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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 11 March 2021

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THURSDAY, 11 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.

PRIVILEGE

Speaker's Ruling, Sub Judice

 **Mr SPEAKER:** On 25 February 2021, the member for Capalaba wrote to me alleging that the member for Oodgeroo breached standing order 233 concerning the sub judice rules when on 23 February 2021, in an adjournment speech, he referred to a matter in the House currently subject to criminal proceedings. I subsequently corresponded with the member and the member offered to make an apology regarding the matter.

I note that yesterday evening the member unreservedly apologised in the House, and this is recorded at page 504 of the *Record of Proceedings*. Accordingly, I consider the member has made an adequate apology. Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I seek leave to incorporate my full ruling circulated in my name. Is leave granted?

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—BREACH OF SUB JUDICE RULE

On 25 February 2021, the Member for Capalaba wrote to me alleging that the Member for Oodgeroo breached Standing Order 233 concerning the sub judice rules when on 23 February 2021 he referred to a matter in the House currently subject to criminal proceedings.

The matter relates to a statement made by the Member for Oodgeroo during his adjournment debate speech.

I sought further information from the Member for Oodgeroo about the allegation made against him, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

The Member for Oodgeroo argues that his statement drew on historical, publically available information. The Member also contends in making the statement, he considered it important to put on record his and the broader community's condolences to the family and friends of those involved in the tragic incident.

It is important that I stress that simply because a matter is in the public domain, does not mean that members can repeat the information in the public domain in this House. It is also important to stress that I have no issue with those aspects of the Member's speech that were generally about the incident and condolences for the family and community expressed.

However, it was unnecessary and in breach of Standing Order 233 to go into the details of the incident that will be tested in criminal proceedings.

The sub judice rules applying in Queensland are very narrow compared to the historical rule and the rule as it applies in other States. It only applies to current criminal matters and a limited class of civil matters (where a jury is empanelled).

The Ethics Committee in its Report No. 118, stated that:

In Queensland, the sub judice rule is no longer simply a convention but it is expressed in Standing Orders in SO 233 and has the effect of law. Simply stated, the objective of the rule as set out in the Standing Order is that, subject to the right of the House to legislate on any matter, matters awaiting adjudication in a court of law should not be brought forward in debate, motions or questions.

In Report No. 118, the Ethics Committee also stated that the sub judice convention is underpinned by the principle of "comity", and that:

This principle is that of mutual respect and forbearance between the legislative and judicial branches, and it has been widely recognised by the courts as one of the foundations for the privileges (including the privilege of free speech) enjoyed by the House.

I am of the opinion that the Member by going into the detail of the incident and airing matters relating to a current criminal proceeding, clearly breached the rule.

I have considered the material put forward by the Member for Capalaba and the Member for Oodgeroo, and I am of the opinion that there was sufficient evidence presented to refer the matter to the Ethics Committee for its further consideration.

However, in his correspondence, the Member for Oodgeroo offered to make an apology in the House in relation to this matter and has since done so.

Accordingly, I consider the Member has made an adequate apology.

Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee

Given that the correspondence in relation to this matter canvasses matters that are sub judice, I will not be tabling the correspondence on this occasion.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

School Group Tours

 **Mr SPEAKER:** I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Woolloowin State School in the electorate of Clayfield, Redeemer Lutheran Primary School Biloela in the electorate of Callide, St Anthony's School Alexandra Hills in the electorate of Capalaba, and Acacia Ridge State School and Wisdom College in the electorate of Algeester.

PETITIONS

The Clerk presented the following paper petition, lodged by the honourable member indicated—

Coochiemudlo Island, Vehicles

Ms Richards, from 330 petitioners, requesting the House to legalise the use of golf cart type vehicles on public roads on Coochiemudlo Island [\[303\]](#).

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

Manly, Boardwalk

From 119 petitioners, requesting the House to upgrade the dilapidated walkway by constructing a boardwalk catering for walkers and cyclists from the Wynnum Manly Yacht Club to the end of Cambridge Parade, Manly [\[304\]](#).

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPER

TABLING OF DOCUMENT (SO 32)

REPORT BY THE CLERK

The following report was tabled by the Clerk—

[305](#) 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—

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020

Amendments made to Bill

Short title and consequential references to short title—

Omit—

'Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020'

Insert—

'Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2021'

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Coronavirus, Update; Coronavirus, Restrictions

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.33 am): We have five new cases of COVID. All are overseas acquired in hotel quarantine. There are now 41 active cases in Queensland—all in hospital—and in the past 24 hours we did 8,033 tests. There have been 13,989 frontline health and hotel quarantine workers vaccinated including 1,993 in the past 24 hours.

Mr Speaker, I have further good news for Queensland. Today I can announce that we are lifting restrictions further. As of 1 am Saturday we are lifting the numbers you can have in your home to 100 and the number of people who can gather outside together to 500. We are lifting restrictions on numbers in camping sites. We are even lifting the number of people who can be in a lift.

The number of guests you could have in your home was capped at 50; as of 1 am Saturday, that is now 100. The number of people who could gather outside together was 100; as of 1 am Saturday, it will be 500. Beachfront camp sites were limited to one person per two square metres; as of Saturday, there will be no limit under directions on the number of people allowed to stay at camp sites. That means Easter camping holidays with more friends, more business for our tourism operators and much more money in tourism towns.

Lifts were capped at four passengers; now we can have six. That makes holidays in beachfront high-rises a bit more enjoyable. It also means the return to workplaces and a greater number of workers in our CBD which is really important. That means more money for sandwich bars and coffee shops who have been missing their customers.

This is yet more evidence of our lives and economy returning to normal. Anzac Day is back to normal. We announced that a while ago. Weddings and funerals can be attended by greater numbers. This is not the case in every state. Once again I pay tribute to the cooperation and sacrifice of every Queenslanders. Our excellent health response is making our economic recovery that much faster and stronger.

Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.35 am): My government has made significant progress to prevent and respond to domestic, family and sexual violence in Queensland. Among other initiatives, we brought it out from behind closed doors; we delivered all 140 recommendations of the *Not now, not ever* report; we committed more than half a billion dollars to tackling the insidious issue; we criminalised revenge porn; we trialled specialist police sexual assault teams; and yesterday we announced that we would examine if consent and reporting of sexual assaults are being adequately taught in schools.

We know that there is always more work to be done. That is why we are now leading the nation in action against coercive control. No Australian jurisdiction has legislated against coercive control, and there have only been a handful of jurisdictions in the world to have done so. Last month the Attorney-General and I announced an independent task force to be chaired by the Hon. Margaret McMurdo AC, to examine how best to legislate against coercive control in Queensland.

Today I can announce that we are taking that even further. I am absolutely proud to announce in this House the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce will also examine the experiences of women across the entire criminal justice system—as victims, as survivors and as the accused. We know that this experience is different for women than it is for men. We also know that women and girls are disproportionately affected as victims of sexual assault, but it remains one of the most underreported types of crimes. Only a small proportion of reported cases are prosecuted in court and achieve a conviction.

Women also face a range of barriers when they seek help and that can draw out the legal process, adding to their trauma. With one in five Queensland women having experienced sexual violence since the age of 15 and one in four women having experienced violence at the hands of their partner, we want to make sure these crimes are being reported and justice is being done. Some of the areas the task force will examine further are: barriers contributing to the low reporting of sexual offences; the high attrition rate for those who do report through formal legal processes; whether a standalone domestic violence offence is required; the need for attitudinal and cultural change; and adequate training for our first responders.

I would also like to pay tribute to the work that the Attorney-General has done in bringing this important issue to cabinet and to our government for consideration. I have asked the task force to provide its recommendations on how to best legislate against coercive control by October this year and, by March next year, to deliver recommendations to my government on how to best improve women's experience in the criminal justice system.

Rookwood Weir

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.38 am): The Rookwood Weir is one of the most significant projects in my government's comprehensive plans for water security.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Well, just wait. You will hear a bit about the size. The weir will greatly improve the availability of water in Central Queensland. Together with the Commonwealth, we have each committed \$176.1 million. The project has already created over 100 regional jobs, and the construction phase, which has started, is expected to provide a further 200 jobs.

Today I have important news: we will build the weir higher to deliver more water. I am delighted to announce that we will increase the weir's height by 0.7 of a metre, 700 millimetres, delivering another 10,000 megalitres. This additional 10,000 megalitres means that Rookwood will be able to deliver 86,000 megalitres to water users. This has been a jointly funded project. I am pleased to say that the federal government will contribute equally to the extra \$15 million investment for the higher wall. So there you go—that is some good news about governments working together. The region's agricultural—

An opposition member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: This is very important. I thought those opposite would be interested in water security. The region's agricultural producers have indicated they are keen to purchase water from Rookwood. That means producers have expansion plans along the Fitzroy River, which means more jobs and benefits for the local economy. Weather permitting, the weir is on schedule for mid-2023.

Tourism Industry, Cairns Holiday Dollars

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.40 am): As of this morning 104,552 Queenslanders have entered the ballot to win one of the 15,000 vouchers for tourism experiences in the Far North. I can confirm that Queenslanders have less than three hours to enter the draw. The last entry will be accepted at midday today. We will draw the 15,000 lucky Queenslanders on Friday and winners will be advised on Monday.

Throughout this state tourism operators have done it tough over the last year, and with JobKeeper ending this morning we know that communities like Cairns, the Whitsundays and the Gold Coast will be hit the hardest. The initiative will not make up for JobKeeper, but it will help. The Cairns Holiday Dollars initiative will put around \$14 million back into the pockets of tourism operators in the Far North, and there is plenty more where that came from. We are delivering more than three-quarters of a billion dollars to support tourism operators across Queensland. It is thanks to the way Queenslanders have responded to the pandemic that we are able to focus on rebuilding our economy.

After many weeks of lobbying by my government I would like to welcome the new support for the aviation and tourism sectors announced by the federal government. It is good, but unfortunately it is not good enough. Much more direct support is still needed for the many tourism operators impacted by the end of JobKeeper at the end of this month. Today I am calling on the federal government to provide subsidised flights from Brisbane to Cairns to help further stimulate tourism demand in Far North Queensland. With JobKeeper coming to an end we know that many workers will fall through the cracks, forced to rely on Centrelink and fighting their way back into the workforce. We will continue to do everything we can to support our tourism operators through what will be an extremely tough time this month.

Public Monuments, Women

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.42 am): While we are still celebrating Queensland Women's Week I would like to give a shout-out to a young girl. On a visit to the Sherwood Arboretum, nine-year-old Malia Knox asked her mother Kelly why all the plaques at the central promenade were for men. Malia could then only find three statues of women in Brisbane. That started her #femalefaces4publicspaces campaign to get stronger representation of women on public statues, pictures and plaques and led a petition that attracted 800 signatures. She also met with the Attorney-General, Shannon Fentiman, to see if something more could be done. I want to thank the Attorney-General for raising this with me and Malia, especially for your very strong advocacy.

Last week I amended the Queensland government framework for considering proposals to establish memorials and monuments of significance to ensure submissions for proposed monuments or memorials on state government land will need to include a response advising consideration of inclusion and diversity. Well done, Malia.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Mr Bleijie: When is your statue going up?

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, I am not sure if that was a compliment or not, but you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We will make an ice statue of the member for Kawana and watch it melt away.

Queenslanders, Recognition

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.43 am): There is a reason Queenslanders walk that little bit taller, our smiles are wider and our chests are pumped up with just a little bit of extra pride: it is because of the State of Origin and our mighty Queensland Maroons. Yesterday one of our mightiest, the great Queensland captain Cam Smith, announced that we have seen him play his last game. Cam played 19 seasons and 430 NRL games. There were eight Grand Finals, 56 tests and 42 Origins—21 as captain—winning 11 series for his home state. He holds the record for the most points scored in the NRL: 2,786. Fourteen of them were in last year's Grand Final. That is not bad for a kid who first ran out as one of the Logan Brothers' juniors. Unfortunately, fans will have to travel to Melbourne to see a statue erected in Cameron's honour as well as his teammate, Billy Slater. It would be a shame if Queensland did not honour one of our greatest in our own way.

On the subject of greats, allow me to pay tribute to four more. Hetty Johnston has fought tirelessly to protect children. She founded Bravehearts and she gave voice to the voiceless. Somehow, I think that standing down from official duties will not mean we have heard the last from Hetty.

At the age of 71 the Gold Coast's chief lifeguard, Warren Young, also announced his retirement. Warren more or less invented the modern lifeguard. He personally kept our beaches safe for an incredible 48 years and has provided the blueprint that will keep them safe for generations to come.

Gavin Turner and John McGee are pilots in the Government Air Wing. Gaven has been in the captain's seat for 37 years and John for 13½ years. The Government Air Wing's first job is organ transfer. It is a big state. The pilots can be called upon at any time and in almost any weather to fly these mercy missions. They also fly after monsoons and cyclones. They do a tremendous job. I have always felt safe in the aircraft when Gaven and John are there. I want to wish them all the very best on their retirement and thank them for their service and duty. I know that when they do organ retrievals they love hearing that it has gone well and a life has been saved. There is a reason Queenslanders walk that little bit taller, and that is because of Queenslanders like these.

Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) (9.46 am): Queensland's economic recovery plan is already recreating jobs in our traditional industries and supporting new industries. In places like Townsville that means fast-tracking vital infrastructure projects, sustaining the construction industry and providing for future growth. Queensland's culture of innovation and collaboration between government, universities and industry gives investors a global advantage to meet the demands of a growing global economy.

Today I want to update the House about a very important project: the Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct. This will be Australia's first environmentally sustainable advanced manufacturing, processing and technology hub. The Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct is an exciting milestone for a new age in industry, with North Queensland poised to take advantage. With the support of the members for Townsville, Thuringowa and Mundingburra—our Townsville state MPs—and the Townsville mayor, the Lansdown project is the No. 1 project we want funded with the \$195 million committed to the Townsville City Deal. I want to thank the Townsville City Council, the mayor, Townsville Enterprise and the *Townsville Bulletin* for their support of the project and in particular for organising the forum that we all attended last week. It was very well attended across all sectors of the Townsville community.

Last year the state government approved zoning amendments for the precinct to enable new and emerging industries such as renewable hydrogen to easily access the Port of Townsville and tap into Asia Pacific markets. A significant portion of the precinct has already been committed to advanced battery manufacturing, clean energy and battery minerals processing. One business that has signed on is Imperium 3 with its \$3 billion lithium ion battery gigafactory. The Palaszczuk government approved Imperium 3's feasibility study for this project, which calculated it would support around 1,150 direct jobs when at full capacity.

Two other companies signed up to the precinct are Pure Minerals and Edify Energy. Pure Minerals plans to produce battery-grade nickel and cobalt sulphate from nickel cobalt ore. It will also produce high-purity alumina which is a by-product of the process. Edify Energy plans to build a renewable hydrogen electrolyser pilot plant. This will provide hydrogen to other industry parties at the precinct and further reduce their carbon footprint.

We live in a time of transformation where both our energy and industrial systems—the foundations of our economy—are undergoing profound change on a global scale. North Queensland will play an important strategic role in this transformation, not just in Australia but globally, and the Lansdown eco precinct is key to unlocking that potential and the jobs that will come with it.

Tourism Industry, Support

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (9.49 am): For the last month, Queensland's hardworking tourism operators have had to live in fear—live in fear at what was going to happen when JobKeeper was taken away by the Morrison government. The federal Treasurer, Josh Frydenberg, went to Cairns this week but gave them nothing, forcing them to wait even longer while he did a fundraiser in Brisbane. We welcome the fact that the Prime Minister has finally made his announcement. It was not the wage subsidy that industry had been calling for, instead we got half-price tickets. Our government welcomes any support for tourism, and we welcome support for international operations of our airlines; however, the fact is that these half-priced tickets are simply half-baked.

The biggest problem of all is that Queenslanders are prohibited from holidaying in their own state under this half-baked, half-price ticket scheme. People from Brisbane, Logan, Gold Coast and Caboolture want to support Queensland. They want to travel to Cairns. They want to travel to the Whitsundays. They want to travel all over this state. It is a simple question: why can't they access this scheme? Why do Queenslanders have to travel to Launceston and Merimbula to participate in the scheme? Even if you wanted to go to Merimbula, it is still a mess. If you are a Queenslanders who plans to go to Merimbula through this scheme, you have to drive to the Gold Coast, catch a flight to Avalon near Geelong, hire a car, drive another hour from Avalon to Tullamarine and then catch another flight to Merimbula—by which time it is time to go home.

Why are so many Queensland destinations missing for interstate travellers? Why aren't people from Sydney and Melbourne supported to travel to Townsville? Why aren't they supported to travel to Rockhampton? Why aren't Queenslanders supported to travel to Hervey Bay, to Gladstone and to the great regional city of Bundaberg? There is nothing for Mount Isa, nothing for Toowoomba. The tickets to the 'Mackay region' do not actually include Mackay Airport. Sadly, it seems the federal government do not have a list of airports in Queensland. If they had only asked we could have given them the list, but of course there was no consultation.

The Palaszczuk government has listened to Queensland tourism operators. We know that what is needed is a dedicated focus on supporting those businesses in regional Queensland that have been hit hard by the international border closures—which were imposed by the Morrison government and which the Premier has said we support—through no fault of their own. That is why we developed a scheme for Queenslanders to support Queensland.

I am sure it is purely coincidental that the federal government is supporting destinations in marginal seats. Launceston is in Bass, with a margin of 0.41 per cent. Braddon in Tasmania has a margin of three per cent and gets two supported destinations—Burnie and Devonport. Merimbula in Eden-Monaro has a margin 0.85 per cent. Let us not forget that amazing holiday destination of Kangaroo Island in the seat of Mayo. The Liberal Party will never give up on the Downer family's ancestral seat. They are very lucky down there in South Australia, because that is the only state in Australia where you get a subsidised intrastate flight. That is the only place in Australia where people can travel within their own state under this scheme.

This is a serious matter, and the livelihoods of tens of thousands of Queenslanders are at stake. They deserved better from the Morrison government, but once again Scott Morrison has missed the mark for Queensland.

School Infrastructure

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.53 am): Queenslanders re-elected the Palaszczuk Labor government to keep delivering our plan for economic recovery. That means keeping Queenslanders healthy, delivering infrastructure and supporting jobs. In my portfolio, that means investing in world-class education and racing infrastructure, creating a pipeline of jobs for Queensland's tradies and apprentices.

Work is underway on a more than \$227 million program to expand and build on some of our newest schools in high-growth areas, supporting 700 jobs across the south-east corner and in Central Queensland. Last year this government opened eight new state schools for the start of the 2020 school

their patients to call upon their GP when seeking medical care for minor conditions including coughs and colds rather than heading to the hospital. Too often we are finding that people are turning to their local emergency department for medical care that could be provided by our excellent local general practitioners.

I also remind Queenslanders that they can call 13HEALTH to provide advice as to whether they should present at a hospital or their GP. In addition, in response to the increased demand for acute services, a further \$25 million has been approved for measures to help reduce the impact on emergency departments. This includes additional bed capacity in the private sector.

As at 9.30 this morning, I am advised that Cairns Hospital is the only hospital with a code yellow due to bed capacity. Our hospitals and hospital staff will continue to work hard to provide the best health care for the people of Queensland.

Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.00 am): We know Queensland women face barriers when reporting violence committed against them. From the time they report, and throughout their journey within the criminal justice system, we know that this process is often full of additional barriers and processes that add to their trauma. Like so many Queensland women, like so many Australian woman, I am angry, disappointed and frustrated with some of the events of the last month and about a system that still is not supporting women. It is clear to us just how far we still have to go. Enough is enough.

I am proud to be part of a government that has led the nation in tackling violence against women. I am so pleased that the Premier has today announced a wideranging review into the experience of women across the criminal justice system to be undertaken by the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce, led by Hon. Margaret McMurdo. The first part of this work will look at criminalising coercive control. We will look not only at how we legislate against coercive control but also how we train our first responders to recognise and respond to this type of controlling behaviour. It is about gearing the system to intervene earlier to save women's lives.

The Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce will look into possible future areas of reform, including attitudinal change, prevention, service responses and, where necessary, legislative amendment. Each member of this task force has in-depth knowledge of women's experience across the criminal justice system and will be able to deal with the complexity of these issues from all perspectives. The members of the task force are: Tracy Linford APM, Deputy Commissioner, Queensland Police Service; Laura Reece, barrister-at-law; Di MacLeod, Deputy Director, Queensland Sexual Assault Network; Gillian O'Brien, manager of WWILD; Thelma Schwartz, Principal Legal Officer, Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Legal Service; Patrick O'Leary, Professor, Griffith University; Kelly-Ann Tansley, Manager, Brisbane Domestic Violence Service; Dr Nora Amath, Islamic Women's Association of Australia; Philip McCarthy QC, Acting Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions; and Alexis Oxley, solicitor.

I would like to acknowledge the work of the countless brave survivors who have used their voice to call for change. I speak of people like Hannah Clarke's parents, Sue and Lloyd, who have used their heartbreaking tragedy to educate all Queenslanders on the dangerous behaviours of coercive control; Grace Tame, our incredibly brave Australian of the Year, who is using her platform to discuss issues of child abuse with such passion and poise; and all of the countless others who also continue to fight for change. I say: we hear you, and we believe you.

I look forward to receiving the first report on coercive control in October and the full report in March next year.

Tourism Industry, Support

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism Industry Development and Innovation and Minister for Sport) (10.04 am): For weeks the anticipation has been growing among Queensland's tourism industry operators about continued federal government support after the 28 March cut to JobKeeper. After many, many weeks of lobbying by the Palaszczuk government and many others across the whole of the sector, today the federal government announced its \$1.2 billion package aimed at encouraging more Australians to spend up on domestic holidays. I welcome the Australian government's funding package for the tourism industry, but there is room for refinement.

The assistance provided to Australia's international airlines is effectively a form of JobKeeper, supporting some 8,600 jobs. As the Treasurer said this morning, this is certainly good news for the airlines but not so much for, say, the operator of a reef tour boat, who faces the same challenges due to the closure of international borders. It is the type of assistance we wanted to see extended to operators on the ground, who are being offered some help with low or no interest loans—that is, if they are able to take on more debt.

