federal government intends to introduce legislation banning polystyrene in packaging which can easily be replaced by items that are compostable. Polystyrene packaging around white goods will be banned by the middle of next year, while cups and food packaging made by polystyrene will also be banned by December 2022.

The Cairns Regional Council has set the benchmark for other councils in Queensland with the council operated advanced resource recovery facility processing waste from the council's transfer stations. The Cairns council wants residents to be aware of the good work it is doing with the advanced resource recovery facility. When the new facility was built, it incorporated a viewing platform so visitors could see the facility in operation.

I previously served as a councillor on the Somerset Regional Council, so I am familiar with how that council deals with waste. I have always been impressed by how the Somerset council transfer stations operate. As trucks and trailers come in, each load is separated so that items that can be recycled are separated from those items that cannot be recycled. They even have second-hand stores at the transfer stations where items that can be re-used are sold at minimal cost. Waste that cannot be recycled is taken to the council's landfill at Esk.

What I want to see in Queensland is more transfer stations and more advanced resource recovery facilities, but what I do not want to see as part of how we deal with waste in Queensland is incinerators. There is currently a proposal being considered by the Coordinator-General to build an industrial incinerator at Swanbank in Ipswich. I stand in solidarity with my fellow Ipswich members of parliament, both Labor and non-Labor, in our opposition to the proposal. While the incinerator goes under the guise of a waste-to-energy facility, it could be seen as a clever mechanism to avoid the use of valuable landfill space and the state government's waste levy. If the incinerator is approved we will see rubbish trucks travelling down Swanbank Road and going past the Swanbank E Power Station. If they turn right into landfill they will pay the levy, but if they turn left into the incinerator they will not. This proposal goes against efforts right around the world to combat climate change. As waste is burned in an incinerator it will contribute to carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere. What I want to see at Swanbank is an advanced resource recovery facility similar to the one that is being built in Cairns—not landfills and not incinerators.

As I have said in previous speeches in this place, I thought the last industrial incinerator I would ever see in Ipswich was the Walter Burley Griffin Incinerator at Queen's Park. That was decommissioned in the 1960s. Designed by the architect who designed Canberra, the Burley Griffin incinerator was added to the Queensland Heritage Register in 1992. Many years ago the incinerator was converted for use as a playhouse theatre, thereby preserving this magnificent structure for a noble use. I support the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020 as well as any amendments.



Mr KNUTH (Hill—KAP) (2.41 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020. The objective of the bill is to enable a ban on the supply of single-use plastic items, starting with straws, stirrers, plates and cutlery. This is a great cause. I am sure that every member in the House today would have schools and businesses in their electorates which are undertaking some sort of initiative or program to help reduce plastics in their schools.

For those who live in North Queensland it is vital that we preserve the beauty of our natural environment by introducing legislation to drastically reduce plastic waste, and this bill is a step towards that. During the briefing on the bill I was informed that, of the over 20,000 people surveyed, over 90 per cent agreed with the ban. The main reason given by the small percentage of those against the bill was that it did not go far enough. As stated in the bill's explanatory notes—

Local, state and national governments in Australia and around the world have identified that there are significant environmental, community and economic impacts associated with plastic in the environment with over 60 countries now having some form of ban or intervention for single-use plastic items.

Litter surveys indicate that a major source of plastic entering the environment is generated from single-use plastic items, including plastic straws and cutlery.

We know the impact plastic has had on dugong and turtle populations. As the member for Hinchinbrook said, going back nearly three years ago we led the charge to try and have plastic straws banned because of their impact on turtle and dugong populations in North Queensland. I know many members would remember that growing up as kids we used to use cardboard straws, plates and cups, and some of the really old members here would probably remember the cardboard cups in the *Sunlander* and at railway stations—but only very old members.

In 2018 we saw McDonald's restaurants start a campaign to phase out plastic straws by the end 2020. More recently they have started to phase out plastic cutlery in their Australian restaurants, saving as much as 585,000 tonnes of plastic waste every year. Other restaurants and major retail businesses have also undertaken similar programs. It was not long ago that major supermarkets banned and phased out the use of plastic bags in shopping centres, and we all remember the uproar, anger and frustration that caused. Right now many car boots are filled with re-usable bags, so it has been accepted and well received. I do note that certain exemptions have been granted for schools, nursing homes, medical facilities and people with disability.

In Australia alone over 10 million plastic bags are used each day. Plastic bags cause huge problems in the ocean, and 85 per cent of the soft plastics from bags and packaging ends up in landfill. Last Sunday was Clean Up Australia Day, which involves hundreds of thousands of Australians each year. This program was first started over 30 years ago. Last year was its 30th anniversary, and I know that many members of this House participate in this important event each year. Australia also pioneered a recycling program in the 1960s and continues to initiate legislation and programs to reduce our plastic waste. We simply have to continue to do better. This legislation is a big step forward. I commend the bill to the House.



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (2.46 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020. This bill is an important step forward for our state as it strengthens our environmental protection laws to preserve our wonderful natural environment. Primarily, the legislation before us today bans the use of single-use plastic items. These items include plastic straws, plastic stirrers, plastic plates and plastic cutlery. These are all items which, if not disposed of correctly, end up in our waterways, rivers and bays, including the beautiful Moreton Bay which surrounds my electorate of Redcliffe.

We know that single-use plastics are everywhere. You just have to walk down any aisle in your local supermarket to see many products which use single-use plastics. Unfortunately, you only need to walk down your footpaths and local streets to see it all over the ground. I am proud to be part of the Palaszczuk government, which last term banned the use of single-use plastic bags. I am pleased that my community of Redcliffe, and indeed all Queensland, has got on board and adapted to the new way of shopping. I know that my re-usable shopping bags are a hit in Redcliffe. I see people using them when I am out and about. My message is that if you live in Redcliffe and do not have one of my re-usable shopping bags please feel free to drop by my electorate office.


I am advised that during the consultation phase of this legislation there were over 19,600 submissions received with around 94 per cent supporting the introduction of the ban. I know that many in my community of Redcliffe are supportive of this ban, as it will continue our positive steps forward in preserving our pristine wildlife. This bill will also provide for a head of power to enable other materials to be banned in the future after extensive consultation via regulation.

I know that the Minister for Environment has been consulting widely and an amendment has been circulated to extend the ban to polystyrene items, which was an election commitment by the Palaszczuk Labor government. This is a really important step forward. I have seen so much polystyrene around my waterways in the Moreton Bay over the years. We know that COVID-19 has been difficult for many, including our businesses and our economy. That is why the Palaszczuk government has listened and will ensure that the ban does not start any earlier than 1 September 2021 to ensure businesses are able to get themselves ready. After that, fines will apply. Our amendment is too precious not to take it seriously.

Like many members, over the weekend I joined my local community groups to do our bit in cleaning up our community. I have been doing it for many years. I have been pleased to say that each year our community continues to get behind Clean Up Australia Day. I would like to say that each year we find less and less rubbish, but unfortunately that is not the case. This year I joined members of the Redcliffe community to clean up Hays Inlet Silcock Street Reserve. We had an excellent turnout and collected a lot of rubbish, including an old bike, scrap metal and materials, a battery and a lot of single-use plastics in all manners and forms.

The Palaszczuk government is determined to ensure that Queensland has the right environmental laws to protect our environment into the future, and the bill before us today to ban single-use plastics and polystyrene items is the right move. While I am on my feet, I want to give a shout-out to the Redcliffe Environmental Forum and Pristine Peninsula—two amazing groups on the Redcliffe Peninsula which are dedicated to making our environment a better place.

A few weeks ago I joined our local councillor, Councillor Karl Winchester from the Moreton Bay Regional Council, with Pristine Peninsula to help launch the Love Our Clontarf Litter Campaign. The mighty Pristine Peninsula organised a bold 100-day plan to reduce litter in a two-kilometre litter hotspot on the Redcliffe Peninsula. This campaign is called Love Our Clontarf. It is designed to not only clean up our local community from rubbish; it is designed to create awareness about the importance of looking after our environment. I encourage all members of our Redcliffe community, residents, visitors and local businesses to not only get behind this local campaign in Clontarf but also continue each and every day to look after our environment. I encourage everyone to support this bill, and I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (2.50 pm): In speaking to the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill, can I start with where we were on the weekend with Clean Up Australia Day. It was quite concerning to see the amount of rubbish in our communities through the Clean Up Australia Day event. I reflected in parliament earlier this week about the amount of glass I saw for the first time in a long time. These glass bottles had been thrown out of car windows, and this obviously presents an environmental problem as well as a safety issue for kids and families riding pushbikes, running or walking along the side of the road.

I went to the Clean Up Australia Day event organised by the Currimundi Catchment Care Group, and I congratulate all the troops at the Currimundi Catchment Care Group who organised the Clean Up Australia Day event. They had about 30 local residents and they are always putting their best foot forward—whether it is planting trees, participating in Clean Up Australia Day or educating our community on aspects of the environment. It is all great to see.

I then had the pleasure on Monday night during this parliamentary sitting week of attending the monthly meeting of the Currimundi Catchment Care Group via Zoom. One of the benefits from the challenges over the last 12 months with COVID has been the use of technology and how a lot more people and groups are doing things online, so it was great that I was able to attend their meeting from parliament. Ordinarily, they would have had that meeting in a school library that I could not have attended because parliament was sitting. I passed on my thanks to the community for having my wife, Sally, and I for their Clean Up Australia Day event.

There was a lot of rubbish, and I guess I feel two things when I participate in Clean Up Australia Day. Firstly, I love making our community look beautiful and supporting our local community group but, secondly, there is a sense that people think, 'Why are we cleaning up other people's rubbish?' I think everyone who has participated in Clean Up Australia Day and has seen the piles and piles of rubbish—and it is big rubbish too, like bicycles, in Currimundi Lake or Mooloolah River—questions why they are cleaning up other people's rubbish. The simple reality is that there are people who have no regard for where they live, no regard for other people and no regard for the environment. That is the sad state of affairs that we are in. What we must do is continue to have these events like Clean Up Australia Day

so we can encourage people to put their rubbish in the bin and not throw it out a window. Wouldn't it be great if we never had to have Clean Up Australia Day again because people used rubbish bins? If that happened, our communities could be doing other things. I just wanted to reflect on those comments around Clean Up Australia Day.

I know the Friends of Currimundi Lake also helped out on Clean Up Australia Day around Currimundi Lake, which was great, and that was also well attended. Years ago I stood at Currimundi Lake and called for the government of the day to introduce the container deposit scheme. I stood with the Sunshine Coast Environment Council and representatives from the Currimundi Catchment Care Group, and we called on the government to introduce it. This was even before the LNP announced the policy in that regard. I thought that if South Australia could run successful recycle programs like cash for containers then our local scouting groups and so forth should be able to have the same opportunity. We then announced that LNP policy, and I was very pleased that the government copied the policy. We will give credit where credit is due. The government of the day were the government of the day, and they copied the container deposit scheme and we now have the Containers for Change scheme which is doing some great things and providing fundraising opportunities. It is helping and saving the environment while also raising money for charities.

I have just read of some examples of this on my Facebook post. The Bells church in Caloundra West has used cash for containers to raise over \$3,000 and that money has gone to swimming lessons, chaplaincy programs and food and gift vouchers during the COVID crisis. I am advised that Allison Dean from the Sunshine Coast has been collecting and donating to a Bali street kids project using cash for containers. I know that one of my local schools—Talara Primary College—have quite a system with their cash for containers. They have a volunteer in the P&C dubbed the 'Bin Chicken'. Every Monday, the 'Bin Chicken' has a trailer out the front of Talara Primary College and the students and parents bring a week's worth of containers to the trailer. They have raised thousands and thousands of dollars which they are putting back into their school community, so I congratulate Talara Primary College and all the other schools in our area.

I see this bill as an extension of what we did in this parliament years ago with Containers for Change and recycling—and we are now banning single-use plastic items of straws, plates, cutlery and stirrers. Obviously, the LNP is supporting this practical environmental step today. Can I say for the record though—and I do not think anyone has admitted this—with the great entrepreneurs and inventors we have in the state of Queensland I hope and pray for the day when someone can design a paper straw that actually is enjoyable to drink out of. I see ministers laughing but they have all experienced this. I saw a member yesterday having a milkshake, and by time they got up five flights of stairs the straw had disintegrated and it had flopped over. I am just stating the bleeding obvious. It is all very good with hand on heart to say that we are all for banning plastic straws, but I encourage our entrepreneurial Queenslanders to come up with a good recyclable biodegradable straw.

When I recently went to the Kawana cinemas—and they have been a good business and they have got rid of their plastic straws—my children and I were at the counter and the very nice lady said, 'I would encourage you to take three straws with your slurpees because you will need three paper straws to get through the movie,' and we did which is unfortunate. I just plead with any entrepreneurs out there who can actually develop a great—

An honourable member interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: You cannot reuse these paper straws, but you can reuse metal straws and so forth so we may do that next time. I just wanted to place that on the record because I know everyone has experienced it but no-one has had the guts to say it today. I think there is some more reform to go in that space.

I also want to thank some great groups in the Kawana electorate and on the Sunshine Coast. The Ocean Crusaders are doing an amazing job with what they are doing in cleaning up our oceans and waterways. I have mentioned the Currimundi Catchment Care Group and Friends of Currimundi Lake. I give a shout-out to turtle watch groups. My Kawana electorate is mostly a coastal electorate and we have two or three really good havens for sea turtles that come in and breed and lay their eggs. I thank all of our turtle watch groups.

We have a great duo of Zac and Olivia, who set up SeaFrame Australia. They are going right around the Sunshine Coast and they are two great young entrepreneurs on the Sunshine Coast who are educating the public about the environment and picking up litter and rubbish and taking it away with


you. As I have a mostly coastal electorate, I see that on the waterways a lot of the time with fishing gear that is left behind. We all can take practical measures to help save our environment for the future and educate other people.

I have a great mate on the Sunshine Coast called Marty Perkins. Marty saw this years ago and he has a great business story. He was on the Sunshine Coast and it was pouring down rain and he saw a plastic coffee lid floating down the drain which ended up in the stormwater. He then started researching coffee cups and coffee lids. For a few years now, he has been running Biodegradable Catering Supplies. He has coffee cups which are in heaps of cafes not only on the Sunshine Coast but on the Gold Coast and in the hinterland. It is a biodegradable coffee cup made of sugarcane mulch and all sorts of other stuff, but so too is the lid because that was one of the biggest issues. A lot of people were making biodegradable and compostable cups but the lids were still plastic, so he created this.

Can I say for the record that I have no beneficial or financial interests in my friend's business. I am just a good friend supporting him because he is supporting the environment. He has his motto on his website and it says 'Helping businesses protect our planet'. I think that says it all and sums it up—from a guy on the Sunshine Coast who saw a plastic lid floating down the stormwater drain and then set up a successful business supplying better coffee cups in our communities. Lots of cafes are taking up that opportunity as well. I thank him for that.

I encourage our community to always take practical steps and to join our local environment groups. The Currimundi Catchment Care Group and the Friends of Currimundi Lake take practical steps in terms of the environment. As I said, I was among the first people on the Sunshine Coast along with my colleagues to advocate for the cash for container recycling scheme. We lobbied for it. We in the LNP announced it. Then the government introduced it and we supported that legislation's passage through the parliament.

I say thank you to my community for their collective efforts in helping our planet and making it the very best for future generations, as we were all taught when we were at school. We will do our part on this side of the House to achieve that objective so we can have the very best planet to live on, which is what we all want.

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (3.00 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020. There is absolutely no doubt that single-use plastics have been harming our environment and wildlife for decades. Single-use plastics were created for easy disposal right after use. The disposal of single-use plastics comes after decades of learned behaviour, behaviour we now know needs to be unlearned.

Plastic is used in an extensive range of applications. Its low cost has made it an attractive material for single-use convenience items used at home and away from home; at point of sale in cafes, restaurants and at events; and in places where hygienic application is required such as hospitals and aged-care facilities. Plastic consumption and, therefore, production has increased exponentially over several decades. The global production and use of plastics has historically not been matched with effective mechanisms to address plastic overconsumption, waste and pollution or the environmental impacts.

Waste management is a huge problem for my communities in the Cook electorate. Again, my communities are challenged by remoteness, making it extremely difficult and costly to effectively manage waste. This important legislative reform will be of great benefit to many small communities in my electorate to reduce the unnecessary plastic waste going into landfill and to prevent the future harm posed by plastics breaking down into microplastics, potentially choking wildlife and blocking animals' stomachs. I fully support the policy intent of the bill to reduce the availability of single-use plastic items that enter the environment as litter or may be disposed of in landfill to prevent harm to the environment and wildlife in the future.

I would like to give a shout-out to Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council in Cape York for their active approach to addressing waste in their community by setting up a recycling plant in community to address the ongoing challenges. Without strong legislation in place to ban single-use plastic we will continue to run the risk of single-use plastic items ending up in our landfills, our oceans and waterways and the environment.

The Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020 was originally referred to the Natural Resources, Agricultural Industry Development and Environment Committee in the 56th Parliament. The bill lapsed before it was debated in parliament when the 56th Parliament was dissolved in October 2020. The bill was introduced into the Legislative Assembly and was referred to the Health

and Environment Committee on 3 December 2020. It is wonderful to see the great amount of public support for this important bill, and we can see why. It will benefit our communities so that our children and our children's children will get to enjoy our natural environment and wildlife for generations to come.

The purpose of the bill is to: enable a ban on the supply of single-use plastic items starting with straws, stirrers, plates and cutlery; and achieve a reduction in plastic pollution resulting from single-use plastic by 20 per cent by 2023. The committee's task was to consider the policy to be achieved by the legislation and the application of fundamental legislative principles, that is, to consider whether the bill has sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals and to the institution of parliament. The committee also examined the bill for compatibility with human rights in accordance with the Human Rights Act 2019.


The bill is part of a larger government strategy to address issues in relation to plastic overconsumption, waste and pollution, and the resulting environmental impacts. To see the impact of plastics pollution on the environment and the actions of communities in tackling these issues, the committee conducted site visits and hearings in Cairns and Yeppoon. The committee was genuinely impressed with the vision, effort and commitment of stakeholders such as Jennie Gilbert, founder of the Cairns Turtle Rehabilitation Centre on Fitzroy Island, and the young founder of Straw No More. I note that the committee visited BlackBird Espresso and met with business owner Mr Troy Furner and Ms Helen Reilley from Plastic Free Cairns to see the range of currently available non-plastic recyclable and reusable food and drink containers. It is wonderful to see that there is already that level of community action in developing and promoting solutions for hospitality businesses to move away from single-use plastics to reduce plastic waste and to address the environmental impact into the future.

The issue of plastics ending up in our landfills or in our environment is not going to go away on its own. Yes, I acknowledge the member for Nanango's statement this morning that it was the LNP that announced their plan for the container refund scheme. However, it is actually the Labor government that is delivering and leading the way in protecting the environment in this state. The Palaszczuk government is absolutely committed to reducing plastics pollution and the devastating impact it has on our environment.

This important environmental reform is in addition to the introduction of the Queensland government's single-use lightweight plastic shopping bag ban and container refund scheme. It is enlightening to see the community expectation and strong support for government action in addressing other plastics. Ongoing consultation with impacted stakeholder groups will enable the identification of appropriate and effective solutions.

The bill supports delivery of the broader principles of the Queensland government's Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy released on 1 July 2019 and the aims of *Tackling plastic waste: Queensland's plastic pollution reduction plan* to reduce plastic waste and addresses the environmental and economic impacts of plastic.

I would like to congratulate the committee members and the committee chair on their hard work throughout the examination of the bill; and the former minister for the environment, Leeanne Enoch, and the current Minister for the Environment, Meaghan Scanlon, on their passion and strong advocacy to protect our environment for future generations to come. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (3.07 pm): I rise to support the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020. The bill before us is a positive step towards stopping a large amount of further plastic making its way into our waterways, our beautiful beaches, our streets, our parks and our bushland. I am proud to stand here today and say that the LNP led the charge for this change and this legislation.

In 2016 the member for Clayfield, the then leader of the opposition, and the member for Moggill, the then shadow minister for the environment, first announced the container deposit scheme as something needed to protect our waterways and curb landfill. It was the LNP's 2016 commitments to ban plastic bags, regardless of cooperation from other states, and introduce a recycling refund scheme that prompted the state Labor government to move on this, and the Labor government should be congratulated for that.

The LNP has provided bipartisan support for this bill. We did this when the legislation was introduced last year and we are doing it again now. Globally, humans produce 300 million tonnes of plastic waste each year, and eight million tonnes of this rubbish ends up in our oceans each year with a 2016 study reporting that by the end of 2050 there will be more plastic than fish in the ocean by

weight. That is why in 2016 the LNP first announced the container deposit scheme and that is why we have given this legislation bipartisan support. We must act now to change this. We must protect our precious environment for our future generations.

On Sunday for Clean Up Australia Day I spent my morning scuba-diving in Currumbin Creek with the aim of collecting plastic and litter that had made its way into Currumbin's beautiful waterways and estuaries. It was great to get out and take action with some incredible people in my community. I spent the second half of my Clean Up Australia Day cleaning up around Currumbin with my daughter. I wholeheartedly agree with what the member for Bonney, the shadow minister for the environment, said yesterday in his contribution: our young people are the best advocates for our environment and education is pivotal to creating real change in the community. Young people inspire older generations through their actions, including on the very laws that we are discussing; however, I note that schools are identified in this bill as being exempt. Accordingly, a school tuckshop may continue to provide single-use plastic items to the general school population. Our young people are indeed the champions of this legislation, yet it seems they are exempt from complying.

If an exemption is necessary to accommodate the healthcare or disability needs of a staff member or student within the school then provision should be made for that, but that is an exemption around a particular need—not around a location such as a school. The majority of school students should not be, and in fact probably would not want to be, treated any differently from a business or the broader community groups this bill applies to. These kids are the generation championing the banning of single-use plastic items.

In fact, many of the schools in my electorate are already ahead of the game on this. They are already encouraging students and teachers not to distribute single-use plastic items. In particular I highlight Elanora State School, which has a 'Go Green' initiative so it can be a litterless school, endeavouring to be rubbish free; Coolangatta State School, which has 'Wrapper Free Wednesday'; Currumbin State School, which has a sustainability committee; Ingleside State School, whose tuckshop is already free from plastic knives, forks and plates; and Currumbin Valley State School, which has banned plastic straws and has a worm farm for composting.

I am proud to say that in the Currumbin electorate we have already started making changes to strive towards a sustainable community. Another brilliant example of this is the Currumbin RSL. The Currumbin RSL has made sustainability a part of its mission since 2009, making a difference to its carbon footprint including reduction in waste, resource use and social initiatives. The Currumbin RSL takes its responsibility within the hospitality industry to do the right thing with waste very seriously.

Mr Nicholls: They won an award last night.

Mrs GERBER: I take that interjection; they did. Firstly, their suppliers are encouraged to use containers for the delivery of goods that are not single use. This ensures the full supply chain is involved in great outcomes. They are members of the Last Straw community, an organisation dedicated to eradicating single-use plastic straws globally. At Currumbin RSL you will not get a straw in a drink; however, if you need one you can be guaranteed that it is 100 per cent compostable. At the Currumbin RSL, food preparation vegetable scraps are sorted by chefs and sent to a local pig farmer as a nutrient-rich food for his animals. The Currumbin RSL's Bottlecycler crushes around 3,500 bottles per week, the glass shards of which are 100 per cent recycled and used as road base and in other recycled glass manufacturing. Containers including milk bottles, catering cans, jars and other recyclables are set off in the commingling bins for recycling.