Half-price fares will get passengers back into the air in their thousands. We expect to see half-price fares to Tropical North Queensland from Melbourne, Sydney and Darwin. There are some more cheap fares to the Gold Coast from the southern capitals as well. As Daniel Gschwind from the Queensland Tourism Industry Council has pointed out, Queensland has done well for inbound subsidised flights. Unfortunately, intrastate travel is not included; there are no half-price flights from, say, Brisbane to Cairns, which is of course further than Brisbane to Melbourne and would play a significant role if that were able to be put in place. We are hopeful that half-price inbound flights to select Queensland destinations will boost interstate tourism numbers, and this will combine very well with our further stage of our Good to Go campaign. We will continue to lobby the federal government for further assistance for tourism to help our industry and to help it rebuild better.

Hydrogen Industry

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement) (10.06 am): Queenslanders re-elected the Palaszczuk government to keep delivering our plan for economic recovery. Thanks to the Palaszczuk government, Queensland is the place to be for hydrogen development, and last night the world got to see why.

Alongside colleagues from Portugal, Denmark, the UK and Canada, Queensland showcased its capacity to produce renewable hydrogen at export scale during the virtual World Hydrogen Summit. The summit showed that the global conversation around renewable hydrogen as an energy carrier has very much shifted from 'why' to now 'how' and 'when'. Queensland is already a renewable superpower and is ready to leverage our traditional strengths in the resources sector. We are ready to leverage our abundance of sunshine, with solar now generating more than 5,000 megawatts in Queensland. We are ready to leverage our existing infrastructure, including our gas pipelines and, of course, our publicly owned ports, publicly owned generation and transmission network. We are leveraging a network with value approaching \$100 billion so that we can take renewable hydrogen to the world.

The Palaszczuk government has topped this up recently with \$60 million to help local businesses and workers tap into the growing global demand and to create jobs for Queenslanders. I welcome the Premier's announcement of a further \$10 million for a second round of the Hydrogen Industry Development Fund. One only needs to look at what is happening in Central Queensland, in Townsville or in the Redlands to see the possibilities and the potential.

Today, we take another step forward. Today, I can announce that our government has established a Hydrogen Taskforce. The task force will propel Australia further into the lead as a hydrogen superpower, with Queensland at the helm. Chairing this task force is the highly regarded Professor Peta Ashworth OAM, Chair of the Sustainable Energy Futures at the University of Queensland. Joining Professor Ashworth will be industry leaders in water, energy, planning and the transport sector, and some of the most highly regarded public servants in the nation from Trade & Investment Queensland, the Coordinator-General and the Department of Energy and Public Works. We are also fortunate to have secured the continued guidance of Professor Ian Mackinnon from QUT's School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. Professor Mackinnon was appointed strategic hydrogen advisor by our government in 2019 and will play a pivotal role on the task force.

Whilst this impressive team has a big task, they are getting to work immediately by partnering with industry across the supply chain to help accelerate the growth of the sector here in Queensland. Queensland will spearhead Australia's effort to be a world leader in renewable hydrogen. In fact, Queensland will assist entire nations to decarbonise. We will of course deliver our state a reliable, modern electricity network, and that creates the perfect platform for more Queensland jobs.

Path to Treaty

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (10.09 am): I rise to update the House on the Palaszczuk government's work to progress our state's journey on the path to treaty. We know

that Queenslanders re-elected the Palaszczuk government to deliver our plan for economic recovery, and to keep Queenslanders safe and healthy. For me, this includes ensuring that the two oldest living cultures in our nation also have access to health and wellbeing and can participate in the economy to realise their aspirations for a promising future.

As many in this House would remember, the report of the treaty working group on Queensland's path to treaty, and the report of the treaty Eminent Panel were tabled in parliament on 13 August 2020. The Palaszczuk government confirmed its commitment to progressing a path to treaty and publicly released its response to the Eminent Panel and treaty working group advice and recommendations.

On Saturday, 13 February I was joined by Sandi Taylor in Cairns to announce the next stage of this journey, including the appointment of the Queensland Treaty Advancement Committee. Sandi is a proud Aboriginal woman who lives in my electorate of Barron River. She was also a member of the treaty working group. She travelled through this state to gauge the views of Queenslanders—Indigenous and non-Indigenous—about whether we are ready to talk treaty and about whether we are ready to face the full history of our state. It is a story that is more than 60,000 years old and is steeped in ancient culture that all Queenslanders should be proud of—to truly reconcile our past with our present in order for us to share our future together. More than 1,000 Queenslanders told us that they are ready to have this important discussion and to walk this path together.

As the next critical step on the path to treaty, the Palaszczuk Labor government has appointed the Treaty Advancement Committee. Co-chairs Dr Jackie Huggins AM and Mr Mick Gooda are joined by committee members Emeritus Professor Michael Lavarch AO, Dr Josephine Bourne and Ms Sallyanne Atkinson AO. I particularly acknowledge Dr Huggins and Mr Gooda, both of whom are well known for their commitment to and advocacy for the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people over many years. The committee held its first meeting this week and will play a vital role in continuing the momentum of our path to treaty process. They will develop options and provide independent advice on how to progress treaty making and truth telling for all Queenslanders.

In 2019, Queensland began a journey focused on reframing the relationship between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the non-Indigenous community. We launched the path to treaty and have committed to developing a treaty-making process. We have also committed to a truth telling and healing process. Truth telling will allow us to come together, to listen to each other's experiences, and to understand what this has meant for us personally and as a community. We should not underestimate how important the truth telling part of this journey will be in healing the wounds that have accrued over 250 years of recent history. This has crystallised for me in the last couple of weeks. On 12 February I had the privilege of speaking at the Link-Up (Qld) commemoration of the 13th anniversary of the National Apology to the Stolen Generations here in Brisbane.

Alongside member for Griffith Terri Butler MP, I heard the heartbreaking stories of Auntie Lorraine Peeters and Uncle Robert West, who were stolen from their families and their country—stories that we would just find extraordinary if we did not hear it from their own mouths. The reality is that the wounds of the past are yet to heal. Children who were stolen were stripped of their connection to family, land, culture and language. Taken to homes and institutions, many suffered abuse and neglect. There can be no greater suffering for a parent than the loss of a child.

Last month I spent a day at the Cherbourg Aboriginal community, where I was given a tour of the Ration Shed Museum by Uncle Eric Law. Standing in the boys dormitory, I could literally feel the spirit of those children who had been removed there. Many of those children removed have gone on to become mothers and fathers, raising their own families while grappling with the lasting impacts of forced removal and the ongoing fear of losing their children through contemporary policy arrangements. I want to acknowledge the strength those parents have shown as they do their best to support their children, despite having their own childhood taken from them. I recommend everyone in this House take the time to visit the ration shed at Cherbourg and learn about the history of the Cherbourg mission and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who were sent there.

Truth telling will help all of us to reconcile and address the past, and it will help us—new and old Queenslanders—to shape our state's future together, but this involves being open and honest about the injustices that have been endured by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It will involve recognising the rightful place of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Queenslanders as crucial to the fabric and identity of our community and as a key part of our collective story. Taking this path together will help us all understand why treaty is so important. It is important for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It is also important for all Queenslanders and the future of our state.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

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

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 23 March 2021.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

REPORT

Office of the Leader of the Opposition

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.15 am): I lay upon the table of the House the public report of office expenses for the Office of the Leader of the Opposition for the period 1 July 2020 to 12 November 2020.

Tabled paper: Public Report of Office Expenses Office of the Leader of the Opposition for the period 01/07/2020 to 12/11/2020 [307].

I lay upon the table of the House the public report of office of expenses for the Office of the Leader of the Opposition for the period 12 November to 31 December 2020.

Tabled paper: Public Report of Office Expenses Office of the Leader of the Opposition for the period 12/11/2020 to 31/12/2020 [306].

PRIVILEGE

Speaker's Ruling, Referral to Ethics Committee

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have been advised by the Registrar of Interests that a complaint by the Deputy Premier about the member for Whitsunday's registration of interest was received in accordance with schedule 2, section 14 of the *Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly*. A complaint in accordance with this section is required to be forwarded to the Ethics Committee by the registrar, that is, the Clerk of the Parliament. Given the current sitting schedule and the risk that this matter may be raised in the House, it is appropriate that the House be formally advised. I draw to the attention of members that standing order 271 now applies.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will conclude today at 11.16 am.

Housing Affordability

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (10.16 am): My question is to the Minister for Housing. As defined by government housing policy, is buying a house affordable for the average Queenslanders?

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! Taking advice from the table is not an excuse for the House to be disorderly.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe that question was asking for an opinion and should be ruled out of order.

Mr SPEAKER: No. My understanding, Leader of the House, is that there is a policy which relates to the affordability of housing across government. I will allow the minister to answer the question with some latitude, but I certainly will allow the question asked by the Leader of the Opposition.

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question and I thank you, Mr Speaker, for your clarification. I think everybody in this House and across the state understands the unprecedented wave we are seeing in terms of people wanting to stay and live in Queensland. Because of our incredible outcomes with regard to our economic recovery plan, Queensland is the place to be. We are seeing that in pressures with regard to the market.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, you will direct your comments through the chair or you will be warned under the standing orders.

Ms ENOCH: What we are seeing and hearing from real estate agents across the state is that there has been an increase in the number of 'sight unseen' purchases from people, particularly from interstate. We are also seeing the rental market feeling the pressure of that. Recently I was in Rockhampton with the members for Rockhampton and Keppel. We heard firsthand from those in the sector that there had been claims of offers of 52 weeks rent in advance from those coming from southern states. We know that there are incredible pressures on the market.

During COVID people have stayed still. They have not moved around as much as they have in the past, and that has put unprecedented pressures on the rental market and the market more broadly. That is why our investment through our Queensland Housing Strategy worth \$1.6 billion is more important than ever. The building of more than 5,500 social and affordable homes is more important than ever.

We started that work three years ago and we are already exceeding our targets in terms of commencements. However, under the LNP—and we have to be very clear about this—we saw a drop-off in commencements, with only about 79 commencements across the state in 2013-14. That left this state behind and in order to increase social and affordable housing in the market we had to start building again. That is why our Housing Strategy released by the former minister was so important in terms of ensuring that we are continuing that work to meet the market.

There is more work to be done, and the federal government needs to step into this space as well. It is about to oversee the National Rental Affordability Scheme drop off the cliff in the next few years given that it has decided to move away from that funding. There is also underfunding with regard to the national agreements on housing and homelessness. Those things are all having an impact, but the Queensland government continues to be committed to this.

(Time expired)

Housing Affordability

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Premier. As defined by government housing policy, where in Queensland is buying or renting a house affordable for a Queenslanders on an average wage?

Ms PALASZCZUK: As the Minister for Housing was saying very clearly, we are seeing unprecedented demand across the state which is causing pressure for a lot of families.

Mr Crisafulli: Poor planning.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Do not worry. If you just want to be a bit respectful, we will get to it. The context is that many people from Sydney and Melbourne are purchasing properties sight unseen.

Ms Enoch interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. We welcome people coming to Queensland, but that is creating added pressure. I have been speaking to people in the industry and they have told me that they would like to see more land released, and that is what we are doing. It just cannot happen overnight.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Government members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, that is right. That is what we are talking to the industry about because we are seeing unprecedented demand. The good thing about people moving from interstate is that the majority of them are going into regional Queensland, and we need to ensure that we continue our pipeline of construction of social housing as well. This has not been helped by the federal government axing—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! Order!

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is why we have a pipeline of works that are happening to increase social housing. There are currently 73,000 social homes in Queensland and that has increased by more than 1,800 since 2015-16. However, the federal government is axing money to Indigenous communities at a time when we need—

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I rise on relevance under standing order 118(b). The question was with respect to where in Queensland is it affordable for an average Queensland family to buy a house pursuant to the government's own housing policy, not what the

Premier is speaking about. I note that the minister before had latitude in terms of where she went, but the Premier was asked very specifically as to where, according to her own policy, it is affordable for average Queenslanders to buy a house.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, as I heard the question that was asked, it was basically a similar question that was asked of the Minister for Housing as was asked to the Premier. Given that the Minister for Housing had latitude to answer that question, I will be affording the Premier similar latitude. I thought that needed not be said, but now that you have raised the point of order it is now being said. Equally though, I would like the Premier to ensure that she is relevant to the housing policy and address the question as best she can.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We are opening new schools in new estates such as Yarrabilba in the seat of the member for Logan. In Coomera we are seeing new schools and housing developments. In Caloundra—I have been there just recently—we are building an extra school to cater for the growth that is happening there. There is a mixture of housing being built. I have been out to many of these developments and there are a range of options for people. Likewise, under our unite and recover plan for Queensland jobs, we are adding a further \$100 million for an accelerated social housing construction program with Works for Tradies.

The opposition should take a long, hard look at itself because when it comes to social housing we know exactly what it did when it was in office. It axed—

(Time expired)

Works for Queensland

Mr SAUNDERS: My question is of the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier update the House on the latest Works for Queensland funding for regional areas, including my superb electorate of Maryborough?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Maryborough for the question. We know that Works for Queensland is a great initiative of our government. It is getting people into jobs. Just like our tradies program is building houses, our Works for Queensland is ensuring that people are in jobs in regional communities across our state, and this is one of our most successful programs.

Today we are announcing funding allocations for the next \$200 million round for our enormously successful Works for Queensland. The member for Maryborough knows how great this program is in his local electorate, with the water play area and the all-abilities playground in Maryborough's Anzac Park. There is also a reliable power supply for the water treatment plant and the Maryborough Heritage Centre roof replacement, just to name a few.

Whilst I am on my feet I thank the members for the Wide Bay region. The member for Maryborough, the member for Bundaberg and the member for Hervey Bay came to see me yesterday along with the two mayors, George Seymour and Jack Dempsey. It is wonderful to see that strong representation for that region as demonstrated by those people working together to talk about the interests of that region. Isn't it disappointing that in the federal government's announcement today there were no flights to Hervey Bay? Fraser Island has recently been impacted by that dreadful fire. There is the whale season. Why did Hervey Bay miss out? Why did Maryborough miss out? Why did Bundaberg miss out? Why?

What does the Prime Minister have against Queensland? There are all of these great tourism opportunities across our state, but unfortunately the Prime Minister does not think that they warrant as a destination choice for people in this state. Why can Queenslanders not go and support these regions as well? Why can they not get a subsidy to visit these regions? That is what I want to know. What did the opposition do? Did it discount these other regions across Queensland? Townsville is not included. Hervey Bay is not included. Bundaberg is not included. It is very disappointing.

Councils love our Works for Queensland program because it means local jobs in local communities. It is a proud program and we are going to continue to roll that out. Across the state we have seen money into roads and pathways, water parks, playgrounds, swimming pools, bike paths, netball courts, tennis courts, bus shelters, school crossings, drop-off zones, solar panels on council assets and airport upgrades. We on this side of the House work; those on the other side of the House whinge.

Domestic and Family Violence, Housing

Ms CAMM: My question is to the Minister for Housing. How many months on average do victims fleeing domestic violence have to wait for government provided social housing so that they can get out of harm's way?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. There are certain priorities when it comes to those who are seeking assistance from the government and from our housing service centre and that includes those who are escaping domestic and family violence. The same day that they come through a housing service centre there is a team of people who work very hard with those individuals and those families to meet their needs and to house them immediately.

Ms Camm interjected.

Mr Powell: How long?

Ms ENOCH: The investment that this government has been making under the *Not now, not ever* report—

Ms Grace: Same day.

Ms ENOCH: It is a same day response to ensure that those people are able to have a safe place—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left, the minister is being responsive to the question as I hear it. I will listen to the answer.

Ms ENOCH: A safe place to stay.

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Glass House is warned under the standing orders. I just called the House to order and you went on to interject.

Ms ENOCH: But, of course, there are a number of other challenges for those who are escaping domestic and family violence. A safe place to be able to sleep at night and to call home is one, but there are a number of other services that the housing service centre calls on so that there is only one door—No Wrong Door—and that those people are able to be supported by other government agencies, including my department, which is the department of communities and housing, where there are other services that are wrapped around those individuals to support them in their time of need. We take this very seriously. That is why the housing service centre staff work vigilantly and incredibly hard to ensure that those who need that help are supported.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I rise on two issues. One is standing order 118(b) and, secondly, where your previous rulings in the past have requested very direct questions, which we have asked. This question was about the number of months a person fleeing domestic violence has to wait on the public housing waiting list.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order, member for Kawana.

Mr BLEIJIE: The minister is not answering the question.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, there is no point of order. I have listened to the response from the minister. The minister has used the term 'same day response' on several occasions.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr SPEAKER: Please resume your seat. I am still giving my ruling. If there is a difference of opinion regarding the adequacy of the minister's response that is another question altogether. However, there is no point of order as you have raised it.

Works for Queensland

Mr HARPER: My question is to the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on the success of the Works for Queensland program, including in the great city of Townsville, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Thuringowa for his question. It is an excellent question. As we just heard from the Premier, the Palaszczuk government is very proud of our Works for Queensland program which has been a huge success. It is a key part of our economic recovery plan, creating jobs and infrastructure, delivering infrastructure right across the state, working really closely with our councils. At the election we committed that there would be another round of Works for Queensland and

today we are opening round 4 of that very successful program which will deliver another \$200 million boost to regional communities right across the state—65 local government areas in regional Queensland.

The Works for Queensland program has already created 21,000 jobs, whether that is the new netball courts and turfied footy fields at the Fraser Coast sporting centre, that I know the members for Maryborough and Hervey Bay are big supporters of, or the upgrades to Charles Moroney Park and Heatley Park in Townsville, and I know our Townsville members are big supporters of those, or the cycling and walking tracks near Lake Moondarra in Mount Isa.

In fact, in every corner of our state there are jobs being created and projects being delivered thanks to the Works for Queensland program and this next round will see even more. As I travel around the state and see these projects, I see just what an incredible difference they are making, as well as hear the feedback from local communities who are getting new and upgraded infrastructure from councils who have had these projects on their books looking for funding, excited to be able to deliver them, and feedback from tradies who are in work thanks to the funding of these projects and the support of local government.

I know the member for Thuringowa is a huge fan of the program because he told me yesterday that Works for Queensland is the best example of the Palaszczuk government and Townsville City Council working together to create jobs. I agree with the member for Thuringowa. In fact, I have not seen him that excited since we announced funding for Riverway Drive. The member for Maryborough asked the Premier about this program just now. When I asked him what he thought of Works for Queensland he said to me that it was the best thing any government has ever done. He said this is a gold-class Palaszczuk government policy. I have not seen the member for Maryborough that excited since we announced we would build trains in Maryborough. The Works for Queensland program is incredibly successful and is creating jobs right across the state. I urge all members to work with their local councils and get behind this program.

Housing Affordability

Ms SIMPSON: My question is to the Premier. Despite population growth, fewer lots for new homes were released to the market in the decade 2010 to 2020 than there were in the decade before. Does the Premier accept responsibility for this supply shortage that is pushing up prices for new homes?

Ms PALASZCZUK: These housing pressures are a national issue. It is not just happening in Queensland. Our First Home Owners' Grant is getting young people into homes. One only has to look at the new developments around our state, where they are building the new schools and also building hospitals or health services, to see that there are opportunities out there for people. We can go through them: Coomera, Yarrabilba and Baringa. Where the new schools are being built is where the population growth is expanding. It is where people are moving into more affordable homes out of the inner cities. It is absolutely basic. I am glad the member for Maroochydore said over 10 years because it puts on the public record very clearly that those opposite did nothing when they were in office. They cut the tenants' authority.

Mr Boothman interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Theodore!

Ms PALASZCZUK: They increased rents for those in social housing. The member for Everton—or was it the former member for Moggill; I cannot remember which one it was—told those people in social housing to share.

Ms Grace: Kicked them out!

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right, kicked them out. They wanted people to share with complete strangers.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Those opposite do not like it. The member for Maroochydore said over 10 years. That is where the trouble started. Those opposite had the great policy where you could not go away from your social housing for more than four weeks or they would take the house off you. That is how those opposite treated people in social housing. Disgraceful and disgusting!

Mr Boothman interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Theodore!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Those opposite have no heart when it comes to dealing with these issues. I am proud of the community I represent. People find it difficult to make ends meet. They are good, hardworking people and they never deserved to be attacked the way in which those opposite attacked those most vulnerable in our community.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition!

Ms PALASZCZUK: I urge the Leader of the Opposition to go out to Baringa and see our brand new school. Go out to the member for Logan's electorate and see the construction happening there. Go to Coomera. He might want to visit one of his own. You never know. I do not know whose side they are on at the moment. He will see clearly our plans to make sure we care for these growing communities.

Mr Boothman interjected.

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

Coronavirus, Economy

Mr SKELTON: My question is of the Treasurer and Minister for Investment. Will the Treasurer update the House on the importance of prioritising Queensland's economic recovery and are there any alternative approaches?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Nicklin for his question. I congratulate him on his election to the House and acknowledge the great work that he is doing on the Sunshine Coast, which is a growing part of Queensland that we are backing in through a priority development area at Aura meaning more housing for the people of the Sunshine Coast. I have a surprise for the member for Nicklin. I have a great answer for him: happy birthday! The answer is coming.

The greatest singular challenge that Queensland is facing is our economic recovery from COVID-19. That is why our government is entirely focused on our economic recovery plan, Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs. It is why we are focused on advanced manufacturing, attracting and retaining private sector investment, skills for the future, growing our regions and backing in the housing market. Dwelling approvals are up by 18½ per cent, which is the strongest rate on the east coast. It is better than New South Wales and better than Victoria. People are flooding here and the houses are being built thanks to the investment we are making through our First Home Owners' Grant and our regional boost. That is making a difference and it means we are leading the nation in providing supply to put downward pressure on the price of housing and rental costs.

The economy is the most important issue facing Queensland but what have we heard from the opposition? We have not had one question! I had high hopes in recent weeks when I heard the member for Broadwater say that he was going to apply the blowtorch on the economy. We have had two weeks of parliament so far this year and we have not had one question to the Treasurer on the economy. They have asked about five-year-old emails and the whole box and dice, but nothing that matters to Queenslanders. We have had nothing on jobs, nothing on education and nothing on health care.

Last week in Cairns we heard the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Buderim talking tough about holding the Morrison government to account on JobKeeper. Let us get real: the Leader of the Opposition was never going to hold Scott Morrison to account on anything, nor Gladys Berejiklian. We have not had one question on jobs, not one question on economic growth and not one question on economic stimulus.

There has been nothing from the opposition because they are fundamentally out of touch with the people of Queensland. I thought maybe they would come in and ask some questions of the Treasurer because they gave us their word that they would do that. However, we know that the Leader of the Opposition's word is worth nothing. What happened in Cairns last week? More hot air and more talk from the Leader of the Opposition which he is unwilling to back in with questions to the Treasurer about the Queensland economy. This is the difference: a government standing up for jobs, economic growth and prosperity, and a Leader of the Opposition who stands for nothing.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the next questioner, the member for Buderim is warned under the standing orders. Leader of the Opposition, you are warned under the standing orders. You have had a good go.

Housing Affordability

Mr O'CONNOR: My question is to the Premier. In her first speech the Premier said that housing affordability would be a significant issue for government over the next 20 years. Why is housing less affordable now for Queensland's young people and families than when the Premier entered this House 15 years ago?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. As I said, my government is prioritising housing. We support getting young people into homes, which is why we have the First Home Owners' Grant and it is why we have a regional boost providing an extra \$5,000 to people who want to go into the regions. Once again I urge the Leader of the Opposition to go to some of those communities and take a look for himself. The developments involve a whole range of housing to cater for everyone from seniors to young families, with access to transport and education. In Baringa alone we have opened a primary school and a high school and we are building another school because that community is growing so rapidly. In Palmview we are building schools and there is an increase in land sales as well. The Deputy Premier is working very closely with the industry—he addressed a conference just recently—on these very issues.

It is good that we are talking about stimulating the economy because I did not think that we would be in this situation at this point in the pandemic. We could have been in a vastly different situation. On this side of the House we talk up the economy. We want people in jobs and the jobs have returned to pre-COVID levels. If anyone has relatives in the US, the UK or parts of Europe they will know that it could have been a completely different story. In those places people are at home, they are not going out, they are not travelling for holidays and they are not at school. Some schools are only just going back after nine months of closure. That is the stark reality of what is happening in other countries around the world.

We have always said that our strong health response has enabled our economy to open up faster and stronger. Our easing of restrictions are probably second only to Western Australia. However, those opposite come into this House and talk about an issue that they did nothing about when they were in government. They come in here and talk about what happens to victims of domestic violence but they did not build one new shelter. Under my government we have built seven shelters, helping women who want to flee domestic and family violence. Those opposite treated people who were in social housing like second-class citizens. That is the record of those opposite. Time and time again we see the same old LNP with no new ideas.

(Time expired)

Schools, Bullying and Cyberbullying

Ms PUGH: My question is of the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Will the minister update the House on the government's response to the scourge of bullying and cyberbullying in our schools and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for the question. I know that she has a great passion for stamping out bullying and cyberbullying in our society and she works very closely with her schools. Everyone will have the opportunity to work with their schools right across the state because 19 March is the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence. I am proud to say that everyone has a show bag containing some great material that they can use during that national day of action. It is an opportunity to elevate the voices of young people so that we can work together to find solutions to this insidious issue.

The Palaszczuk government is leading the nation with our response to cyberbullying. We are implementing the 29 recommendations of the Anti-Cyberbullying Taskforce and are making a \$3.5 million investment into making sure that we wipe out cyberbullying wherever we see it. My Ministerial Student Advisory Council plays a significant role in this. They have really directed where the Bullying. No Way! campaign has gone. I thank them for their input. Most of this material has been developed as a direct result of that input. We are also investing \$100 million into our student wellbeing package to ensure that every state school in Queensland has access to a wellbeing professional, located in the school, to assist with any of the issues that they may face.

As I said yesterday, society and members in this House also have a responsibility to show good practice. Unfortunately, in relation to those opposite lately we have been reading about the dysfunction in their party, which is setting no great example for our young students. When we talk about an

alternative approach all we find is a toxic culture with verbal assaults, undermining and petty power plays. It starts at the top of the LNP and trickles all the way down. That is not a good example for our schools or for anyone in our community.

We saw the faceless men drive out the member for Surfers Paradise when he was leader. Last year we saw the coup against the member for Nanango. I congratulate the member for Nanango because she stood up to them. She blamed the party hierarchy for trying to trigger a coup. A newspaper article quoted the member for Nanango—

'It is disappointing there are a few blokes sitting in the backroom who want things to go back to the way they were,' she said.

'I am the leader and I am here to stay.'

The article also quoted her as saying—

I will not be bullied by the backroom boys of the LNP.

I congratulate her for taking a stand. We should all stand against bullying and not use the example of those opposite.

(Time expired)

Housing Affordability

Mr JANETZKI: My question is to the Deputy Premier. In the past five years, Economic Development Queensland has declared only eight priority development areas compared to 23 declarations for the preceding five years. Can the Deputy Premier advise if this lack of action has contributed to a lack of land supply and Queensland's housing affordability crisis?

Mr Hinchliffe interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, Minister!

Dr MILES: I thank the member for his question. I note the interjection from the tourism minister. I do not think we can expect the shadow Treasurer to have much regard for that kind of detail.

Let me take the opportunity to address what EDQ—Economic Development Queensland, the state government's land development arm—has been doing across our PDAs. What does not matter necessarily is how many times they change their name; what matters is how many developments are approved. I can tell members that at the moment they are currently working on 160 different development applications across our PDAs—\$1.1 billion worth of private sector investment. Those developments will deliver 3,410 jobs. In fact, just recently EDQ approved an additional 3,000 lots at the Sunshine Coast's Aura master planned development. EDQ is working to release land as quickly as possible.

We have seen a surge in people moving to the state. We have also seen a surge in people moving to greenfield areas, thanks to the Commonwealth government's HomeBuilder scheme. It has driven a disproportionate amount of demand into greenfield rather than infill.

Opposition members interjected.

Dr MILES: It is just the facts. As the Premier outlined, 88 per cent of net interstate migration is coming here to Queensland. There is a national trend of increased migration to regional areas rather than cities which is changing where demand lies.

In addition to the assessment of those development applications, I can outline for the benefit of the House two other initiatives that are currently underway. The Building Acceleration Fund, a \$200 million investment, is delivering the infrastructure needed for new growth areas. Seven applications for that fund are currently nearing completion, worth roughly \$72 million of that funding program. In addition, I was pleased to outline to the UDIA last week and the Planning Institute last night the work of the growth areas delivery team. This is a new initiative. The State Planner is working with EDQ, local governments and developers to address fragmentation and infrastructure needs and to open up new areas. They have until the end of their first month to identify a pilot site for the first of their new growth areas. There is much underway, and you would not expect those opposite to understand much of it.

(Time expired)

Regional Queensland, Ambulance Personnel

Mr TANTARI: My question is of the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Will the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is supporting our frontline Queensland Ambulance Service officers, in particular in regional Queensland?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for Hervey Bay for his question. I note his keen interest in health and wellbeing for his community. The Palaszczuk government understands the importance of supporting our frontline health services to ensure they are equipped to provide a world-class health system to Queenslanders. This financial year alone, we are investing \$26 million to enable a rollout of approximately 135 new state-of-the-art ambulances across the state. These new vehicles will be deployed to all parts of the state, with the Assistant Minister for Health recently officially handing over keys to a new vehicle at Cleveland station in the electorate of Oodgeroo. Mr Speaker, you recently handed over the keys to a new vehicle in your community at Edmonton.

Having state-of-the-art ambulances is just one part of the puzzle. The Palaszczuk government has recently opened two upgraded and new ambulance stations, one in Urraween in the electorate of Hervey Bay and the second at Kirwan in Townsville. Collectively, nearly \$6.5 million has been invested in these two stations alone to ensure that local ambulance officers in those communities have access to first-class amenities to support their community. The new Urraween station will be home to 16 advanced care paramedics, an officer-in-charge and an Indigenous cadet. The member for Hervey Bay was at the opening and he was extremely proud of the state-of-the-art facilities. Earlier this year I visited the new modern station at Kirwan in Townsville. I know the member for Thuringowa is particularly proud of the new facilities, having worked at the old Kirwan station and now volunteering as an honorary ambulance officer at the new station. Kirwan will be home to over 56 full-time-equivalent officers and houses an impressive fleet of 10 vehicles.

This is a prime example of how the Palaszczuk government is getting on with the job of ensuring our frontline workers, regardless of whether they are in South-East Queensland or Far North Queensland or anywhere in between, have the resources they need. I want to acknowledge again the amazing work our paramedics do each and every day. Their job is extremely difficult. They come across significant trauma and sometimes, sadly, people pass away. Ambulance officers have to deal with that on a daily basis, go home to their families and try to process what they see, knowing the impact it has on other families. Of course, our paramedics have really stepped up for COVID and have been supporting us through hotel quarantine as well in transporting those positive patients. We thank them so much for the work they do.

Tyler, Mrs P

Mr MANDER: My question is to the Minister for Public Works. Pauline Tyler owes \$150,000 in legal costs because state Labor government legislation failed to protect her from having to remove solar panels on her family home. Will the minister do the right thing and pay this innocent victim of government oversight an ex gratia payment so she does not have to sell her home to pay this bill?

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the member for the question. It gives me an opportunity to talk about why Queenslanders want to put solar panels on the roofs of their homes; it is to reduce their overall living costs. Queenslanders struggled during the period of the Newman administration, when the member for Everton was the housing minister. I will come to the details of the legal case in just a moment, but let me remind the House that those opposite abolished the office of climate change—they have a record here—they cut the sustainable energy fund and they cut the ClimateSmart Home Service. It is quite galling that those opposite come in here and want to talk about people with rights to have solar on their roof. During their period of administration they cut the staff in the office of the environmental regulator by 85.

We have heard a lot about housing affordability today. Of course people want to install solar on their roofs to make their housing more affordable. Housing affordability is directly related to an income, and it is pretty hard to afford to rent or buy a home if you do not have a job. We only need to look at the record of those opposite in relation to jobs—14,000 workers sacked. In contrast, over a quarter million more Queenslanders are in work now than when we came to office.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 118(b), relevance. This woman is about to lose her house. The question was about—

Mr SPEAKER: It is not an opportunity to debate.

Mr BLEIJIE: The question was about an ex gratia payment only, and I ask that the minister be brought back to the very direct and important question.

Mr SPEAKER: The question did feature some elements but, yes, the minister should come back to the question under standing order 118(b).

Mr de BRENNI: I will, Mr Speaker. In doing so, I remind the House that those opposite went to the election with a policy to scrap Queensland's 50 per cent renewable energy target and they went to the election with a policy to scrap an emissions reduction target.

In relation to the specific matter of Ms Tyler, the first thing that I want to acknowledge is the difficult circumstances Ms Tyler has found herself in. When her case was first brought to my attention I directed my department to monitor the legal proceedings very closely. Those proceedings initially found in her favour. That was a good thing. Ultimately, a later decision went against her. It is important that we recognise and respect the important role that the courts play in the administration of legislation in this state.

Mr Mander interjected.

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

Mr de BRENNI: In this case, the independent umpire has made a decision. The government will though engage—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr de BRENNI: They do not want to listen to the answer. The government will engage with industry and the community and we will develop a response to the appeal decision. We will do this in a considered and careful manner to ensure that there are no unintended consequences.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Everton, you are warned under the standing orders. You asked a question and the minister finished off his answer being responsive to the question asked.

Public Transport, Accessibility

Mr McCALLUM: My question is of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister update the House on the Palaszczuk government's work to support improved accessibility for public transport services and stations?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the member for Bundamba for the question. I know he is a great advocate of rail and, like the member for Maryborough, has a major rail manufacturing firm in his electorate—Progress Rail. We are committed to delivering accessible, safe, reliable public transport across Queensland. We are investing in commuters. We want to make sure that people who have disabilities, seniors and families with prams can use public transport without any barriers.

Modernising stations is absolutely critical in accessing the public transport system. We have half a billion dollars committed to upgrading our stations across the system. Station upgrades underway currently are at Fairfield, East Ipswich, Dakabin, Auchenflower and Cannon Hill. We have recently completed full accessibility upgrades at Morayfield, Strathpine and Boondall. In terms of the Cross River Rail project, which we all know to be awesome, there will be four new underground stations, eight new and upgraded surface stations in Brisbane and three new stations on the Gold Coast. Upgrades are also being planned for Banyo, Bundamba, Burpengary, Morningside and Woolloowin.

Prioritising funding to improve accessibility is only part of our effort. We also need to ensure that those who face challenges moving around our public transport system have a say in how they are designed. We know that Queenslanders have suffered the consequences of those opposite failing to engage with the disability sector when they were in power. We now have a substantial \$335 million program to rectify the NGR trains ordered from overseas by those opposite that did not comply with our disability laws. They botched it. They failed to listen to people in the disability sector.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr BAILEY: The member for Chatsworth is interjecting. He was the then assistant minister for transport. We know about their botch-ups. This government will order new trains made in Queensland by Queensland workers to avoid the botch-ups of the LNP in the past. We will make sure they are made here and that they will be disability compliant.

Last September we established the Queensland Accessible Transport Advisory Council, headed by retired District Court judge Michael Forde. This will give a stronger voice to people with vision, hearing, physical and cognitive impairments. I am pleased to inform the House that, following his appointment, seven independent members were appointed to QATAC this week. They are Dr Emily Steel, John Mayo, Sarah Hartley, Wendy Lovelace, Natalie Naumann, Shannon Wandmaker and Dr Kelly Bertolaccini. They will all play a role to make sure we never again go through the debacles that we saw under the Newman government. I look forward to working with them.

(Time expired)

North Queensland, Youth Crime

Mr DAMETTO: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier address the people of Townsville to detail the evidence and provide an assurance that the government's approach to addressing the youth crime crisis in North Queensland is working?

Ms PALASZCZUK: As there is legislation before a committee, I will not talk about that aspect of it, but I will tell the member for Hinchinbrook about the extra policing resources that have gone into the northern region. I think the northern region has benefited from Commissioner Carroll's restructure which means a deputy commissioner is now permanently based in North Queensland. As the minister mentioned to parliament this week, Assistant Commissioner Mark Wheeler—

Mr Ryan: New region.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, a new region. He has been placed up there. I think everyone would remember that he did an extraordinary job on our borders. He did a remarkable job. He was front and centre of that. I think that he will do a wonderful job in Townsville.

There are more than 700 police officers in Townsville and we promised to deliver 53 extra police officers for Townsville by the end of June, and we have delivered that. This means that there has been an increase of more than 100 police in Townsville since we came to government in 2015. There are an extra 100 police there. The police academy in Townsville is serving the great purpose of training our new recruits. We know those opposite wanted to close that police academy.

More than \$40 million has been invested in new early intervention programs. There are new detention centre beds down here and there has been some expansion up at Cleveland. There are programs to reconnect young people with education, culture and families. I know that all of the Townsville members have been very strong advocates for that. A lot of work has happened in that region.

One thing I am very proud of is the 24/7 co-responder model. I think it is working really well. The reports I am hearing from the police and the minister are that it is targeting high-risk offenders. It has commenced operating in Townsville and more than 120 cases have been actioned since July last year. The co-responder model means the police and youth justice go out and talk to people and make sure that those high-risk offenders are being looked at.

I thank the member for that question. It is a very important question. I hope that goes some way to alleviating his concerns. Of course, the minister's door is always open. If the member wants to come and see me at any stage he knows my door is always open.

Australian Football League

Mrs MULLEN: My question is of the Minister for Tourism Industry Development and Innovation and Minister for Sport. Will the minister update the House on the importance of the government's partnership with the AFL and its grand final legacy and is he aware of any alternative plans?

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I thank the member for the question. I know there is growing excitement in the member's electorate about the construction of a \$70 million den for the Brisbane Lions AFLW and AFL teams, including a \$15 million contribution from the Palaszczuk government.

Just as importantly, community AFL clubs right around Queensland are drawing up plans for new change rooms and oval upgrades for their growing clubs. It was great last week to partner with AFL CEO, Gil McLachlan, to launch our \$8 million plan to leverage infrastructure as a legacy of last year's historic AFL grand final at the Gabba. We were critical to the AFL's 2020 premiership season during the COVID pandemic. We as a state played an important role in this opportunity as we protected the whole of the state and maintained the standards we had in response to the pandemic.

The grand final legacy program will help community clubs and local governments and schools, which can all take part in the fund, upgrade and support their facilities and at the same time make a contribution to our economic recovery. A special focus of the grand final legacy fund is new change rooms for girls and women. In Queensland the number of girls and women playing AFL has grown to 42 per cent of all players. That is much higher than any other state in Australia.

It is important to remember that if it were up to the LNP there would have been no AFL grand final legacy fund. Members will remember the former leader of the opposition's demands to reopen the border—the border closures that kept Queenslanders safe from COVID. I think 64 times it was insisted that the border be reopened.

If COVID had been allowed to run rampant in Queensland through an open border, the AFL bubble would have been burst, along with all of the other sports that we hosted in a COVID-free state. All of those bubbles would have been burst. Thankfully, Queensland remains the place to be not only for sport but also for so many other things.

Unfortunately, the LNP could not grasp how important it was to keep and maintain our borders. That has meant that they never wanted to see an AFL bubble. They were against it and tried to use it as a political football on many occasions. It is vitally important that we support our community clubs and support the growth of AFL, particularly for girls and women, and this legacy fund is a great example. If it were up to the LNP, the AFL would have been sent packing and we would not see this \$8 million fund delivering for communities right across the state.

(Time expired)

Australian South Sea Islanders

Mr ANDREW: My question is to the Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs. On 7 September 2000, a bipartisan Beattie-Borbidge commitment was made to Australian South Sea islanders to receive equality of opportunity to participate in and contribute towards the economic, social and political life of this state. Could the minister please advise what policies, programs and services this Labor government has delivered over the last two parliamentary terms for these people?

Ms LINARD: I thank the member for the question. Having heard the member's address-in-reply speech in this House and contributions since, I appreciate that this is an issue of significant importance to the member, and I thank him for the question. Australian South Sea islanders have contributed significantly to Queensland's development. They have done so in spite of a unique history marked by disadvantage and discrimination. I think that has been recognised, and their courage and contribution has equally been recognised.

The member mentioned that recognition statement under the then premier Peter Beattie which I think was bipartisan. I think it was also signed by the opposition leader at the time, if I recall. It was absolutely about recognition and ensuring that we had a statement that said we want to make sure that our South Sea islander community can participate fully in Queensland life. I think, Mr Speaker, last year you lit up Parliament House in the colours of the South Sea islander flag in recognition of 20 years since that statement. I think my predecessor, Minister Hinchliffe, held a morning tea with members of the community to recognise that statement.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms LINARD: Obviously other members in the House also attended that morning tea. That statement affirms the government's commitment to ensuring that present and future generations of our Australian and Queensland South Sea islander community do have equality of opportunity. That statement made a commitment that we would have policies and practices built into departmental operations that would provide opportunity.

Certainly my department recognises that, and we formally recognised that in our Multicultural Recognition Act, which led to the establishment of the Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council to ensure that government remains true to that act. They seek updates from different departments about how that is being operationalised. I am very proud to say that one of the very valuable voices on that council is Dea Bickey, who is a member of the Australian South Sea islander community. I met with her recently in Mount Isa and had a lovely conversation with her.

I understand also that the Queensland multicultural policy 'Our story, our future' includes a statement of recognition similar to the 2000 recognition, and the first progress report on the Queensland multicultural policy was tabled in parliament on August 2019. That included actions focused on improving outcomes for Australian South Sea islanders.

Since 2005 the Queensland government has provided funding under the Community Action for a Multicultural Society program, CAMS program. I believe that the member is aware of that program. The importance of that funding and that program which we provided to Mackay Regional Council—and they have received more than \$280,000 since 2017-18—is to support social connectedness but also to give the community a voice. In the short time remaining, I offer to meet with the member, along with my department, so we can talk in more detail. I thank the member for the question.

(Time expired)

Regional Queensland, Water Security

Ms LAUGA: My question is to the Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water. Will the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is delivering water security for regional Queensland?

Mr BUTCHER: I thank the honourable member for the great question. I know how critical this project is for her constituents, and she has given support and been a huge voice for that community to make sure that this water is delivered through Rookwood Weir.

We heard earlier today from the Premier that the government has seized the opportunity that we now see going forward to raise the height of the Rookwood Weir. Together with the federal government today, approximately \$15 million more is being invested to raise the Rookwood Weir.

To be honest, today during that announcement about more funding to raise the wall of the dam I heard the member for Nanango continually interjecting. At least the federal government appreciates and understands that this extra water, which we talked about when it was first announced, is critical for them and has jumped on board straightaway and supported it. This means that today we are announcing another 10,000 megalitres of medium priority water.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gympie and member for Nanango!

Mr BUTCHER: I cannot believe the opposition are continuing to argue and whinge about the fact that we are now adding an extra 10,000 megalitres of medium priority water. As the Minister for Water, I want to tell the House a lot more about what this 10,000 extra megalitres of water will mean for the region.

Mrs Frecklington: What about Paradise?

Mr BUTCHER: I take that interjection. Maybe the member should ask a question about it then. I have said before that water is the lifeblood of our regions and our vision is for water to be secure, affordable, accessible and a driver of economic development.

More water represents more opportunities for our irrigators in the Lower Fitzroy to increase their production, grow their businesses and create more opportunities for Queenslanders. Not only that, this extra 10,000 megalitres of water adds security to the Gladstone region where we are now starting to talk about—I acknowledge Minister de Brenni—the opportunities going forward for hydrogen in the Gladstone region because hydrogen runs on a lot of water. This extra water is not only securing opportunities for our irrigators in the region of Central Queensland—Rockhampton and Keppel—but also securing sustainability for long-term opportunities for investment in the Gladstone region, particularly with hydrogen.

With this investment, we are getting more out of Rookwood Weir, investing the state's money and putting more jobs on the ground. Not only are we putting jobs on the ground in building this weir; we are putting jobs on the ground because of the roadwork that had to be done—upgrades to intersections that had to be done. We are building a new bridge. Part of this funding now for an extra 10,000 megalitres is for extra bridges and roads. Not only are we supporting the irrigators and farmers; we are supporting workers on the ground continually. This extra 10,000 megalitres will certainly go a long way to creating more jobs in Central Queensland.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The time for question time has expired.

COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (11.17 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997, the City of Brisbane Act 2010, the City of Brisbane Regulation 2012, the COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020, the Economic Development (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Regulation 2020, the Environmental Protection Act 1994, the Gaming Machine Act 1991, the Justice Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response—Proceedings and Other Matters) Regulation 2020, the Local Government Act 2009, the

Local Government Electoral Act 2011, the Local Government Regulation 2012 and the State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Economics and Governance Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: COVID-19 Emergency Response and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 [308].

Tabled paper: COVID-19 Emergency Response and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021, explanatory notes [309].

Tabled paper: COVID-19 Emergency Response and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021, statement of compatibility with human rights [310].

Today I introduce the COVID-19 Emergency Response and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. Just over 12 months ago, the government declared a public health emergency in response to the COVID-19 virus and all of our lives changed. At the height of the pandemic we were directed to work from home if we could, we home schooled our students and many businesses had to shut their doors for the health and safety of Queenslanders.

The government's swift and strong response to the pandemic has meant that businesses have been able to reopen earlier and, most importantly, keep Queenslanders in jobs. A few weeks ago, we celebrated the arrival of the Pfizer vaccine in Queensland and the beginning of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout to our frontline workers. However, with the emergence of new highly contagious variations of the virus—and we have seen outbreaks in the northern beaches of Sydney and again in Melbourne—it shows that we are not out of this yet, and we will continue to feel the immediate effects of this global pandemic for many months to come.

To support Queensland to continue functioning during the pandemic we need to maintain the flexibility provided by the legislative framework introduced in 2020. The COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020 provides temporary powers to: modify legislative requirements by regulation or other secondary instruments to reduce physical contact between persons; modify statutory time frames where necessary; ensure the continuation of court and tribunal proceedings; and authorise bodies to take actions or do things electronically or take certain actions related to leases and tenancies.

The modified arrangements for the making of affidavits and statutory declarations, general powers of attorneys and deeds are supported by the Queensland Law Society. These temporary arrangements have modernised the way in which these legal documents are created. Allowing these documents to be witnessed over audiovisual link has improved access to justice for Queenslanders from both a cost and efficiency perspective, which is particularly beneficial for vulnerable people and people who live and work regionally or remotely.

Other temporary amendments were made to various legislation across the statute books by the Justice and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Amendment Act 2020 to enable appropriate responses in the context of the public health emergency. These measures were initially to expire at the end of 2020. In December we extended the emergency measures in the COVID-19 Emergency Response and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2020 until 30 April 2021 and included some new amendments. In practice, this legislative framework has given Queensland the flexibility for: additional attendance requirements at corrective service facilities; body corporate meetings to be attended remotely with electronic voting; P&C meetings to be held electronically; and administrative costs to be reduced for impacted industries such as the tourism industry. These are just a few examples of how the legislative framework supports the functioning of businesses and government institutions disrupted or impacted by the COVID-19 emergency.

Recognising its extraordinary nature, the legislative framework is time limited to ensure that it remains operational for only as long as it needs to be. What this means, however, is that without legislative amendment these measures will all expire on 30 April 2021. The bill will extend the amendments made to all impacted acts and subordinate legislation that are still required to respond to the public health emergency until 30 September 2021 or an earlier date prescribed by regulation. This means that if the need for these measures dissipates before 30 September 2021 they can be extinguished as quickly and flexibly as possible. This is another important safeguard.

I would like to thank those organisations that provided feedback on the proposed extension of these measures and for their support of the work government has done to date and the further extension of these measures. Work is continuing to identify any measures that should be retained permanently, and where measures are proposed to be made permanent this will occur through ordinary legislative processes.

In addition to the extension of the emergency measures, the bill also makes amendments to local government legislation that are necessary to respond to the public health emergency. Having flexibility when it comes to local government revenue streams ensures that decisions in relation to rates and

charges levied are appropriate for the economic climate. Previous amendments in the Justice and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Amendment Act 2020 meant local government could decide by resolution what rates and charges could be levied at a meeting outside of the budget meeting for the 2020-21 financial year. The amendments enable a local government to make 'extraordinary decisions' and revisit their decisions about rates and charges later in the financial year. They also provide that a local government's annual budget for the 2020-21 financial year must be amended at the meeting at which the extraordinary decision is made. The provisions apply only to the 2020-21 financial year and expire on 30 June 2021.

As there are no equivalent provisions for the following financial year, the bill amends the Local Government Act 2009 and the City of Brisbane Act 2010 to allow local governments to decide, by resolution made other than at the budget meeting for the 2021-22 financial year, what rates and charges are to be levied for a relevant part of that financial year. The amendments also provide for the annual budget to be amended at the meeting at which this extraordinary decision is made, and again these will expire on 30 June 2022.

During the pandemic Queenslanders embraced technology and adapted to virtual meetings for the health and safety of us all. Currently, the Local Government Regulation 2012 and the City of Brisbane Regulation 2012 include temporary provisions that: allow local government and committee meetings to be held by audio or audiovisual link; allow meetings to be closed to the public for health and safety reasons associated with COVID-19; and require real-time public viewing of, or listening to, meetings where audio and audiovisual links are used. These additional provisions help minimise serious risks to the health and safety of persons caused by COVID-19. The bill extends these provisions, which are due to expire on 30 June 2021. The bill provides for commencement of these amendments on assent and aligns their expiry date with the new COVID-19 legislation expiry day.

In relation to local government elections, the Public Health and Other Legislation (Public Health Emergency) Amendment Act 2020 and a subsequent regulation included amendments to provide flexibility, if required, for the 2020 quadrennial local government elections. These amendments were to help minimise serious risks to health and safety caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and only applied to the 2020 local government elections. Last year, the COVID-19 Emergency Response and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2020 amended the Electoral Act 1992 to provide for COVID-safe measures to apply for state by-elections should they be required.

For consistency with these recent amendments for state by-elections, and due to the continuing health risks presented by COVID-19, the bill amends the City of Brisbane Act 2010, the Local Government Act 2009 and the Local Government Electoral Act 2011. The amendments provide flexibility to facilitate the holding of a by-election for filling the vacant office of a councillor, including a mayor, or a fresh election in a way that minimises the health and safety risks associated with COVID-19. The bill provides flexibility in relation to a number of processes, including: the cut-off day for voters' rolls and nominations; adjournment of a poll; postponement of polling day if the poll is to be delayed for an extended period; conduct of the poll by postal ballot; applications to cast postal votes; electronically assisted voting; directions to be made about practical aspects of voting such as how-to-vote cards, where counting occurs and scrutineers; and regulations to be made to facilitate the holding of an election in a way that minimises the health and safety risks associated with COVID-19.

The amendments are temporary measures. They will apply to a local government by-election for which a notice of election is published on or before the COVID-19 legislation expiry day or to a fresh election if a regulation that provides for the election to be held is made on or before the COVID-19 legislation expiry day. The electoral amendments expire on the COVID-19 legislation expiry day.

The bill demonstrates the continued commitment of the government to support the safety and economic future of all Queenslanders as we respond to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. SM FENTIMAN (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (11.27 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to Economics and Governance Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Walker): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Economics and Governance Committee.

Declared Urgent; Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (11.28 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That under the provisions of standing order 137—

- (a) the COVID-19 Emergency Response and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be declared an urgent bill; and
- (b) the Economics and Governance Committee report to the House on the bill by Wednesday, 14 April 2021.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from 10 March (see p. 498).

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (11.28 am), continuing: I think it is fair to say that the vaccine is now helping enormously in that the cases are starting to come down internationally. We are seeing it rolled out across Queensland and that is something that Queenslanders are very pleased about. I acknowledge the Minister for Health in the House and I thank her and the previous minister for health, along with the Premier and the Chief Health Officer, for their incredible leadership throughout the COVID crisis in Queensland. We have led the world.

Economies worldwide are enduring the harshest of economic downturns in generations because of the different kinds of decisions they have made and the terrible things they have had to experience. We are not immune from the impacts even going forward, so we still have to do what we are doing and keep doing it well. We are as committed as ever to getting the health response right because we know that it is not just people's health but people's jobs, and that is our first priority as the Palaszczuk Labor government.

That means we are growing manufacturing across our traditional and new and emerging industries, building Queensland by driving investment in the infrastructure that supports our recovery, and backing our frontline services and workers—whether that be doctors, nurses or our health staff who have been so magnificent, or our public sector workers who have provided services throughout, like our bus drivers, train drivers, station staff, teachers and firefighters, just to name a few. I thank them all for their incredible commitment, especially our teachers. Last year was probably one of the hardest years that teachers have ever experienced. It also means we are protecting our environment and heritage for future generations and achieving our 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030. We are on track for that and we are committed to that. That was brought in when I was the minister for energy.

In the transport space, we remain committed to working with Queenslanders to build on our record investment in rolling out road and rail projects right across Queensland that boost jobs and infrastructure for a growing state. Since the election last year, we have begun the rollout of a record QTRIP investment of \$26.9 billion to support more than 23,500 jobs across Queensland. That is part of a record \$56 billion infrastructure program by the Palaszczuk Labor government over the next four years. Over these four years we will deliver such projects as the \$1 billion Gympie bypass, the \$480 million Bruce Highway upgrade between Edmonton and Gordonvale, and close to \$2 billion in the two M1 upgrades. Two of them are completed and two of them are well and truly underway, as anyone who drives through there can see.

The Palaszczuk Labor government's first budget of the term means thousands of secure jobs for Queenslanders. We see 662 local jobs coming online as we six-lane the Bruce Highway between Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast, between Steve Irwin Way and the Bribie Island turnoff, which I know a lot of people will be very pleased to see. There are 800 local jobs coming in terms of the \$1 billion Rockhampton Ring Road.

Improving productivity in our economy and providing better safety are absolute priorities for this government. We are also getting on with the Cross River Rail project—our largest infrastructure project—that will unlock the bottleneck at the core of our public transport network in South-East

Queensland. We have entered the second year of construction for Cross River Rail, and the visuals are absolutely breathtaking and awesome. Work is now underway at 10 worksites across Brisbane, and this is employing thousands of workers. That would not be happening if those opposite were elected. They cut this project and then they promised to cut it again in the 2017 election. These jobs are critical at this time, and we have backed it every step of the way and we still do. The precincts also offer great opportunities going forward that piggyback on top of the initial investment.

Our record investment in infrastructure—where we are spending 50 per cent more on transport and rail infrastructure than the last government—stands in contrast to their record of cuts, sacking and selling. For instance, they ordered from overseas the NGR trains that were not disability compliant and they did not seek to fund Queensland built trains in their election platform even just last year, not that long ago. However, we have committed to a \$335 million rectification program at Downer in Maryborough which is supporting 100 Queensland rail manufacturing jobs. We will back commuters and Queensland manufacturing to ensure that all new trains will be built by Queensland workers in Queensland. I would certainly like to acknowledge the hard work and the partnership of my assistant minister, the member for Maryborough. We have worked really well over the last six years. I enjoy working closely with him. He is a champion of regional road and rail. He won his seat on primary votes, after Labor got 13 per cent in 2012. That is an incredible achievement by him.

We have committed to a \$1 billion rail manufacturing pipeline to lock in long-term, stable manufacturing jobs in Maryborough and also future supply chains. We have said very clearly that the first 20 new trains for Cross River Rail will be built in Maryborough as part of a procurement process. We are proud of that.

I would now like to turn to local achievements in my electorate. I am already working with the departments to roll out our commitments. The Tarragindi Tigers Football Club are getting \$190,000 for new lights which were desperately needed. They have already been installed, which is great to see. Go the Tigers. They are a terrific club. I have had much to do with them both as a councillor previously and as their state member. The South Graceville Hounds Rugby League Club are getting \$450,000 to upgrade their second field, which is very uneven to say the least, and a new clubhouse because their current one has had nothing done to it since the 1970s. It looked a lot like my clubhouse when I played under-10s for Easts at Scott Park, I have to say. It took me back. It needs upgrading, that is for sure.

Mr Kelly: A great club.

Mr BAILEY: Yes, it is a great club. I will take that interjection from the member for Greenslopes. We have a \$1 million commitment to upgrade the Souths cricket ovals and the oval and facilities for the AFL Kenmore Bears who play in Chelmer. These facilities are in desperate need of an upgrade. I am really pleased to say that we have change facilities coming in for our women players at Souths Rugby at Yeronga, with a \$200,000 commitment. There is also a \$150,000 commitment for the Yeronga Devils AFL. They are formidable women football teams and it is great to work with them. The popularity of women in football at the moment is just phenomenal.

We have a \$10 million-plus commitment to convert the old Yeronga dental hospital into classrooms and admin for the Yeronga State School. That is catering for their future growth and it is certainly needed. We have also committed to the Yeronga Community Centre having a home base there as part of the Yeronga health hub, which is another commitment of ours worth \$8½ million. They will have a permanent home for the Yeronga Community Centre. This is very critical because they provide support to the vulnerable members of our community. There is also a commitment of half a million dollars to the Sherwood State School for after-school-hours care. I look forward to working with them.

This is on top of a lot of election commitments that have already been delivered. The Ipswich Motorway upgrade is very close to completion. I have made a commitment to the Walter Taylor second bridge. There is a commitment by the Lord Mayor for design work to get underway, and I look forward to that progressing and I thank the Lord Mayor for his cooperation. I also mention the Veloway bikeway upgrades, air conditioning in schools, solar in schools and koala-proof fencing along the freeway at Toohey Forest. These are things that have been delivered on my watch in Miller which I am very proud of, and I will certainly keep the community informed.

It is always an honour and a privilege to serve in this place. We all must remember that throughout our terms. I give my absolute commitment that I will be working as hard as ever for my constituents in Miller. Whatever your job is in here—and I am lucky to have been a minister now into a third term—your first job is to your constituents. I will never forget that and I will work hard for them every single day.

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (11.37 am): It is the greatest honour to be re-elected to this parliament to represent my community and a part of the Gold Coast I have loved for my entire life. From the outset and in this of all weeks, I want to again pay tribute to the extraordinary woman who this electorate is named after, Lores Bonney. Undoubtedly, Lores is one of the most accomplished people Queensland has ever produced. A pioneering aviator, she broke down barriers for women at a time in which only a single woman had been elected to this place. To have a seat in this chamber named after her is a fitting tribute to the legacy of Lores Bonney.

As the first member for Bonney, I am proud to represent Labrador, Biggera Waters, Parkwood, Arundel, Helensvale or the surrounds, the northern part of Southport, our beautiful Broadwater, the Ramsar Coombabah wetlands at Arundel with all of their unique wildlife, some of the best schools on the Gold Coast, Griffith University's biggest campus, the Gold Coast University Hospital, light rail and a thriving industrial and business area, as well as Harbour Town. I have not taken anything for granted over the last three years since I entered this place. I fell over the line in 2017 with barely a few hundred votes being the difference, so it is incredibly humbling to be back here now with a few thousand votes being the difference.

In 2017 I actually lost five of the seven polling booths on election day to Labor. The only reason I won was because of a 10 per cent first preference swing to me in Labrador, which was perhaps due to me working hard at the local footy club bar. That might have had something to do with it. In 2020, however, we won every single polling booth on first preferences except for Southport North, which was won on second preferences, and Coombabah South, which we only lost on second preferences by three votes, so there is a little bit of work to do there. Clearly, that includes many people in my area who have never voted for me or the LNP before. I want to sincerely thank them and reassure them that I genuinely appreciate their support.

I have the great privilege of being involved in most of our local community and sporting groups, a diverse range that are filled with dedicated and passionate volunteers. I want to place their names on record. We have the Multicultural Families Organisation; Men's Shed Labrador; Musgrave Mustangs Soccer Club; Labrador Hockey Club; Southport Sharks; Parkwood Sharks Rugby League; Labrador Tigers; Labrador Oztag Rabbitohs; Labrador Women's Space; Southport Labrador Cricket Club; Queen's Cricket Club; the Labrador Community Garden; several Neighbourhood Watch groups; Parkwood Heights Scouts; Labrador Scouts and Guides; local Rotary, Probus and Lions clubs; Friends with Dignity; Support the Girls; U3A; the Gold Coast Hindu Cultural Association; the Islamic Society of Gold Coast, which has the largest mosque in Queensland; Gold Coast Sri Lankans; the Bangladesh Association of Gold Coast; Kusuma Indonesia Community Australia; the CALD Action Group; Japan Community of Queensland; Eritrean-Australian Gold Coast Association; the Labrador Senior Citizens Centre; the school P&Cs at Arundel State School, Coombabah State High School, Labrador State School, Musgrave Hill State School, Southport State High School and Southport Special School, the largest special school in Queensland; the P&F at A.B. Paterson College; and, finally, Coastal Charisma; The Blenders; and now Cornerstone Chorus.

All of these and more strengthen our community. They are run by people who are proud of where they live and I will continue to do everything I can to support the incredible work they do. I have turned up to as many occasions with these groups as possible and that has given me a chance to talk to people in a relaxed environment to find out what really matters to them. These are not the sort of people who will necessarily be coming to a politician's office, but they are happy to have a chat while you are on the barbeque at a school disco or, quite regularly, at Bunnings.

Crime continues to come up as an issue regularly. During the last term I worked closely with resident groups. I ran a large crime forum and had many conversations with locals who were worried about what they were seeing in their neighbourhoods. Our area now has the Arundel Police Hub, and we need to make sure it is steadily filling with officers to get it closer to its capacity of 200 to allow our hardworking QPS to respond better to the many calls for service they receive. I have raised that issue in this House multiple times and told stories about people feeling the police are inaccessible or that their resources are so stretched they take too long to respond, if they get there at all. There is even one group of houses in Biggera Waters, Harbour Quays, where fed up residents have chosen to hire their own security company for added protection. I wish they did not feel they had to do that, but I understand how it got to this point. They want to feel safe in their homes and believe they have to take preventative action to do it.

Jobs are also one of our biggest concerns. In my first speech in this place I said the new industries of the health and knowledge precinct were imminent and could not come soon enough. Three years on, I am sorry to say how wrong I was and how much I clearly overestimated the ability of those opposite

to make it a reality. Smith Collective, the old Commonwealth Games Village, is expanding with more and more people moving in and enjoying everything this precinct has to offer. What remains empty is what this government is responsible for: the almost 9½ hectares of land that should be full of cranes constructing a thriving new innovation precinct. Instead, all we have is empty bitumen lots showing the unrealised potential. Construction has not started on a single building on those lots. Billions of dollars of investment is not being capitalised on. We still have the highest unemployment rate on the Gold Coast in Bonney, sitting at around nine per cent, and I will keep fighting for more opportunities, particularly for our young people, in our area.

On the Broadwater the ongoing problem of derelict houseboats is one of the most common issues people raise with me and my office. With so many units overlooking the Broadwater in Biggera Waters and Labrador, these residents know when boats are staying on longer than they should. They can see when they are releasing their sewage straight into the water. They can see when a boat is not seaworthy and they watch as they sink and pollute our precious natural environment. People are sick of how long it takes to move these boats on with the lack of monitoring by authorities and what appears to be a policy of waiting for them to sink before stepping in. We need to take action long before these things become wrecks. Also on the Broadwater is Curlew Island. The critically endangered shorebirds on these sandbanks need more done to protect them in this unique environment.

Housing affordability is getting far worse and, for those doing it particularly tough, social housing is an issue that comes through my office regularly. Bonney has the highest proportion of social housing on the Gold Coast. We get stories from both ends of the spectrum: people who are in desperate need of housing and are waiting months if they are lucky, but generally years, to get in, and at the other end people blatantly abusing it and causing issues for the overwhelming number of people who do the right thing.

In our local schools we urgently need upgrades. I represent many fantastic teachers and support staff, and they deserve facilities that reflect the excellent work they are doing. Labrador State School actually turns 100 this year and, although it has only been on its current site since the 1950s, some of its facilities show it. The hall is completely inadequate. It is an absolute sweatbox year round and it needs to be turned into a modern community facility as soon as possible. Arundel State School still has half of its classes in demountable buildings. With almost 1,200 kids a year, they need more permanent and upgraded facilities.

On the transport front, despite all the announcements, we are still waiting for some tangible progress on the Coomera Connector, or second M1. Every day locals are reminded that the M1 is at capacity so they know we need an alternative route, but those living next to the corridor also want clarity on what is going to happen with it. It does not take six years to plan a road and we have not even seen the business case yet. With the federal government matching this project fifty-fifty, I urge those opposite to stop stalling and to get on with it.

High frequency and high capacity public transport is the only way our city will manage the extraordinary growth we are seeing. We need to stop playing catch-up and properly plan ahead. Light rail stage 2 finished construction in late 2017 and, years later, we are only now seeing the next stage begin. The rollout needs to be one stage after the other without the ridiculous blame game in between. We need to get light rail directly down the spine of our city much sooner. Stage 4 needs to be ready to go, planned and funded to start straight after stage 3 to Burleigh is completed.

I also have not been afraid to raise council issues from time to time. The city plan update proposal is still a major issue for my area and I think few people understand the proposed changes. Development needs to be sustainable and manageable and not take away from what people love about an area. People accept density along the areas closest to the water on the Gold Coast, particularly because these have decent transport connections. When it creeps into our low density, character filled suburbs it does become inappropriate, and I will continue to stand up for Labrador and Chirn Park. I will keep raising these issues because my community think they are important.

Turning to the 2020 election campaign, I was proud to put forward a positive plan for my part of the Gold Coast. I do want to thank the former opposition leader and member for Nanango for the massive effort she put in whilst in that role. She could not have worked harder and it was devastating to fall short in the overall result. I am so thankful for her encouragement and guidance throughout my first few years as an MP and I continue to benefit from that now. The member for Nanango visited our area many times throughout the last term and always listened when I raised local issues. Many of the solutions to those problems became LNP commitments.

I do want to mention the other candidates who put up their hand to represent Bonney in this parliament, in particular the wonderful Javanmard family. Putting up your hand for politics is not an easy thing to do and all candidates should be acknowledged for wanting to serve.

My main opponent was, of course, the Labor candidate Ash Borg. In the few months that he campaigned, he, his family and a steady stream of CFMMEU members put in a huge effort. In fact, the recently released expenditure disclosures published by the Electoral Commission show their campaign spent more than any other individual Labor candidate. We kept our campaign positive and I am proud of the efforts of my team.