Another brilliant example in my Currumbin community of a sustainable business is the ecovillage at Currumbin—an international, award-winning, sustainable community. The 270-acre site is set in the hinterland just seven minutes from Currumbin Beach. The community is the most awarded estate in Australia with over 33 accolades, including the world's best environmental development. The 120 homes support a community of over 450 residents. The community is managed by a caretaker and other support bodies. The village also contains a cafe, health rooms and a greengrocer. I am very proud to be serving a community that is taking real action on the reduction of waste and single-use plastic items.


One of the issues in this bill that I think should be raised in the House relates to compostable plastics. The bill provides exemptions for items made from compostable plastics; however, the committee processes revealed that in reality some of these compostable plastics are not always disposed of in the correct way and sometimes end up in landfill. Because local governments all around Queensland do not have the facilities or industrial composters needed to properly process compostable plastics, these plastics end up in landfill. Compostable plastics need to be processed in an industrial

composter if they go to landfill. They produce methane gas, adding more to our emissions. Unless this issue is resolved, all of the good intentions of this bill could be undone. I leave that with the government to look at once more.

Another question that needs to be asked is: why is Queensland the only state that has not announced it will match and invest the Commonwealth's funding commitment of \$190 million in the Recycling Modernisation Fund? In fact, this question was put to the minister in question time today. The minister was asked, 'What is the holdup? Why is Queensland the only state not to sign up?' It is an important question that the government needs to look at. Now that the opposition has raised it, I am sure the minister will look at it.

There is one other issue that I want the government to look at, that is, the definition of 'bowls' and 'plates'. We know that in the context of marine pollution one of the biggest risks to our marine life is plastics in the ocean. A large contributor to this is the plastic takeaway containers that degrade with sun and salt exposure to ultimately end up looking like little bits of jellyfish in our ocean and, accordingly, are consumed by turtles and other marine life. The bill is not clear as to whether these containers are banned. This needs to be looked at by the government.

Ultimately, this is a bill that the LNP supports. This is a bill that codifies the LNP's policy regarding banning plastic bags and introducing a recycling fund scheme in order to cut plastic use in our great state. I am pleased to support this legislation today.

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (3.16 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill. The bill aims to ban the supply of single-use plastic items including straws, plates, cutlery and stirrers. This is the Palaszczuk government's latest tranche of reforms proving our commitment to the environment by banning single-use plastic items. Most of the time, if these items do not end up in landfill they will end up in the environment as litter. This ban on the items contained in the bill is consistent with similar bans either announced or introduced in legislation in the Australian Capital Territory and South Australia.

A single-use plastic items consultation regulatory impact statement was released in March last year. Nearly 20,000 submissions were received from people across Queensland. An incredible 94 per cent supported the introduction of a ban on these single-use plastic items, with 90 per cent of those wanting the ban to start as soon as possible. I understand, however, that, due to the impact of COVID-19 on small businesses, in particular in the hospitality sector, the start date of the ban will be no earlier than 1 September this year.

I acknowledge that some members of our community rely on single-use items such as straws because of their healthcare needs. This was also highlighted in the submissions, with 50 per cent supporting the option of allowing healthcare businesses such as pharmacies and hospitals to still be able to provide plastic straws. I was pleased to see that the bill provides a list of exempted entities that will be able to continue providing these items to the people who need them.

We need to and can do better to protect our wonderful environment. The children and young people in my electorate are demanding action. It is something they raise with me every time I go into a school in my electorate of Nudgee. It is something they raise in emails, and they also send me letters about how important it is that we protect the environment for them and future generations. In this regard I recently met with a 13-year-old, Keira, who has created the Keira Project on Instagram. When she is not at school Keira dedicates her time to raising awareness and helping our environment. She particularly is focused on reducing the harmful impacts of plastic on our marine animals. I want to send her a shout-out. She is a beautiful young lady—and I think very courageous to start that Instagram page—who cares about something bigger than the many things that a young girl at school already has on her mind. A shout-out to you, Keira.

I suspect that protecting the environment will also be a top priority for my soon-to-be-established Nudgee Youth Advisory Committee. I look forward to hearing their views about what more we can do to protect our environment. The most recent Queensland Annual Youth Statement noted that since 2018 the proportion of young Queenslanders reporting the environment as a key national issue has more than tripled, from 8.8 per cent to 31 per cent, further highlighting how important the environment is to our young people.


As I have mentioned in this place many times before, the Nudgee electorate is home to two very important environmental areas—Nudgee Beach and Boondall Wetlands—1,500 hectares of tidal flats, mangroves, salt marshes, melaleuca wetlands, grasslands and open forest. The wetlands have a

diversity of wildlife including flying foxes, possums, squirrel gliders, frogs and reptiles. It also offers habitats for more than 190 species of birds. Each year around 40,000 migratory shore birds feed on the food-rich mudflats and roost in the salt marshes and mangroves along the shore. They travel to Moreton Bay each spring from as far away as Siberia, Japan, Mongolia and Alaska.

The international importance of wetland areas within Moreton Bay was recognised when sections of the bay and surrounds were designated as a Ramsar site in 1993. Ramsar is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. In 1996 the then member for Lilley Wayne Swan worked with Jim Soorley, Brisbane's lord mayor at the time, to lobby the federal government to add an extra 500 hectares to the reserve. This is something that I know my community was very grateful for and always remembers and, I suspect from its tremendous popularity, so were our neighbours in the greater Brisbane area grateful.

Two minutes down the road from the Boondall Wetlands and the Nudgee Beach Reserve is the Nudgee Resource Recovery Centre, or the dump. It is one of four within the Brisbane City Council boundaries. While it is sad that many single-use plastic items will end up there in landfill, plenty of items are just as likely to end up right down the road in ecologically important habitat. We know that the Palaszczuk government's previous legislation to ban single-use plastic bags and introduce the container deposit scheme has made a difference. Sunday was Clean Up Australia Day during which hundreds of people from my electorate were doing their bit to keep our beautiful part of the world free of waste. I have been told that this year there were more groups out than ever before, but more importantly there was a significantly noticeable drop in the number of bottles and cans in our waterways and parklands.

As the mother of two young boys, I want them to grow up in a Queensland that is clean and free of harmful waste. Adding the ban of single-use plastic items to the already existing ban on single-use plastic bags is another step towards making this a reality. I commend our Minister for the Environment on her stewardship in this regard and look forward to seeing the many advancements that she will make in her portfolio. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (3.21 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020. Following on from other members, it would be remiss of me not to begin with some reflection on our Clean Up Australia Day activities on Sunday. I want to give my thanks to the Vera Street Community Garden, a fantastic community organisation that partnered with my office to host a clean-up event at Anzac Park in Toowong. It was a fantastic event and I really do appreciate everyone who took the time to come out. We did collect quite a bit of rubbish and there were a few jokes made that if we were to collect all of the car parts along the freeway from year to year we might be able to cobble together a Clean Up Australia automobile one of these days. We will see how we go with that.

This bill is a good step and it is the sort of reform that the Greens have called for for a long time amongst a much needed broader suite of reform around waste and plastics, both at a state level and nationally. It is a broadly positive thing that we are addressing this at a higher regulatory level rather than taking approaches that put requirements on individuals. These really are responsibilities that we need to put on producers and on businesses rather than leaving it to individual responsibility all the way. These are system level changes that are really going to see better effect over time. I do urge the government and the minister to continue on with this process over time, as we have heard is their intention, looking at those more common disposable items like coffee cups and other takeaway plastics and heavyweight plastic bags and how we can address those over time.

I want to speak to some concerns from the disability sector. I have reached out and engaged with QDN, the Queenslanders with Disability Network. I was very relieved to hear that most of its members are happy with the bill, but I am concerned that there may still be some pretty significant misunderstanding about how the exemptions around disability will work in practice and I would ask that the minister in her closing remarks provide some more clarity around how those exemptions will work in practice. It is really important that we get guidance about this in the House given that the legislation is open to interpretation.

I suppose those issues might be most easily addressed by way of some explicit examples—for example, a person with a disability who requires a straw to drink safely goes to a cafe and orders a drink. In practical terms, can a cafe keep stock of plastic straws to provide to a customer in this circumstance? Can the cafe staff offer a straw to the person or do they have to ask for a straw, if that

is even something that is allowed within the legislation? Beyond that, if, for example, cafes can supply straws, on what basis would staff make the decision to offer a straw? Does the department have any plans or intentions around the kind of training that might be provided to help staff in those direct customer engagement circumstances to make that decision?

My understanding is that there is quite clearly scope for this to be dealt with in the regulations. Subsection (c) in the definition of 'exempt business or undertaking' appears to provide that power—that scope in the regulation—but I am asking that the minister clarify, first of all, what the act dictates in circumstances like this and also what the government's intention is in crafting that regulation.


What will it mean in the daily lives of Queenslanders with a disability? On that point it is clear that there is some pretty substantial residual uncertainty about how the bill will work in practice and I would make the point, as others have, that it is vitally important for small businesses that we clear up that uncertainty. It is obviously much more difficult for small enterprises and undertakings to come to terms with what regulation like this means for their daily operations. Much bigger companies can obviously hire the consultants and buy-in the expertise they need to make sense of this. I would implore the government to do all it can to make sure that small businesses are given all the clarity they possibly can be given around how this affects their daily activities.

The one really substantial residual concern that I have which I think the government could have changed and, I would say, should have changed before this bill comes to a vote is around an important exclusion in the definition of 'single-use plastic items'. This definition does not include single-use plastic items that are an integral part of a shelf ready product. Again, this is an issue that has been raised by the opposition. I would make the point that enshrining this exception in legislation means that we will need to bring legislation back before the House in the future to deal with that gap in the legislation.

With regard to some products that are packaged overseas with a longer shelf life, we might need a longer lag time to transition away from those products, but we could potentially act quite quickly to phase out single-use plastics in shelf ready products that are produced or even just packaged in Australia. I would put that this could very easily and should have been included in the regulation rather than the bill and I would encourage the government to give detailed thought as to whether and when we can return to that issue and revisit it here in the House.

The one final observation that I want to make here is about the need to do more on the bigger environmental issues. This is in some ways the low-hanging fruit and it is something that we could have acted on some time ago. Ultimately, no amount of regulation of plastics will matter at all if we do not get the climate crisis under control. The government has continued to progress this area of policy and law reform over the last few years, but we are still waiting for the environment minister to release a useful climate change policy. It was promised last term, it was promised immediately after the election and we are still waiting.

We are still waiting for something to actually guide our state's overall response to climate change. I would suggest that we should be focusing on that rather than just engaging with issues like plastics which are, in a lot of ways, simpler to respond to. In the meantime, while we are reforming on plastics—and this is good; I support it—we are quite literally walking straight towards global ecological collapse and that is going to completely eclipse any of the benefits that we will see under this kind of scheme. I applaud the government for moving on this and I will support the bill, but I do not want to see it used in the future as an excuse or a distraction when it is next asked about the environment or taken to task on other issues that need to be desperately and urgently addressed.

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (3.30 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020. The mass production of plastics has probably been the biggest contributor to modern society as we know it. Natural plastics, such as tar, latex and amber, have existed and been in use since ancient times, but it is the 20th century that has brought us man-made plastics. We are where we are today because of plastics.

Early experimentation in the thirties gave way to the war machines of the forties. In an era where metals, steel, copper, zinc and aluminium were in short supply, the ramping up of the petrochemical plastic industry was a major contributor to the allied war effort. Production lines were quicker, cheaper and more agile. With the war over, the role of plastics went from supporting the war machine to the mod cons that would drive the postwar industrial world. Cars could be made lighter and cheaper and owning a car became within reach of average families. Televisions, phones and other appliances became more accessible. The revolution in global travel brought on by efficiencies in aircraft travel turned us into the more global society that we are today. In short, a consumers' paradise was opened and we are where we are today because of plastics.

On the flip side, it should be acknowledged the role that plastics have played in the advancement of medicine and its accessibility. Storage, vaccines, instruments and prosthetics have saved millions of lives. Plastics are all around us—literally. They are in our clothes, in our seats and quite likely in your hands right now. We have even left plastic on the moon and other planets.

The startling truth is that almost every piece of plastic ever made still exists today. It may have been re-used or recycled, but it still exists in the world today. This is our challenge. More and more plastic is being produced every year. The numbers are astounding. A number of other speakers have addressed how many tonnes are manufactured each year and where they end up. They are certainly all around us and building up. So much so, that by the eighties, the concept of recycling became the challenge. As much as our various recycling schemes are designed to reduce the amount of new plastic we manufacture, re-using what is already there, this must sit alongside efforts to reduce our reliance on plastics altogether. We are facing an environmental catastrophe if we cannot curb our use and reliance on the plastics that make up the vast percentage we use every day.

Scientists estimate it takes around 450 years for a plastic bottle to break down naturally. That can only be an estimate because the PET bottles have only been around for 50-odd years. Here we are, over a year on from the single-use plastic bag ban and the community has accepted this initiative and have asked us to do more.

In the last term, my youth advisory committee were big drivers locally of environmental initiatives in the community to see a reduction in waste. I am continually heartened by the attitude that younger people are taking towards their plastics footprint. They are truly setting the pace and rightly so because they are the generation that will still be dealing with the plastic throw-away consumerism of the sixties, seventies and eighties. They challenge us to do more and it is our role in this House, and one that I take seriously, to deliver. It is incumbent upon us, as leaders in our community, to set our community up for success into the future.

I have two major South-East Queensland rivers in my electorate, the Albert and Logan rivers. My electorate is where they meet before flowing out into the Ramsar listed Moreton Bay. My community has a vital role in monitoring waste habits and being vigilant about what is entering our catchments and waterways. On Sunday, Clean Up Australia Day—which apparently every single member in this House went to, which is great to see—I went out with my youth advisory committee and locals to do some cleaning up in our local area.

For the first time ever I brought all three of my children along—not as fun as it sounds. The promise of participation in the container recycling scheme, in particular the 10 cents a bottle, was a big incentive for one of my children to come along. Unfortunately for him, the container recycling scheme is so successful in my area that he did not find a single bottle along the side of the road. That is a big change from what we saw last year. Those of us of a certain age may remember the old recycling schemes where we used to collect our glass soft drink bottles and take them back to the store. If you took back a certain amount of bottles you got a new bottle of soft drink. I remember taking my Wimmers glass soft drink bottles back on the weekends to get one big tall bottle of soft drink. As a society we have done it before and we can do it again.

This bill, introduced in the last parliament, seeks to ban single-use plastic plates, bowls, items of cutlery, straws and stirrers. I recognise the many businesses, big and small, who have already taken on these initiatives, some with varying success. Some small businesses in my electorate will need to rethink how they provide takeaway options, but I know they are up to the challenge and that they accept the moral obligation to do so.

I am also heartened by the fact that our community wants us to do more, and we will. The two-year review set out in this bill will allow us to see how we are tracking towards the objectives of the bill, and allow us to see the second- and third-order effects of the ban. It will also allow us the ability to extend bans to other items. I look forward to seeing the outcome of the review at the scheduled time.

I am also excited by what innovation these bold changes will incite in our research and development space. Plastic manufacturers, such as SDI Plastics in my electorate, are placing themselves at the cutting edge of future plastics technology. As a state government we are assisting them in joint projects with scientists at our universities who are researching the use of organic plastics and plastics that do break down in the natural environment. The proverb states that necessity is the mother of invention. It is necessary that we reduce the number of plastics in the environment. We will adapt our behaviours and we will develop new technologies and products to make sure we have a more harmonious existence with our fragile ecosystem. I commend the bill to the House.



Mrs GILBERT (Mackay—ALP) (3.35 pm): I rise to contribute to the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020. The timing of this bill is quite pertinent, coming on the back of Clean Up Australia Day last weekend where we saw piles of rubbish cleaned up off our beaches, waterways and bushland. Included in this rubbish was single-use plastics.

Queensland is a beautiful place to live and we want the best for our environment. Over the years there has been reporting in the media about large and micro plastics that have ended up swirling in our oceans killing off our sea life. I am proud to say that many food operators in my region, including school tuckshops, have already stopped using plastic drinking straws. It is a simple step to take to decrease the number of straws potentially making their way into our oceans which can be particularly lethal for our turtles.

Grace, Blaize and Patrick, students in year 2/3 at Fitzgerald State School in 2018, were part of the Erupting Minds class. They wrote to me asking for assistance to ban plastic drinking straws. I send a shout-out to their teachers, Mrs Ebert and Ms Humphreys. Three years ago they were trailblazers. Congratulations, kids, this bill is for you.

Single-use plastics have been an easy fix for packaging and utensils in our fast-paced, modern world. We use them once and we toss them away. It has become a lifestyle. We know we need to take pressure off our environment if we are going to pass our planet on to the next generation in a condition that is healthy and not sinking in unwanted rubbish. We have the knowledge, the feedstock and the capability to change the type of materials that we use in the production of single-use products. We can use alternative materials that break down and are fully compostable. We can use feedstock that is already grown in Queensland to manufacture materials that are renewable and give an added income stream to our agricultural producers.

This bill creates a market for single-use plastic items to be made from alternative materials. We can produce single-use plates, bowls, cutlery, straws and stirrers from sugar cane and other crops produced in Queensland. Local, state and national governments in Australia and around the world have identified that there are significant environmental, community and economic impacts associated with plastics in the environment, with over 60 countries now having some form of ban or intervention for single-use plastic items.

This bill supports the broader principles of the Queensland government's Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy released in July 2019 and the aims of the *Tackling plastic waste: Queensland's plastic pollution reduction plan*. Queensland businesses can take the opportunity to be leaders in the production of the products that consumers in Australia and internationally are seeking to replace single-use plastic items.

The member for Kawana might be interested to know that in my region of Mackay entrepreneurs are already developing from the sugarcane crop products to replace single-use plastics. Sugar cane is an interesting crop. It can be used to make many materials other than sucrose. Bagasse is a product from the milling of cane that can be used to make biodegradable food trays. In Mackay entrepreneurs have already tested such a food tray that you can place food in and then freeze. That same tray of food can then be defrosted in the fridge and cooked in the oven. That could mean no more polystyrene trays. I am sure that they could make drinking straws that will not collapse for the member for Kawana. He might like to come to Mackay and look at the work that they are doing.

This bill is a win for the environment. It is also a win for manufacturing and job opportunities in my region and across Queensland into the future. I commend the bill to the House.



Mr NICHOLLS (Clayfield—LNP) (3.40 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the debate on the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020. I congratulate the government on introducing this bill and for following the policy lead that was established in 2016 by the LNP in relation to the container waste deposit scheme. Recently we heard the member for Macalister—

Mr Power interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: I can understand that for you, member for Logan. The member for Macalister spoke about her memories of handing back drink bottles at the local milk bar, which was a scheme much beloved by many people as well as Scouts and other charity organisations. It was part of the thought process behind the policy that we announced in May 2016. My friend the member for Moggill has already discussed that, as has the member for Southport. It continues to be a source of great pride to many on this side that we were able to advance that policy quite a long way and saw it taken up by the government, as was the policy to ban single-use plastic bags.


We see that being carried forward at the federal level with the National Waste Policy Action Plan. For the first time ever a national waste bill has passed through the federal parliament, shepherded by the federal member for Brisbane, Trevor Evans, the Assistant Minister for Waste Reduction and Environmental Management. Indeed, he pushed not just for legislation but also for \$1 billion to go into the Recycling Modernisation Fund. Not only is there less waste going to landfill and less waste being put into our streams, waterways, parks and environment but also the waste that is necessarily being generated is being reused rather than being exported overseas, as it once was.

At local schools and in local organisations we see an increasing prevalence of people taking up the cause of the environment, particularly the cause of plastics in the environment. Last week I was fortunate enough to present the school leadership badges at a small school in my electorate, Hendra State School, which has about 65 students. The school announced a new category of leadership, the eco warriors. Three students were appointed as eco warriors and they will be responsible for ensuring that every day plastics and other waste is picked up from the school grounds. It is a challenge to reduce waste and single-use items such as plastic straws, cutlery and plates. I saw 'stirrers' mentioned and immediately thought of the member for Chatsworth—speak of the devil—but of course it refers to plastic stirrers for coffee cups. This challenge is increasingly being taken up and understood by all in the electorate.

Reducing plastic waste such as plastic straws is not only good for the environment; it makes good economic sense. To use less of any resource is a good thing. It saves money for the consumer, it saves money for the corporation and it saves money for the state. It saves you money when you would otherwise have to take that rubbish to the tip or the dump or put in your rubbish bin. It makes sound economic sense in that respect. It also provides opportunities for increased activities in recycling industries.

When you visit a recycling centre—and I have visited quite a few—you see the amount of work and jobs created through recycling. You see people scanning the material. They work on the lines as the material is pushed through, separating the various items. That is another solid reason why this sort of legislation is necessary. Often working on those lines are people for whom otherwise getting a job would be difficult. Those jobs are entirely suited to what they want to do and what they can achieve. They provide them with avenues to earn an income, have a life and make a contribution to society in ways that they would otherwise find difficult and that society or the community would have to pay for through social services.

There are a whole range of benefits from this legislation and I am very happy to see it being brought forward. I am very happy to see that it is supported by our shadow minister for the environment, who has spoken eloquently on all of these matters. It is a sound recognition of the steps that are being taken by all in the community, in this parliament and in the federal parliament to acknowledge that what we have done in the past is not the way we can continue to do things into the future and that this change is needed.

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (3.45 pm): Often we come in here and engage in the argy-bargy of debate across the chamber, but occasionally we will debate legislation, such as the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020, that makes eminent sense. I note that a lot of speakers have paid tribute to people in their local communities who have been involved in Clean Up Australia Day activities. Before I go through some of the objectives of the bill, which have been well and truly outlined, I want to mention an event that I hosted in the Chatsworth electorate last Sunday morning for Clean Up Australia Day.

The event was held at the Carindale Recreation Reserve and involved an organisation called Nature Freedom. Nature Freedom is a group that caters for young people who are suffering from mental and physical disability. The event was a way of getting those people to engage with the community in a great cause. I could think of nothing better than getting involved with a group that is doing something practical, pragmatic and also very inclusive. I am very proud of the Nature Freedom organisation, which did a great job last Sunday. I take this opportunity to thank everyone who was involved in Clean Up Australia Day, which is well and truly a good thing.

Put simply, this is sensible and pragmatic legislation and, as plenty of speakers before me have said, we on this side of the chamber will be supporting it. I want to highlight a couple of the reasons why I think it is important. I remember when I was a kid—a long time ago, in my case—there was a saying that encouraged you to think globally but to act locally. That catchcry resonated with me many years ago, when I was not as follicly challenged as I am now.

I recall fishing on my beloved South Stradbroke Island. I believe one of the pioneers and influencers for all things practical and environmental was my granddad. He was a keen fisherperson. I remember many years ago when we went fishing we always made sure that we had a second krill bag. The primary one was for the feed, but the other one was to collect the flotsam and jetsam that washed up onto the beach. Nine times out of 10 it was plastic—not just fishing line but plastic bits and pieces. I roll the tape forward to 2021 and this bill is a continuation of practical legislation. We banned plastic bags and that was supported by both sides of the chamber. This ban on single-use plastics—or many of them—is long overdue.

I believe that if you want to be environmentally active and have a practical impact on your local environment you do not necessarily have to superglue yourself to the William Jolly Bridge. I know cruising was a pre-COVID activity, but hopefully it will happen again in the not-too-distant future. I suggest that if you are on a cruise liner, in between cocktails you should go onto the deck and look into the middle of the ocean. You may find what I found several years ago when I felt like I was at the local rubbish tip. I was on the *Pacific Dawn* in the middle of the Coral Sea and the number of plastic straws that I saw simply amazed me.

I go back to that saying ‘think globally, act locally’. It really does have an overall global impact, in your own small footprint kind of way. A few years ago I had a wonderful holiday in Koh Samui, Thailand. Long may it reign. You can go to any stretch of the coastline; the beaches are not privately owned. As many members would know, in certain parts of the world sections of beach are privately owned by hotel chains. I will not mention the name of the hotel at which we were staying, but it was a very well-known chain and brand. We observed that early in the morning, at five o'clock, they would be raking our section of beach clean. With the section of beach literally next door, the same approach was not taken and you could not even swim through the plastic straws. They were the No. 1 issue. They were not the only bit of flotsam and jetsam, but plastic straws were an absolute scourge.

I say well done to both the minister and the shadow minister. I think they are showing a level of political sophistication beyond their years. This is what we need to be doing more of. At the end of the day, all of us have a limited amount of time in this place. Some have longer than others. It is always good to be able to think back on moments like this: I was either part of contributing to the debate or part of the Legislative Assembly that set in train sensible, pragmatic legislation.

I also give a shout-out to the member who earlier paid tribute to the young lady who started this all off in her own little environmental way up in North Queensland. There was a meeting with the minister at the time, Minister Enoch. I often have schoolchildren from my electorate who visit this hallowed chamber, this chamber that I love so much, say to me, ‘But how can we make some kind of real difference in the big world out there?’ This is a classic example. Through the efforts of small children things can happen. I wish I knew her name, for *Hansard*—sadly, I do not—but I pay tribute to her as well.

Many people at the end of their contribution say that they commend the bill to the House. I will not be doing that, because it is the role of the minister to say those words. It is the minister who commends the bill to the House. I simply say that I am so happy to support the bill.

Debate, on motion of Mr Minnikin, adjourned.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Tourism Industry, Support



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (3.52 pm): I give notice that I will move—

That this House:

1. notes:
 - (a) the Palaszczuk government has committed over \$750 million to help Queensland's tourism industry recover from the COVID-19 downturn;
 - (b) the 2.7 million international tourists who visited Queensland every year before COVID-19, injecting \$6 billion into our state's economy; and
 - (c) the Morrison government's plans to cancel JobKeeper on Sunday, 28 March and the impact this will have on Queensland's tourism dependent industries; and
2. calls on the Prime Minister to extend JobKeeper or fund an equivalent program to support businesses affected by the Morrison government's closure of Australia's national borders and the COVID-19 tourism downturn.

MOTIONS

Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (3.53 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders, the Premier and Minister for Trade be permitted to immediately move the motion of which the Premier and Minister for Trade has given notice earlier today, with the following time limits to apply:

- 5 minutes for the Premier and Minister for Trade;
- 5 minutes for the Leader of the Opposition or nominee;
- 3 minutes for all other members; and
- Total members before question put—18.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Tourism Industry, Support



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (3.54 pm): I move—

That this House:

1. notes:
 - (a) the Palaszczuk government has committed over \$750 million to help Queensland's tourism industry recover from the COVID-19 downturn;
 - (b) the 2.7 million international tourists who visited Queensland every year before COVID-19, injecting \$6 billion into our state's economy; and
 - (c) the Morrison government's plans to cancel JobKeeper on Sunday, 28 March and the impact this will have on Queensland's tourism dependent industries; and
2. calls on the Prime Minister to extend JobKeeper or fund an equivalent program to support businesses affected by the Morrison government's closure of Australia's national borders and the COVID-19 tourism downturn.

As we know, there are now 17 days remaining until the federal government ends JobKeeper. JobKeeper is, I believe, one of the biggest issues impacting Queenslanders. Why do I say that? I say that because I have been up to Cairns and I have listened. Apparently, the Leader of the Opposition was up in Cairns. Maybe he was listening—I do not know—but there is only one side of politics that is standing up for the hardworking people in Cairns who have been impacted by the closure of international borders, and that is this side of the House.

Along with the members for Cairns, Barron River and Cook and the Speaker, I had the great opportunity of meeting with Mark Olsen and a large number of tourism operators. We know how important this industry is. At this time of year, we usually see thousands of international tourists visiting Cairns. They come to Cairns, they spend money in Cairns and they visit the attractions. We know very clearly that JobKeeper, this lifeline of support from the federal government, comes to an end at the end of March.

We as a government have acted very quickly. After COVID struck, one of the first things we announced was support for the tourism industry. We also announced assistance to ensure more people holiday in Cairns and take advantage of the \$200 holiday vouchers. We want to make sure that people get up there and support the industry. We listened. One of the proposals that the assistant tourism minister, the minister for tourism and I talked about with local people in Cairns was how to get more children to come up to the reef. That is exactly what we did. We listened to what people said to us and, as a government, we acted.

All we hear from the federal government is absolute silence. It has been 1,000 days since the federal Treasurer has been to Cairns and all of a sudden he is there listening yet delivering nothing. Time is running out. I have been calling for the extension of JobKeeper or, if they are not going to extend JobKeeper, some targeted support for people. It is not too hard for the Prime Minister and the members to listen and deliver for their communities.

The Whitsundays will be impacted by the end of JobKeeper. We know that Mackay and surrounding areas and the Gold Coast will be impacted because it is around this time of year that the international tourists arrive. The Prime Minister made the very good decision to close the international borders. I give 100 per cent support to that, but until those international borders are opened again we need to have targeted support for the tourism industry.

In one minute and 50 seconds the Leader of the Opposition will have the opportunity to tell the House whether he supports targeted support for the tourism industry.

A government member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. We do not know what those opposite think. Now we will find out whether or not they support us. Do they support the tourism industry in Far North Queensland or not? Do they support the tourism industry in the Whitsundays or not? Do they support jobs on the Gold Coast or not? Now is the time when every member of this House gets to have their say. They get to have their say and they get to cast their vote on whether or not they think JobKeeper matters, whether the people of Queensland matter and whether the people who work in the tourism industry matter.

Opposition members are starting to come into the chamber. That is great to see because we want to hear exactly what they have to say.


Mr Bleijie: Oh, you will!

Ms PALASZCZUK: We look forward to hearing from the member for Kawana. He is happy to comment on the royals but not happy to talk about jobs in Queensland.

As a government, we will always continue to listen. The head of Tourism Queensland, Daniel Gschwind, says that what we as a government are doing is a step in the right direction to help the tourism industry. We are stepping in where the federal government is stepping out. Mark Olsen was down here as well saying that the operators are very encouraged with the money we are putting in to help the tourism industry. As a parliament, we have the opportunity to stand strong.

Mr Hart: Political grandstanding. There is no accountability in this government. There is no transparency.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take the interjection from the member for Burleigh. Does he support Gold Coast tourism? The member for Burleigh will have his say. I absolutely support this motion and I hope the House does as well.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (3.59 pm): What a sneaky little motion has been moved this afternoon. What a sneaky little motion that the Premier—

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! Members!

Mr JANETZKI: The Premier knows that the federal government is on the verge of announcing something very shortly. The Premier knows it. The Premier knows—

Ms Richards interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Redlands, you are warned. The Premier was heard in silence, for the most part, so I would ask that the same courtesy be extended to the member for Toowoomba South.

Mr JANETZKI: The Premier knows that the federal government is on the verge of announcing something so we see this attempt at a sneaky little motion to try to deflect. This government is trying to deflect from their lack of contribution to the post-COVID economic recovery in Queensland. The Premier and Treasurer know how little they have really contributed to the COVID economic recovery in Queensland. The facts speak for themselves. There is over \$28 billion in real economic contributions from the federal government and \$8 billion from those opposite across four years. Most of it has not even been delivered yet. There is a little over \$8 billion over the four years ahead.

This government realises how little their contributions have been to the post-COVID-19 economic recovery in Queensland so they are going to try on a sneaky little motion when they know the federal government is on the verge of announcing what will be done post JobKeeper. The economic recovery in Queensland has been led lock, stock and barrel by the Morrison federal government. The state Labor government knows that. The facts speak for themselves. They come in here and try to pretend that they are going to be supporting the Queensland economy more than the Morrison federal government has done. They know it is complete and utter rubbish.

We know that simply from the amount against gross state product that this state Labor government has put into the post-coronavirus effort. The state Labor government has contributed two per cent of gross state product here in Queensland. In New South Wales and Victoria they have put forward seven to nine per cent of gross state product to contribute to the post-COVID-19 economic recovery.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Treasurer, you will have your turn in a minute.

Government members interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: They do not like hearing the truth. They do not like hearing what the Morrison federal government have done to contribute to the economic recovery here in Queensland. They will not hear a bar of it. At the same time as the Morrison federal government are delivering for the people of Queensland, this state Labor government are overseeing one of the worst performing state economies in the country.

Comparing the Queensland economic recovery to that of other states across the nation, we start to see where this state government is falling short—whether we look at the CommSec results or what stakeholders who have spoken out have said. From CommSec we know that we are stone motherless last when it comes to economic growth across the nation. We know that we are behind on economic growth. We know that every stakeholder is calling out for some real ideas and real leadership from this government.


This morning in a ministerial statement the Treasurer talked about all the engagement that is going on with the private sector to help deliver a private sector economic recovery. According to his diary, the Treasurer only met with two private sector companies in January. If the Treasurer were that interested in a private sector recovery would he not be doing more engagement with the private sector right now?

Where is the recovery leadership from those opposite? We only need to look at the CommSec results or look at the underspend on infrastructure. We only need to go back to the budget where we saw \$28 billion in debt and two-thirds of that being spent on operational expenses—

Mr Bleijie: Turn the lights on.

Mr JANETZKI: Keeping the lights on. Not enough of it is going to infrastructure development. We only need to look at the last couple of days to see that the government has stolen the ideas of this side of the House to get kids up to the Great Barrier Reef and our initiative to get tourists back to where we desperately need them—Far North Queensland, the Whitsundays and Bundaberg; using the benefits of the reef to lead Queensland's economic recovery. Those opposite should hang their heads in shame compared to what is going on federally.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (4.04 pm): I am very pleased to rise this afternoon to support the motion moved by the Premier. After that effort, I have one thing to say: bring back Deb. At least the Deputy Leader of the Opposition turned up and had a go. I will say that much. We are still looking for the member for Broadwater. He is out there doing the crib notes and trying to work out how he can also get up and say how good the federal coalition government is. I will say this much: you do not need notice. No-one on this side of the House needs notice to back Queensland because we do that every single day. That is exactly what we did with our economic recovery plan.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Treasurer, I remind you of the convention of not mentioning the absence of members during a debate.


Mr DICK: If there is one thing that the deputy leader could do, it is that he could read the New South Wales budget papers because they are the gold standard. If people love the Liberal Party read their budget papers. At page 5-4 of the New South Wales budget papers we see \$11.8 billion of COVID support and New South Wales GSP, \$625 billion. That is 1.9 per cent. That is lower than Queensland.

That is the dishonesty in the contribution by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. Economic growth in Queensland was the best in the nation in 2020 at 2.4 per cent. They are not my numbers. They are from the Australian Bureau of Statistics—the federal government's ABS. We had the highest economic growth in the country. Queensland is going forward and New South Wales and Victoria are going backwards. We had the strongest growth in retail turnover, housing loan commitments and dwelling approvals over the past year. We are the best and we know we are the best because we back Queensland.

State and local governments ramped up investment. What did the ABS data tell us? The Morrison government's investment in Queensland contracted in 2020. That is what they think about this state. The Premier was right to declare a public health emergency for COVID. The Premier was of course right to put in the first economic stimulus package. She was right to lead the nation on protecting her community by keeping the borders strong. Every single step of the way she has led the nation and Scott Morrison has followed her.

Why did Josh Frydenberg go to Cairns? It was because the Premier said, 'Come to Cairns. See the communities that are impacted by your failure.' Still we have no answer to JobKeeper. As the Premier has made clear, as every member of the cabinet has made clear and as every member of our government has made clear, we will put Queensland first. Now is the time for the federal government to support these communities that are struggling, to support the Far North of the state and to put in the money for JobKeeper as we approach that cliff at the end of March. That is the very least those communities deserve. We are backing them, and the federal government needs to back them too.

(Time expired)


 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (4.07 pm): It is a bit rich of the Labor government, which has turned its back on the Gold Coast where over 11,000 people in the postcode of 4217 are relying on JobKeeper, to try to tell us that its contribution has been anything like the federal government's. I looked at this motion and all I see is that in my area of the Gold Coast one in 13 people in Surfers Paradise have lost their job and this state government has put in a fraction of what the federal government has put in. The efforts of the Labor government to support the tourism industry and small business have been dismal. We have been particularly impacted by this economic damage.

Today I spoke to a constituent who is a local travel agent and whose business is operating at 14 or 15 per cent. Before the onslaught of the pandemic, he had a total of 73 staff. Now he has just 47, with only 32 working rostered hours. At present a third of his staff are permanently stood down. He cannot afford to make them redundant. While he and other affected businesses have been appreciative of the \$10,000 small business grants, they were massively oversubscribed, just as we have seen since the announcement of the travel vouchers. As of this morning, for the 15,000 people who will be able to access them, 85,000 people have applied for them.

We have had mention of international tourism—2.7 million international tourists visited Queensland every year before COVID-19. Yes, it is true they cannot come, but I have had communications from the president of the Japan Community of Queensland, the chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce & Industry Gold Coast and the president of the Japanese Society of Gold Coast. They echo the sentiments about that travel agent. There are many businesses in our state with close ties to Japan and the Japanese community. They request further state government contributions for businesses in the form of one-off grants, noting that the initial grants provided by the government have all been exhausted.

The government has been sitting by doing nothing and delegating support responses whilst entire industries are being decimated. It is disappointment but unsurprising. We only have to look at what they did with commercial rent relief under the COVID-19 Emergency Response Act. This left many commercial tenants to rely on the generosity of their landlords instead of the government to provide relief. At the same time, rather than reaching into its own pockets, the Palaszczuk government has sent the fiscal and economic support bill to Canberra—and that is what they are trying to do again today.

Another example is the QR code check-in app. Months after other states have done it, we have the Labor government releasing it. As it is not mandatory for businesses and venues, how does it promote an efficient and effective contact tracing system for our state? This government are doing what they always do—abrogating their responsibility, getting other people to do their dirty work for them and not putting in enough funding for businesses on the Gold Coast.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) (4.11 pm): Yesterday the federal Treasurer went to Cairns for the first time in a thousand days. Can you imagine? Worse still, he went there empty-handed. Today he is in Brisbane, but he is not here to outline plans to support Queensland's ongoing economic recovery. He is here for an LNP fundraiser—a \$990-a-head LNP fundraiser. We can work out whose job he is interested in keeping—his own and that of his colleagues.

It is now 355 days since Queensland has welcomed international tourists to our shores, and the towns that rely on international tourism—in particular, Cairns, the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast—continue to struggle. Closing the borders was the right thing to do, and we supported it. The Premier just said so again. It allowed us, as other comparable nations dealt with their second, third and now fourth waves—places like the US and UK—to open up the rest of our economy, and that has been very successful. JobKeeper has been effective, and we have supported it throughout.

Now we face the sudden end of JobKeeper while segments of the economy remain greatly exposed. The federal government is responsible for closing international borders and the federal government needs to step in and provide ongoing support. There are 259,000 Queenslanders currently on JobKeeper—49,000 of them are on the Gold Coast, largely represented by those opposite, and

16,600 are in Cairns. They are people and families who are worried about putting food on the table for their kids and who feel abandoned right now and fear they will be abandoned. Similarly, from the perspective of our wider economy, we cannot afford for those tourism products—the attractions, the products that we sell overseas—to disappear. They take decades to build up. We cannot afford to lose them all, so there is a great interest in maintaining and supporting that sector.

If they are worried about how to fund it, maybe they can claw back the \$6 million that Gerry Harvey rorted out of JobKeeper. There is no Robodebt for their big millionaire supporters, no 'DobSeeker', no hotline to call in. Gerry Harvey just bought a new horse called *The Quick One*. It certainly feels like that is what he has pulled on taxpayers. Those opposite might not be able to work out whether they support this motion, but everyone on this side does because we care about those people lying awake at night.


(Time expired)

Ms Camm: Mr Deputy Speaker, I want to talk very real about—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! You might want to talk about it, but you will wait until you get the call.

Ms Camm: I will. I apologise, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call the member for Whitsunday.

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (4.14 pm): Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I do want to talk very seriously about my charter boat industry in the Whitsunday electorate. I need to really—

Government members interjected.

Ms CAMM: Yes, I will because it took months and months to get the minister for tourism to come and meet with my charter boat industry. During the election the former tourism minister flew in and delivered policy on the run that simply left many of my operators worse off because of the lack of funding that the state government decided to allocate to the electorate of the Whitsundays. Instead, you gave waivers to operators in Far North Queensland. I recognise their desperate need, but what you did not do was give an equitable amount of funding to the people of the Whitsundays.


I now have charter boat operators who will potentially lose their businesses in the coming months. The then minister flew in, smiled and flew out. I now have operators who have six vessels and they only received a rebate for one vessel. Thank goodness for the private sector who stepped in and who have had to cut marina fees up to 40 per cent to ensure that people can feed their families at the end of the day. You should hang your head in shame that you did not think to extend that funding or go back and check in on those rebates.

I would also like to outline the lack of foresight and strategic investment by the government when it comes to ecotourism. In our electorate of the Whitsunday we have shovel-ready projects—they are ready to go. The Whitsunday mountain bike trails need \$1.6 million. The government could not even make an election commitment during the campaign. It is ready to go. These are shovel-ready projects. In the Mackay electorate there are the Pioneer Valley trails. Hardly any money has been put in by this government. The local council now has to fund that project, so it will proceed despite the lack of commitment by this state government. Then there is the Whitsunday Skyrail project, which will continue to sit in abeyance waiting to see what the department of environment will do.

On the matter of Cairns, it would be remiss of me not to mention the conversation that I and my assistant shadow minister for the night-time economy had with Mayor Bob Manning in regard to the Cairns art gallery precinct. The mayor outlined the lack of commitment by this state government to ensure that jobs are created for Indigenous communities—

A government member interjected.

Ms CAMM: The state government needs to demonstrate some leadership for Far North Queensland and for Indigenous communities. They need to put their money where their mouth is, instead of passing the buck to the federal government which is what they continue to do.

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (4.17 pm): I rise to support the motion to call on the Prime Minister to extend JobKeeper. Like many communities across Queensland, the removal of JobKeeper will have a huge impact on the people and businesses in Townsville. Throughout North Queensland there are numerous tourism operators who have relied on JobKeeper to keep their lights on, their doors open and the welcome mat out amidst this global pandemic.

There have been impacts on many operators such as those on Magnetic Island who have seen international tourism numbers certainly drop off the cliff. I have serious concerns about what will happen when the JobKeeper program is cut for those businesses. For the sake of so many businesses, the federal government needs to make sure that these businesses who are suffering have some support. I urge the federal member for Herbert to make sure that Townsville tourism and hospitality businesses are represented on this serious issue.

Mr Harper: He's done nothing.

Mr STEWART: I take that interjection. We have heard absolutely nothing from him nor the federal Treasurer, who was in Townsville just yesterday, who flew in for a photo-op and then refused to answer questions at his own press conference. We still do not know how or if the federal government plans to support tourism operators in Townsville and across North Queensland. Meanwhile the Palaszczuk government has been doing all the heavy lifting when it comes to supporting the Townsville economy. Just last year we released the Townsville Regional Recovery Action Plan—which I have right here, and I will table it because it is worth reading—to support our COVID-19 economic recovery initiatives.

Tabled paper: Queensland Government Unite & Recover publication titled 'Townsville Regional Economic Recovery' [294].


As part of that plan, we backed real projects with real jobs such as CopperString 2.0; Big Rocks Weir; stage 1 and now stage 2 of the Haughton pipeline project, because the federal government—

Mr Harper: Failed to deliver.

Mr STEWART: I take that interjection—the Drivelt facility, Port of Townsville upgrades, Riverway Drive, Queensland Country Bank Stadium and the Glencore smelter, saving more than 1,000 North Queensland jobs. That is the Palaszczuk government doing the heavy lifting. What do we hear from the federal government?

Mr Harper: Nothing!

Mr STEWART: Cue the crickets. Just off Townsville's coast we have the Museum of Underwater Art, which is a fantastic attraction the Palaszczuk government has invested \$4 million into. While this new attraction is important for the dive and drive tour businesses in Townsville, they are still missing international tourists. This means that jobs are certainly at risk, which is something that everyone should be concerned about. From the Treasurer's visit to Townsville yesterday we saw that they would rather duck and hide than provide any real answers about what will happen to JobKeeper when it finishes. The people of Townsville deserve better.


 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (4.20 pm): Small businesses employ one million Queenslanders, which is 44 per cent of the private sector. They comprise 97 per cent of the businesses in Queensland. We know that support for them has to be front and centre of everything we do in Queensland if we are going to make the economic recovery we need.

When the pandemic hit we backed small business with a range of measures, including \$1 billion in no-interest loans and \$200 in adaptation grants. During the election we promised \$140 million for Big Plans for Small Business, which we are starting to deliver on now. We are coming to the end of our 17-stop Small Business Roadshow where we have talked to over 1,800 small businesses.

It is clear that some business are doing really well—in fact, they are going gangbusters—and it is clear that some businesses are going to be okay but they are a bit challenged, but there are too many businesses that are literally desperate because they are worried that at the end of this month they are going to go over a cliff. They have employees who are also worried that at the end of this month they are going to go over a cliff. That is why it is way past time for the Prime Minister or the federal Treasurer—it does not really matter which—to say something about what they are going to do to help these people. We are not talking about a blanket extension. We are talking about targeted economic support for those industries that are still struggling due to international border closures or other circumstances beyond their control. The federal government knows who they are because they are paying them. They are the tourism operators, the arts and entertainment people, the cinemas, the people in international education.

We need the federal government to say something now. Today is 10 March. It is just over one fortnightly pay cycle until those people possibly face being sacked. It is just over a fortnight away for the business owners who are our mums and dads, our neighbours, our families and our friends. There are people in our local communities across Queensland who are facing potential disaster. Josh Frydenberg came to Cairns and raised people's hopes but said absolutely nothing to those people. The Prime Minister has said absolutely nothing.


Those opposite never once—never once—raised the issue of JobKeeper or picked up the phone to say something to support small business or lobby the people who are on their side. It is an absolute disgrace! If any of them ever says anything to criticise this government and proclaim themselves the champion of small business, they should hang their heads in shame. We want to know: do you support JobKeeper for small businesses in Queensland or not?

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (4.23 pm): This is an opportune government that wants to blame everyone else and never takes responsibility for its own actions. With a cheap little trick late on Wednesday afternoon they are now trying to make something out of it because, as the member for Toowoomba South said, they must know something is coming and they want to get ahead of the game. We have seen it before. We saw it back in March last year when they did exactly the same thing.

Let's have a look at what the federal government has done. We agree that the federal government does have an obligation to support all Australians, particularly Queenslanders, and particularly Queenslanders who are doing it tough because of the international border closures. But what have they just done? The biggest rescue package since the Second World War, \$507 billion, all went out the door or is going out the door within three months. What else have they done? JobKeeper; JobSeeker; the coronavirus supplement; JobMaker, \$74 billion; childcare support; boosting cash flow for employers, \$10,000 to \$50,000 for eligible businesses; supporting apprentices, \$21,000 up to 50 per cent of a wage; the instant asset write-off scheme, \$30,000 to \$150,000 and they increased the eligibility for companies up to \$500 million; the Small and Medium Enterprises Guarantee Scheme; and let's not forget the building fund that saw people get between \$25,000 and \$15,000.