I wanted to put forward a really clear vision for the electorate of Bonney laid out in a plan that I have tabled previously in this House. The LNP plan included much needed school upgrades to give our state schools the best possible facilities, a multilevel commuter car park at Helensvale station to get more people using light and heavy rail, local sporting clubs upgrades, initiatives to better protect our local environment at the Arundel section of our wetlands and reform of the management of our Broadwater.

I will continue to advocate for these ideas and projects, because they were put together by engaging with my community and they clearly still support them. To see Labor come up with very little—and in some cases rehash money already committed and try to dress it up as something new—was disappointing. This was especially so in the case of the vital mental health ward upgrades for the Gold Coast University Hospital, announced way back in mid-2019 and reannounced during the campaign when work had not even started on that upgrade in the more than a year since the initial announcement.

In terms of the Bonney campaign, I was humbled by the support of my community. I had around 175 locals willing to have my face in their front yard or on their fence for a month and over 200 people helping on our polling booths or letterboxing and supporting other campaign activities. This all meant so much to me. I sincerely thank every single one of those people for putting their faith in me to represent them and, in many cases, for campaigning in an election for the very first time.

I will not be able to name all of our supporters but will highlight just a few people. My mum and dad have been incredible. They helped me letterbox and run community events for many weekends and even took the last two weeks of the campaign off work to spend every day on pre-poll. There is no better asset on a campaign than one's parents on pre-poll, especially my parents. I would not be here today without their love and support. My sister, Emily, a hardworking state school teacher, gave up many weekends to help out however she could. Pat Crotty was an integral source of advice and wisdom and succinct, direct feedback. I am thankful to have the guidance that he has picked up over many decades of service to our party and its predecessor National Party.

My electorate office team of Joe Wilkinson, Katie Omrod and Deb Rowles have been with me since I was first elected. They go above and beyond, regularly helping out at community events and initiatives in their own time. Joe and Katie are actually in the gallery today. I am the luckiest MP in this chamber to have such a professional, dynamic and hardworking team behind me. I hope to work with them for many years to come. Joe's dedication to our team and the way he leads it are outstanding. He is unparalleled in his commitment to serve our community, shown by the many roles he takes on, and I could not do this job without him. With the election out of the way, Joe finally took the chance to propose to his girlfriend, Annike. I sincerely congratulate them and wish them a long and happy future together. Katie does a brilliant job and brings so much to the team. I am always blown away by her ideas and creativity, and I love working with her.

Nerida Smith is the secretary of my local party unit and volunteered every bit of time she could around her own work schedule to rally our troops every weekend and many mornings before work. She stood on countless roadsides waving corflutes. Her passion to get me re-elected was relentless, but it is her advice and intellect that I am so grateful for.

To the ongoing volunteers I have had in my office—Liliana, Angelina, Jordan, Jack, Emily, Benji, Abbi, Jasmine and Taryn; I have probably forgotten a couple—you all have been exceptionally helpful and spent countless hours working on projects, making calls to check in on residents during COVID, stuffing envelopes, walking the streets letterboxing community information and whatever else you could do to help.

I cannot thank enough all of those people who put their confidence in me. I am humbled to have been asked to serve in the shadow cabinet by our new leader and my neighbouring MP, the member for Broadwater. As someone who was also elected to public office at a young age, he has been a great

mentor to me and I know just how passionate he is to serve and create change for this great state. I look forward to serving in this new role under the Leader of the Opposition as we work to gain the trust of Queenslanders in just under four years.

I have shown my passion for the environment consistently throughout my past term and am keen to further that and learn the issues from Currumbin to the cape. Within the first few months it has been great to meet with many stakeholders and everyday Queenslanders to hear what environmental issues they are facing and what ideas they have. We need to look at every available option to both reduce and offset our emissions. I will be looking at what the government is proposing and at what other approaches might be working in other jurisdictions. We need to do more with our protected areas, to encourage ecotourism opportunities, to better manage our waste and, of course, to tackle the overarching challenge of climate change.

I have been very open about my conviction that we need more opportunities for science education in Queensland. I wrote to the minister about getting a science centre in the health and knowledge precinct, but I seem to be expected to come up with a business case from opposition before the government will even look into it. I will keep working that project because I am very passionate about it. It is vital that Queensland is on the front foot when it comes to science education. It is how we will ensure we have jobs for the future. It is how we will keep learning from what has happened and improve things. More than any other, the last year has shown us the importance of science. I want to see more children and adults alike able to engage in science, and I will be looking to see how we can do that better.

As one of the youngest members in this House, I want to see more similarly aged people involved with politics. I would love young people to be less sceptical about politics and government and to see this as a great system that they need to be involved with to create change.

I finish with the commitment I made to my constituents at the end of my first speech around three years ago. To the people of Bonney, I say that I am here because of them and that that is what drives me. I will make myself as available as I can and encourage them to reach out to me. I will follow up with their issues and advocate for their ideas. I will serve them with passion and do my best to make them proud. That all still stands and I very much look forward to the next four years.

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (11.56 am): I rise in reply to the Governor's speech opening the 57th Parliament. In doing so, I pay my respects to our Indigenous First Nations people on the grounds on which we stand and acknowledge their previous and future representatives. All members of this place know that Queenslanders have faced one of the toughest years in decades during the COVID-19 pandemic. For some, that has been about their health; for some that has been about their businesses, their farms or the jobs that sustain them.

All of us in this chamber know firsthand the stories of our constituents who have been doing it tough and struggled to cope and the inspiring stories of those who have rushed to lend a hand to their fellow Queenslanders. It is in times of crisis that governments must be at their most responsive in meeting the needs of those they serve. In October the Queensland people assessed the Palaszczuk government and gave it a ringing endorsement, not only of what it has done already to keep the community safe but also of its plan for economic recovery and the future of this state.

No member here can serve Queensland without the support of their electorate. I take this opportunity to sincerely thank my constituents in Ferny Grove for once again putting their trust in me to represent them in this parliament. I am proud and grateful for that opportunity and look forward to continuing to deliver for them.

Winning every booth in the electorate this time—the third time around—was a huge success, given that when I first came to this place in 2015 my seat was the most marginal in Queensland. Of course, I am very deeply indebted to the Premier for her leadership of this state and of this government. In Ferny Grove and in communities across the length and breadth of Queensland, people voted in support of a Premier who stood steadfast in keeping them safe. This laser-like focus on protecting Queenslanders has been sustained often in the face of strident opposition from those opposite and from those in select other states who saw it as their business to question the health advice in a vain attempt to damage our great Premier. It is truly shameful to see that those attacks were aimed purely and simply at causing political damage, even when it was the health of Queenslanders that could have been the collateral damage.

One hopes that some lessons have been learned from the election results here in Queensland. Given the more recent attacks on the West Australian government—which I know will win this coming Saturday—it is possible that those lessons have once again passed them by. The strong support the

Premier enjoyed at the election was justified. Her foresight in declaring a public health emergency and her strength in resisting the ill-founded calls from those opposite to open the borders—64 times—may well have saved the lives of thousands of Queenslanders.

The Premier fought in national cabinet for what Queenslanders need. She made sure that Queenslanders got what was needed from their federal government and that Queensland was heard. Clearly our state benefits from having a leader who is pre-eminent among state premiers.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr FURNER: Yes, Australia has been fortunate in that we have not suffered from the devastating COVID-19 losses faced in other parts of the world, but it is no accident. It is no accident that Queensland has fared well in this regard, and the people of Queensland have recognised it. Whether it was during the campaign at my regular coffee catch up, pre-poll or election day booths, many went out of their way to point out to me why they were voting Labor. Overwhelmingly, substantial numbers of people were saying, 'I'm voting Labor because the Premier has kept us safe,' or—get this—'I've never voted Labor before, but we are this time because she has kept us safe.' Of course the Premier cannot run the state single-handedly and we are also—

Opposition members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Gerber): Pause the clock. You are warned under the standing orders, member for Nanango.

Mr FURNER: Overwhelmingly, substantial numbers of people were saying, as I have already said, 'I'm voting Labor for the first time because the Premier has kept us safe,' or, 'I've never voted Labor before, but we are this time because she has kept us safe.' Of course the Premier cannot run the state single-handedly and we are also well served by the Deputy Premier, who was the health minister in the previous parliament. Being calm, measured, insightful and strongly supportive of policy guided by the medical advice made him one of the faces of common sense and safety during the height of the pandemic. The face of the health advice, of course, was our Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young. It is to Queensland's ongoing good fortune to have a Chief Health Officer of the calibre of Dr Young and I think all Queenslanders understand just what a debt of gratitude we owe her.

The mandate given to the Palaszczuk Labor government could not be more clear. We have made our promises. We will deliver on those, and that is what our government does best. In my own electorate of Ferny Grove we will continue to deliver on our massive investment in local schools. Already we have invested and budgeted \$64 million in school infrastructure since I became the member in 2015. That is \$64 million driving jobs in our local community as well as improving the learning environments of both our students and our teachers. Since 2015 that represents 35 new classrooms, 26 renovated classrooms and 13 more on the way. Through the recent campaign we pledged \$5 million for a new school hall for Oakleigh State School. I look forward to seeing how this contributes to the school community.

The crowning achievement of Ferny Grove State High School's infrastructure bonanza came to fruition earlier this year with the delayed 2020 Music Gala held in the brand new 2,000-seat auditorium which I promised to deliver in the 2017 election. The auditorium project, along with the magnificent new Centre of Excellence, was delivered for the school under the inspiring leadership of Executive Principal John Schuh. Each of our schools did such an amazing job navigating construction projects and disruptions to the school's year. I want to commend them for their dedication and their professionalism. 2020 was a year which reminded many of us just what a valuable role good teachers perform in our society, and in my community I have seen evidence of the very best.

Our ongoing improvements to Samford Road will also make a daily difference to many in and around the Ferny Grove electorate. Many locals are looking forward to the Ferny Grove transit oriented development, or TOD, getting underway and creating more jobs in our local area which commenced with the foresight of the previous transport minister, Minister Stirling Hinchliffe. This project will create 700 jobs during the construction phase and another 700 ongoing jobs once it is completed. That is 1,400 jobs being created in my electorate which are going to contribute to the prosperity of Ferny Grove for many years to come. The project will also bring more than 400 additional car parks in that development supported by more than \$9 million from the Palaszczuk government.

More broadly across the state the Palaszczuk government has a mandate to deliver on the unite and recover economic plan that will see Queensland become stronger in the wake of the pandemic. We will make strategic investments in both new and existing industries to grow the jobs needed today

and into the future. We will invest in the education and health services that are both needed by Queenslanders and are critical to our economic progress and development. These things are at the heart of what a Labor government does and we are proud to deliver. We will continue to take the measures needed to keep Queenslanders safe through record numbers of police, through important legislative reforms on issues such as coercive control and through managing the ongoing risk of COVID-19. These activities are the building blocks of good government, and the Palaszczuk Labor government is exactly that.

We know that the opposition does not have the same commitment to these matters. We have heard promises of a new style of opposition where measures that are good for the people of Queensland will be supported by the LNP, but already we see the same tired old approach from members of the LNP. They whinge, they whine and they complain with nothing constructive to offer except the tired old LNP policy waffle that they have been banging on with for many years. In my portfolio alone they harp on constantly about trying to bring back the past and, even worse, they do it when they know better because the experts have told them.

Those opposite commissioned a comprehensive report on the actions needed to ensure the future of Queensland's fishing industry, but in a fit of panic they buried the report because they did not have the stomach for the work. Since then they have fought every fisheries reform measure that we have taken, to the ridiculous extent of arguing for a five-day head start for black market fishers, and opposing regulations that were essential to ensure Queensland seafood could still be exported to the world—a requirement set by the federal government.

Those opposite commissioned and received a report from the former QATC at Longreach and Emerald. We still have not seen that Ernst & Young report for seven years, yet when our government took the actions that were necessary—and the LNP knows they were necessary—those opposite lost their minds and demanded everything go back to the way it was, presumably to the mid-1970s. We understand that as an opposition they want to influence policy, but I cannot stand by and allow them to influence fashion. Living through the mid-seventies once was enough! They do not listen and they do not think and they do not represent the majority of Queenslanders. That is why they are in opposition and that is why we are in government in the state of Queensland representing the—

Mr Lister interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Southern Downs, you are warned under the standing orders.

Mr FURNER: That is why we are in government because we represent Queenslanders right across our proud state of Queensland.

In conclusion—and this is not a statement that anyone in this chamber would be unfamiliar with—we only get here through the support of our volunteers and primarily our families. Today I am proud to recognise Troy, Danielle, Xavier and Marley in the gallery. Unfortunately my wife could not be here today, but my other two daughters Sally and Stacey helped out extensively on the campaign and I recognise them for that.

Madam Deputy Speaker, my address-in-reply speech has been reviewed and approved for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

Speaker, it has been my absolute privilege to serve the people of Queensland as the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries, and I thank the Premier for once again trusting me to continue in that role.

Adding the portfolio of Rural Communities is an additional honour. Like many Queenslanders, I feel a special affinity with the iconic rural towns and communities that are famous throughout Australia and in many cases throughout the world.

This Palaszczuk Labor Government has shown a particular and I think special understanding of rural and regional issues, and understands that Queensland is made up of much more than Greater Brisbane and its surrounding areas in the South East.

What would Queensland be without the spectacular tourism regions that bring vital tourism activity but also a richness of culture and diversity into our state?

What would Queensland's economy be without the rich agricultural traditions that continue to earn billions of dollars both domestically and through our increasing export markets.

And what would Queensland's regional cities be like without the rich tapestry of home-grown locals, visitors and migrants who make up the wonderful communities and business networks that we all prosper from.

Speaker, if I see one thing in the Palaszczuk Government's Cabinet, which I am proud to be a part of, it is that we don't have stay-at-home Ministers.

We have ministers who travel throughout the State, who meet the people involved in things both great and small, who connect with and listen to Queenslanders as people, and respect the people they meet.

That is a major part of the strength of this Government—we respect Queenslanders and we hear what they say. We govern for them, and as a Cabinet we do not lose sight of that.

In my portfolio we have recorded some significant achievements over the last five years, and there is more to come.

While I have spoken already about the Government's response to Coronavirus and its impacts, I must talk about the response particularly in my portfolio areas.

Queensland was the first state in the nation to declare Agriculture an essential industry.

This had real practical impacts on the ground. It was vital for our farmers and the food supply chain to understand that we had their backs, and we sure did.

We quickly formed the Agriculture Coordination Group, with more than 70 key stakeholders meeting regularly—at least weekly—through the early stages of the COVID crisis to raise any and all issues of how the pandemic was affecting the industry.

This was vital to protect jobs, vital to protect our farmers and also vital to protecting the supply of fresh Queensland produce that Queenslanders and so many other Australians rely on each and every day.

My thanks go to all of the participants in that group. It gave industry the direct connection to Government decision makers that they needed at that time, and gave our senior Departmental officers exactly the insight into the situation that they needed to manage it well.

It is fair to say that the level of cooperation and coordination between industry and Government through this process was unprecedented, and I think it bodes well for the future to know what we can all achieve when we work together on critical issues.

Of course, the pandemic is not over yet. The fact that the vaccine rollout has begun is extremely encouraging but we are not taking our eye off the ball.

The economic recovery plan is in full swing, and across the state it is wonderful to see that Queensland has already recovered more jobs than were lost during those first intense few months.

That doesn't mean the work is done. There is a long way to go. But the Palaszczuk Government's approach of getting the health response right has put Queensland in an excellent position to be at the heart of Australia's economic recovery.

We have proudly declared that our agriculture and food producing industries will be one of the pillars of that recovery, and I have to say industry is stepping up to help us make that a reality.

Outside of the COVID issue, we have continued to deliver on our key portfolio objectives. We have been clear about what we set out to do, and we have made it happen.

We delivered the most significant reforms of fisheries management in Queensland in almost a quarter of a century, and we continue to implement the regulations and changes necessary to bed that down.

These are vital reforms to ensure that both our commercial and recreational fishing sectors still have seafood to catch.

Fishing is more than just a business or an industry—it is a way of life for many people and we support them.

We are doing that by making sure that fish stocks are at sustainable levels, meaning our children and grandchildren can enjoy the same fishing experiences and opportunities that we have.

And we will remain vigilant when it comes to policing our fisheries laws.

It is just not on for people to flout these laws, often for profit, and expect that there will not be consequences.

This is not a victimless crime. Every black market fisher who illegally takes from our waters is robbing the next generation of the ability to fish legally.

These resources belong to every Queenslanders, and we will not stand by and give a free pass to those who would exploit it for their own illegal and short-term gains.

Speaker, an industry as diverse as food production involves many stakeholder groups and organisations that play a role in advocacy and information sharing across the state.

When you consider that 88 per cent of Queensland's land area is used for primary production, it is no surprise that there are many of these groups. It makes sense that there are specialist organisations for certain kinds of livestock or crops, and they are passionate advocates for their industries and their members.

I would like to thank the Queensland Farmers Federation, Growcom and AgForce for their consistent contributions towards growing agriculture in this state.

That is not to in any way minimise the contributions made by so many more organisations, both large and small, to growing and adapting agriculture and fisheries industries right across Queensland.

I look forward to continuing to engage with these and other organisations to ensure that these important industry voices play their role in the exciting future of food production in this state.

Speaker, Ministers rely on the hard-working women and men of their departments to execute Government policy, engage closely with community organisations and individuals and highlight issues as or even before they arise.

As Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries, I have the honour of being supported by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people in the Department who have served this state with distinction over the last year.

The Pandemic put challenges on every Queensland workplace, and that was no less true of those whose commitment is to supporting our agriculture and fishing industries.

In particular I would like to again acknowledge the remarkable contribution of Dr Beth Woods, the recently retired Director-General of the Department.

Dr Woods has shown a remarkable commitment to public service in this state, and made a significant contribution to the advancement of agriculture in Queensland. She has always been dedicated, passionate and focussed on the end goal of getting better outcomes for Queensland and for Queenslanders. I, and many Queenslanders, are grateful for her services.

To run a campaign to be elected to this place it takes a lot of support, and I am grateful to have been supported in my efforts to provide strong representation for the people of Ferny Grove.

I would like to thank the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees Association, the Services Union, the Transport Workers' Union and the United Firefighters Union QLD Branch for their efforts and contributions to the great result we achieved in October.

Of course, without the great Queensland Labor Party I would not have this opportunity, so my thanks also go to my organiser Mitchell Kingston, State Secretary Julie-Ann Campbell and Assistant State Secretary Zac Beers.

Without our volunteers a campaign would be simply impossible. I can't name them all, but my thanks go out to them.

In particular I would like to thank Mike and Bronte Bailey for their spectacular efforts across pre-poll, election day rosters and sign sites.

Thanks to Christine Doolan and Ali Gibbs for their election preparation support, and thanks also to Laurence Brown and Geoff McKay for their important support.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (12.08 pm): I acknowledge the Governor of Queensland and I am privileged to again rise to reply to his address, the fifth time I have had the opportunity to do so. At the outset I acknowledge the people of Glass House. To those of you who voted for me and for the LNP, I say thank you. To those of you who did not, I also say thank you. It is because of you I remain humble.

Let me be honest: while I accept the outcome of the 2020 election, I am bitterly disappointed. I am disappointed that Deb Frecklington, the member for Nanango, is not the Premier of this great state. The member for Nanango has to be the hardest working, most personable, friendly and genuine leader I have had the privilege of working alongside. I commend her for all of the effort she put in not only during the election campaign but across the three years of her leadership. Queenslanders will only know in the future what they have missed out on with the member for Nanango not becoming the Premier.

I am equally disappointed that the member for Nanango's vision for Queensland will not come to fruition—a vision that, as the then shadow minister for infrastructure, manufacturing, planning and a range of other things, would have seen an economy booming through investment in infrastructure, roads, dams, the New Bradfield Scheme and, more importantly, in frontline services to ensure all Queenslanders get their health needs met, their education needs provided for and their child protection and youth justice needs delivered.

I am also disappointed for the electorate of Glass House. As did the member for Bonney before me, as did all members on this side of the chamber, I put forward a positive plan for Glass House. It addressed the real concerns of the constituents of Glass House. For starters, we were going to tackle many of the problem roads in the electorate. We were going to finally get the design work done on Mount Mee Road between Dayboro and Ocean View, a road that is unsafe but also sees huge traffic in motorbikes and cyclists, in particular on the weekends. We would have installed traffic lights at the intersection of the D'Aguilar Highway and Campbells Pocket Road in Wamuran—something that after repeated petitions and letters to the minister this government does not see as a priority.

We would have, on top of the money already allocated to upgrade some two kilometres worth of Maleny-Kenilworth Road at Cambronn, invested a further \$5 million to upgrade Maleny-Kenilworth Road between Maleny and Witta and we would have fixed the debacle that is Beerburum Road where, because of a dreadful road surface, this government has lowered the speed limit from 100 kilometres to 80 kilometres instead of fixing the road.

More than that, we would have kept kids safe at Mooloolah State School by putting flashing school zone lights in. We would have provided for the health needs of the Maleny and Blackall Range community by putting \$1 million towards their new hydrotherapy centre, something that is particularly poignant for me because of the role my dear friend Joyce Newton played in trying to establish that and the subsequent indoor aquatic centre for Maleny.

Again something near and dear to my heart would have been our investment in EndED—end eating disorders—in their step-out facility on the Sunshine Coast. To Mark Forbes, to his wife Gay, Millie and their team, I am sorry that we have not been able to deliver that for you. I know you have found ways to do that yourself and that shows just how good you are at making sure those individuals who are suffering from eating disorders around our state and their families and loved ones have the services they need to beat that insidious disease.

It is pretty clear that COVID played a significant role in the outcome of the election.

Mr Stevens: As per the previous speaker.

Mr POWELL: I take that interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach. I commend the people of Glass House for the way they persevered through 2020, the way they responded to the health concerns and to the restrictions placed on them. I particularly acknowledge those constituents in the Moreton Bay Regional Council half of Glass House who had further restrictions placed on them again earlier this year. There were many people who were fearful during 2020. There are many people who are still fearful. What disappoints me is that those opposite chose to play politics with that fear.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr POWELL: I had a look for a suitable quote and this one comes from Swiss philosopher Tariq Ramadan—

Fear and its accompanying emotional reactions have become part of the public mindset. Such reactions, while often legitimate, are also being exploited with increasing frequency for political ends.

There is no question that that is what occurred during last year's election campaign. The people of Glass House, the people of Queensland more broadly, were scared into voting for a government that has done nothing to demonstrate it has a vision for this state.