This government crows about the building boom, but there is one reason the building boom is going on in Queensland and that is because the federal government has put that program in place. Was there one word of thanks from this government with respect to that? None. In the rear with the gear in fear—that is what this government is all about. If we waited for this government to come up with a plan that would achieve something and save something, we would be waiting a long time yet. This government closed the state borders and then sent the bill straight to the federal government. They knew the federal government was carrying the can—\$1,500 employee payments and all of the funds that were going in there—while they closed the border down with impunity and did not have to pick up the tab.


Political opportunism is the hallmark of this government and fiscal ineptitude is the hallmark of this Treasurer. I heard him mention bringing someone back. I say bring back Andrew Fraser, because at least he could make sense of the accounts and have a decent argument, not just look at himself in the mirror and spout numbers off. Queensland should be supported, the feds should do it, but this government has failed in every other test.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (4.26 pm): This is just a cheap stunt by this government. The federal Morrison coalition government has set the overall framework for managing the health and economic crisis we have seen over the last 12 months. Through the national cabinet process Scott Morrison and the national leadership team have managed health circumstances through the Health Protection Principal Committee and the leadership of Professor Brendan Murphy and Professor Paul Kelly. Leadership was shown throughout that process by Scott Morrison, Greg Hunt and the federal Treasurer, Josh Frydenberg. When it comes to JobKeeper, JobSeeker and JobMaker, the entire federal coalition government has stepped up to the mark. As outlined by the member for Clayfield, we have a multibillion dollar rescue package that is the largest since the Second World War.

When it comes to this Palaszczuk state Labor government we have to remember that even before the COVID-19 health and economic crisis debt in Queensland was \$91.8 billion. It is now heading to \$128 billion over the forward estimates. Queensland had the highest or second highest unemployment rate compared to other states. It was consistently up at 6.5 per cent. Queensland had the highest number of business bankruptcies, and small business is hurting. Everywhere I go across Queensland chambers of commerce are talking to me about this Labor government and the lack of support they have had from the Palaszczuk state Labor government in relation to small business.

When it comes to the history of the Palaszczuk state Labor government, they were woefully unprepared for this health and economic crisis. They loaded debt onto government owned corporations. They raided the defined benefits scheme when it came to public servants in Queensland. Consistently over the years this Labor government has failed to invest in infrastructure—a fraction of what the Morrison coalition government has invested in Queensland. We have major road and public transport issues in Queensland and across South-East Queensland. It has stalled and it is in desperate need of funding. In my electorate of Moggill there is certainly additional infrastructure that needs to be provided.

The Labor government has spent \$8.8 billion on its COVID stimulus package, and that is less than a third of what the federal government has invested in Queensland—up to \$27.9 billion. When it comes to tourism, we have seen the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Buderim and the member for Currumbin up there listening to those tourist operators calling for additional support packages. In fact it is the Labor government that have taken some of those suggestions on board and adopted LNP policies when it comes to supporting the tourism sector in North Queensland. That is important and I am glad they have done that because that will have meaning there. The federal coalition government has stepped up to the mark and continues to do that and will continue to do it.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (4.29 pm): It is a pleasure to support the Premier's motion. My family have lived across the Mackay-Whitsunday region for generations and it is a privilege to live in the best place in Queensland. I am very proud of everything across the Mackay-Whitsunday region. We are the envy of the world. We have the perfect beaches in Mackay and the Whitsundays, and we have rainforests up in the Pioneer Valley. It is truly the place to be.


When COVID-19 hit, we knew it was going to be tough and we knew it was going to be a challenge for our local tourism operators, but we knew that as a region we always pull together. We know how to pull together because we have endured cyclones, floods and bushfires. In typical regional fashion, we have pulled together in tough times. I am proud to be a part of the Palaszczuk government, the government that moved very quickly to support tourism operators when COVID hit.

I am a bit dismayed about the Morrison government. They are thumbing their nose at tourism operators. It is 17 days until they turn the tap off and cancel JobKeeper. In 17 days, we know that jobs will go across the Mackay and Whitsunday region all because the Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, and the LNP are too busy trying to protect their jobs in the upcoming federal election. They are selling out the regions because they are too busy thinking about themselves. The member for Whitsunday gets up in the media and says she is standing up for jobs, which is great, but it is time to do the real work now. Is she going to start banging on the doors of her LNP colleagues in Canberra and make sure that she says we need to have—

Ms Camm interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! Member for Whitsunday, you will use correct titles in this chamber.

Mrs GILBERT: I invite her to go down and bang on those doors and say to her colleagues in Canberra, 'We need to have JobKeeper for our tourism operators.' I do not often agree with the federal member for Dawson, but he is calling for an extension of JobKeeper. He is lobbying his own government and he is petitioning his own government. Unfortunately, the Prime Minister does not often come to Mackay because he does not seem to want to be associated with the member for Dawson and he only sends his deputy, but I call on both of them to get the federal LNP government to extend JobKeeper.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (4.32 pm): I agree with the member for Toowoomba South. The members opposite must know that something is coming because they are up there trying to cover up their poor record, their woeful record, when it comes to tourism. Queensland used to be the jewel in the crown of Australia's tourism. Long before coronavirus, the other states were powering ahead and experiencing a tourism boom. Queensland failed to keep pace and lost valuable jobs under this Labor government. Remember, they have been in government for six years but they are blaming the federal government for their poor record.


The official tourism data shows that before coronavirus Queensland lost its domestic share of visitor nights and visitor spend. Queensland had the second lowest growth in domestic visitor numbers and domestic visitor spend in the nation, only outranking Tasmania. That is so embarrassing under this government. Under Labor, Queensland slipped from being the second most visited state in the nation for international tourists to a distant third after New South Wales and Victoria. That is what has happened to tourism under this government.

This government has spent millions on consultants for proposed global tourism hubs in Cairns and the Gold Coast and they have delivered nothing, but government members say to the federal government, 'You've got to go out there and look after everything.' Well, the state government has some heavy lifting to do as well. This Labor government has only spent \$8.8 billion on its COVID stimulus. That is a third of what the federal government has invested in Queensland.

The state government could also do something about the insurance crisis in North Queensland with the high cost of insurance in North Queensland. We see businesses close, like the barra farm in North Queensland—not because they do not have people coming to their facility but because they cannot get public liability insurance, and this government has done nothing to address that. In North

Queensland the cost of body corporate insurance is high and it is actually making the body corporates and the units uncompetitive with other areas across Australia. This government has done nothing to help those accommodation providers.

We know that this government is just following the lead of the member for Buderim and the opposition leader who were up in Cairns. They were the ones who convened the local industry stakeholders to talk about getting grants to get kids across to the reef. It was the Leader of the Opposition who wrote to the government and asked them to fund the initiative. More needs to be done, but I do not see any mention here in relation to outback tourism. That seems to have dropped off the radar from this government.

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (4.36 pm): I have got a lovely speech here and I could read it, but I might skip the notes because what I have been hearing is absolutely disappointing. This is nothing more than this government raising some concerns regarding the federal government. I will say that what the federal government has done to date is appreciated. I saw Josh Frydenberg and I went up to him and said, 'Josh, thank you very much with JobKeeper. It has been fantastic,' and it has been fantastic. I want to acknowledge that. We will take the stupidity out of the debate and put a bit of reality into it.


Mr Krause interjected.

Mr HEALY: Sorry, Jon, I am talking and I cannot hear you. I would like to also acknowledge destinations like Cairns, where tourism is the lifeblood, and places like the Whitsundays and the Gold Coast. These are areas that are dominated by and reliant on international business.

We are rolling out the vaccines—and the state government is doing a successful job of that in conjunction with the federal government—and we will hopefully not have to shut our borders internally. We need to instil confidence in consumers and we are doing that. We are seeing thousands and thousands of people coming online, as was addressed. We are building demand for our destinations. This is what drives it, but the void in the international visitors is absolutely key. The federal Treasurer has spoken about 91 per cent of the economy almost getting back to normal. I was in Cairns and I heard what he said. The international industry up there is a \$2.9 billion industry and we have lost nearly \$2 billion. That also contributes to our international visitors and our international students, and that has impacted everywhere up and down the coast. The minister for tourism and I have travelled up and down listening to people.

What we are saying is that the federal government has not given anybody in any way, shape or form any assurity. We have key industry leaders in Cairns and other parts of Queensland asking, 'What are you going to do for us?' Ken Chapman, who is an icon up there, and the chamber of commerce up there are talking about this. A wide range of people up and down the coast are asking what the federal government is doing. We are saying that the federal government takes 80 per cent of the taxes so it should be pumping more money into it. If it is not going to be JobKeeper it can be something else, but at least give something to these businesses. Some of these people might even vote for you, but you have got to give these people some type of assurity. We are the only ones who are talking and we will continue to invest significantly and take a big hit. All we are saying is this: what are you going to do?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Before I call the next member, I remind the member for Cairns to put your comments through the chair.

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (4.39 pm): We just heard a rousing rendition from the member for Cairns about how stakeholders are telling him that the federal government need to step up. Last week, member for Cairns, I was in Cairns as you know. Those same stakeholders told me that all levels of government need to step up—local government, state government and the federal government.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Buderim was clearly just addressing all his points to the member for Cairns across the chamber, directly against the ruling you just made.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I thank you for the point of order. I was trying to get the member's attention. I was about to remind him that all comments will come through the chair.

Mr MICKELBERG: It is time for the state government to take responsibility, to show some leadership—something that the Premier has been devoid of on all levels. It is time to stop passing the buck from crying 'Canberra' every time they have a problem. It just does not cut it.

The Premier sits at the national cabinet table and yet she is incapable of advocating for the people of Queensland. If she has any influence, then why are we here debating this motion now? The Premier is incapable of advocating for Queenslanders and the evidence is in this motion.

It is very clear that this government is all about the photo opportunity. We saw the Deputy Premier tearing up his little invoice from the New South Wales government. We talk about stupidity from the member for Cairns. If I have ever seen stupidity, it is the actions of the Deputy Premier playing childish games on TV and social media. Last week I was in Cairns and I spoke to Bruce and Danny at the Blu Marlin Bistro near the marina. They told me that the Premier was up there in the weeks prior and that she held a press conference in the exact same spot that I did on Wednesday morning. Do you know what else they told me? The Premier could not even be bothered to come and in say g'day. She could not even be bothered to come in and ask how they were going or to buy a coffee. Is there little wonder that people are losing faith when she wants to use them for a photo opportunity but is not prepared to sit down and have a chat? She does not care. Her actions show that she does not care.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members. Pause the clock. Comments must come through the chair and correct titles must be used.

Mr MICKELBERG: We agree that the federal government needs to continue to help, and it is clear that the federal government has been doing the heavy lifting. There has been more than \$500 billion of federal government stimulus.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr MICKELBERG: It is all right. You will get yours. Three times more support—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I know you are passionate, member for Buderim, but I remind you again. Comments must come through the chair.

Mr MICKELBERG: My apologies, Mr Deputy Speaker. The Queensland government has provided \$1,700 of COVID support per person in Queensland. That is the lowest of any state or territory in Australia. Let's compare that to the federal government. It has provided more than \$10,000 for every Queenslander—two per cent of gross state product.

Mrs Frecklington: New South Wales and Victoria.

Mr MICKELBERG: Let's have a look at New South Wales and Victoria. They have provided seven to nine per cent of gross state product. It is time for this government to take responsibility and start walking the walk rather than talking the talk.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will come to order before I call the next speaker.



Hon. MAJ SCANLON (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (4.42 pm): I rise to support the motion put forward by the Premier and to touch on some of the comments made by the member for Buderim about responsibility. It was of course the responsibility of this Premier to put the health of Queenslanders first, and it was reckless of those opposite to call for the borders to be opened 64 times at the height of the global pandemic, which would have sent Queensland's economic recovery backwards. It is ridiculous to suggest that this side of government does not have responsibility when it comes to this pandemic.

We, of course, support the federal government in the closure of international borders. It is the right decision in making sure we are keeping Australians safe. We also, of course, supported the introduction of JobKeeper; the ACTU and federal Labor were calling for a wage subsidy. What we know is that the closure of international borders is having an impact, particularly on communities like mine on the Gold Coast.

Last term I had the privilege of being the assistant minister for tourism and meeting many of these businesses. When we look at the figures we see that in the year ending 2019 there were over one million international visitors who travelled to the Gold Coast. While we support the measures that have been put in place to date, there is no doubt that these measures are having an impact on businesses and locals.


In that December quarter over 49,000 residents on the Gold Coast alone were on JobKeeper. There are many families and individuals who rightfully are wanting to know what will happen at the end of this month; people want to know whether they will have money to put food on the table. I think that it is reasonable to expect that the federal government will let people know whether JobKeeper will continue or whether targeted support will continue. That is a reasonable expectation I think of people given the climate that we are in.

Those opposite have also talked about responsibility. Of course, during the pandemic our government put in place a number of measures to support individuals and businesses. We brought in payroll tax relief, small business loans and small business grants. We provided payroll tax relief and

electricity rebates. We also brought forward infrastructure investment. We brought forward infrastructure investment on the Gold Coast like the second M1, which we are funding on a 50/50 basis. The federal government receives 80 per cent of the taxation revenue in this country but we are putting 50 per cent on the table.

We are delivering more funding for the light rail than the federal government is. We are also delivering those important M1 upgrades on the southern Gold Coast and going to Brisbane as well. We are doing a lot of heavy lifting ourselves when it comes to injecting our economy to make sure people remain in work. What we need is the federal government to act. There are 10 LNP members on the Gold Coast sitting opposite who are very vocal about state border closures but very silent when it comes to international borders and the support the federal government should be providing post March.

(Time expired)

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (4.46 pm): I think the Labor government in Queensland are like COVID internet scammers; they are as good as some of the schemes out there. I am surprised that some of the internet links have not gone back to Nigeria! What we saw during this time of COVID was a government that are very good at promoting themselves, including some of the programs that were released allegedly to help businesses.

At a time when some of those programs had already dried up for the majority of Queenslanders, they were still advertising them. When people clicked through some of the links and ended up on a landing page that had no information about those small business grants, they have to wonder. This was like clickbait, leading people to believe there was something there for them and their small business. However, if they were to click through more links than the ones they landed on and dig deeper, they would have found they were no longer able to access some of those small business grants that this government kept on promoting.


I will table these documents soon because this Labor government is really good at promoting itself but terrible at managing this state. They have literally spent millions of dollars in patting themselves on the back and saying what they are doing but they have not been doing what the other states have, which is delivering more assistance to people when they need it. It has been crumbs at the table when people have been starving. Yet this government advertises what they are doing and says 'be grateful'. I think that is pathetic. I will table some of these adverts.

Tabled paper: Bundle of Queensland government advertisements regarding Queensland Government Unite & Recover Economic Plan [\[295\]](#).

This is just the tip of the iceberg, but we know this government has spent hundreds of millions of dollars in taxpayers' money over a number of years. In the lead-up to the election they continued to spend because they changed the rules to make it legal for them to spend taxpayers' money on promoting themselves. What a scam it was, because when people clicked through these links they did not land on a page that actually provided them the information the government were advertising. They had to keep going a lot further than where they landed. It was very disappointing and misleading because some of those small business grants that they were still advertising were not available for the majority of people in this state.


Let's look at what Queensland has been doing compared to other states—hard, cold facts. An amount of \$1,700.68 per Queenslanders has been spent on COVID recovery by the Queensland government compared to Victoria, \$6,572.17, which was the highest spender per capita. Queensland is at the end of the pile. Even the Northern Territory spent more per capita than the Queensland government did. That is not only a crying shame; it is a disgrace. We do support the federal government's program to support business, to target and support tourism, unlike the tourism minister, who told people to cancel their holidays and not come to Queensland.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism Industry Development and Innovation and Minister for Sport) (4.49 pm): I support the motion moved by the Premier. We just heard a lot from the member for Maroochydore about ads. It would be great to see some information from the Australian government, particularly for those people who have become reliant upon JobKeeper. The sword of Damocles is hanging over their heads. They need information. They need to know what will happen in the future. We have the terrible situation where businesses in the Cairns region have had to give notice to staff—their industrial instruments require them to give notice—because they will not have the capacity to keep those staff on beyond the end of JobKeeper at the end of this month.

I put on record how appreciative the Queensland and Australian community have been to have JobKeeper in place. I welcomed it very strongly when the Morrison government brought it in. I will always remember where I was when Scott Morrison introduced socialism! It will be important to remember that and mark that in the future. It was the right measure, but it was a very blunt instrument. It was vitally important that the day after that instrument was brought in the federal government started to work on how it would refine that instrument—sharpen it and take it from a sledgehammer to a scalpel. That is not what we have seen. We have seen uncertainty, vacillation, commitments that have gone nowhere and promises not fulfilled. I hope that we will see some sort of program that takes things forward.

I completely acknowledge and accept, sadly, that there probably will not be the continuation of a form of JobKeeper; it will be some other program. Something is better than nothing. This motion calls for a refined, improved version of JobKeeper. That would be a better way forward. I accept that that is likely not to be the case. I think it is a shame. I hope that we see the Australian government give confidence back to the sector that is the most impacted by the closure of international borders. We need measures that will assist Queensland's great tourism industry as the global pandemic and the closure of international borders have had impacts far worse than the pilot strike, the last great shock to the tourism sector in this state. It is vitally important that the Australian government tells the tourism sector, the tourism economy and Queensland's economy what it will do next to help.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (4.52 pm): The only reason the Labor state government wants answers from the federal government is that it has no plans. Members opposite would have no idea what to do if they woke up tomorrow with no JobKeeper. They were dragged kicking and screaming to do anything before JobKeeper. I remember when governments across the country were shutting down businesses. This state government was the last to act. Once the Morrison government brought in JobKeeper, this mob said, 'Thank God. They've saved us. We will now do a little bit of payroll tax tinkering.' It was not real support, because all they said is, 'We will delay your tax. You will still have to pay it. Obviously you will have to pay double because you will pay what is deferred.' That is all members opposite did. Then they came up with the small business grants, which were completely oversubscribed. On one street, one small business received a grant but a business that applied five minutes later did not. Where was the transparency in that? The federal government basically said, 'JobKeeper needs to apply to every struggling business in Australia.' That is what happened. JobKeeper saved the country's economy.

The reason the Labor mob in this House are so worried about the end of JobKeeper is that they will be found out, because they are propping up job numbers based on JobKeeper. The only reason the employment numbers are what they are is that the Scott Morrison government managed to keep people employed and tied into their businesses.

Where is the state government in all of this? It is not good enough for the minister who just spoke. He said, 'Even if we don't have JobKeeper, let's have something else.' I suspect that the minister knows, like we do, that something is coming. Tomorrow the minister will act all surprised: 'We called for this yesterday. Funny about that! We had a motion about this in the House.' Members opposite will get up tomorrow and say, 'I am glad that Scott Morrison listened to the Queensland parliament's motion last night.'

I was recently in Airlie Beach, in the wonderful electorate of Whitsunday, visiting charter boat operators. I just listened with dismay to the member for Mackay making disparaging comments about the member for Whitsunday. I can tell the member for Mackay what those charter boat operators were talking about. There is more respect in the Whitsunday region for the member for Whitsunday than there is for the member for Mackay—if you could even meet anyone who has ever met or knows the member for Mackay! She was even the assistant treasurer of the state. The member for Whitsunday is listening to her Airlie Beach community, which is calling on the government to give more support.

A government member interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: The member for Whitsunday grows people like you in her backyard. She has a big wet lettuce leaf vegie patch reserved for people like the member for Mackay, whom the community do not even respect or know. People go to the member for Whitsunday, not the member for Mackay, because they know that they will get the advocacy they deserve.

(Time expired)

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Australian Building and Construction Commission



Mr BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (4.55 pm): I move—

That this House:

1. notes federal Labor's policy to abolish the Australian Building and Construction Commission ('the ABCC');
2. notes Queensland state Labor's support to abolish the ABCC;
3. notes since the ABCC was re-established in December 2016:
 - (a) over \$11.2 million in penalties have been handed down by the courts against the CFMMEU and more than 100 of its representatives have been prosecuted for around 1,400 contraventions of the law for matters like coercion, unlawful industrial action and unlawful entry;
 - (b) of the \$11.2 million in penalties, \$2.98 million relate to 914 contraventions by the CFMMEU and 35 of its representatives in Queensland;
 - (c) this represents more fines, contraventions and officials penalised as a result of ABCC court action than any other state or territory branch of the CFMMEU in Australia; and
 - (d) the ABCC has also recovered around \$600,000 in wages and entitlements for 579 employees in Queensland;
4. supports building industry workers, tradies and small businesses;
5. supports the rights of all workers to a workplace free from bullying and intimidation; and
6. calls on the Labor government to support the ongoing role of the ABCC.

This motion calls on the state government to support the Australian Building and Construction Commission. I saw with dismay that the federal opposition has announced it will abolish it. Why abolish the very body that protects workers' rights in construction in Australia? Why would the state Labor IR minister support the move by Anthony Albanese to abolish the ABCC? In this debate we will hear why this body is so important, not only for businesses in the state but also for workers. This motion is fundamentally about workers—not necessarily about the other elements of the ABCC which are also important. I refer to militant unions in Queensland. I have looked forward to this debate with the Minister for Industrial Relations. There would not be a parliamentary term that goes by in which the Minister for Industrial Relations and I do not talk about these issues. This one is different, because the ABCC has now shown, as will we in this debate, that it protects workers' rights on construction sites in Queensland.

Over \$11.2 million in penalties have been handed down by independent judicial officers in the courts—not some partisan political operators. I thought members of the Labor Party had a lot of respect for these officials. Obviously they do not respect the courts when they are dishing out fines for unions. Of the \$11.2 million in penalties, \$2.98 million relate to 914 contraventions by the CFMMEU and 35 representatives in Queensland. That represents more fines, contraventions and officials penalised as a result of the ABCC court action than any other state and territory in the country.

They have also recovered \$600,000 in wages and entitlements for nearly 600 Queensland employees. If the ABCC is abolished, as Labor proposes, those 600 employees would be without their wages and entitlements. The minister responded in a *Courier-Mail* article the other day by saying something about sham contracting. She failed to tell the *Courier-Mail* that sham contracting was legislated by the Commonwealth coalition government in 2016 and that the industrial relations omnibus bill before the federal parliament at the moment increases penalties for sham contracting by 50 per cent. The minister missed that one out. She is smiling now. The minister knows that she conveniently left that out of the equation.

In relation to construction sites in Queensland, when this Labor government gets involved there is a further 15 to 30 per cent of taxpayer money used, abused and wasted because of union militant activity. Let the cases speak for themselves. I refer to Townsville's North Queensland Stadium case and to coercion in terms of enterprise bargaining. These are the types of things that are said on work sites, and I quote from the court case—

You need to make your bosses sign this.

The officials also abused the director of the subcontractor, calling him an 'expletive dog' and 'a piece of expletive'. That was the Townsville North Queensland case. At the Sunshine Plaza in Maroochydore there were freedom of association issues. The union was demanding people join it and it was fined \$44,000 for that. The justice said—

Two videos recording the contravening conduct were provided to the Court. The videos show that Mr Fissenden was loud and abusive, and used offensive language to describe (the worker).

Where are the workers' friends in the Labor Party standing up for the workers today? These workers are being abused by CFMMEU officials. I could not talk about all of the cases in Queensland without using expletive after expletive after expletive. This is how the workers on construction sites are treated. We are demanding that the ABCC stay for the benefit of less industrial disputation but also the

workers. Let us look at the case of the Grand Central Shopping Centre in Queensland. When another worker heard an exchange and said words to the effect of, 'Isn't that illegal?', Mr D'Arcy said, 'If you want to work here then you have to be part of the union.' Where is the freedom of association? Where is the freedom for the workers to decide whether or not they want to be in the union?

An opposition member: Bullying!

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. It is bullying, it is intimidation and the only body stopping it and prosecuting those offenders is the ABCC. We know why Labor wants to delete it and wants to abolish it, because it answers to its militant union masters and—

(Time expired)



Hon. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (5.00 pm): I move—

That all words after 'ABCC' (paragraph 2.) be omitted and the following inserted:

- '3. supports building industry workers, tradies and small businesses;
- 4. supports the right of all workers to a workplace free from bullying and intimidation; and
- 5. calls on the Labor government to not support the ongoing role of the ABCC.'

Members on this side of the House know that those opposite are struggling. We know that they have absolutely nothing. When the Leader of the Opposition gets up and asks, 'Does anyone have anything we can talk about today?', they are all quiet, they have no issues and they have absolutely nothing, and there is the member for Kawana saying, 'Pick me! Pick me! Pick me! I'll just take out the union-bullying, busting motion. How's that?' We on this side know that those opposite are in trouble when they stoop down to the union-bashing antics that they do all of the time. We are used to it now. I will tell members that I do not often splutter into my All-Bran in the mornings, but let me tell you that those opposite are really scraping the bottom of the barrel when they claim that the ABCC is the workers' friend. It is pretending to be the friend of the worker.

The ABCC is funded in 2019-20 to the tune of \$33 million. It revealed that in estimates a year ago, because these are the facts. The member for Kawana just loves making this stuff up. At estimates a year ago the ABCC had spent \$3.2 million on legal fees in three years prosecuting unions, union officials and workers but had not prosecuted a single employer for sham contracting. If there is one industry where sham contracting is rife, it is the construction industry.

In June 2020 the ABCC released a report that it had audited 63 labour hire companies. The audit found that nearly 80 per cent—79 per cent—of the businesses audited did not meet workplace laws, including not paying their workers correctly, not keeping proper records and not giving their workers payslips. Do members know how many were prosecuted? Eighty per cent of the ones that it audited showed that they were not meeting their legal obligations, yet do members want to have a guess how many were prosecuted? Zero—absolutely zero!

We spruik about collecting funds for the ABCC. Since the 2016 re-establishment, the ABCC has recovered around \$600,000 in wages and entitlements. I love this tweet by the CFMEU—

The CFMEU in 2020 alone were able to get \$11.7 million for their members.

In five years an organisation funded to the tune of \$33 million recouped \$600,000 whereas the CFMEU recouped \$11.7 million, and the list goes on. The plumbers' union recovered a total of \$15.8 million for workers in 2018. Let me advise the member for Kawana: for any industrial officer worth their weight, \$600,000 will be recouped in no time at all. You would really have to be lazy to have only recouped \$600,000 in five years.

This motion is embarrassing given the way it was moved by the member for Kawana. It shows a desperate opposition. When it comes to bullying and harassment, those opposite are the leaders. Let us have a look at the war within the LNP. Those opposite know all about bullying and intimidation. It was really great to see that the member for Nanango was also mentioned in the article where she was quoted as saying, 'I will not be bullied by the backroom boys of the LNP.' We, too, support the member for Nanango in that workers should not be bullied, but the dysfunction and the absolute turmoil within the LNP demonstrates why its members are so desperate to bring another union-bashing motion, and I will tell the members on this side of the House why—because they have nothing. They are a rabble and they are dysfunctional, and that is the reason they lost the last election. They will be there for four more years.



Mr CRANDON (Coomera—LNP) (5.05 pm): I rise to second the motion moved by the member for Kawana in relation to the proposed abolishment of the ABCC by the Labor government—a government that has proven over time that it does not care about workers in this state and does not

care about employers in this state in the construction industry or otherwise it would have done something about the CFMMEU itself. We saw it across the road. We saw it at 1 William Street in that the costs of 1 William Street blew out because of the CFMMEU. Let me read—

If ever there were an industry in which special or innovative measures to ensure compliance with industrial laws were warranted, it is the construction industry. In the absence of regulatory change aimed at addressing the Union's apparent indifference—

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Order! You may continue, member for Coomera.

Mr CRANDON: Thank you for your protection, Madam Deputy Speaker. I will continue—

In the absence of regulatory change aimed at addressing the Union's apparent indifference to the unlawfulness committed in its name, the only obvious way to effect a change of heart on its part is to focus upon those at the proverbial coalface.

That is what Justice Snaden said. I quote—

I have no wish to add my voice to the chorus of condemnation of the Union's systematic unlawfulness, for there is nothing of substance to add to what has already been said repeatedly.

That is what Justice Anastassiou said. I quote—

The CFMMEU is a large organisation with significant financial resources which exhibits an ongoing willingness to contravene the Fair Work Act ...

That is from Judge Jarrett. I quote—

The Union's record of conventions has been described in other cases as 'disgraceful and shameful', 'deplorable' and 'dismal' ... I agree with those descriptions.

That was from Justice Rangiah.

It is a disgrace that the Labor government wants to stop an independent regulatory authority that protects workers' rights. Why would those opposite scrap the Australian Building and Construction Commission? Then again they have form in scrapping things that work, scrapping things that protect people, scrapping things that fix things. The boot camps in Queensland are a classic example. They gave them no chance whatsoever. The facts speak for themselves. The ABCC has recovered over \$600,000 in wages and entitlements for 579 employees, as has already been outlined. Labor's call to scrap the ABCC means that it does not care about those 579 workers.


The hypocrisy of the industrial relations minister is staggering. Six months ago the minister criminalised wage theft and now she is calling for a statutory body that prosecutes against this offending to be scrapped. It is absolutely ludicrous. Unlike Labor the LNP believes in protecting the rights of hardworking Queenslanders—employees and employers alike. That is important. There are employers who are suffering. They have been put to the blowtorch by the CFMMEU, forcing costs up in Queensland. The CFMMEU are the bullyboys.

As I said earlier, we saw it across the road at 1 William Street. We see it around South-East Queensland and we see it around the state. The CFMMEU has to be held to account through the courts. They are riding roughshod over workers, they are riding roughshod over employers and they are certainly driving up the cost of construction by illegal strike action. The ABCC does stop that and hold them to account.

Ms Grace: Riveting!

Mr Crandon: Thank you!

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): I remind the House that there will be no cross-chamber chatter.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (5.10 pm): This morning I was saying to the member for Macalister that lately we have not really had our normal rant about the unions and the CFMMEU. The member for Macalister did not really respond. I said I thought it was probably because those opposite are taking the challenges that this state faces, such as COVID and the industries it has affected, seriously. What happened only moments later was that the member for Kawana dumped the typical rant on us. I say to newer members of this place that we see this week in week out from the member for Kawana because those opposite on the front bench have no new ideas and nothing to say.

One would have thought during COVID that those opposite would have had something insightful to say, that they would have looked anew at the challenges we face in the state, indeed the challenges we face in the entire world, but we hear nothing. This is exactly the same as they could have said any other week of any other year for the last five years. Many times the LNP creates a bogeyman of one particular union, but these laws are not just targeting a particular site or a particular union, they target


workers in the building sector as a whole and reduce their rights. That includes our electricians, our plumbers, the tunnellers, the plant operators, civil and civic, as well as those building our schools and our apartments.

The minister stated that the ABCC cost \$33.9 million in 2019-20. That is a huge amount of money to create a bureaucracy to attack workers. It is important to examine the coercive powers of the ABCC. Workers should be subject to the same laws as everyone else but they are not, they are subject to special laws. They are required to attend an examination before the ABCC commissioner and answer questions provided under oath or affirmation. There is no right to silence and no right to representation by a lawyer of the worker's choice. Does that sound worker friendly to members? Workers face a penalty of six months imprisonment for failing to comply with the requirements to produce documents or information or to attend to answer these questions. Ordinary workers who are doing their job, never accused of any criminal action, not even accused of a civil breach, can be hauled in and interrogated with no representation. Is that what Australian tradies deserve? The LNP seems to think so.

In a review of the law in the Australian Journal of Labour Law, Williams and McGarrrity said there is less protection in the act than in the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation Act. There are less protections for ordinary tradies than terrorists. We know that there should be protections and oversights on all of our government bodies. There are over foreign spies and terrorists, but less when it comes to investigating Aussie tradies. They also noted that the director of ASIO must seek judicial approval and the consent of the relevant minister before issuing a warrant to question an individual. When it comes to hauling a tradie in and them being faced with a threat of six months jail, that is at the unchecked discretion possessed by the ABCC commissioner.

Ms Grace: They are more lenient on drug runners than on workers.

Mr POWER: This is what they are focused on. It makes one cynical. We have all seen how the LNP let off their banker mates and said the ACCC will be the one prosecuting them. We know the ACCC does not have their powers. They protect the rights of their banker mates, but they will take away the rights of builders' labourers. Often these powers are used to investigate civil breaches rather than anything that could be said to be a breach of criminal law. Some would say that is exactly what the LNP wanted. They wanted a \$32 million taxpayer funded organisation that takes away the rights of particular people and harasses them because they perceive them as their political enemies. Certainly the member for Kawana perceives them as their political enemies. It is those people they target. I warn anyone who is not in the building industry that first they came after their perceived enemy in the building industry, next they will come after you. We should reject the ABCC as a politically funded organisation.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (5.16 pm): Disgraceful and shameful; deplorable, dismal. I agree with those descriptions, but they are not my words, they are words from the court in the case of the ABCC v CFMMEU. It could be used to describe the members of the Labor government but, no, it was the activity of the CFMMEU in the North Queensland stadium court case. I look forward to seeing all the members of the government vote to support the disgraceful actions of the CFMMEU in the case with the ABCC. This is the only mechanism we have to hold the CFMMEU to account in Australia. I look forward to all the members voting to support that disgraceful behaviour which is what they are going to be doing tonight when they reject this call to support the ABCC because at least then we will know which side the members of the government are on. They are on the side of union criminality, the union thugs, union extortion—

An opposition member: The union paymasters.

Mr KRAUSE: I will take that interjection. They are not on the side of the people of Australia. They are not on the side of hardworking Australians who have to pay up to 30 per cent more for their units in Brisbane because of the activities of the CFMMEU. I will table articles going back a few years that say it could mean \$70,000 more on a \$300,000 unit because of the practices of the CFMMEU.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, undated, titled 'Master Builders finds building costs with CFMEU increase 30 per cent' [296].

Every single member over there is voting for young people in this state, especially in Brisbane, to pay thousands of dollars more for their units because they are supporting the unlawful criminal practices of the CFMMEU. That is what those opposite are supporting tonight. They are not on the side of the independent contractors who just want to go to work and earn a fair day's pay for a fair day's work.

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! Pause the clock. Member for Gregory, you are interjecting over your own speaker.

Mr KRAUSE: They were good interjections though, Mr Deputy Speaker. In not supporting this motion tonight the members of the government are turning their backs on the mining industry and the mining division of the CFMMEU that has just voted to divorce itself from the CFMMEU because they are embarrassed by the fact that the CFMMEU has become an absolute disgrace to the Australian economy. They have become a disgrace to the Labor movement and a disgrace to the union movement.

Members opposite should hang their heads in shame for not supporting their workers in the mining industry. We all know that deep down the members opposite do not support the mining industry. The mining division knows that as well. That is why they are getting away from the CFMMEU.

The ABCC is the only thing that stands in the way of holding the CFMMEU to account. Members opposite should vote for the motion to uphold the ABCC.


Mr Millar: The miners are leaving in droves.

Mr KRAUSE: I take that interjection. There have been 1,400 contraventions involving coercion, unlawful industrial action and unlawful entry. There have been \$11.2 million in fines and most of them were in Queensland so Queensland is the capital of illegal union activity and that is why members opposite cannot support the motion.

In Queensland we have 7½ per cent unemployment, which is the highest in the nation. We need more projects. We need more infrastructure. We need more roads. We need more bang for our buck from the government spend. The unlawful coercive practices of the CFMMEU only drain money away from projects that should be built. That money should be spent on the Mount Lindesay Highway. We did not hear the member for Logan talk about that. The only things being done on the Mount Lindesay Highway are happening because of the federal government's investment.

We on this side of the House support small businesses, we support the independent contractors and we support hardworking mum-and-dad businesses—those who just want to do a fair day's work for a fair day's pay. They do not want to be part of the unlawful, coercive and illegal practices of the CFMMEU, but sometimes the only way they can get a start on sites is to sign up to it. It is a disgrace. It is absolutely un-Australian. We stand for the independent businesses that just want to go to work free of unlawful activity and coercion. That is what the ABCC stands up against. Tony Maher and the mining division are getting away from it because it is a disgrace. They believe in a hard day's work for a hard day's pay. Members opposite do not and they should hang their heads in shame.

(Time expired)

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (5.21 pm): It is with great pleasure that I speak against the opposition motion. This afternoon we see a complete contrast in the motions before the House. The motion from the government is about standing up for Queenslanders and making sure that we get our fair share from Canberra. In their motion they are doing the bidding of their Canberra masters. That is all that their motion is about. They kowtow to their masters in Canberra while we fight for Queenslanders and stick it to Canberra to make sure that we get our fair share.

This debate gives me the opportunity to talk about a lawless body. That lawless body, which needs to go, is the ABCC. Let us look back to their first union-busting master, Nigel Hadgkiss. I remind the opposition of what a disaster that was. The ABCC has massive draconian laws but the commissioner could not use them and so he broke his own laws to bust unions and then had to resign in disgrace. Minister Cash did not sack him; he had to resign in disgrace because he broke his own laws. That lawless body needs to go and it is with great pleasure that I speak to the amended motion with regard to that point.

This debate also gives me the opportunity to talk about the mess in Canberra. There has been a lot of talk about the rule of law. Over the past couple of weeks the Prime Minister has talked about the rule of law and federal ministers have spoken about the rule of law. The Attorney-General, Christian Porter, gets to hide behind the rule of law. He gets the protection of the rule of law following allegations about the alleged rape of a 16-year-old girl. Do tilers on construction sites get the protection of the rule of law? No! Do electricians on construction sites get the protection of the rule of law? No! Do labourers on construction sites get the protection of the rule of law? No! However, the alleged rapist of a 16-year-old girl—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BROWN: He does deserve the protection of the rule of law, but I have a problem when you do not give the protection of the rule of law to tilers, electricians and labourers. We have to look at this: they get no right to silence, they get no right to representation and if they go up against that they get a six-month penalty. That is an absolute disgrace and it is shameful.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr BROWN: He had the protection of the rule of law as well, but those construction workers do not have the protection of the rule of law. I take that interjection.


We need only look at the motion itself to see what a disgraceful job the ABCC does in standing up for workers. Their own report goes into this. In June 2020 they did an audit of 63 labour hire employers. Nearly 80 per cent of those employers were underpaying and not doing the right thing by their workers but there was not one prosecution. At the same time hardworking unions are being fined by the ABCC for standing up for their members. The plumbers union got \$15.8 million back for their members; the CFMMEU got \$11.7 million back for their members—

Ms Grace: In one year.

Mr BROWN: In one year—I take that interjection—and they took a whole five years to get only \$600,000, which they would have got back from this government's wage theft changes because we stand up for workers. When the ABCC came in under Howard, we saw the number of workplace deaths go up. When it was abolished and union representatives and delegates could do their jobs in workplace health and safety, the number of deaths went down.

The ABCC was reinstated, although not from a recommendation of the royal commission. The royal commission did not recommend that it come back. It came back in 2016 under Malcolm Turnbull and guess what? The number of deaths on construction sites went up!

In 2018, 43 workers did not go home to their families. That increase was directly caused by the ABCC. They are killing construction workers onsite. You only have to look at the statistics. I cannot wait for an Albo-led government to get in and again scrap the ABCC so that we can stand up for workers and so that union delegates and union organisers can represent their workers on safety, underpayment of wages and all the things that they do well, free of the union-busting and ideological ways of the ABCC. I cannot wait until that body is abolished.

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (5.26 pm): I will try to be a bit quieter this time. I rise to speak in support of the member for Kawana's motion calling on the Labor government to support the ongoing role of the ABCC. I am no ideological warrior—

An opposition member: He's a real warrior.

Mr MICKELBERG: I will take that interjection; I like that one.

I thought it would be useful to articulate what the ABCC actually seeks to achieve. According to their website, amongst other things they seek to improve the bargaining framework, promote respect for the rule of law, ensure respect for the rights of building industry participants, ensure that building industry participants are held to account for their unlawful conduct—that sounds familiar—improve work health and safety in building work, encourage the pursuit of high levels of employment in the building industry and provide assistance and advice to building industry participants. I am keen to know: which of those objectives do those opposite disagree with? Which of those objectives do those opposite not support?

Over decades we have seen unlawful behaviour on building and construction sites that has consistently undermined the efficient spending of public moneys. In a previous submission the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry noted that successive royal commissions have found there to be a culture of union thuggery, intimidation and lawlessness. They noted that there has been a recurring cycle of action whereby laws are introduced for reforms like the ABCC and then the resumption of civil standards of behaviour occurs. When a new government comes in—presumably an ALP government—they wind back those reforms and we see a reversion back to union thuggery, intimidation and lawlessness.

In 2016 the Master Builders noted the intentional culture of lawlessness within the building industry. They said that those conditions, combined with the unlawful disruption experienced almost every day on building sites, increased the cost of construction by 30 per cent. Who pays for that? Queenslanders pay for that. It is Queenslanders who miss out on schools, hospitals, aged-care homes and childcare centres because of the costs associated with union thuggery. That is why the ABCC is so important. A strong building and construction sector requires a strong regulator.

Labor's proposal to scrap the ABCC and to reduce oversight is bad for workers, bad for business and bad for every Queenslanders. It is the actions of unions like the CFMMEU that is cheating Queenslanders out of more hospitals, schools and aged-care facilities, and they are imposing a building tax. We get enough taxes from the state government without the unions imposing another 30 per cent tax on every Queenslanders.


It is unlawful behaviour—like those CFMMEU officials threatening a safety adviser at the Commonwealth Games Village project with threats of, ‘You know what? I know your phone number. I know where you live’—expletive, expletive, expletive. To be honest, I actually found it pretty hard to find a quote that I could use because there is so much unparliamentary language in most of the language that comes out of those—

An opposition member interjected.

Mr MICKELBERG: Yes, that is right: unlawful behaviour of the CFMMEU. It is disgraceful and it is little wonder that the mining division wants to leave the building division. My question to those opposite is: do they approve of this behaviour? The standard you walk past is the standard you accept. In fact, I would suggest that those opposite tacitly approve of this behaviour, not just ignore it.

I pose a question to those opposite. At least 10 members opposite are members of the AWU, and it is the CFMMEU that in Coffs Harbour pressured CPB Contractors to terminate the contracts of 40 AWU workers. Where are those opposite standing up for their union colleagues? There is one CFMMEU member and 10 AWU members on that side and they are silent.

(Time expired)

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (5.31 pm): I rise to oppose the motion moved by the member for Kawana and support the amendment moved by our excellent industrial relations minister. I really have to hand it to the opposition for staying true to form on union bashing.

Mr Bleijie: Protecting workers.

Ms HOWARD: They care about workers now. What about the 14,000 workers they sacked when they were in government?

It is nice to take a bit of a stroll down memory lane today as we go about the union bashing again and revisit some old ground. They are nothing if not predictable. Isn't it a little 'been there, done that'? They have nothing new and nothing to recommend them.

I assume that the brains trust opposite had a meeting and tossed around some ideas for today's motion: 'Will we privatise QR? Will we privatise Queensland Health? Boot camps for single teenaged mums? I know!' The member for Kawana wins again, dragging out the old ABCC/CFMMEU union-bashing card again. I am not sure how many times those of us on this side of the House have to say this, but let me make clear that we do not support an organisation that has been granted broad, unchecked powers for one section of the workforce.

Just as a little refresher for those opposite, the ABCC's powers are disturbingly far-reaching and invasive. For example, workers are required to attend an examination before the ABCC Commissioner and answer questions or provide information under oath or affirmation. There is no right to silence and no right to representation by a lawyer of the worker's choice. Workers also face a penalty of six months imprisonment for failing to comply with requirements to produce documents or information or attend to answer questions—ordinary workers, doing their jobs, being hauled in and interrogated with no representation of their choice and no right to silence. This is not the Australia I want to live in.


These powers impact on the basic rights of ordinary individuals who work in the industry, and that is around a million workers in this country. Even the Law Council, way back in 2006, observed that the ABCC laws are contrary to the rule of law. The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights said that the ABCC legislation breaches fundamental human and legal rights. Even the trade union royal commission found no case for the construction industry to be overseen by a specific organisation.

Workers in the construction industry should be subject to the same laws as all other Australian workers. It is as simple as that. Existing enforcement and intelligence authorities, including the Fair Work Building Industry Inspectorate and the police, are more than capable of ensuring the law is upheld. There is absolutely no need for a separate entity and certainly not one that has been provided with millions of dollars from the federal coalition government. It is a rort. Couldn't that money be put into existing law enforcement resources or spent on something else? This is nothing but ideological fanaticism on the part of those opposite, with no consideration for the facts.

Contrary to what the member for Kawana is spruiking, the ABCC laws are actually bad for safety at work, as we heard from the member for Capalaba. Workplace injuries actually soared under the ABCC, according to the independent safety body Safe Work Australia. In 2007, during the ABCC's first iteration, worker deaths on construction sites hit a 10-year high and 51 workers were killed. That is 51 workers who did not go home to their families. There is also no credible evidence that the ABCC did anything to improve productivity. The Australian Bureau of Statistics found that productivity in the construction industry was worse under the ABCC. It is another furphy pushed by the LNP.

Finally, industrial disputation remains at historically low levels, with disputation not increasing when the ABCC was abolished, despite what those opposite continue to push out. We do not, and never will, accept or tolerate illegal or corrupt behaviour of any kind in any industry, but construction workers should not be treated differently to other workers. Many of these workers reside in my electorate of Ipswich—good, hardworking construction workers who want to go to work and do their job and not have the threat of the ABCC's presence hanging over them.

(Time expired)

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (5.36 pm): I need to declare that I am a registered builder in the state of Queensland under the QBCC Act. We in the industry know that a fair and balanced workplace relations system is the foundation of a strong economy and higher living standards for all Queenslanders. We know that the key to a better workplace lies in workplace relations policies that support job creation, business growth and the rule of law. Workplace unions do have a role to play. I support the motion tonight to not abolish the Australian Building and Construction Commission, ABCC, because we know that Labor's plan will let militant unions back off the leash.

The Morrison government, through recalibrating workplace laws to support the construction sector, has created nearly 1.5 million jobs and reduced the number of days lost to industrial action by 40 per cent. After the next federal election will not be the time to change direction. Now is not the time to turn the clock back to the 1970s and put Queensland building sites on strike. We need to stay the course to create more jobs—now more than ever—including jobs for young Queenslanders, support more businesses to start and grow, and uphold the rule of law in workplaces.