Mr Power interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Gerber): Members, I am not tolerating disorderly interjections during the address-in-reply. Please stop interjecting. Member for Logan, you are warned under the standing orders.

Mr POWELL: The English poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge said that in politics, what begins with fear usually ends with folly and failure. I suspect that is exactly what we will see play out over the coming term.

As we move out of this COVID environment other issues must again become a priority. I want to at this point congratulate the member for Broadwater, David Crisafulli, and the member for Toowoomba South, David Janetzki, on their ascension to the roles of leader and deputy leader of the LNP. I know that under their leadership this team will continue to hold the government accountable, not only for their actions but also for their integrity.

We will ensure that what the people of Queensland—what the people of Glass House—need continues to be delivered, such as, as I said, Maleny-Kenilworth Road. The people of Cambroon, Conondale and Kenilworth were sold a pup early last year. They were told that section of goat track was going to be fixed up. It was not until the budget came out, albeit a delayed budget, that we found out that that work is not going to start until 2023-24. That is not acceptable.

Mr Crandon: Typical. They are doing the same thing on the northern Gold Coast.

Mr POWELL: Exactly, member for Coomera. I will continue to fight for those upgrades that we in the LNP promised between Maleny and Witta. Recently Mr Brian Kennedy came into my office. He brought with him a letter dated 28 February 2005. It stated—

As you are aware, the Department of Main Roads is currently investigating a section of the Maleny Road, between Dixon Avenue and Curramore Road, to carry out planning for possible roadworks in the area.

It goes on to say—

After considering a number of options for improvement, we have tabled a preferred option.

This is in 2005. It goes on—

The proposed option includes rehabilitation and widening works to improve the safety of this section of road focusing on the following key issues:

Upgrading intersections

Realigning dangerous corners

Improving visibility

Increasing overtaking opportunities

Providing pull off areas

Maintaining current speed limits

Mr Kennedy and I are appalled that this government has done nothing since 2005 to address that and we will continue to push for it. I mentioned the debacle at Beerburrum Road. I thank Kirsty Levis and the people of Beerburrum for agreeing to put up a petition. I thank the owner of B&Y Waste Services who took me in one of their trucks along Beerburrum Road to demonstrate how dangerous and unsafe it is. We will not stop until that road is resurfaced and the 100 kilometre speed limit returned.

To the residents of Mount Mee, Ocean View, Dayboro and King Scrub, we will get Mount Mee Road fixed. To the people of Wamuran and further west, we will get those lights installed at Campbells Pocket Road; I will not stop. I will continue to advocate for EndED for the services that they provide to people with eating disorders.

As I have spoken about recently, I want to see a full review of the School Transport Assistance Scheme. For too long we as members of parliament, the governments of both political persuasions and the bureaucrats have hidden behind a policy that is antiquated. It does not gel with me that officials within the Department of Transport and Main Roads can dictate to parents which schools their kids must attend. We need to review this. If the education department is telling parents that this is the school that they need to be sending their kids to then that is the school we need to provide subsidised transport to, not two or three other options. I will not stop until that is delivered. We have a petition going and I encourage all parents to sign it.

Another pet project of mine is roadside vegetation management in the hinterland of the Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay. I acknowledge this began when we were in government and put out a contract, a contract that has subsequently been put out again with even worse outcomes. Last year was a pretty tough year for tourism in our part of the world, but towards the end of last year it actually started booming. In February I received a letter from booking.com and I will read part of it—

In a year the Australia's tourism industry faced unparalleled challenges, Booking.com has examined millions of customer reviews on what makes Australia's tourism destinations special. Out of 220 countries and territories, Australia placed 14th for the highest number of awards. This year, our Traveller Review Awards 2021 have uncovered the top ten Most Welcoming Destinations in the country.

The top five tourism destinations are: No. 1, Maleny, Queensland, in the electorate of Glass House; No. 2, somewhere called Denmark in Western Australia; No. 3, Hervey Bay in Queensland; No. 4, Margaret River, which I suspect is just up the road from Denmark in Western Australia; and No. 5 is Montville, Queensland, in the electorate of Glass House. The letter goes on to say—

The Booking.com Traveller Review Awards 2021 show that Booking.com accommodation and travel partners in Maleny and Montville have made travel experiences more memorable for tourists this year despite all the challenges they faced. The Ranking reveals insights into traveler preferences throughout the past year, uncovering that travelers appreciate staff, cleanliness and location most when reviewing award-winning properties on the platform, with those attributes scoring highest among the categories that travelers rate following their stay.

My full commendation goes to the Maleny and Montville chambers of commerce for the work they have done with tourism operators in promoting our part of the world—their product—to the rest of the world and particularly to South-East Queensland and the broader Australian nation. However, the Montville Chamber of Commerce continues to write to the Minister for Main Roads asking him to do something about the appalling state of our roadsides. They sent their latest letter on 31 January and it states—

It should be of no surprise to local residents to notice how the Blackall Range Tourist Drive roadside is to be found but again grossly overgrown with places where roadside signs are hardly visible. Right when the businesses in the region are in one of the peak times for tourist visitations! An unsightly contribution to promoting the Hinterland!

The Montville Chamber of Commerce would like you as our State Government representative to highlight our concerns to the Minister for DTMR as to how his arrangements for contract mowing is working against the interests of the Maleny-Montville-Mapleton region whose local economy relies heavily on tourism.

I would add the areas of Mount Mee and Ocean View. The letter continues—

We understand that DTMR defines its road signage for Tourist Drive as being a connector to tourist destinations. However, the distinct colour coding of Tourist Drive signage seen on the road, does strongly suggest that the Tourist Drive itself, is in its own right a tourist destination to be experienced.

I say to the government: mow your roads. If you lived in a street where the government was your neighbour and was responsible for keeping its front yard clean, you would move out of that street. The situation is appalling. They have had an opportunity to fix it through recent contracts and they have not done so.

I will also be working with constituents on the rollout of the Beerburrum to Nambour rail project, particularly concerned residents around Barrs Road where we will be getting a new overpass. While many in the community will welcome that, this week I asked a question on notice about some of the concerns of Barrs Road residents. I ask the minister to consider holding another consultation with that community on a weekend, rather than at midday on a weekday when they are all at work. I will be writing to the minister in that regard.

I will continue to work with local farmers around farm labour. We have had some small wins but we need more and we need them quickly. I will continue to work with my constituents and local police to address hooning. As we heard this morning, we must address housing affordability so that we can help people such as Estelle from Elaman Creek, Pollyanna from Eudolo, Stephanie, and Darren and Kate from Maleny who have a family of nine and are only days away from being homeless. We must address that issue for this generation and for generations to come.

I note the government is looking for pilot areas for new growth. I can tell the House that we have the perfect one in Glass House which—as I said in my maiden speech 12 years ago—is the area around Elimbah. Elimbah is on a railway line and is less than an hour from the city. We also need to look at the legislation around tiny homes. There is much more that I will continue to lobby for.

This is my fifth term in this place and, as I said, I am humbled. I am here because I represent the LNP and I represent the values that the LNP stands for. We stand for freedom of conscience, freedom of religion, freedom of expression and freedom of association. We stand for the family as the indispensable forum where children are raised and nurtured. We stand for government that has a sustainable level of debt that does not impose an unfair burden on future generations. We believe in the worth and dignity of every individual, the priority of helping the marginalised and public and personal integrity, and that they underpin our society.

I am here because of tireless family members and LNP volunteers. I do not normally do this but I want to read the names of everyone who helped me: Alex, Andrew, Ann, Barb, Bill and Marlene, Sharpie, Bob, Bob, Gail, Nicole and Paul, Bridget, Bruce, Carter, Clif, Coral, Daryl, Dave and Bev, Dave, Donna, Doug, Frangi, Gerry and Nevenka, my brother Glenn, my brother Jonathon, Greg and Ann, Greg, Hamish and Anne, Harry, Harvey, James and Marjorie, Janet, Jennifer, JJ, John TK, John and Bruna, John W, Julie, Karen, Kel and Lorraine, Kerry, Kim, Lesley and John, Lisa, Lorna and Lyn, Lou, Marcus, Martin and Rowena, Mary, my parents Pam and Steve, Peter C, Pete and Doris, Peter P, Peter S, Robin, Roy, Ruth, Sandy and Diana, Sandy, Shane, Stan, Val, Vanessa, Wim and Zack. I am here because of you.

I am here because of my amazing staff, Lauren and Bek. Tragically, their combined ages do not even equal mine. They are helping me reach a younger generation though. I particularly acknowledge Lauren who recently announced that she is pregnant with her first child. Congratulations! Don't worry: we will be right without you and will welcome you back when you are ready. I know that you will enjoy parenthood. I am here because of the love and support of Taryn and my kids, who have put up with a lot over the past 12 years.

I conclude where I started: I am here because of the people of Glass House and I thank them. I will strive to continue to represent them all to the very best of my ability.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (12.26 pm): I rise to reply to the address of his Excellency the Governor. I could not be prouder to be a Queenslander at this time. I live in a state that has the leadership to keep us safe during COVID and amongst a community that has worked hard to do the right thing and ensure we are in the enviable position in which we find ourselves, which is safe, healthy and able to go about our business. Well done to everyone in Queensland for your efforts.

I thank the Premier for her leadership through COVID and for so much else that takes Queensland forward. I thank the Chief Health Officer, Jeannette Young, and the Deputy Premier for helping to get us through what must surely be the most challenging period of our generation. I thank all the frontline workers who put themselves and their own families at potential risk in order to look after us.

I also could not be prouder to stand in this House as the re-elected member for Bulimba. I thank my constituents for the enormous privilege they have again bestowed upon me by electing me to represent them and to be the person who looks out for their interests. I am incredibly proud to represent a community that responds as they do in a crisis. When COVID hit their first thought was how they could help others who might be more vulnerable. When the chips were down they showed what they were made of and they are made of wonderful stuff. I promised them that I will always do my best and I will always try my hardest to have their wellbeing front and centre of everything I think and do. I will have much more to say about that later when I speak about what that means in a practical sense in the coming term of government.

I also stand here as the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development. I thank the Premier for the trust she has shown by giving me those responsibilities, which I take very seriously and that I have relished from the very moment I was appointed. It is no coincidence that the word 'employment' is at the beginning of my title because job creation is the Palaszczuk Labor government's No. 1 priority.

I am proud to be part of a government that has created 275,000 jobs since being elected. Queensland is the only state to have more jobs now than before the pandemic—29,700 of them in fact. Our economy is experiencing the fastest growth and is outperforming both Victoria and New South Wales. It is because of our strong health response and our economic recovery plan that during 2020 we created more jobs than any other state. However, there is much more work to do and that will be the focus of all my energy and enthusiasm over the next four years.

I cannot overstate how important skills and training will be to our economic recovery. We need the right people with the right skills in the right jobs at the right time. That means providing the right training. We have made significant investment in skills and training, and we will continue to do so as we respond to the challenges ahead of us. We have rolled out new training programs including free online training for jobseekers and business owners so they can adapt to new ways of working.

We continue to support thousands of young Queenslanders into a free TAFE qualification or free apprenticeships. We know that more must be done, and it will be. We have expanded free TAFE and free apprenticeships to all young Queenslanders under 25 so that even more young people have the opportunity to gain the qualifications they need to participate in our growing economy. We have rolled out the JobTrainer Fund, which is already providing free or low-cost training to over 21,000 Queenslanders. For some Queenslanders, like Sarah Ryland, this training is a lifeline. After completing a degree and working as a social worker, Sarah realised it was not the right career path for her. Dreaming of becoming an electrician, Sarah enrolled in a Certificate III in Electrotechnology at TAFE Queensland. As a young mother, Sarah was not sure how she would be able to fund her course, but through JobTrainer she is able to access her course at no cost. The JobTrainer Fund is just one way we are supporting young people and jobseekers affected by the pandemic. We know that our training is making an impact, with 82.6 per cent of VET graduates in Queensland employed or in further studies. I have had approval from the Deputy Speaker to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*.

The speech read as follows—

Currently there are more than 28,000 young Queenslanders in these free training programs.

We are investing another \$100 million to equip TAFE for the future—ensuring that we continue to revitalise, develop and create world class training facilities here in Queensland.

We've changed the lives of the over 64 000 people who've participated in our Skilling Queenslanders for Work and Back to Work Programs—to either gain employment or qualify for further training.

Mr Speaker, this government is all about giving Queenslanders the opportunity to get qualifications which lead to jobs and drives our state's economic recovery.

Small business will be an integral part of our recovery, and a vital cog in the creation of more jobs.

When we talk about job creation, I know a lot of people think of the very big businesses.

Its critical that we support those big businesses.

And we do.

However I'm not sure whether enough people realise that in fact small businesses represents 97% of businesses statewide.

And I know I've advised the House of some of these stats before, but they are important so I'm going to tell everyone again

Small businesses employ 44% of all private sector workers.

Which is almost 1 million Queenslanders Speaker.

And unless we have their interests right in front of us in our Economic Plan, we will not make the recovery we need.

And from when they were first hit so hard by COVID Speaker, this Government responded, including with:

- \$196 million in grants, supporting almost 20,000 businesses
- Our \$1 billion no-interest loans scheme supporting 7,000 businesses and 86,000 Queensland jobs
- \$950 million in payroll tax relief
- And the establishment of a Small Business Commissioner

But Speaker we know there's uncertainty and challenge ahead for small business.

Which is why in the last budget, we announced an additional \$140 million over three years in a Big Plans for Small Business package.

Including:

- \$100 million from the Backing Queensland Business Investment Fund to support small to medium sized businesses that have significant growth potential in QLD and will create QLD-based jobs
- \$30 million to increase skills and capability including
 - Our \$25 million growth package focussing on priority industry sectors
 - \$1 million in grants to support businesses ready to grow into international markets
 - Funds to develop a Business Ready website
- \$10 million to make it easier to do business in QLD including:
 - the permanent appointment of a Small Business Commissioner
 - targeted engagement strategies and a re-invigorated Small Business Advisory Council
 - a Summertime Taskforce to investigate how businesses can move outdoors

Speaker I wasted no time getting started in my portfolio.

Already this year I've had the chance to travel around QLD on our 17 stop Small Business Roadshow, talking to small businesses.

We've come to the end of the Roadshow now, having talked to over 1800 owners and operators.

About where they are right now in the COVID Economy, and what sort of support we can offer them.

What great stories we're hearing. Many stories of success. Many of survival.

But also unfortunately many stories of fear.

And that's primarily fear of JobKeeper ceasing at the end of March

And I cannot urge the Opposition strongly enough to lobby the Prime Minister to continue targeted support for Jobkeeper in industries like tourism and the like.

I give a huge shout out to all small businesses across QLD and acknowledge the efforts they've made.

Many are lynchpins in their local communities.

And they are our priority.

These initiatives will benefit all Queenslanders, including the people of Bulimba who I proudly serve each and every day.

But Speaker there are some very specific priorities I have for my community, which will be come to fruition in this coming term.

I am so pleased and proud to be part of a Government that places such a strong priority on Education.

And we know that having the right facilities in which a child can learn, is absolutely critical to their success.

So knowing that we will roll out in this coming term some facilities that I have worked incredibly closely with school communities to deliver, is so gratifying:

- Like the new School hall at Seven Hills SS
- New buildings to replace those damaged by fire at Morningside SS

- A new Admin block and Science block at Balmoral High
- An outdoor learning area at BXX
- And almost \$1 million to improve accessibility at Cannon Hill SS

And that's on top of the substantial tweaks we're going to get for our Outside School Hours Centres at Cannon Hill, Morningside, Murarrie, Norman Park, Seven Hills and Bulimba State Schools.

And although public transport has been significantly disrupted with COVID Speaker, with so many people continuing to work from home

In an inner city electorate like ours, high quality, accessible public transport will always be critical

Critical in addressing traffic congestion in the future

Critical in providing more environmentally sustainable options.

And advocating for better and more equitable public transport options for our community has become one of my signature roles.

With upgrades to Murarrie and Cannon Hill railway station carparks, and successful lobbying for equity in pricing across those stations

With a \$26 million upgrade for Cannon Hill station to make it accessible to people with disabilities, to the elderly, and to parents with young children in particular.

And now a promise for a similar upgrade at Morningside station, one of the busiest on the Cleveland line.

Speaker there are so many other things we'll be doing in our community this term.

Along with my colleagues Terri Butler Federal Member for Griffith and Kara Cook Councillor for Morningside, I will continue to advocate for the best outcomes on issues like the Bulimba Barracks and other local developments, Council conducting a feasibility study for green bridge, aircraft noise, and the Council returning the Balmoral High.

I will continue to conduct events and forums like my Small Business Networking event, my Bulimba Electorate Youth Advisory Panel, my DV forum, my parents forums (and local parents have made it so clear to me that Mental Health is an issue they want more support on), my seniors morning teas, our ANZAC Day activities, my QLD Day Awards, my Community Groups Information Evening.

And I will continue to actively support the almost 200 magnificent community groups and schools which constitute the amazing social fabric of our community.

Speaker there are certain people without whom I could not do my job.

To the staff of my Ministerial Office—both in the previous and current term—Mike, Jo, Michael, Darren, Gayle, Deb, Cyndi, Em, Lesley, Emi, Dou, Nick and Matt

To the staff of my electorate office—Annmaree, Lisa and now Madonna

To my campaign manager Renee, and the mighty members of my campaign committee, to the amazing branch members and volunteers who are always there to support me and who astonish me with their resilience and generosity.

To my beautiful family, who are always there for me—Ian, Lucy and Millie

I say I cannot ever thank you enough. I cannot ever do enough back for you that will equal the difference you make to me.

And to the people of the Bulimba community—thank you for the faith you've put in me and I look forward to our next four years together.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (12.31 pm): I rise to give my address-in-reply to His Excellency the Governor. I first thank the residents of the Theodore electorate, who put their trust in me for the fourth time. It is my great honour and privilege to represent them. I have done my utmost over the years to make myself available to all of my constituents—the wonderful, hardworking individuals and families who try to make something of their lives. They live in the best place in Queensland: the Gold Coast. Our community is very diverse. Some parts of my electorate are very wealthy; we have lovely canal blocks in certain sections. We have beautiful rolling hills out towards Tamborine Mountain. We also have areas where there is quite a bit of social housing. It is, as I said, a very diverse area.

It is a very humbling experience to be elected again to represent these individuals. As I said, over the years I have done my utmost to represent them and their views—no matter the political divide, no matter their thoughts when it comes to politics. Some of my best supporters are former Labor voters who have openly come out to help me because I believe that in the electorate I should not be playing politics. Their personal opinions and their lives must come first. That is something that I have always held to and I will always hold to.

In my electorate of Theodore, formerly the electorate of Albert, a lot of the problems we have faced over the years remain. In 2014 crime was not a particularly big issue, but these days crime, especially youth crime, is a major issue on the northern Gold Coast. Obviously there is a bill before the

House in this regard. I will not go into any detail of my thoughts on that bill, but drastic measures need to be put in place to make a real difference, not only for families who are victims of crime but also to deal with the perpetrators.

The Theodore electorate is part of one of the fastest growing regions in Queensland. My colleague Michael Crandon holds the seat of Coomera just to the north of me. That electorate has had massive population growth over the years. I believe it has 25 per cent to 27 per cent overpopulation at present. The Theodore electorate has taken some of that population. One of the biggest issues in our electorate is the lack of infrastructure, especially when it comes to highway interchanges. Recently the government upgraded exit 57.

Mr Minnikin: How did that go?

Mr BOOTHMAN: The issue with exit 57 has not been solved. Regularly there are car accidents there because motorists get confused with the multitude of lanes. We regularly experience congestion, which this so-called upgrade was supposed to sort out. Unfortunately, many residents feel that the situation is worse than before.

The removal of right-hand turns—they allowed motorists to go across the motorway from Oxenford—has caused safety issues for other areas. For instance, the Dan Murphy's car park at The Ox Tavern is now used as a U-turn facility by a lot of motorists. Motorists are speeding through that car park to come back around so they can go across the motorway. Media crews from Channel 7 and Channel 9 are astounded by what they see there. I must say, the interchange upgrade that the government spruiked during the election campaign was one of the saving graces for my campaign.

Residents are at their wits' end with it. When they saw the original designs all those years ago, they were very vocal against it because they felt it was a bandaid solution. They wanted a long-term solution that would fix the problem once and for all. I implore the Minister for Main Roads to work with the federal government to find a long-term solution that will alleviate the traffic at this intersection.

This intersection is confusing for motorists, especially motorists who do not live in the area. Motorists are unsure as to which of the multitude of lanes they need to be in until they actually arrive at the intersection. I have received complaint after complaint—and I have personally witnessed it—about vehicles changing lanes halfway through the intersection and then sideswipe other vehicles. Recently we had a car flip over on the intersection and eight people had to be taken to hospital.

The intersection is failing. We need this intersection fixed. The state government and Minister Bailey need to swallow some pride and work with the federal government. They need to put a business case together. I will fight tooth and nail to get some funding from the feds and from the state to get this fixed once and for all.

Other areas in my electorate desperately need help. At Henri Roberts Drive we need a deceleration lane for motorists turning left.

Mr Stevens: Build the mighty Albert shire.

Mr BOOTHMAN: Yes. The Henri Roberts Drive deceleration lane upgrade is a critical safety need. Motorists slow down to turn left to go up Tamborine Mountain on the reverse side of a blind hill. Many times, as I drive around these areas, I see motorists having to swerve out because they do not realise that the car in front is going to decelerate to turn left. This is a simple fix. It is not an expensive fix. All they need to do is start laying some asphalt on the side of road. There is already a good base to lay the new asphalt. It would not take much effort at all.

An issue of major concern for residents around the Upper Coomera area is motorists coming out of Charlies Crossing Road North onto Tamborine Oxenford Road. Motorists coming out of Charlies Crossing Road North take their lives in their hands every time they turn right at that intersection. At that intersection there is a cenotaph that has been there since 1918. It was one of the first cenotaphs on the Gold Coast. Where that cenotaph is located at the moment causes a bit of a blind spot.

Ever since council approved a new service station directly across the road from the cenotaph there is additional traffic at that intersection and around that blind spot. It is making it extremely difficult for motorists turning right at that intersection. I said to Main Roads that we need to put additional requirements on this service station because the road outside the service station is the responsibility of Main Roads. My fear was that the additional traffic would make it unsafe for motorists coming out of Charlies Crossing Road North. We desperately need a proper solution and a proper fix for this interchange.