Anthony Albanese and Labor must explain why he wants lawlessness and thuggery to once again flourish on Australian building sites under his plan to abolish this independent construction industry watchdog. I note Queensland Labor have backed their federal colleagues' proposals to scrap this watchdog, doing exactly what, I believe, the unions have told them to do, but there are no alternatives being proposed and the industry has warned that the sector being exposed to thuggery and lawlessness will undermine our state's recovery.

Instead of the politicisation of the issue being played out, let's look at the achievements of the federal Morrison government to ensure productive and fair workplaces: re-establishing the ABCC to ensure small contractors and subbies can access our third largest industry without fear of intimidation, bullying and unaffordable cost imposts; abolishing the never-ending award review process that created uncertainty while sapping a disproportionate amount of time and money from small business; ensuring union bosses are held to the same standards as company directors by establishing the Registered Organisations Commission; and ending the 'strike first, talk later' approach to industrial relations, instead requiring that protected industrial action can only be taken once negotiations on enterprise bargaining have begun.


Labor wants to scrap the ABCC and the ROC—the Registered Organisations Commission—legalise industry-wide strikes for the first time ever, allow unions to veto free trade agreements and allow politicians to set minimum pay rates. They want to give union bosses the upper hand in workplace negotiations by banning employers from terminating expired enterprise agreements and forcing employers into compulsory arbitration. We know from history that these extreme policy platforms would stifle business, risk jobs and cause disruption across Queensland.

I think it is important to acknowledge that the state and federal governments can work together in the construction sector. They all agreed to implement the recommendations of the Shergold Weir report by February this year. In March 2019 the Building Ministers' Forum published a plan responding to the recommendations of the building confidence report. The plan sets out reforms both planned and underway in each jurisdiction. Along with re-establishing the ABCC, the coalition introduced a new function for the Federal Safety Commissioner. We have heard a lot about safety. It was great that the federal government wanted to audit compliance with the National Construction Code. The construction code started to deal with other issues.

One of the other things the ABCC does is makes sure subcontractors get paid on time for work done. It is fundamental to all businesses and subcontractors who make up our construction industry, particularly those working on federal government projects, that they have security of payments.

There are also the issues around nonconforming building products. All these things are going to be thrown out if we continue with the ideologically agenda of getting rid of the ABCC. The National Construction Code has always restricted the use of combustible cladding on high-rise buildings above three storeys. Again, this a collaborative approach with the states that ministers on the other side have signed up to. State ministers agreed in October 2017 to use their powers to prohibit the inappropriate use of these products on buildings. The state government has gone on with more of that work.

How can Labor claim to be on the side of workers when it wants to abolish an agency that stands up for their rights and promotes lawful and respectful behaviour in the workplace. When we reflect on the amount of money that is going into Labor coffers during elections there are a lot of questions about what is happening, particularly when they ban donations from property developers but continue to accept donations from militant unions. Most people on the other side have a lot of questions to answer.

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (5.41 pm): The more things change, the more they stay the same. Union bashing Thursday is now union bashing Wednesday. Next month it will be union bashing Tuesday. Here the opposition is back flogging the dead horse that is the ABCC—a body which will go down as one of the most ideological and politicised public bodies we have seen in the history of this country.

Here we have the member for Kawana trumpeting the so-called achievements of the ABCC and demanding we support its continued operation. You have got to be kidding! This is a body that focuses almost exclusively on pursuing unions and workers for things like flying the Eureka flag and wearing union stickers on their hard hats—flags and stickers. Talk about focusing on the things that matter. They are nowhere to be seen in dealing with the real problems in the industry—the endemic problems of wage theft, poor workplace health and safety and sham contracting.

As revealed in Senate estimates a year ago, the ABCC had spent \$3.2 million of taxpayer funds in three years prosecuting unions, union officials and workers but had not prosecuted a single employer for sham contracting—not one. In June 2020 the ABCC released its own report which found 79 per cent of businesses in the industry did not meet workplace laws, including not paying their workers correctly, not keeping proper records and not providing pay slips. Again, not one was prosecuted.

A PWC report found as much as \$320 million a year in wage underpayments in the construction sector. But wait, it is all okay because the member for Kawana tells us that the ABCC is really a friend of the worker because they have recovered nearly \$600,000 in unpaid wages since 2016. Let us look at that. That is \$600,000 in five years. Some \$320 million per year in wage underpayments times five years. So \$600,000 as a component of that means 0.03 per cent of unpaid wages recovered. Talk about an overachiever. What a success.

In the last two years alone construction industry unions in Queensland have recovered 50 times that amount for their members—upwards of \$30 million in unpaid wages. We know what it is actually delivering for the workers, do we not? This is the sort of great work that unions do day in and day out. They can do without the help of the ABCC, thanks very much.


Those opposite do not understand any of this. It is embarrassing the lack of understanding. They come in here with the same old tired union bashing diatribe, bleating obsessively about the unions and wasting the time of this parliament debating the discredited ABCC. Meanwhile we hear nothing positive from those opposite on issues that actually have an impact on people's working lives—decent wages and conditions and safety at work. Yet they have the audacity to pretend they are the friend of the work. Whether in government or opposition, workers cannot trust them and they know it.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Minister and member for Kawana, you will stop your conversations across the chamber. Member for Gregory, I remind you that you are sailing very close to a warning.

Ms LINARD: We have to remember that those opposite who have moved this motion are the party that voted against labour hire licensing, voted against even having an inquiry into wage theft, voted against industrial manslaughter laws, cut the rights of injured workers, sacked 14,000 public servants and stood by silently as penalty rates for Queensland workers were cut and the federal coalition failed to act to stop it. Now again they do nothing as the federal government tries to ram through its antiworker IR omnibus bill. They are hardly the friend of the worker.

When workers need someone to stand up for them, the LNP are nowhere to be seen. They are always ready to bleat about the unions, but have nothing to say about workers' rights. As we know, they had nothing to say in the Queensland wage theft inquiry about recovering the millions or billions of lost wages and lost superannuation of Queensland workers. Only a Labor government does that. We stand up for the workers.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (5.46 pm): I rise to speak in favour of the motion moved by the member for Kawana. If the industrial relations minister opposes this motion we need to change the portfolio name that she is responsible for. She should become the minister for union promotion.

Government members interjected.

Mr MANDER: I thought that would be the response. If the minister is proud of that maybe she should become the minister for protecting unions who participate in workplace bullying and thuggery. That is what the minister should become if she opposes the reasonable motion moved by the member for Kawana. This minister and this government is doing the bidding of the trade union movement. Before every government speaker spoke tonight they should have declared a conflict of interest because it is impossible for them to be impartial.

The member for Buderim talked about the objectives of the ABCC. The ABCC is to uphold the law and change behaviour to make the building and construction industry fair, efficient and productive. By opposing this motion the government has shown that they oppose and disagree with the rule of law. They do not respect the judicial processes in this country. They disrespect the judiciary, the judges, who have made their rulings against, more often than not, the militant sections of the trade union movement—the CFMMEU.

This government by opposing this motion shows that they agree with the behaviour of the CFMMEU, and there have been examples of that tonight. I want to be more explicit because their behaviour has been appalling. I want to show the hypocrisy of this government. How would they feel if somebody walked into the Premier's office and said, 'I'll [expletive] rape your kids [expletive]!' How would the member for Nudgee feel if somebody from here walked into her office and called her 'an [expletive] maggot? That is what they accept. That is what they say is acceptable.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Everton—

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Minister, I am going to hear the point or order in silence.

Mr de BRENNI: The member for Everton's language is both unparliamentary and I think it is a reasonable view that he is seeking to use it in a way to threaten both the office of the Premier—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr de BRENNI:—and the member for Nudgee.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Mr de BRENNI: I ask that you rule that that conduct is disorderly.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take some advice. Member, you have used unparliamentary language. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr MANDER: I withdraw. Mr Deputy Speaker, I agree that that language is offensive, but that is acceptable behaviour by this government. This government thinks that is acceptable behaviour. That is what the ABCC is here for—to stamp that out. The government does not stand for every worker. They will not represent non-union members. They do not care about the rights of workers—only the people who pay their union dues. That is the only people they care about.

We know the stronghold that the unions have on this government. That can best be seen through the best practice principles. The best practice principles are all about promoting unionism and making sure that they get more than they deserve. We have seen the examples already from the Minister for Public Works, de Brenni, who is often described in the media as the most ineffective minister in this government.

We have seen the cost of the Townsville stadium blow out by millions of dollars because of the union demands. We had the police minister bumbling his way through an interview the other week about the increased costs of the Southern Queensland Correctional Centre. He was asked: 'Why was there a \$30 million blowout?' He replied: 'Bumble, bumble, bumble—because there are four extra beds—bumble, bumble, bumble.'

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr Langbroek: Good luck, Hansard!

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am not quite sure what you think you are achieving by making it difficult for Hansard to hear your own speaker on their feet trying to make an important point on a motion that those on the left side of the House have moved, but I ask you to maintain a level of decorum that is appropriate to this parliament.


Mr MANDER: There are blowouts because of the best practice principles. Already other members have talked about the extra costs—30 per cent it is estimated—on unit development and housing construction because of the unreasonable demands of the trade union movement.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Minister, you are warned.

Mr MANDER: That is why we have to keep the ABCC going. We have seen the contempt they have for workers. Also, with regard to the appointment of the QCC board, the regulator has a high-ranking union official who is renowned for breaking industrial law. He is on the board, the regulator, of the building industry in this state. That tells us everything with regard to the contempt that they have for the construction industry and for the common worker. It is imperative that the ABCC stays and that it does what its charter says. Its charter is to make sure that we have a fair and proper construction industry and not one that is dominated by union thuggery.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement) (5.53 pm): Of course I rise to speak in support of the amended motion. I am energised to do that following what was probably the most puerile and immature performance I have seen in this House by the member for Everton just then. Time and time again those opposite come into this place and seek to divide Queenslanders. Here they are with another motion that seeks to divide Queenslanders. This time what they want to do is divide builders and their tradies. What the LNP do not get, what those opposite do not get, is that just because they are tearing themselves apart, just because they are in turmoil, does not mean that the rest of society is. It does not mean that the construction industry is either.

In fact, I think what really motivates motions like this one moved by the member for Kawana is that they simply cannot stand the idea that tradies and builders in Queensland actually work together. They cannot swallow the idea that in this state builders and their workforce and their unions actually work together. That is why this motion is here. That is why the LNP is in love with the ABCC, because the ABCC is designed to drive a wedge between employers and their workforce. It does not bring them together for shared prosperity. It does not reduce the building costs of units or buildings or anything else. I have to let the member for Kawana and the rest of those opposite know that generating disunity is not leadership.

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! Pause the clock. Member for Gregory, you are warned.

Mr de BRENNI: If they want to see leadership, rather than looking at the ABCC, let me give them something to look at. The entire construction industry knows that the biggest problem with the industry has been non-payment and late payment. Those opposite know that. The member for Burnett knows that. If you want to see leadership on unifying and helping the construction industry then look at what the Palaszczuk government has done. This government took the issue of non-payment in the building industry seriously. Our nation-leading laws have put \$1.4 billion back on to the balance sheet of Queensland builders.

Whilst a crippling wave of bankruptcies was ruining this industry after the member for Everton was in charge of the building industry for three years, where was the ABCC, an agency costing taxpayers \$132 million? Still business after business in Queensland went to the wall. Still families were being destroyed. Where was the ABCC? Where was the LNP? They were nowhere to be seen. The LNP did nothing. They did not even vote on our security-of-payment laws. They sat silent.

I will tell the member for Kawana, through you, Mr Deputy Speaker, some more about leadership. We heard from the member for Everton on the Buy Queensland procurement policy we introduced in 2017. It makes sure that tradies get paid, that workers are safe in their job and that apprentices are getting the training hours they are owed. It makes sure Queensland construction businesses get to work and tender on a level playing field.

In fact, it delivered 124,000 additional hours of training for Queensland apprentices—hours of training that would otherwise have been short-changed. The building companies that do the right thing by young workers would have been ripped off. Where was the ABCC protecting the rights of those apprentices? What did those opposite do? They voted against those protections for apprentices. They came into this House and they voted against Buy Queensland. What they voted to do was entrench unfairness for Queensland builders.

The reality is that they cannot handle the fact that in Queensland the construction industry actually does work together. We saw through the pandemic unions and employer associations locking arms to keep COVID-safe construction work sites open. While the industry in Queensland is working to stamp out non-payment, the LNP comes into this parliament and seeks to divide them. That is what bullying looks like—deliberately trying to destroy the productive relationship of others simply because you are not part of it.

The commissioner of the ABCC said that he takes security of payment of subcontractors seriously. He said his subbies deserve to be paid for the work they have done. He even used our line that they deserve to be paid in full and on time. That sounds strangely familiar. If the ABCC genuinely prioritised security of payment, why would they have spent \$3 million of taxpayer funds prosecuting unions yet only recovered, we heard, less than \$6,000 in wages and entitlements for workers? How many employers in this country were ever prosecuted for sham contracting by the ABCC?

A government member interjected.

Mr de BRENNI: That is right, Minister—none. They have done nothing on security of payment. They sat on their hands whilst they let dodgy builders rip off other tradies. Do not listen to what the LNP say. Look at what they have done. They have done nothing except drive division in their state. Queenslanders do not want division. They do not want the LNP. They have chosen Labor. They have chosen unity.

(Time expired)

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

AYES, 53:

ALP, 50—Bailey, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Madden, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

Grn, 2—Berkman, MacMahon.

KAP, 1—Knuth.

NOES, 34:

LNP, 33—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

Pair: Boyd, Hart.

Resolved in the affirmative.

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

Mr SPEAKER: Ring the bells for one minute.

AYES, 53:

ALP, 50—Bailey, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Madden, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

Grn, 2—Berkman, MacMahon.

KAP, 1—Knuth.

NOES, 34:

LNP, 33—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

Pair: Boyd, Hart.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Motion, as agreed—

That this House:


1. notes federal Labor's policy to abolish the Australian Building and Construction Commission ('the ABCC');
2. notes Queensland state Labor's support to abolish the ABCC;
3. supports building industry workers, tradies and small businesses;
4. supports the right of all workers to a workplace free from bullying and intimidation; and
5. calls on the Labor government to not support the ongoing role of the ABCC.

WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING (PLASTIC ITEMS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 463, on motion of Ms Scanlon—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (6.07 pm), in reply: I would like to thank all members of this House for their participation in the debate on the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020. I want to take this opportunity to address some of the issues that have been raised during this debate.

On this important day we take another step forward in protecting Queensland's environment. I think it is important that we set the record straight on some of the opposition's claims when it comes to the environmental record here in Queensland. We know that when in government those opposite scrapped tree-clearing laws, cut funding for climate change programs and sacked staff. They have also been quite vocal throughout this debate about the Commonwealth's Recycling Modernisation Fund.

I think it is important to note that in Queensland we are already acting on recycling. In 2018 we committed to a three-year funding program to stimulate investment in priority recycling infrastructure, and in 2019 we released the Resource Recovery Industry Development Program. Through our Resource Recovery Industry Development Program 29 businesses and local governments have received \$34 million in funding to divert 1.3 million tonnes of waste per annum from landfill. These projects will deliver an additional \$193 million in capital investment and create 362 jobs across Queensland.

We are absolutely committed to reaching an agreement with the Commonwealth on the Recycling Modernisation Fund, and our officials are working on finalising a deal that will deliver the best possible outcome for Queensland.

When it comes to the implementation date of the single-use plastics bill, we have committed to implementing the ban on 1 September 2021, which gives business the time to adapt, source new alternatives and work through stock they already have. We will work proactively with stakeholder organisations, our stakeholder advisory group and businesses to communicate these changes and support them to ensure this change is as seamless as possible from the time the ban comes into effect.

In recognising the wishes of communities and members of this House to further enhance our plastics response and look at the impact of the current exemptions, I have also instructed my department to begin the review within 12 months—well within the two-year window prescribed in this bill—so we can see how these bans are being implemented, how successful it has been to date and to look at future measures.

I know there has also been considerable comment around schools as an exempt business. Schools have been identified as being an exempt business to ensure that teachers, students and other staff with a disability and healthcare needs have continued access to items that will otherwise be banned. Including schools as a business permitted to continue to provide these banned items does not prevent schools from providing alternative sustainable items. I would like to acknowledge that many schools are already leading on the war on waste with the Straw No More and many other campaigns. I know that the Minister for Education has already commented on this.

We have also spoken and agreed on the importance of supporting their leadership whilst also providing single-use plastics for students with additional needs. As such, we will engage with schools in the coming weeks and inform them of the alternatives to single-use plastics to help more students in

our communities transition to sustainable options. I know from talking to kids and teenagers that they are some of the most passionate about this issue and I know many schools will voluntarily adopt measures, spurred on by their students.

With regards to pre-packed items, this exemption is consistent with the approach taken in other jurisdictions. The recently released South Australian regulation includes exemptions for otherwise banned single-use items that form an integral part of a food or beverage product. The ACT government has also announced similar exemptions. As there is often no or limited suitable alternatives for these products, these items have been specified as an exempt item in the ban. This will be considered though as part of the review of the bill within one year of commencing. It is something I will also continue to discuss with my state and federal colleagues, and I will endeavour to keep the House updated on progress as we continue to work towards eliminating single-use plastic items. Of course we encourage businesses to make this transition as soon as possible.

I also note the member for Maiwar asked for clarity of definitions. We will continue to work with key stakeholders to ensure that there is clarity on what items are banned and what items are not banned. We will develop guidelines, Q&As and other materials through our ongoing engagement to provide certainty to retailers, consumers and individuals with a disability. The Queensland Disability Advisory Council has been heavily involved already in the design of provisions in relation to the disability sector. We will continue to work with the retail and disability sectors to develop and share information so people are aware of where and how they can still access single-use plastic items in their daily lives.

There has also been some comment on the ability of councils to be able to deal with compostable straws. Members have raised concerns today about their ability to recycle these plastics, and I acknowledge that the needs of South-East Queensland communities will differ from regional and remote communities. I can advise that we are proactively working with the LGAQ to build the capacity and capability of councils across Queensland and I look forward to sharing more about this in the future. We have committed to developing that organics plan as well, working with local councils across Queensland.

This bill builds on the good work the Queensland government has already delivered. Our commitment started with the introduction of the single-use lightweight plastic shopping bag ban on 1 July 2018 and the highly successful container refund scheme on 1 November 2018. In just over two years, the container refund scheme has had more than three billion containers returned for a refund and employs over 700 Queenslanders through over 300 container refund points across Queensland. That is a pretty impressive feat for a scheme that the Leader of the Opposition said 'wasn't working', the member for Moggill called 'a debacle' and the member for Maroochydore called 'botched'. The fact is that the LNP has not done anything but talk down this scheme and discourage uptake when we were rolling the scheme out.

Fortunately, the people of Queensland did not listen to their whingeing and instead got on board with the container refund scheme, just as they are now getting on board with the measures in this bill. That is probably why the LNP are now trying to take credit for the scheme. We know the member for Nanango and her colleagues like to rewrite history on this issue. While I may not have been in this House, I still have a long enough memory to know that investigating a container refund scheme was a commitment we on this side of the House brought to the 2015 election. In fact, I table a page of our 2015 progress report that shows the big tick—delivered.

Tabled paper: Extract, undated, from the Progress report on government election commitments, page 72 [\[297\]](#).

While they are focused on claiming credit for press conferences from five years ago—and not implementing the measures when they were actually in government—we on this side of the House are delivering. This bill will improve the economy of Queensland through the identification of innovative and sustainable alternative products and also through the creation of opportunities for local manufacturing and the supply of materials for those items. In addition, this ban will contribute to improving Queensland's beautiful environment and marine environments by eliminating these single-use plastic items that end up as litter and pollution.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge the work of the Single-Use Plastic Items Stakeholder Advisory Group members for the advice and collaborative approach in working with the Department of Environment and Science in the design of the ban, and going forward the information and awareness program for the implementation of it. I would also like to acknowledge and thank all the staff in the Office of Resource Recovery in the Department of Environment and Science for their work in progressing this bill as well as my own staff for their efforts.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the work of the former minister and her staff who brought this bill to the House last year and who have been passionate advocates on this issue on behalf of all Queenslanders. I also acknowledge the former committee and the current committee that looked at both pieces of legislation. I feel very honoured to have been able to continue the work of the former minister on this important bill. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 7—



Ms SCANLON (6.16 pm): I move the following amendment—

1 Clause 5 (Insertion of new ch 4, pt 3AA)

Page 6, after line 21—

insert—

(vi) a takeaway food container made, in whole or part, of expanded polystyrene (EPS); or

(vii) a cup made, in whole or part, of expanded polystyrene (EPS); or

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

Tabled paper: Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020, explanatory notes to Hon. Meaghan Scanlon's amendments [\[298\]](#).

Tabled paper: Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Meaghan Scanlon's amendments [\[299\]](#).

Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 1 to 7, as amended, agreed to.

Third Reading



Hon. MAJ SCANLON (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (6.17 pm): I move—

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

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title



Hon. MAJ SCANLON (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (6.18 pm): I move—

That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

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

Motion agreed to.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from 25 February (see p. 294).



Mr PEGG (Stretton—ALP) (6.18 pm): I commence by acknowledging the traditional owners and pay my respects to elders past, present and emerging. It is an honour and a privilege to continue to represent the great seat of Stretton in this House. I have contested the seat of Stretton four times and at this most recent election I got the best result of the four times I have contested it.

Government members: Hear, hear!

Mr PEGG: I take all those interjections. I also want to thank my community for their support. It is not something I take for granted and I will continue to work for them in this House and not let them down.

As I said in my speech to the address-in-reply debate in the 56th Parliament, being elected for the first time is a great honour. Being re-elected is an even greater honour. I can inform the House that being re-elected for a second time is an even greater honour again. It is wonderful to be part of a Palaszczuk Labor government with an enhanced majority. I congratulate all honourable members who were elected or re-elected to this House and wish you all the best for the 57th Parliament.

I want to reflect on some of the issues I raised in my maiden speech almost six years ago because I think when you have spent some time in this place it is important to reflect on the issues, what has been dealt with and what continues to be a challenge. In my maiden speech I spoke about one of the motivations for me joining the Labor Party when I was 17 was the rise of Pauline Hanson and One Nation. When I gave my maiden speech almost six years ago back in May 2015, One Nation had no senators in the Australian parliament. Unfortunately, they now have two. The number fluctuates from time to time obviously depending on bankruptcies and defections et cetera. I am confident at the moment it has two representatives.

At that stage when I gave my maiden speech there was not a single One Nation representative in this House. Unfortunately, there now is a single One Nation representative in this House. I would like to point out that the only reason he is here in this House representing the seat of Mirani is that he received LNP preferences. If the LNP did not preference One Nation there would be no One Nation representatives in this House, and that is a clear fact. I really think that is something that the LNP should reflect upon.

In my electorate of Stretton I am proud to continue to represent the most multicultural electorate of this state, the electorate that has the highest number of people born overseas of any electorate in the state of Queensland and also the electorate that has more people speaking a language other than English at home than any other electorate in the state of Queensland. It is interesting because, historically, while the LNP have made decisions to preference One Nation, they in fact never preferenced One Nation in Stretton until the most recent election. Normally, the LNP would preference One Nation in the vast majority of seats in Queensland but in seats such as Stretton, Sunnybank and Toohey they would put One Nation last. In this most recent election the LNP did not even do that and there was a huge backlash from the multicultural community members.

I commend particularly Mr Peter Low OAM, who is actually a former member of the National Party, for his strong stand on the LNP preference decision. As he said, it is a bipartisan thing; he will not support any major party that preferences One Nation. He took a real, principled stand along with a large number of multicultural community leaders that was well publicised in a letter they put together. In fact, it appeared on the front page of the *Australian* the day before the election. I commend all those involved. I say to those opposite that they might want to reconsider their preference decisions in the future because not only does it not go down well with multicultural communities; it does not go down well with all Queenslanders who support a multicultural, inclusive state where we all strive to work together.

One of the other issues I raised in my maiden speech was about Karawatha Forest and the work of the Karawatha Forest Protection Society. Six years on, I am very proud to see that we actually delivered another fauna overpass for Karawatha Forest. There were two in existence when I was elected, but as part of the upgrades to the access to the Logan and Gateway motorways, that was delivered. I joined with the member for Algeester in planting some of the initial trees on that overpass along with Stretton State College students. I know they were very happy to do that. I know that the members of the Karawatha Forest Protection Society were very happy that day as well, and they continue to be happy with that fauna overpass.

I also spoke about the transformational power of education and I reflected on that in my own life. I am a product of state schooling, both primary and secondary. I have four brothers, three of whom are triplets. Before I was elected to parliament I was fortunate enough to work as a lawyer. I have one brother who is a doctor, one who is an accountant, one who is a journalist and one who serves in the Air Force and in fact last year served in Egypt on the Egypt-Israel border. State schooling has been very important in my life. I think it is a very important component of what we do as a state government. I commend the Minister for Education for all the work that she has done in improving opportunities for our young people, who are our future.

In the electorate of Stretton, we have seen a huge investment in our local schools. We have a new performing arts centre at Stretton State College. We have had new buildings at Sunnybank Hills State School. We have a new one under construction at Runcorn Heights. We have had a new op shop built at Kuraby Special School. We have had a new learning centre and upgraded facilities at Kuraby

State School. I could go on and on. There has been a significant investment in providing better learning facilities for students in my electorate. That is something I will continue to work with the minister on into the future.

I did have the Runcorn State High School student leaders visit Parliament House today. Mr Deputy Speaker, as you know, I always keep my promises. I did say I would give them a mention, so I hope the House bears with me because I think they brought every captain along today to enjoy the barbecue I cooked for them and to also have a tour of parliament. I want to acknowledge Jasmine Ryan and Ezekiel Inivale, the school captains; Hannah Venz and Hanna Ivastchenko, the arts captains; Rhys Kenyon and Khoulud Alhoush, the community captains; Hillary Fania and Grace Nguyen, the sports captains; Maria Mustafa and Thomas Dao, the academic captains; and Parvan Kaur and Maymouna Heireche, the wellbeing captains. Of course, we were joined by principal Daren McGregor, deputy principal Fiona Harris and also Jody Warnick, who is a staff member. We had a very enjoyable afternoon.

Like many members, we were limited in bringing school groups in over the last year. Traditionally, I do a captains tour for all the high school captains in my electorate. For obvious reasons, we could not do that last year, so I was very happy we could do that today. Certainly the students were very excited to meet the Premier as well.

One of the other issues I talked about in my maiden speech was the workers compensation system and the changes that were made under the Newman government. I think some of the complexity with workers compensation legislation—and, ultimately, I was on the committee that reversed those reforms and improved that legislation. I really think some of those opposite did not fully appreciate the damage those changes did to working people in this state. The reality of the laws that were introduced by the member for Kawana during the time he was Attorney-General meant that someone could be injured through no fault of their own at a workplace and once their statutory claim was over, they could actually be lawfully terminated for being unfit to do the job. Then they had no right to any lump sum form of compensation. That certainly does not sound like justice to me. I am really proud that that issue I talked about then has been reversed. I think that is really important.

The other issue I talked about in my maiden speech was multiculturalism and how important that is. As I said earlier in my speech to the address-in-reply debate, I am very proud to represent the most multicultural seat of Stretton. I do want to mention a few things.

Not only do I represent the most multicultural seat in Queensland; I also represent the electorate with the highest number of people identifying Islam as their religion—by quite a considerable margin. Certainly, the suburb of Kuraby has the highest number of people identifying Islam as their religion of any suburb in the state by a long way.

When I first contested the seat of Stretton in 2012, I actually came third on the primary vote in Kuraby. Six years on, Kuraby actually became my best booth. I won it 70-30 two-party preferred. I say to the people of Kuraby and the Muslim community: I really thank you for your support over the years. It has meant a lot to me. We had to take a bit of time to get to know and understand each other. I particularly wanted to thank Jamaal Al Khloed, Ismail Cajee, Ali Kadri, Sam Naaman and also Galila Abdelsalam for their friendship and support. It means a lot to me.

I also wanted to say a big thank you to the Taiwanese community. It is certainly a community that can face its challenges from time to time, both here in Australia and internationally, but I think the fortitude that the Taiwanese community shows, its commitment to multiculturalism and to solid values, really shines through. I want to thank all my friends in the Taiwanese community. Also, I really thank those in the Chinese community and the Indian community for their support. We won every booth in the election. In fact, the biggest swing I received was at Sunnybank Hills. I thank the people in Sunnybank Hills. It must be because I live there! I got a couple of extra votes there.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr PEGG: I take that interjection from the member for Nanango. It is important in an address-in-reply or maiden speech to say your thank-yous. I first and foremost thank my family, particularly my mother. My mother has been there for me in a really tough time. I cannot thank her enough for that. I also thank my father and my brothers, Graham, Grant, Cameron and Lachlan, for their support.

Like all members, I rely heavily on my staff. I certainly have some of the best in James Martin—he is a great operational guy who does fantastic work in the community; the energetic, effervescent Emily Kim—


Ms Pease: Not anymore!

Mr PEGG:—who has been stolen by the member for Lytton—at least she put her hand up to admit that; Reem Al Qahtani, who has done tremendous work with constituents and I think has received more gifts than anyone I have ever seen from grateful constituents for the work she does; and Snow Duan. Thank you for your hard work and commitment to the people of Stretton. I also thank a couple of other people who worked in my office over the last term: Khiraan Kumar and Sam Killorn. Thank you for your work.

I thank my campaign manager, David Pass; campaign treasurer, Clinton DeBruyn; and Stretton ALP branch president, Johnson Chen. You all put a tremendous amount of work into the campaign. I also thank Monique Bielanowski, Merric Foley, Angelo Economou, Lewis Lee OAM—apart from when he is putting up Facebook photos—Nicole Fitzgibbon, Stella Martin, Navneeta Hinz, Reena Augustine, Prakruthi Gururaj, Dan Phelps, Anieka McDonagh, Teng and Michael Murray, Meripa and David Weir, Hardeep Wagla, Sukhjinder Singh and Serena Denis. Obviously the danger when you list a lot of thank-yous is that you miss someone. Apologies if I missed anyone. I do want to give a shout-out to long-time branch member and really good friend Chris Hardy. He has had some challenging health issues. He has helped me out on campaigns and has helped on many other Labor members' campaigns over the years. Chris, I wish you all the best. We certainly missed you on the campaign this time, but we totally understand why.

I also thank my medical specialists, Dr Warren Joubert, Dr David Pryor and Dr Joy Prakarbhuti. I also thank the nurses and staff at the Cyril Gilbert Cancer Centre. Without them, to be frank, I would not be standing here today. Walking into a cancer centre is something you do not wish to do, but they somehow manage to put a smile on the faces of all those patients and their families, which is a fantastic thing. It is a tremendous gift that they are able to impart.

Finally, I once again thank the good people of Stretton for their support. As I said in my maiden speech, I will continue to be your humble servant. You are my boss; you continue to be my boss. I look forward to continuing to serve you and will not hesitate to continue to stand up for you in this House on important issues.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (6.35 pm): I rise to provide my address-in-reply to the speech delivered by His Excellency in opening the 57th Parliament of Queensland. It is indeed an honour and a privilege to be elected to represent the electorate of Burdekin in this place. I am sure that all members would agree that, along with a sense of responsibility, serving in this parliament comes with a great sense of pride. I am also humbled to take on the role of shadow minister for police and corrective services, shadow minister for fire and emergency services and shadow minister for rural and regional affairs.

Regardless of the electorate we represent or the side of the chamber on which we sit, the challenges we face in this coming term are many. We live in a period that none of us has experienced before. In the last few months, regions around the world and here in Australia have faced one of the greatest health challenges in history. It is a history that will judge whether our response was correct, but it goes without question that we have faced uncertainty on so many fronts. As we move forward, we face the challenge of returning to what we call 'normal'—if there is such a thing. We as a state and as a nation face economic challenges and possibly further health challenges. As we look back over the last term of parliament and look forward to the next, there is an undeniable sense of irony that comes with the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. In fact, it is the tyranny of distance that meant some areas of our great state remained relatively or absolutely COVID free.

It is almost symbolic that the same issue that makes it difficult to attract health professionals to some areas of my electorate played a major part in halting the spread of coronavirus. It is the same vast distances that make roads such an important issue in the Burdekin electorate that most likely saw most of my electorate largely spared from the health challenges that this virus posed. Many of those challenges that we have faced and will face come about due to uncertainty, but one thing I am certain of is that Queenslanders together will overcome these challenges, just as we have overcome the COVID pandemic.

As the member for Burdekin, my pride for the electorate is as strong as ever and my dedication to working for my electorate is unchanged. I want to acknowledge my team of LNP members and volunteers who supported me during the election campaign—volunteers who drove hundreds of kilometres to stand outside pre-polls in 38-degree heat and sat in the dark until nine o'clock at night on lonely streets, volunteers who believed in me and to whom I am eternally grateful. In no particular order I want to acknowledge my campaign team: Jim and Jewel Gist, Terry Williams, Rosemary and Ray

Menkens, Peter and Amanda Hall, and of course my tireless offside David Cooper, to whom I owe so much. I also want to acknowledge Dave Blundell, Terry Heyer, Jan Brown, Pauline Shield, Wade Smith, Carl and Andrea Moller, Marlene Benn, the Denis family from Clermont, Hughie and Denise Smith, Richard and Dyan Hughes, Margo Fordyce, Lynnie Busk, Trevor Anderson and Eileen Meyer. I could not have done it without you. I want to also make special mention of my family: my wife, Kim, and children, Jack and Molly. Their unwavering support, love and encouragement is the reason I am standing here today and is the reason I have been able to devote so much time to my electorate.

As we move into the first fixed four-year term, I want to make clear my commitment to the Burdekin electorate and my pledge to continue the fight to ensure my constituents have access to the same support, services and opportunities as are available in metropolitan areas of the state. His Excellency spoke of the need to represent all Queenslanders, and I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the opportunity to work for all Queenslanders in my role as a shadow minister and in particular to represent those rural and regional areas of Queensland which contribute so much to this great state.

As the opposition leader, the member for Broadwater, has said, the LNP opposition offers the government its full support to ensure, as His Excellency said, stable and trustworthy government. Where the government gets it right, we will be the first to acknowledge that. However, I will be the first to provide alternatives where necessary. We will move amendments and we will oppose legislation in this House if necessary because we are elected to represent our electorates and we are entrusted by Queenslanders to not only hold this government to account but also ensure that Queensland has the best governance possible.

This government made 1,000 commitments during the recent election campaign. My constituents and all Queenslanders have my commitment to ensure that those commitments are delivered in an efficient and timely fashion where they provide benefits to this state. They have my commitment that I will work cooperatively with the government wherever possible, but they also have my word that my loyalty remains to them. They have my word that where there are wrongs to be exposed I will expose them and where there are people left behind I will do my best to restore equality.

Members of the last parliament will undoubtedly be aware of my campaign to show that at times what works in the metropolitan areas does not necessarily work in rural and regional Queensland. I have and will continue to highlight the disparity in infrastructure and services in regional Queensland as opposed to those metropolitan areas. Whilst much was achieved during the last term of parliament, there is much more left to do. Regional Queensland still struggles to endure significantly higher electricity prices than those available to our counterparts in South-East Queensland. Whilst \$50 credits from time to time are welcomed, the fact remains that consumers in the south-east can save more than \$400 per year with a few phone calls to providers. The regions of this state can never achieve their full potential while they are denied the opportunities available to their city cousins, and this applies especially to electricity prices.

His Excellency spoke of the government's plan to diversify the economy and to grow the agricultural and resource sectors—something very dear to my heart. He spoke of growing tourism, helping small business and growing manufacturing by supporting the introduction of new products. We heard of infrastructure investment in the regions and the need to grow the population and ensure a wide range of talented people live in regional Queensland. I fully support those lofty ambitions, but the fact is that while regional Queensland and electorates like the Burdekin electorate are held back by high electricity prices, by inadequate roads, by insufficient health services and by, in some parts, a crime epidemic regional Queensland will never achieve its full potential.

I am proud to say that the Burdekin electorate is the most diverse electorate in Queensland. From the semirural areas in the north, it works its way down the coast to Australia's largest sugarcane-growing area. Moving even further south, it has one of the largest horticultural industries and then heading inland we have the majority of coalmines in Queensland. Even further west we see the cattle industry, more agriculture and more mines, all within the one electorate. The Burdekin electorate is almost 90,000 square kilometres of untapped potential, and it is that potential that Queensland needs to realise as we recover economically from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Burdekin electorate is a place to live and a place to work for people who embrace opportunity and work hard for themselves, their families, their communities and their state. They are people who want the opportunity to achieve, and even more, but in order to do so they require the essentials that many Queenslanders take for granted. Let us take health services, for example. In Home Hill we have an award-winning doctor who is currently expanding his practice for the third time in a few years.

Meanwhile in Clermont, the efforts of a mining company, a passionate group of locals and support from the federal government has done little to address the doctor shortage in that community. In Collinsville we recently saw the appointment of a second doctor, but when emergency care is needed we find that the Royal Flying Doctor Service is unable to land at the Collinsville airstrip due to restrictions with that airport.

Earlier I mentioned the vast distances travelled by people in regional Queensland and particularly within the Burdekin electorate. Despite the riches that come out of my electorate, there are still unsealed state roads within my electorate and other roads that are nothing more than goat tracks. In the past three months alone, three people have lost their lives on roads in the Burdekin electorate. Both incidents occurred on stretches of road that my constituents quite rightly want addressed. While the investigations into these incidents continue and we wait for the causes, it is without doubt that these roads have previously contributed to serious injuries and fatalities.

In the February edition of the RACQ's *Road Ahead* two of the top 10 worst roads in Queensland were in my electorate. The condition of Kilcummin Diamond Downs Road was so bad late last year that the school bus run was cancelled. This impacts on the ability of Queensland children to even attend school, let alone achieve their dreams. It is a situation that simply would not be tolerated in the south-east, yet, while \$7 billion is committed to a tunnel in Brisbane, roads in my electorate are holding back our children from attending school and, furthermore, they are claiming lives. May Downs Road was the other road identified in that report. Given the increasing volumes of produce and the heavy vehicles using this road, not to mention local traffic, it is only a matter of time before we see more injuries and fatalities on that section of road as well.

Roads are without question the single biggest issue in my electorate. I have spoken at length about the Peak Downs Highway and the recent fatality on the Bruce Highway south of Townsville has again highlighted how dangerous this section of highway has become. We need action and a real commitment to upgrading this section of the highway before more lives are lost. I also want to talk about roads like the Bowen Developmental Road and the Clermont Alpha Road that still have vast stretches that are unsealed. The produce that feeds Queenslanders, the coal and the other resources that inject billions into our economy and the people who work day after day to support this state share these roads. They are the vital connection to basic medical services, let alone specialists, which can be situated hundreds of kilometres away. They are the vital link to allowing our children to learn, to grow and to achieve their very best, but they are in many cases overlooked. The smashed windscreens caused by these roads, the shredded tyres that sit on the side of those roads alongside the crosses erected to honour those who have died are not just symbols of broken lives and broken vehicles; they are proof positive that we are not realising the value, let alone the potential, of those areas.

Moving on to education, we face further challenges. It is no secret that attracting teachers to some areas of regional Queensland is a challenge, but in the Burdekin electorate there are currently several schools with acting principals appointed on a temporary basis who have been in that role for over 15 months. How are we going to attract teachers to a school where at any time the leadership of that school could change due to the temporary nature of those appointments? There are schools that have had teacher vacancies for in excess of 12 months right throughout the electorate and I will fight to bring the resources to my rural schools that they deserve, because, after all, those students are our future.

Yesterday I spoke to the Minister for Education about Valkyrie State School down Beef Road. That school does not have water. That school does not have a water supply and has not had a water supply for nearly 10 years, so it trucks water into that school each week. To think that in 2021 in the state of Queensland there is a school without a water supply is unforgivable to me. It is all well and good to talk about attracting people to regional centres, but if you take the example of a family, schools, doctors, nurses and allied health services they are all vitally important considerations. Even before the pandemic many centres in my electorate were calling out for services like psychology, occupational therapy and speech therapy, so I welcome the government's commitment to ensure all Queensland students have access to mental health services. In many areas that will be a difficult goal to achieve and I ask the Premier on behalf of my constituents to consider commencing the rollout of that service in areas that have little or no access to these services at all.

I am sure that we would all agree that schools contribute to the fabric of any community. While we face challenges at some schools in my electorate, there are other factors that are also eroding the fabric of those communities. Sports, committee organisations and businesses are being torn apart due to the impacts of mine rostering practices as well as FIFO and DIDO workers, but there are further possible impacts.

Services such as health are based on the number of residents in a particular area, but FIFO and DIDO workers are not included in those calculations. That leaves the potential for grossly inadequate services that, frankly, have the potential to lead to the loss of life. I have given my commitment that I will continue to work with both the state and federal governments during the coming term of parliament to address this issue because, and I know Isaac Regional Council have undertaken this exercise, on any given day there are tens of thousands of additional employees and personnel working across that council area.

Another issue that must be addressed if we are truly to tap into the full potential of the Burdekin electorate and the wider area of regional Queensland is water infrastructure. Despite commitment after commitment we are still no closer to seeing the raising of the Burdekin Falls Dam, and projects like the Urannah Dam and the Elliot Main Channel remain plans instead of reality. I quite often say that where there is water there is opportunity and if we are truly going to realise the opportunities that are on offer in the Burdekin electorate these water projects must become reality rather than the subject of yet another study.

I also want to talk about one of the most exciting projects this state has seen in a generation and that is the establishment of a space station at Bowen. We have an expression of interest from Gilmour Space Technologies to construct a launch site at the Abbot Point industrial area north of Bowen. What an opportunity for Queensland it would be if we were to see satellites launched on a regular basis from this area.

During the course of the campaign I made a number of commitments around infrastructure, services and support for community groups. These commitments were made following consultation with councils, sporting groups, not-for-profit organisations and industry groups. They included, inter alia, widening, overtaking lanes, replacement of bridges on the Peak Downs Highway, the full replacement of the Phillips Creek Bridge, the construction of the space launch facility at Abbot Point, a commitment to increase storage and processing at the Brandon Rice Mill, the renewal of the Moranbah Community Centre, the upgrade of the Clermont Saleyards, the installation of turning lanes on the Bruce Highway at a number of intersections, upgrades to a number of sporting facilities throughout the electorate, a commitment to upgrade the Collinsville Airstrip to allow the Royal Flying Doctor Service to land at night, pre-approval and planning for multipurpose halls at the Clermont State High School, the Collinsville State High School and the Dysart State High School.

All I have ever asked for is our fair slice of the pie, a return on the billions of dollars in royalties that are pumped into state government coffers each year by our resource sector. I met with the Kilcummin Diamond Downs Group last week that have been fighting tirelessly for upgrades to services in this area. They are fighting for upgrades to something as simple as a telephone service, which we here in the south-east corner of the state and along the coastline take for granted. Many of those residents who live and work in the rural and regional areas of Queensland still have no access to simple mobile phone coverage. Many of them are stranded during the wet season because of road conditions and intermittent power supply.

What we consider so fundamental in our capital cities in the south-east of this state is still a massive problem in many areas throughout my electorate. Is it too much to ask for a sealed road, a doctor, teachers or staff at the local hospital dialysis unit? I am a passionate North Queenslander and my quest for equality in terms of infrastructure and services will never be satisfied until we achieve the same standards and access to services as those enjoyed by our city cousins.

I am truly humbled to be re-elected as the member for Burdekin. We kicked some goals during the last term, but there is more to be done. I look forward to once again taking up the fight on the issues that matter and making the Burdekin electorate a better place to live, work and play.



Hon. MC BAILEY (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (6.53 pm): Let me begin by saying that it is a great honour to be re-elected to the 57th Parliament by the people of Miller. I sincerely thank the constituents of my electorate for the faith that they have placed in me, including the considerable number of people who voted for me for the first time, I expect, having won with a 5.6 per cent swing. I will work hard, as I always work hard, for every constituent in my electorate. It is a great honour and one I never take for granted. I will work very hard throughout this term in office to improve lifestyles, opportunities and rights for my local people.

I acknowledge the Premier, Deputy Premier, my cabinet colleagues and my caucus colleagues. It is an absolute privilege to be part of such a progressive, effective government that is working for the betterment of the state for all Queenslanders in a third term. We all achieve things in different ways, but

we do it as a team. That is the difference. We have a very cohesive team and that is why we have been given a third term. We have renewed well on the way through. It is an honour to be part of this team. It is something I value every day.

I also want to acknowledge my ministerial team and my office team. I thank my chief of staff and my office staff who work so hard and are so dedicated. We could not do it without our ministerial staff either. Thank you also to the union movement and the workers of Queensland who stand up for a fair go and are an important part of this government.

I would like to pay tribute to the Premier, the Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young, and the Deputy Premier, who was the health minister for much of last year. They were there when Queenslanders most needed them. Their hard work, supported by this government, has been world leading. Our economic recovery plan is an important part of coming out of the pandemic, as is having had the strongest base. The best health response equalled the best economic response. That is something we understood from the beginning. Sadly, a lot of nations did not. Other people in this chamber still do not.

I welcome our new members, the members for Caloundra, Pumicestone, Bundaberg, Nicklin, Cooper, Hervey Bay, Mundingburra and Stafford. We have renewed well each election. These new members bring a lot to the table. With the grind of government a party needs renewal and that is something that this government has always had. I welcome all new members to our team and thank the constituents who backed them in because they all have a lot to offer.

I am deeply cognisant of the immense task that lies before us on our road to economic recovery following the global pandemic and its impacts. Our priority since the pandemic first reached our shores has been safeguarding the health of Queenslanders and thereby supporting their jobs, their livelihoods and the economy and, of course, our economic plan for recovery. An effective health response has been the most effective economic response. Can one imagine what might have happened in terms of the health of Queenslanders and our economy if we had listened to those opposite who called for the borders to be opened 64 times?

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: Here they go again interjecting. They still have not learned their lesson. We know the record of the member for Broadwater. He is on the record as saying that our world-leading health response was tantamount to going in the corner, sucking your thumb and putting the doona over your head. They are his words on video. He also abused our health leadership right in the middle of the pandemic, calling them punch-drunk bureaucrats. The Prime Minister came to this state and lectured Queensland and said, 'Open the borders. Open the borders.' We have been proven correct.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Member for Nanango, cease your interjecting.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

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

Mr BAILEY: The member for Nanango interjects. She has a more marginal seat than I do these days. One would think she would learn a lesson. When it comes to the health response we stood our ground. The reason Queenslanders and Australians are safe is not because of the Prime Minister who said open the borders or those opposite; it is because of strong premiers like Premier Palaszczuk and other premiers who stood up for good policy under tremendous pressure.