This area has upwards of 12,000 to 14,000 car movements per day. It is a major access point for Tamborine Mountain and for workers from the area going to the Gold Coast. It is a beautiful spot. We need to look at some type of safety upgrade in that area to ensure that those motorists can leave for work in the morning safely and come home from work safely in the afternoon. Another scary part of that is that we have school buses dropping kids off in that area. They are walking across a very busy road. I cringe every time I see school students do that because I worry that one day one of them is going to be hit by a car or a truck passing through that area. I say to the minister for main roads that that is crucially important. One of the top priorities in my area in terms of fixes is Charlies Crossing Road North. If it means putting a roundabout in there to allow for free-flowing traffic that would certainly be welcomed.

I thank the government for their election commitment—something that I have been pushing for and that the LNP committed to also—around the Michigan Drive and the Tamborine Oxenford Road upgrade. That is an important intersection in my area. A major bus route uses that intersection at the moment. They turn right at that intersection. The buses can be delayed five to 10 minutes making a right hand turn at that intersection. Tamborine Oxenford Road is a very busy road. This is making it very difficult to get around. I ask the minister to hear the concerns of my residents and follow the LNP's election promise to fix this intersection.

Residents are asking for Georgina Street, which is about 50 metres down the road, to be included in the upgrade. They want a safe right turn lane from Tamborine Oxenford Road into Georgina Street. The reason they are asking for that is that it will make it safer for people coming along Tamborine Oxenford Road wanting to turn right into Georgina Street. They will not have to worry about people behind them having to quickly decelerate because they want to make a right hand turn. I ask the minister to please take that into consideration. That is something that residents are after. They are also asking for sufficient sound barriers along that section which will potentially have new traffic lights or a roundabout.

My schools also need a helping hand. I have some very fast growing regions in my electorate. I also have schools that are haemorrhaging children because new schools are getting built in close proximity. Therefore, the population of the existing schools are dropping dramatically. One of my schools used to have up to around 1,000 students and now it has about 500. We have eight classrooms sitting idle in that school.

I ask the government and Minister Grace Grace to please take that into consideration when building new schools. We need to make sure that our older schools remain attractive through better facility management. Very importantly, a lot of the teachers in those schools have been in those areas for many years. They actually have great insight into the needs of those communities. Schools like Coomera State School are haemorrhaging population. Minister, please take that into consideration when building new schools. We are losing very good staff from the school. They are being transferred out because the school can no longer keep the staff. It is making it very difficult for that school.

Over the years the population at Park Lake State School has dramatically increased. Park Lake State School needs better facilities for the professional development of their teachers. At the moment their current staff room cannot fit all their staff. They could turn the current staff room into a classroom or a special classroom for activities for students. If the government could spend money on increasing the size of the administration block to put in a proper staff room that would be greatly appreciated. It would help with the professional development of their teachers. A covered area over the playground would certainly make the kids very happy. There is a lot that needs to be done in my area. My sporting groups desperately need help with better facilities.

It would be remiss of me not to say thank you to all the people who helped with the Theodore election campaign. I thank former opposition leader Deb Frecklington for her tireless commitment during the campaign. No person worked as hard as she did during the campaign. She was literally everywhere. I appreciated her coming to my electorate and the neighbouring electorate of Coomera and making announcement after announcement. The northern Gold Coast thanks you for recognising them as a very important part of Queensland. As Deb would certainly know, we are a fast-growing region and we need jobs and better infrastructure.

Mr Lister: They are flocking to be represented by you, mate.

Mr BOOTHMAN: I take that interjection. Do not warn him.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr BOOTHMAN: We certainly do. I want to say thank you to the team that helped me. Those who helped me are community people. They are individuals from my local Lions club, my local Rotary club and my rural fire brigades. Those individuals came out in their droves to help me during the campaign. They manned my local polling booths and spent a lot of time at the pre-poll locations. I thank you and I will endeavour to repay my debt to you over the years. I will continue to serve the community that I love.

I thank my wife and family. My wife runs my campaign and she does a fantastic job. As she says, it is interesting the life we live and the amount of time with our families we give up. These days my kids, because they have grown up a bit, do not call granddad dad they call me dad, which I appreciate. They used to see my father far more than they saw me.

It is a humbling experience. So many people came out to help us. It is a humbling experience to know that this is the fourth time I have been elected to this chamber. I give a commitment to the people of Theodore that no matter who they voted for at the last election I will do my best to help them to live their dreams in the best part of the state—which is the Gold Coast.

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (12.49 pm): I want to begin my speech on the address-in-reply by acknowledging traditional owners past and present, not just here in Brisbane but across the vast land of Queensland. I pay my respects to elders past, present and emerging and thank them for up to 60,000 years of custodianship of the lands, winds and waters that we now all share.

I begin by congratulating all returning members to this House, as well as congratulating those new members who have joined us in this most amazing building doing this most incredible job in all of our various patches. I also acknowledge those members who were defeated at the election and those members who retired. In a very bipartisan way, we all leave this place at some point. Sometimes we make that call ourselves; sometimes about 30,000 people make that call for us—but we all leave this place, and all of us here will forever have our name on the wall outside this chamber. If there is one bipartisan thing we can do, it is to recognise those who are no longer here who have moved on. Some may even come back—who knows.

During the recent election campaign, in my electorate of Barron River it was hot. It was hot and it was long, and it was hot and long for everyone. I want to recognise those people not only from my team but also from the other teams. They were very trying conditions up there in the north. Mother Nature gave us about 30 straight days of hot sunshine with mid-30-degree temperatures. There was a lot of dehydrated campaign workers wearing all coloured shirts out there on the hustings. I thank my campaign workers, my volunteers, my EO staff—Susan, Aaron and Katie—for the fantastic work they did. I thank my branch members and supporters, particularly my wife, Rosie, who was my campaign manager and did not back down on me at all I have to say.

I am now in my third term and there are a few areas in my electorate that I want to cover. Roads, education and the environment are certainly the big key areas in the patch of Barron River. We are currently seeing the Smithfield Bypass nearing completion—that \$164 million project will open towards the end of the year. That will be quite symbolic for motorists on the northern beaches as they try to get in and out of Cairns. We are also about to see significant works start on the Captain Cook Highway. That is a combined federal-state project. That will start to draw closer to commencement.

We also have significant works happening on the Cairns Western Arterial Road. For those members who are not from Cairns or the northern beaches of Cairns, you cannot get from Cairns to Port Douglas or to Palm Cove or to Kuranda or to Mareeba without going on any of those arterial roads. They are under incredible pressure and they have been for some time. I want to acknowledge the main roads minister, who has been working very closely with me on getting projects up and moving along.

When it comes to education in Barron River, like all electorates we have growing areas. We have more young families and more people moving in. Growing populations of schools is a significant pressure. I want to acknowledge the current education minister and previous education ministers for working with me on getting the infrastructure that we need into those schools. That is running well. We currently have around four large-scale infrastructure developments occurring in schools in my electorate. That will be great for the staff and also for the kids.

The environment in Barron River has and always will be a significant pressure point. Barron River is jammed between two World Heritage areas of the Great Barrier Reef and the Wet Tropics, with a tourism overlay as well. With cassowaries, crocodiles, flying foxes, wallabies and a range of other animals, the protection of habitat and the intersections between mankind and animals will always be an issue.

One issue that we have up there at the moment that I am working with Minister Bailey on is how we manage cassowary movement and highways. It is a good story. In the past few years we have seen what appears to be a fairly significant return of the cassowary population. That is good to see. I lived up in that patch for about 10 years before I saw my first cassowary in the wild. I think in the last six months I have seen about four or five randomly on the side of the road and that sort of thing, so the population is coming back. However, it does create issues because they are not really road friendly. We are now seeing more cassowaries—

Mr Hinchliffe interjected.

Mr CRAWFORD: You probably do not want them in your backyard, member for Sandgate. Cassowaries do come across cars and cars come across them, and it is not a very good outcome. There is work underway by Main Roads—and we want to keep that work happening—trying to make sure that cassowaries can cross the roads, whether via overpasses, underpasses or whatever. That issue certainly needs to be built into the planning stages of our highways.

I also want to acknowledge the tourism workers and the companies in Cairns and Far North Queensland at the moment who have been doing it very tough for some time. They are holding on well. They have dug in well. Those companies that could adapt to domestic tourism have done it very well. As has been mentioned in this House many times in the last couple of days, there are companies and workforces who are specifically designed and marketed towards international tourism, and some of those have not been able to adapt simply because of the make-up of their business. I, like the Premier, have very much supported the position on the international borders. We certainly recognise that there are workers and companies out there who are doing it tough.

From a ministerial perspective, I am honoured to be the Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. This is a people based portfolio representing some of the most vulnerable and inspiring Queenslanders. We are dealing with human beings who are trying to access and leverage the system to achieve their rights, goals, dreams and aspirations. I am conscious of how the work that I do in this ministerial portfolio matters to seniors, to people with disability and to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders, and I intend to work to achieve cooperation within government and with community to ensure meaningful outcomes for these Queenslanders. It is so important that in our dealings with these Queenslanders we endeavour to improve their quality of life and support them to achieve their aspirations and to contribute to the communities in which they live.

Our seniors and elders are our connection to history. They should be valued, respected and protected. The saying 'we should respect our elders' comes to mind when we think about our work over the next four years. Our seniors and elders hold invaluable knowledge, and we should all take every opportunity that we can to learn from them. We should also recognise the informal contributions they make to our community—caring for grandchildren, providing child care, supporting young people and their families living at home and, of course, there are many who rely on the bank of mum and dad.

For those Queenslanders who live with disability, we need to focus on, promote and encourage their abilities and the contribution they make to our state, as well as ensuring they have access to the supports and services they require to have fulfilling lives. We have commenced work on the next state disability plan called All Abilities Queensland and are working with the federal government on the next National Disability Strategy. Queenslanders with a disability have many stories—some about the challenges they face but many are inspiring stories of strength and resilience that can inform and influence change.

We are working with federal, state and territory disability ministers to ensure the continuation of 'choice and control' in the NDIS for reasonable and necessary supports and services. We know there is still work to be done in the market development for NDIS services in Queensland, particularly in regional and remote communities and in some urban areas, and we are engaging at all levels to increase access.

We are committed to ensuring that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are empowered to determine their own destinies and achieve their dreams through being involved in decisions that affect them. The Queensland government is committed to a reframed relationship with Aboriginal and

Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders—and this is demonstrated by our work on Path to Treaty, our commitment to closing the gap in the levels of disadvantage faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and our initiatives supporting them to reach their full potential and achieve their goals.

While my department does not deliver the majority of Indigenous programs across government, they can support the successful delivery of them. It is so important that we respect the cultural authority held within our communities and our elders, and ensure that the work we do is informed by and aligned with the principles and rights outlined in the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The patience and graciousness of First Nations people should not be taken for granted. I want to acknowledge Ken Wyatt, the federal Indigenous affairs minister, and the work we have done with him. I get along very well with Ken. He is an exceptional human being. We have been working closely with him on closing the gap, on treaty, on voice, on cultural heritage and on a number of things.

Debate, on motion of Mr Crawford, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Agriculture Industry, Labour; Timber Industry

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (2.00 pm): There is a growing gap between farm labour supply and demand. I have met farmers and representative groups from across the state, including: Ayr, Bowen, Scenic Rim and Lockyer Valley. I have seen firsthand the impacts of labour shortages on farms of all sizes. The government has delivered little in the way of solutions other than finger-pointing at Canberra and playing political games. We have seen grand announcements of trial programs that have failed to deliver. Minister Littleproud has done everything he needs to do.

The Pacific Islands partnership program provides sufficient labour supply, with 26,000 available workers. Most farmers have a limited workforce which needs to expand three to fourfold when harvesting. Thousands of workers are needed across the state now. State quarantine arrangements are onerous and limited by caps. *Queensland Country Life* reports that only 10 Pacific Islands workers are accepted each week into hotel. The spaces are shared between all growers in Queensland. Even when the government purports to do things it is not enough. It acts too slowly. Last week's announced extension of the Seasonal Worker Program requires on-farm quarantine. It favours large enterprises that can quarantine on their property. Small to medium farms cannot support it if they do not have facilities. Growcom described it as an equity of access issue. Once again the little guys will miss out. Gympie has many small to medium farms which cannot provide on-farm quarantining.

Labour shortages leave crops unharvested. If farmers cannot get labour they will not plant crops. Shortages are already being factored into plantings. Some have already reduced plantings because they are not confident they will have a workforce. It means price rises for consumers at our local fruit and veggie shops and supermarkets. Last Friday national cabinet agreed to a program where Pacific workers can quarantine in their country before departure. It will avoid taking up local quarantine spaces and needing on-farm quarantine. South Australia has already signed on. Queensland must join now to access available workers.

Almost 18 months ago the Premier announced a new timber action plan and promised a native hardwood timber advisory panel to work with industry on long-term wood supply options. The minister has still not appointed members to the panel. The timber industry has major supply issues, with native whole log exports disadvantaging our local mills. The potential closure of mills will cost businesses and impact building supplies and jobs. The South-East Queensland Forest Agreement has failed. The farm forestry plantation plan promised by Beattie in 1989 never materialised. There are now reports that 8,000 ironwood trees, including sacred and habitat trees, have been logged in Cape York with no regard to their age, size or cultural significance. This is causing great distress for traditional owners. The industry needs action now.

Pumicestone Electorate, Youth Development Foundation

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (2.03 pm): The people of Queensland know that the Palaszczuk government is all about jobs. That is why I am proud to speak today about a project that will make a big difference for young people seeking work in my beautiful electorate of Pumicestone. The Youth Development Foundation, led by Gerry Blackwell, has a strong history of supporting young people right

across Moreton Bay. In the latest round of Skilling Queenslanders for Work funding, YDF received \$497,000 for their project at Congeau House. Congeau House is a remarkable Federation home built on Bribie Island in 1916 that has provided holiday accommodation for people with disability and vulnerable people since the 1960s. After decades of community service it is no wonder Congeau House is now looking a bit tired.

YDF's project will allow Bribie's young people to complete a Certificate I in construction while they give Congeau House a much needed refresh. They will do maintenance jobs plus improve the site by building pathways, seats, pergolas, cubbyhouses, play equipment and garden beds. Already YDF has found 17 young people who are interested in signing up—and no wonder. Their previous program had 13 participants. Of those, six have found work, four have gone on to further education under JobTrainer and one young man returned to school. YDF also employed young local woman Nicki Pool from the program. Nicki will run reception at YDF's new office on Bribie Island and is enrolling in a Certificate III Business Traineeship in April.

Together, YDF and the Palaszczuk Labor government are creating a hopeful future for young people across Pumicestone. The contrast with the LNP's track record could not be starker. Skilling Queenslanders for Work is one of the most successful programs ever created when it comes to getting young people into work and training. Deloitte Access Economics reported in 2012 that Skilling Queenslanders for Work had at that time helped 57,000 young people find a job and returned \$8 to the Queensland economy for every one dollar invested. Cutting Skilling Queenslanders for Work was one of the first things the LNP did when they came to power in 2012. They ignored Deloitte's report card, cutting Skilling Queenslanders for Work one week before the report went public.

When the member for Surfers Paradise was the LNP's education minister he got out his big shiny knife and cut Skilling Queenslanders for Work. That cut hope for young jobseekers right across Queensland. The people of Queensland saw the LNP for what they were. Our Palaszczuk Labor government rebuilt Skilling Queenslanders for Work in 2015 and it has gone from strength to strength ever since. I cannot wait to see what Gerry and YDF achieve as they transform Congeau House and the lives of young people right across Pumicestone.

Agriculture Industry, Labour

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (2.06 pm): I rise today to speak on a very important issue affecting not just Queensland and Lockyer Valley but also Australia. This is a threat to Australia's national food security, and I thank the member for Gympie, the shadow minister for agriculture, for raising this in the House. Earlier today Mr Fabian Carniel, the CEO of Mulgowie Farming Company, and I met with the minister and DG about a failure of execution by the state government. There is a lack of coordination between the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries here in Queensland and the Chief Health Officer's office.

I understand the difficulties. We as a community want to make sure that people are safe. We want to make sure that we bring these Pacific Islanders here safely. We respect that. Mayor Tanya Milligan and I wrote to both departments of the state government to assure them that we understand the issue of safety for our community. We accept that if these workers come they will be on an off-farm quarantine area for 14 days. They will not be going out into the community. They will be in a completely controlled environment for 14 days. After that the facility will be cleaned. There are 250 beds available in the facility in Lockyer because of the lack of backpackers currently in Australia and Queensland.

The Ernst & Young report from last year, over 12 months ago, said there was a shortage of 25,000 workers needed across Australia. We currently have a shortfall of 7,000 workers in Queensland. It may interest members to know that right now we are not in the peak growing season, but already some farms have left behind a total of 85 hectares of produce. The fact that planes from the Pacific Islands did not arrive in February has been compounded. This was first mooted back in November and applications were made to the government on 2 December. Those planes were going to arrive in February. There were going to be two planes. Those two planes did not eventuate, so now in March we need four planes to address the shortfall. Now we have not seen any planes in March, so that means we need eight planes in April.

This is a very serious issue affecting the national food supply and security. The supply chains that are provided through the Lockyer Valley are an enormous thing for our community. We have problems with the drought, but we are seeing these problems with the farm workers when there is a solution. I call on the Minister for Health to make sure those approvals are given and to get the planes in.

Aged Care

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (2.09 pm): I was a member of the 56th Parliament's health committee which held hearings all over the state regarding aged care in Queensland. Our committee heard numerous stories from family members of what they see as a gross underfunding of the aged-care sector. We heard horrific stories of people waiting in excess of four years for their approved in-home support packages to be delivered. Unfortunately, some had passed away before they received the support they needed. The delays in receiving their funding support packages have a flow-on effect, with increases in hospital admission as a direct result of injury.

Leading Age Services Australia has released a report stating there are approximately 200 aged-care facilities that are at an unacceptable risk of going broke. Insufficient federal funding has led to stories that we heard, such as: some aged-care facilities have not provided high-quality care for the residents; some are so underfunded they are running on skeleton staffing; residents are waiting 15 or 20 minutes from when they have pressed the buzzer for assistance, resulting in falls et cetera; and some residents had soiled themselves, and the loss of dignity was and is terrible. This is an absolute disgrace. An article in this week's Rockhampton *Morning Bulletin* stated—

Nearly 800 Central Queenslanders are on the Federal Government's aged care waiting list, including 570 deemed to need the two highest levels of care offered.

The federal Home Care Packages Program is meant to help older Australians who want to continue to live independently in their own homes.

In a recent Senate Community Affairs Committee Question on Notice, it was revealed that as of September 30 last year, 797 people in Rockhampton, Gladstone, and the Central Highlands had been approved for Home Care, but had not received the appropriate help.

The staff who work in the aged-care system do an amazing job. They do the best they can with limited staffing resources. The report of the royal commission into aged care was released on 1 March and it made 148 recommendations; it was absolutely appalling. I just hope that the federal government implements its findings. We must see a comprehensive response, not more bandaid solutions. Our parents and grandparents need to be looked after and provided with high-quality care in a timely way. I just hope that the federal government addresses these findings.

Volunteer Marine Rescue Burdekin

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (2.12 pm): In 15 days the Burdekin's Volunteer Marine Rescue Squadron will celebrate its 50th anniversary in Home Hill. Firstly, I want to congratulate and thank the hundreds if not thousands of volunteers who over the years have provided this essential and sometimes lifesaving service to boaties in the Burdekin region. However, there is a problem that needs to be resolved in the Burdekin that has a direct impact on the squadron's ability to deploy in times of emergency. Despite the assurances of this government, this Premier and this transport minister, all-tide access at Molongle Creek is still nothing but a dream.

It is not only our volunteer marine rescue crews who are affected by the multiple failings when it comes to Molongle Creek. Take Burdekin man Ross Pirrone who stood on a stonefish at Cape Upstart. Thanks to the appalling state of Molongle Creek, he could not travel for medical attention by water and no helicopter rescue was available, so instead of medical attention Mr Pirrone was told to put his foot in hot water and ride it out. As Ross himself said, what if it was a little kid who had been stung by an Irukandji?

It was not just bad for Ross. For the VMR volunteers, the lack of all-tide access meant a trip to a boat ramp 70 kilometres away and then they were left out on the water overnight. These are volunteers giving up their time to help others, yet this government will not help them, let alone the hundreds of families who visit Cape Upstart each year. It gets even worse. Despite assurances in 2018 from the Premier and in 2019 from the transport minister, maintenance dredging has still not been completed at Molongle Creek. In fact, the Whitsunday Regional Council, which were responsible for the maintenance dredging, have wiped their hands of it completely, saying it is now TMR's problem.

We are sick of the promises. We want action. Maintenance dredging was supposed to start on 2 July 2019, according to the Premier. According to the transport minister, the all-tide access project should have been underway at the same time and been completed by now. I have no doubt that Minister Ryan has received an invitation to the 50th anniversary celebrations on 26 March. May I suggest, Minister, that during that visit you enlist the help of the VMR squadron to see firsthand the debacle that is Molongle Creek.

Mr Ryan interjected.

Mr LAST: I am pleased to hear that, Minister, because maybe when you are stuck on the mud—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Through the chair please.

Mr LAST: Maybe when the minister is stuck on the mud of Molongle Creek waiting for the tide to come in, he will finally get this government to act. Whilst he is there, I hope he is going to talk about the Blue Water Review and where we are going with that, because our VMR squadrons and our coastguards in Queensland need some certainty and they need to have that situation resolved. I look forward to the minister's visit and I look forward to waving at him as he is sitting on the mud bank off Molongle Creek.

Volunteer Marine Rescue Burdekin; Caboolture PCYC

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (2.15 pm): I join the member for Burdekin in acknowledging the outstanding team at the Burdekin VMR. I do look forward to attending their 50th anniversary celebrations.

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr RYAN: I take that interjection because the Burdekin VMR are very supportive of the Blue Water Review and the work we have done. It is underway, and there is good support for the good work that is happening.