We have led the world and to this day I cannot recall a single time when there has been a real and genuine acknowledgement by anyone in the opposition or by the opposition leader of that world-leading response to the COVID pandemic. They are diminished when they cannot see that we have been world leaders in terms of the response to the pandemic. If those opposite want credibility then get with the program and acknowledge the good work that has been done in Queensland. Not to this day has there been a single word of praise or acknowledgement.

Ms Bates interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Mudgeeraba! Order!

Mr BAILEY: Those opposite continue to interject. That is all they are good for. You only have to look at other countries around the world, particularly the US and countries in Europe, to see the devastation that the virus has caused and is still capable of causing. People have lost family, friends, workmates—


Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: I am talking about the most profoundly serious global event in a long time, but all those opposite can do is yell across the chamber. It is pathetic and sad.

Debate, on motion of Mr Bailey, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Paradise Dam

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (7.00 pm): Growers in the Burnett are reaching breaking point as the drought bites harder, rainfall decreases and the wet season fails us. With no rain falling in the Paradise Dam catchment area and the waste of 100,000 megalitres of water by Sunwater in 2019, the dire prediction is that Paradise Dam will be empty by June—that is right: empty.

Growers in the Bundaberg irrigation area are expecting historically low announced water allocations to be named by Sunwater in July—possibly as low as five per cent. Water becomes hugely expensive once allocations fall as low as five or 10 per cent because growers are still sluggish with the fixed costs for their full allocation, even if they only get five per cent of that allocation. For one local avocado and macadamia grower in my electorate, a five per cent announced allocation means his 270 megalitre allocation will shrink to 13.5 megalitres. Such a low allocation is unworkable for that grower who faces the very real prospect of watching his avocado trees die before Christmas.

If this had arisen purely due to drought, I would accept it. However, knowing that the government's decision to release 100,000 megalitres out to sea has brought us to such a desperate situation is a very bitter pill to swallow. Preliminary calculations on the losses growers could incur due to the lowering of the Paradise Dam wall show that Sunwater's fixed charges will result in the actual water used by the grower costing as much as \$1,100 per megalitre—

Mr Smith interjected.

Mr BENNETT: For those opposite to interject when I am talking about such a serious incident shows how arrogant, out of touch and ridiculous Labor Party policies are in Queensland. That is a 1,000 per cent increase in water costs. How would the average motorist feel if tomorrow morning they pulled into a servo and found that the fuel price had jumped from \$1.40 per litre to \$14 per litre? They would not stand for it. It is like asking an average household to exist on five per cent of its normal grocery budget.

This Labor government's refusal to guarantee that the Bundaberg irrigation scheme will be returned to its original capacity will strip \$2.4 billion and thousands of jobs out of the region's economy. The loudmouth from Bundaberg should take an interest in the impact on our economy.


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

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Member for Burnett?

Mr BENNETT: I withdraw. The farmers of Bundaberg have invested hundreds of millions of dollars into producing food and they deserve better. The taxpayers of Queensland, who rely on fresh, clean and green food, deserve better. The losses to Bundaberg farmers will be in the billions; the losses to the state of Queensland will be much greater. At the risk of sounding like a broken record, I again call on this state government to give us some answers, stop the delays and commit to restoring water security to Paradise Dam.

Today the Minister for Water stood in this place and tried to spin a yarn to the people of the region about what the options paper will mean for Paradise Dam. I predict publicly that the options paper will suggest that the cost of raising the wall of Paradise Dam will have so many zeroes on it that it will never happen because let's face it: Labor never wanted the Paradise Dam and they will never support the farmers of Bundaberg or reinstate the wall at Paradise Dam. Mark my words.

Redcliffe Electorate

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (7.04 pm): There has been a lot happening in Redcliffe since we last sat. Media business trailblazer Ita Buttrose AC, OBE spoke at the Business Moreton Bay Region's speakers series. She spoke of her leadership throughout the years and her journey in a traditionally male dominated industry. She described problems as opportunities and was always looking for the positive about her situation. Those are strong words to

live by. I thank the Moreton Bay Regional Council and the Moreton Bay Region Industry & Tourism for hosting event, which was the first in their series for 2021. It is wonderful to see those events happening again and that is because of the way that the Palaszczuk Labor government has handled COVID-19 and kept us safe.


We have some amazing female leaders in our Redcliffe community, including Amy Mayes, the executive manager of the Redcliffe Area Youth Space. Amy and her team do an amazing job working with young people in our community, particularly disengaged youth. I take my hat off to her for her skills, drive and passion. I also acknowledge her amazing team and the work that they do each and every day.

Marlene Newcome is a successful local businesswoman and the managing director of Village Motors, which is extremely supportive of many of our local community groups and the major sponsor of the Redcliffe Dolphins, of course. I see my friend at the back, the member for Kurwongbah, nodding his head in agreement. I acknowledge Shona McKinlay, who is an amazing educator. She is the head of one of our region's largest state schools, Redcliffe State High School. I acknowledge Shona's incredible passion for education and the great work that she has done over many years. I also recognise her advocacy for much of the investment in that school.

Captain Kerry Lopez is the owner of Brisbane Whale Watching, our region's very successful tourist organisation. For two seasons my whale-watching trip has been cancelled because of bad weather, so I really hope that I get there this season. It is always an incredible experience. I know that the member for Stafford went last year with his family and had a great time. Koliana Winchester has retired from the Moreton Bay Regional Council but that has not stopped her. She is still out and about and is an active member in our community. Those are just some of the wonderful and inspiring female leaders in our community but there are many more. During Queensland Women's Week we salute you.

In more exciting news, COVID-19 vaccinations are coming to Redcliffe. Subject to supplies being received, the Redcliffe Hospital will commence administering the COVID vaccination to the hardworking frontline health workers in our region. This is an exciting step forward. I take this opportunity to encourage all members of our community, when the time comes and they get the call-up, to roll up their sleeves and get the COVID vaccination. The more people in our community who are vaccinated against COVID-19 the better. I will be the getting the vaccine when the time comes and I encourage everyone in our community to do the same.

Food Organics Garden Organics

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (7.07 pm): I rise to put on the record some thoughts about FOGO. In fact, right now I think I have FOMO for FOGO, because it is clear that Queensland is missing out. FOGO is of course short for Food Organics Garden Organics. This initiative provides a huge opportunity for our state to halve our landfill and reduce our carbon footprint. We need the state government to lead the way and support councils to better process organic waste.


Last week I was at the Future Waste Resources conference on the Gold Coast and I heard about the FOGO take-up rates nationally. Currently there are 88 services across Australia: New South Wales has 43 services, equating to 17 per cent; Victoria has 17 services or 23 per cent, with 61 planned; South Australia has 17 services or 20 per cent; Tasmania is a bit behind with five services, equating to five per cent; and WA has four services or three per cent, but with 28 planned. With this government proclaiming at every opportunity how they are at the forefront of environmental action, how many services does Queensland have? One—just a single one! Again we are lagging behind every other state, just like we mentioned today with signing up to the Recycling Modernisation Fund.

Across Australia there is a lot of work to do with food and organic waste making up around half of our landfill. Through the FOGO initiative, food and organic waste is recycled and turned into fertilisers such as nitrogen and phosphate, instead of being wasted. Those products make it almost cost-neutral and that is with the average FOGO contamination rate being at just 2 per cent, compared to a contamination rate five times higher for general recycling. By composting our food scraps, we can reduce our methane emissions which is really important because, as a greenhouse gas, it is over 30 times as potent as carbon dioxide.

The National Food Waste Strategy, of which Queensland has indicated support, aims to halve food waste by 2030. At present, out of the 5.09 million tonnes of food waste generated, 3.76 million tonnes goes to landfill. That is 73.9 per cent of food waste still going to landfill. Our state has so much potential for FOGO initiatives, but we are lagging behind.

Of course, waste services are managed at the local government level, but we need to improve our waste disposal and recovery rates. We need the state government to step up and provide leadership. The New South Wales government has, through the New South Wales Environmental Trust, with almost \$28 million going to councils to fund and support new or enhanced household kerbside collection services for garden, food or combined food and organic waste. Similarly, the Western Australian government has a \$20 million program. We need state-led programs like this throughout Queensland, and I urge the government to do more for FOGO collection services.

Youth Crime

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (7.10 pm): Youth crime is an extraordinarily complex issue—an issue that we must continue to talk about and work with our communities in an endeavour to solve. The issue is complex and it is generational. Young people today grow up in a very different world than most of us in this place did in the sixties, seventies and eighties. There were not mobile phones that had you connected 24 hours a day—

Mr Crandon: The fifties and sixties.

Ms RICHARDS: The fifties and sixties—I will take that interjection. There was not SnapChat, there were not vaults to hide information, there was not Tinder, there was not Whisper, and we did not have computer games like Grand Theft Auto, Sniper Elite or Resident Evil.

Family units have changed. At a recent chamber of commerce event, the business of the month winner was a marriage counsellor. She asked everybody in the room to put up their hands if they were married. She said, 'Well, the good news is that 50 per cent of you will remain married and 50 per cent of you will end up in divorce.' Times have changed, and change continues to be rapid, particularly for our young people. I am proud to be part of a government that is focused on tackling all facets of this complex issue.

All Queenslanders deserve to be safe in their homes, workplaces and communities. Tackling youth offending helps people feel safer. We want our children and our young people to be brought up safe. We on this side of the House are committed to reforming the youth justice system to make our communities safer and reduce youth crime in Queensland.

I am pleased that, together with the member for Capalaba and our mayor, we will be hosting a Redlands youth crime forum next Monday night. Our forum will be very different to the Longman LNP Crime Forum: we will not be conducting a political fundraiser, we will not be charging \$20 for our community to attend to hear from important stakeholders on crime, and we certainly will not be needing to have prohibited donors call a separate number to see what the arrangements are if they want to attend.

I take this opportunity to thank the Queensland Police Service and the Department of Youth Justice for working with us to establish the forum for next Monday night. As a result, our community will have the opportunity to hear from experts and interact in a Q&A panel discussion on local crime stats with Acting Chief Superintendent Andrew Pilotto and Inspector Lindsay Kilpatrick; the Queensland Youth Crime Taskforce with Assistant Commissioner Scanlon; and the Department of Youth Justice with the reforms leader, Michael Drane. To solve this generational societal problem, we all need to work together.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Ms RICHARDS: Member for Nanango, we all need to work together because this is a societal issue, my friend.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Member for Redlands, direct your comments through the chair, please.

Ms RICHARDS: We need to work together in here—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, cease all interjections!

Ms RICHARDS: We need to work together with our communities, with our educators, with the police and with the judiciary.


Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, you have been warned. I ask you to leave the chamber for the remainder of the day.

Whereupon the honourable member for Nanango withdrew from the chamber at 7.13 pm.

Ms RICHARDS: Finally, I would like to give a shout-out to our school based police officer, Corey Dean. He is doing an incredible job in our high schools. His presentation to our parents on cyber safety has to be seen to be believed; it really is fantastic. It reminds our families of the inherent dangers within the online world. To Brendon Winslow and Chris Hebblesworth from the QPS, our community liaison officers: team, I love your work. You are both amazing. Our Redlands QPS is doing a fantastic job.

Coomera Electorate, Growth

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (7.14 pm): In the state seat of Coomera, the list of needs that we continue to fight for is long. Unfortunately, on the main list there are only a few ticked off. There are some delayed with question marks next to them as to how long they have to go. Then there are those matters which are simply not happening anytime soon.

The evidence of the needs in the northern Gold Coast are probably best demonstrated by using a couple of graphs, one of which I will table. I am sure that Coomera has the largest number of students going to school of any electorate in Queensland. We have 19,086 students going to 22 schools in the Coomera electorate in 2021. That is up more than 1,100 students on 2020. Since 2010, the number has almost doubled. That is excluding those students who go to school just outside the electorate. I table that for interest of the House.

Tabled paper: Graph, undated, depicting the increase in school enrolments comparing school census days [\[301\]](#).

The second graph demonstrates the monumental growth of the Coomera electorate compared with all of the surrounding electorates, including Broadwater, Logan, Macalister, Redlands, Scenic Rim and Theodore. The graph is quite dramatic. I table that for the purposes of showing those opposite and other interested members.

Tabled paper: Graph, undated, titled 'Figure 2 Deviation from average Queensland electoral district enrolment, Coomera SED and surrounding SEDs, August 2016 to February 2021' [\[300\]](#).

The massive growth is there. Sadly, some of the correspondence from the office of the Minister for Transport is somewhat lacking, somewhat off the mark and somewhat inaccurate. I will highlight such a case. I recall speaking to the minister quite some time ago about the 722 service. We had some success with that, and I thank the minister for listening to the local member rather than the advisers who were giving him inaccurate information.


One of my constituents wrote to the minister regarding bus service 729. He complained the same way as I have been complaining to the minister for a long time about not being able to catch a bus to the train station in the morning and to catch a bus home in the afternoon. The example was a classic: the last 729 bus leaves Ormeau Railway Station at 5.02 pm. This makes it literally impossible. I table that letter for the interest of the House.

Tabled paper: Extract from TransLink bus timetable for bus route number 729 [\[302\]](#).

The most amazing thing was the response my constituent received from the minister's office—that they understand there is a lot of growth in Coomera. This was about the Beenleigh-Ormeau bus service, nothing to do with the Coomera bus service.

(Time expired)

Cycling Infrastructure; Rochedale Road-Priestdale Road Intersection Upgrade

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (7.17 pm): At the 2020 local government elections, the residents of Rochedale and Mackenzie were promised a bikeway connecting their suburbs to the Eight Mile Plains park-and-ride busway, the veloway to the city, and to Wishart and Upper Mount Gravatt. The current lack of local infrastructure poses a high risk to the safety of bike users in our area. Cyclists are required to navigate grass or dirt footpaths; busy, narrow and highly congested council roads; unsealed paths; and heavy vehicles on the dangerous Brisbane urban corridor.


During the COVID-19 pandemic we have seen the number of cyclists increase across Brisbane. Rochedale and Mackenzie are emerging and fast-growing communities with many individuals, families and seniors who are active bicycle commuters. We know that a high volume of cyclists using the same roads as vehicles increases the potential for accidents. Combined with the lack of infrastructure, many local bike users feel unprotected and unsafe travelling within the area. I encourage residents to continue signing my petition to the BCC to fund the cycling and pedestrian infrastructure that was promised to our community.

For many years, the member for Springwood and I have been fighting for another issue important to Rochedale residents—an upgrade to the Rochedale Road and Priestdale Road intersection. We heard our community's call to action and we began to campaign to push the local and federal governments to take urgent action on this roundabout. Like the bikeway, this project will be immensely beneficial for locals, especially our school students who walk across the intersection every day in unsafe conditions.

I encourage our community to attend a community information session this Saturday to be held at the Rochedale fruit markets beginning at 9 am. There will be an opportunity to meet the project team and ask questions around the proposed designs. With every project it is important that the community are consulted and informed at every stage of development. I am committed to continuing this consultation as I urge the Brisbane City Council to start construction of both the Rochedale bikeway and the signalled intersection.

As the state member for Mansfield and a resident of Rochedale, I have launched a petition to urge the Brisbane City Council and MacGregor ward councillor, Steven Huang, to immediately commence community consultation on this bikeway and allocate the financial resources required. Over 620 people have already signed this petition. The Brisbane City Council should be encouraging healthy, sustainable and safe travel by building the bikeway they promised to my community more than 12 months ago.

Noosa Country Drive

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (7.20 pm): System failure: that is what is being experienced in my electorate right now as we sit in this chamber. As we debate legislation that may mean nothing at the grassroots, argue over the time allocated for bills and ask questions that we could find the answer to through a phone call, my community, which I consider my extended family, is in unacceptable danger.

Members know why. From an inappropriate volume of heavy haulage vehicles on a road that was never built to accommodate them. This narrow state road winds through beautiful historical villages filled with families who work in the wellness, organic produce, tourism and nature industries. Horseback adventuring, homestays and homeopaths all operate to provide unique experiences along a tourism route called the Noosa Country Drive.


Ten years ago an independent road assessment deemed this route could not accommodate a projected increase to 40 to 80 truck movements per day, and yet for the last nine months there have been up to 250. This route is disintegrating under the onslaught, with the mental, physical and economic wellbeing of these communities now at a critical stage and leading to 2,386 signatories desperate to get a resolution. It should not take a petition.

How have we come to this? It is because of an inadequate quarry management plan and an underpinning environmental authority that is not worth the paper it is written on. The greatest failure may be a state one, with no policy or mechanism to review these EAs that are no longer fit for purpose. Visualise this: buses filled with our schoolchildren confronted daily with huge rock loaded trucks of over 40 tonnes that swing out into their path on blind bends. Just imagine what that is like as there is nowhere to go. Residents are trapped in their homes as they are too fearful to take the journey to town, businesses are closing as visitors leave and people's mental health is deteriorating.

Over the last year my electorate has had an increase of 30 per cent in domestic violence. We must ask ourselves whether this situation is contributing. That no department, minister, agency or even the Premier can identify a way to alleviate this danger leaves me speechless. If one builds a granny flat, a traffic management plan and contributions are essential. However, an increase of such magnitude not requiring a route assessment nor a road levy to maintain the roads can only lead to one conclusion: a failure of major magnitude, and one that must be immediately corrected to stop it happening in Noosa and in other communities across Queensland.

Responsibility, accountability and consequences—we have seen the consequences of this failure. Who is responsible and accountable for this? Every single one of us who sit in this chamber. We as legislators are responsible. I am asking for members' help right now to see an end to this failing in our communities. That is our job.

Illaweena Street, Bus Stop

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (7.23 pm): I have previously spoken in this House about the nightmare that the Brisbane City Council caused on Illaweena Street a few years ago. My concern is that they are at it again. It seems as though the LNP BCC just cannot help themselves. When I was first elected

there was a bus turnaround at the Illaweena Street campus of Stretton State College. This turnaround was not for the use of the school community, it was a general bus turnaround. When I made some inquiries I found out that, to the knowledge of all departments, it was the only school in Queensland that had a bus turnaround in their car park. That was obviously a safety issue so I worked with the school, the P&C and the minister's office and a solution was found to change it to a temporary turnaround. An even better solution was found. That was to create additional bus stops along Gowan Road, and in particular on the corner of Gowan Road and Illaweena Street.

This was a fantastic outcome for everybody in my community. Across the road from the Stretton State College Illaweena Street campus is Stretton Gardens Retirement Estate. At the moment to catch a bus they have to walk an extraordinarily long way. In fact, I videoed and timed it quite a while ago. If any honourable members want to check it is on my Facebook page. The distance they currently have to walk is beyond the capability of probably most people let alone some of our elderly who have made a huge contribution to Queensland.

Working with the minister's office there are plans for new bus stops and a permanent turnaround. Obviously the state government is paying for it, but it needs the approval of the Brisbane City Council. They have had this plan since last year. It is not complex works. I fear that the LNP BCC are at it yet again. They want to create another Illaweena Street nightmare. They are delaying what are reasonably simple works that will benefit my community.

I say to the councillor for Calamvale, who got the biggest swing against her in the BCC election last year, that if she creates a nightmare on Illaweena Street see what happens. I also note that the then chair of the transport committee, former councillor Amanda Cooper, got comprehensively defeated by the member for Aspley when it came to her state aspirations. I warn the LNP BCC to not create nightmares on Illaweena Street. They have done enough damage already. Please approve the works and let us get the job done.

Comments by Member for Oodgeroo, Apology; Redlands Youth Justice and Ice Addiction Forum



Dr ROBINSON (Oodgeroo—LNP) (7.26 pm): Last sitting week I spoke about the tragic deaths of Matt Field and Kate Leadbetter and their unborn baby son. This incident continues to have a deep impact on the local Redlands community and our thoughts remain with all concerned. In mentioning the perpetrator, it has been pointed out that I may have been in breach of the standing orders. It was not my intention to stray from the standing orders in respect of sub judice. Therefore, I unreservedly apologise to the House.

Out of this tragedy the Redlands Youth Justice and Ice Addiction Forum was convened. Hosted by the Redlands Local Drug Action Team, it was encouraging to see a large number of local residents and no less than 22 expert agencies come together on Friday, 12 February 2021 to participate in discussions. The purpose was to put forward community driven recommendations to specific ministries, state and federal, for an enhanced youth justice system.

I was pleased to attend this forum and would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the Redlands Local Drug Action Team and a range of other groups and individuals who attended: youth ambassadors from across the Redlands; Love and Hope Redlands; Youth YOU Program; police and ex-police officers; Traction youth program; Australian Drug Foundation; Queensland Injectors Health Network; Linda Grieve and the Cage Youth Foundation; Sarina Russo; Redlands Coast Chamber of Commerce; Australian Industry Trade College and its students; Alcolizer Technology Cleveland; Redlands Psychologists; Headspace; Metro South Primary Health Network; Queensland Network of Alcohol and Drug Agencies; local legal practitioners; federal MP for Bowman, Andrew Laming; Frank Pearce from the Redland City Council; and, importantly, the parents and youth in attendance. All provided extremely valuable input.

Discussions focused on six areas: early intervention; judicial/legislative reform; employment and diversion; community policing; addiction, detox and rehab; and serious/repeat offenders. Participants worked in groups and ideas were workshopped into a comprehensive draft white paper that has now been finalised to be presented in federal parliament. The forum was a great success, testament to the strong commitment of Redlands people to give so willingly of their time, knowledge and expertise to help make a change. I am proud to represent a community that works together to put forward suggestions for a better youth justice system. I look forward to further sharing their views on another occasion and presenting a copy of the white paper to this parliament.

Coronavirus, Vaccine; *Beyond Duty* Exhibition



Mr POWER (Logan—ALP) (7.29 pm): A really important milestone to end the threat of the COVID-19 virus is happening in Logan with the beginning of the vaccination program of the COVID-19 vaccine being administered at the Logan Hospital. I want to let people in the Logan electorate know that, although this is a great first step, the rollout will happen in five phases.

First, we are prioritising the workers who protect us. Today at the Logan Hospital we are offering the vaccine to frontline healthcare workers and quarantine workers. Separately, they are also giving the vaccine to residents in aged care. We are protecting those who protect us. We are also going to include in separate inoculations the quarantine hotel workers and, importantly, the police working at our borders and at our hotels.

I want to recognise the work that they have done in keeping us safe in Logan. They have provided information and have run the testing centres both at the Logan Hospital and at the Browns Plains Community Health Centre on Wineglass Drive. I also want to thank the ambulance services and paramedics, especially those at the new Yarrabilba and Munruben stations. They have had to go to every single call-out knowing that there was a small danger to them, but they were still brave enough to treat people. I am really proud that they are part of the first group who are going to get the vaccine so they will be safer. As I said, there are further stages to come. Firstly, we are going to vaccinate those who are at high risk—those who are immunocompromised and the aged. Then we are going to move on to the more general population.

I know that some people are a bit nervous about taking the vaccine, but I urge them to take it because in doing so they are going to help keep their whole community safe, especially those who are more vulnerable. We know that millions of people have already taken the vaccine. We know that the vaccine has gone through a testing process to assess its safety. We are also beginning to see that it is effective in reducing transmission but, really importantly, it is effective in keeping the person who takes it and anyone else in the community safe. I urge everyone in the Logan community to take the vaccine and to get our numbers up to 100 per cent when the time comes.

I also want to remind members that in the red chamber starting straight after this sitting we have the *Beyond Duty* exhibition from the Jewish Board of Deputies. It is an expose of those who, when faced with the Holocaust and the oppression of the Nazis, actually stood up and were themselves brave in order to protect their Jewish neighbours and friends. It is a wonderful exhibition and I urge everyone to come along to see it.

The House adjourned at 7.32 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, 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