I want to talk about something that is closer to my electorate of Morayfield, which is the Caboolture PCYC. I want to read out a few words, as follows—

The need for a new facility for PCYC Caboolture has never been greater. That is why, last week, I started a petition urging locals to voice their support for a new PCYC in the community of Caboolture. One government alone cannot fund this whole project, so I'm imploring all levels of governments—the federal government, the state government and the local government—to get behind this project, which will cost around \$13 million. We must work together to make this new PCYC Caboolture facility possible so that we can create a cohesive and connected community for the community of Longman and for the families who live, work and play in our community. They deserve it.

The people of Caboolture certainly deserve this new PCYC. Those are the words from 2 December 2019 of the federal member for Longman, Terry Young. Terry is late to the party when it comes to this new project. The council is on board and has committed \$2.5 million. The state government is on board and has committed land as well as \$4 million. We are waiting for the federal government and the federal member for Longman, Terry Young, to show us the money. Where is the \$5 million to complete this project? In Terry's words, he said the people of Caboolture deserve it. Terry, where is the money? Show us the money this project needs to get underway. The state government is on board. The council is on board. We have got the land. We have got most of the money. We are even going through the design phase at the moment. PCYC Queensland is on board. Everyone is on board except Terry. Everyone is on board.

Terry, we have a federal election coming up. I imagine it will be top of the list of priorities for you when you are making election commitments to show us the \$5 million that we need to complete this project. It is an essential project for Caboolture. It is an essential project for the young people who call Caboolture home, and it will make an enormous difference to the good work the state government is already doing in the community around connecting young people to services to support them in making good decisions and keeping them out of the criminal justice system. I call on the federal government and the LNP member for Longman to honour your commitments, show us the money and deliver the \$5 million so we can build this new PCYC.

Family Responsibilities Commission; Youth Justice

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (2.18 pm): The Family Responsibilities Commission, which commenced in 2008, is a central component in Queensland's welfare reform agenda and has achieved measurable and tangible successes in making families, children and communities safer. There should be no hesitation by the state government to continue to invest in the valuable future of this cultural authority model.

The lack of commitment from the Palaszczuk government jeopardises the significant gains, positive trends and shared achievements that have been made in the Cape York communities of Aurukun, Coen, Hope Vale and Mossman Gorge over the past 12½ years and 6½ years in Doomadgee. A briefing document by FRC commissioner Tammy Williams, which was provided to me and the Community Support and Services Committee, details the following three commendable outcomes amongst others. I table a page of that briefing document.

Tabled paper: Extract from a briefing document by Family Responsibilities Commissioner, Ms Tammy Williams, regarding Family Responsibilities Commission outcomes [\[311\]](#).

I also table a couple of articles by Sarah Elks from the *Australian*.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Australian*, dated 12 February 2021, titled 'Safety of kids proves need for welfare reform' [312].

Tabled paper: Article from the *Australian*, dated 1 March 2021, titled 'Pressure on state to keep welfare dream alive' [313].

They cite these commendable outcomes as: first, that notices for child safety investigations have decreased by 69 per cent with children now less likely to be removed from their families; second, that there has been a 32 per cent reduction in tenancy breaches; third, that there has been a 23 per cent reduction in notices of conviction for serious offences by adults.

On the issue of juvenile justice, what we have from the Labor government is a juvenile justice trigger that can be enhanced. Rather than having what we currently have, which is a bill that I will not refer to, the government should continue its commitment to sustaining the operations of the FRC in the five existing welfare communities and should further commit to an expansion of the FRC model into other North Queensland communities. This is not least because rather than the characteristically reactive, knee-jerk responses of this Labor government, a proactive and targeted approach which leverages on the successes of the FRC may well contribute to—and I now quote from Ms Williams briefing 'the attainment of the national agreement on Closing the Gap target by 2031 of reducing the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults held in incarceration'. In other words, what they have been doing so far works; why do we not extend it to other places?

Cape York communities have stabilised over the past 12 years but there is a great deal to be done. It has been in operation for half a generation. School attendance, for example, remains a significant problem. Yet the FRC is straitjacketed in its future planning abilities because of the short-term funding commitments of this government.

Minister Crawford's elusiveness is not the first thing that has made the five Cape York townships and Doomadgee question this government's intentions for the FRC. In 2018, of course, these communities were all blindsided by the former minister Jackie Trad deciding to disband the commission and replace it with a 'thriving communities' approach. The Labor government should match the three-year funding commitment of the federal government, \$1.8 million from the feds in 2019-20 and \$2.26 million from Queensland.

Kurwongbah Electorate, Infrastructure

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (2.21 pm): As promised, I am back to continue the story about all the exciting infrastructure projects going on in the Kurwongbah electorate. Last time I spoke I knew I would run out of time fitting them all in one speech. I think we were up to Mathieson Park. For a couple of years now I, along with Councillor Mick Gillam and the mighty Pine Rivers Bears, the only BRL team in Moreton Bay, have been working hard to make this project a reality. On 5 February the first modules of the Bears' new change rooms were craned into Mathieson Oval. That was a major milestone. I look forward to the official launch of these fantastic new facilities which include all-female change rooms worth almost a million dollars during the Pine Cup later this month.

Speaking of new facilities, the Narangba Rangers should have their new amenities block by midyear. This is a joint council-state project under our Works for Queensland program. The \$300,000 project is about to commence and will mean junior players do not have to trek across car parks and fields to go to the bathroom or get changed. Councillor Darren Grimwade, known to many in this place, and I will be very happy to see this one finished—good work, Darren—as the Rangers are a great club and their executive and other volunteers work really hard for every dollar's worth of improvement to this great community facility. With footy season just kicking off, I am sure I will have plenty of opportunities to get down there and check out the new building's progress.

Further north in the electorate, the Burpengary Pines bus stop is now becoming a reality. I know the police minister, who was just on his feet, will be very happy to hear this. There is a major milestone coming up on that project, which has been 10 years or more in the making: the relocation of the southbound bus stop on Morayfield Road next to the Burpengary Pines Village. I fought hard for the \$750,000 needed to better open up bus access to local seniors living in this village, along with new pedestrian paths, refuge crossings and better lighting. I enjoyed getting back into hi-vis and a hard hat the other week when I went and had a look at it.

I now turn to Dakabin train station. Everyone in this place has heard me talk at length about the upgrade to Dakabin station, which I now share with our Deputy Premier, Steven Miles. The new footbridge at Dakabin station is up, the platforms have been raised and this \$40 million accessibility upgrade, complete with a new multistorey car park, will vastly improve access to our rail network for

people with mobility impairments, seniors on scooters, mums and dads with prams as well as people who are vision or hearing impaired thanks to the inclusion of hearing loops and tactile surface features in the upgrade.

Next I speak of Burpengary station. Finally, I hope to soon catch up with the transport minister to see how things are progressing on the planning for the \$29 million Burpengary station upgrade. It is a commitment I am so proud to have secured for our community. With a new community club and shopping precinct about to open across the road, there could not be a better time to get things going.

Housing Affordability

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (2.24 pm): At the moment in this state we are facing a housing affordability crisis. It is incredibly important that we address this as quickly as we can. First home buyers are now basically unable to enter the market. We have people who cannot afford rent—in fact, there is a bidding war for rent—and our most vulnerable people on the social housing waiting list simply cannot get the homes they need. I could talk about that, but it is best if we actually experience what people are feeling themselves.

I received this message from a person just north of my electorate in the last couple of days and it really tugs at my heart. She says—

I appreciate you getting in touch. I am very anxious about my situation and very embarrassed. I cannot get a loan to move as I do not have the money up-front to pay for a move. I cannot find a rental place within my budget to support me and my three kids. I have no family here and they cannot help either. I am on my own and it is scary. I am struggling to find another job so I can break this cycle. Everything is going up but my salary. I work full-time yet I am unable to provide for my kids and put a roof over their head. The current owners are selling and I need to be out when the lease ends on 24 April. I am selling off things to help me to get funds to get by. I cannot move so far away from work or the kids' school as that will affect them as they see their dad on occasions and I do not want to uproot them and upset them. I can't sleep and most days is now a blur. I feel as if I'm just doing things emotionless. The feeling of being homeless soon is worse than my divorce I didn't want. I know I'm not the only one in this situation. How can this be? No-one is helping or listening. I have never felt more alone in my life. I'm scared. I'm terrified.

These are the sorts of stories about what is happening now. I know that every electorate office across the state would be hearing similar stories. We have an obligation to respond to this. The government must have a plan.

We have a situation at the moment where those on the social housing waiting list with very high needs number 16,000 people. That is an increase of 80 per cent over the last 18 months. We have an affordable housing crisis coming up as well with the NRAS scheme finishing. We have people who need help with regards to affordable housing. We need schemes from the government. We need to unleash the community housing sector, those that are best positioned to provide affordable housing. What I am hearing from the sector is that the government is competing with them rather than facilitating the construction of houses that are needed.

This goes far beyond politics. Shelter is a basic human right, and that is not being guaranteed at the moment by this government, which does not have a plan to address this crisis.

Freeman, Mr DA

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (2.27 pm): On 14 December 2020 Ipswich lost a true local hero with the passing of Desmond Allan Freeman, OAM, aged 95 years. He was the 46th mayor of Ipswich, from 1979 to 1991 before the amalgamation of Ipswich City Council with Moreton Shire Council. A straight-shooting and hardworking mayor, he is remembered for his strong leadership of the city for more than a decade.

Des left school at 13 years to work on the family's dairy farm at Tallegalla before taking up work at a local coalmine. As a mining union representative, he was a strong advocate for fair pay and better working conditions. In 1973 Des was elected to the Ipswich City Council as a councillor. Three years later he was appointed as finance chair and in 1979 he became mayor. When the 1974 floods hit Ipswich hard, Des and his wife, Colleen, set up their house in East Ipswich as a centre for local clean-up operations.

Des was proud of the infrastructure built by the Ipswich City Council during his time as mayor, which included the redevelopment of the Ipswich City Mall by the Kern Corporation, completed in 1987. After retiring as mayor Des served as chair of the West Moreton health authority. In 1987 Des was awarded an Order of Australia for service to local government and his community. Des was made a life member of the Labor Party in 2000 after more than 50 years of service to the party.

A requiem mass was held for Des on 21 December 2020 at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Catholic Church at Ipswich, with Father Stephen Bliss, the parish priest of the Ipswich Catholic community, presiding. His son, Phillip, who was in my class at St Edmund's College—and I wear the

St Edmund's College tie proudly today—delivered the eulogy. He described his father as an intelligent, decent, hardworking man with little formal education but great ability, a great father and a great mentor. Phillip also talked about the Freeman family holidays, going on fishing trips for weeks at a time, setting up anywhere between Yamba and Hervey Bay.

In his final years I was very fortunate to be able to catch up with both Des and Colleen regularly at the monthly meetings of the True Believers group at Ipswich Trades Hall. They were a truly lovely couple. Des is survived by his beloved wife, Colleen, herself an important member of the local Labor community; his son, Phillip, and his wife, Teresa; his daughters, Paula and Rachel; Rachel's husband, Peter; and his grandchildren. Vale, Des Freeman OAM.

Toowoomba, Housing

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (2.30 pm): We just heard the member for Everton talk about the land and housing shortage that we in this state are suffering. I rise to contribute to that topic. It is no surprise that since being elected the Palaszczuk government has done nothing but wage war against the property developers of this state. The government has excluded property developers from the democratic process. They are the ones we need to provide the housing, but this government is no friend of the property developer. The government has proven that.

Members in this House have heard me talk about this many times, because there is significant growth in Condamine. In the area of Condamine we have projects such as inland rail, a proposed powdered milk factory, medicinal cannabis, Wagners' sports precinct, Gardners' gas/solar project, the interlink freight hub, and a proposed new hospital in the Toowoomba area. For those projects to go ahead, we will need housing.

When one looks at Toowoomba's housing situation, at the moment there is a 0.5 per cent vacancy rate in the Toowoomba postcode. This is not something that has come on overnight; this has been coming for a long time. Late last year, real estate agents arranged for independent analyst Michael Matusik to deliver a report into Toowoomba's housing market. He found that Toowoomba is facing a major future land use supply issue as the number of approved land based housing projects has declined by two-thirds over the past four years.

I have been very supportive of the Fernleigh development at Westbrook. As part of that development project, as the Minister for Education knows very well, a high school was proposed. I note that that has stalled because of the headworks charges by council as it is an urban footprint and not a PIA. I note that Mayor Paul Antonio recognised this as an issue in today's paper. He said that he wants to see more subdivisions across the Toowoomba area being approved. That is very good, but it was disappointing to hear planning officer Stuart Summers say that there are no issues with current land supply. Given that the chair of the planning committee, Megan O'Hara Sullivan, is a former Labor candidate, it is very disappointing to see this inaction.

(Time expired)

Kirwan Ambulance Station

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (2.33 pm): On 22 December 2020 I was very proud to officially open the brand new \$3.2 million Kirwan Ambulance Station. I thank the Minister for Health for allowing me to do that. As she said this morning, the minister visited the station a few weeks ago. We were joined by retired senior staff, current staff, our local ambulance committee members, the members for Mundingburra and Townsville, Deputy Commissioner Dee Taylor-Dutton and my wife, Amanda Harper, in her capacity as then acting assistant commissioner. It was a really special day a few days before Christmas. I would have put a bow on it!

I know that the staff are very excited by the new station. The original station was built in 1979 as a substation, with an OIC residence at the rear of the station. It was staffed with just two officers and had one ambulance. Fast-forward 40 years and in its place stands a modern, state-of-the-art station. I was very proud to work at the station in my years on the road and in my capacity as Acting OIC in 2014, prior to being elected. Mind you, I spent a bit of time there in 1990 when I first joined the service, because if you ever upset the superintendent in Townsville station you were shipped over to the substation. I did a fair bit of time at Kirwan!

As the local member, I have a really good working relationship with my OICs, be they fire, police or ambulance. In 2014 I went to the then member for Thuringowa as I had some serious issues with the station. The modern ambulances could not fit under the roof. Only four cars could fit in and new students would be hitting the roof—literally. The then member had no solution. Clearly, it took a Labor member to deliver what was needed. I was pretty disappointed. I walked out. Prior to the election I

thought, 'That is pretty disappointing.' I thought he was about as handy as a hip pocket in a singlet. No wonder he was a 'oncer' in this place. He was deposed in 2015 only to jump to One Nation and then the Katter party before he lost again—absolutely hopeless.

The new station reached practical completion on 21 October 2020 and commenced operations on 12 November 2020. It now houses 10 ambulance response vehicles, 56 staff and one honorary ambulance officer—me. I am very proud to continue service and to have a connection with QAS in that capacity. It is a special asset. I thank the community for getting behind the original petition many years ago. They know how important it is to have a new station in Kirwan. I am very proud to have delivered it in my time.

Palmview, Schools

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (2.36 pm): For many years on the Sunshine Coast, local state schools have been over capacity. It has resulted in traffic congestion during the school pickup run each day and it impacts the learning experience of our students. That is why I have long advocated for new schools to be built to support the population growth on the Sunshine Coast. I am pleased that the government has listened to that advocacy and delivered a new Palmview State Primary School and the Palmview State Special School, both of which opened at the start of this year. However, more needs to be done.

Nestled in the heart of the Sunshine Coast, Palmview is a rapidly-growing master planned community and, since 2017, 2½ thousand Queenslanders have moved into a suburb where no-one lived when I was elected at the end of 2018. Like many areas across Queensland, that rapid population growth is placing considerable strain on community infrastructure like schools and roads across the Sunshine Coast.

In an electorate home to some of the largest and best schools in Queensland, the need for a new high school has been evident for many years, but now the situation is becoming critical. That is why I was pleased to see the government complete earthworks for a new Palmview state high school last year but, unfortunately, with the high school only scheduled to open in 2023, earthworks is as much as the state government intends to deliver anytime soon. That will mean that the first year 6 graduates from Palmview State Primary School will need to travel away to other local schools such as Chancellor State College, which is already bursting at the seams.

With the massive influx of families into Palmview, it simply does not make sense. Given the state government's stated desire to commence shovel-ready projects to kickstart the Queensland economy, I find it puzzling why work on the Palmview state high school would not be brought forward so it can open at the start of 2022.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr MICKELBERG: In June last year when I questioned the Minister for Education—who likes to chirp away—on the need for a new high school, I was told that there was insufficient in-catchment demand. However, even if I were to accept that argument—which I do not—in the months since June last year we have seen a massive influx of new residents moving into the catchment. They are all eager to take advantage of the federal government's HomeBuilder grants. There are already 2,000 homes in Palmview, and by the end of the year another 500 or 600 lots will be approved.

Local principals tell me that they believe there is sufficient demand from existing students who attend state high schools like Chancellor and Mountain Creek, and this ignores those students already enrolled at Palmview State Primary School or those who are yet to move to the area. As the Sunshine Coast population grows, we need to see infrastructure like schools and roads built in advance of growth, not after a problem arises.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr MICKELBERG: I ask the Minister for Education, who likes to chirp away, to consider the massive influx of residents moving into the area, review the demand modelling in relation to the new Palmview state high school and deliver a Palmview state high school to open in January 2022.

Mackay Electorate, Women in Trades

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.39 pm): This week is Queensland Women's Week, showcasing the strength of women in our community. It is fantastic to see our young women exploring possibilities for their careers and having the confidence to engage in the work that best suits their talents and their interests. In my region there is a focus across industry to have a diverse and inclusive workforce. Girls and women are continuing to choose traditionally male dominated fields of work.

This year the BMA apprenticeship intake of Mackay's young people saw a talented pool of 14 young women take up apprenticeships. We need to open the doors to a diverse workforce across all industry if we are going to be able to fill many trades and the skilled workers that we need to keep our industries growing. Central Queensland is experiencing a trade shortage. It is encouraging to see that an extra 60 women have signed up for engineering apprenticeships in Mackay over the past year. The number of female engineering apprentices in Mackay has tripled in the past 12 months, with skills and training set to play a big role in the state's economic recovery. More women are pursuing training in trade industries such as automotive, construction and engineering.

In comparison to this time last year, 32 per cent more women are in engineering training across Queensland. These new apprentices are part of the 1,300 young people in Mackay and the Whitsunday region who have taken advantage of the state government's free apprenticeship initiative. The world of trades is an exciting place and it is in high demand. That is why we have extended our free TAFE from under-21s to under-25s. These initiatives will help keep so many of our young people getting the training and skills in the industries that are in demand in our region. Small and large businesses are wanting to put on more apprentices. This boost gives their businesses the confidence to engage additional apprentices.

Apprentices will have start-of-the-art facilities and training with a \$7.5 million injection of Palaszczuk government funds to expand the heavy automotive facilities at the Mackay Ooralea Trades Training Centre at CQU. Mining companies and contractors need these training facilities in Mackay and I look forward to meeting the new apprentices who will be gaining their skills in these facilities. Previously, apprentices had to travel away from home. Being able to train close to home means that we will be able to increase our rate of retention and completion.

Mirani Electorate, Sugar Industry

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (2.42 pm): The sugar industry is crucial to the economic prosperity and growth of the whole Mackay-Whitsunday region. It contributes \$4 billion to the Queensland economy, provides over 22,000 jobs and supports over 10,000 businesses. However, today the sugar industry is under sustained attack and its very existence is under threat. Since 2008, canefarmers' water charges have increased by 230 per cent while their electricity costs have risen a staggering 300 per cent.

Some 30 per cent of the region's sugar mills have shut down since 2000 and the number of canefarmers has plummeted. We have lost Pleystowe, North Eton and others. Since 2000 the number of farmers growing cane fell by nearly 50 per cent, from 6,286 in 2000 to 3,853 in 2019. Over the same period, the region lost 700 hectares of prime agricultural lands, a rate of loss that since 2015 has sped up dramatically. These impacts are going unnoticed and unrecorded in any of the government's regulatory impact assessment models or statistical datasets, and so are the rising rates of suicide, poor health outcomes and number of marital breakdowns and bankruptcies amongst farmers more generally in the sugar industry.

The cost and regulatory burdens are becoming too much and the current ageing cohort of canefarmers are saying that they are fast reaching the point where we could see them abandoning the land in droves or turning to other occupations like mining or carbon farming. Some have even got to the stage where they have to cut into their superannuation to keep running. This will have significant flow-on effects downstream which nobody in government or industry seems to be quantifying or carrying out risk assessments on—a clear breach of the Treasury guidelines on good governance and an unforgivable failure in public policy in anyone's book.

Millers in particular are in trouble and many are operating close to the economic cliff. If we see any more mill closures this year, the whole industry will be put at risk. Mackay's canefarmers are already operating with government owned monopolies setting unrealistic prices on the one hand and short-sighted government bureaucrats applying the regulatory screws on the other. If it keeps up, the Mackay-Whitsunday region will be facing stranded network assets, mass job losses, small business failures and a population stampede to the cities.

It is not climate change doing this; it is government overreach—a rapacious, rent-seeking executive government that is misusing price mechanisms and regulatory powers to lay waste to an irreplaceable sector of regional Queensland's economy. If government says that this is not true, then let it prove it. Right now, Labor could regulate to reduce canegrowers' pumping related energy costs, reduce their bulk water charges to match the 50 per cent reduction given to horticulture and introduce

a concessional energy tariff for irrigators. Plausible deniability is no longer an option. It is time for this government to turn words into action and extend the hand of support to canefarmers before it is too late.

Ipswich Electorate, Prostate Cancer Services

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (2.46 pm): Today I rise to acknowledge the partnership between West Moreton Health and the University of Southern Queensland and their joint research efforts in support of prostate cancer survivors. On 2 March I was honoured to be invited to USQ Ipswich to witness the signing of a renewed memorandum of understanding which cemented their ongoing commitment to joint research. At the signing USQ and West Moreton Health officially launched their new pilot program, helping prostate cancer survivors cope with the often devastating side effects of cancer treatment. Prostate cancer is one of the six most common cancers in the West Moreton region. On average, around 205 cases of prostate cancer are diagnosed each year in West Moreton and an average of 22 deaths per year are recorded.

While it is great to see prostate cancer survival rates increasing, there are still many challenges that prostate cancer survivors face in the wake of their successful treatment. For instance, one in five prostate cancer survivors will struggle with anxiety and depression and up to 40 per cent of men experience poorer quality of life over the long term. To improve outcomes for survivors, USQ and West Moreton Health have launched the West Moreton Health Prostate Cancer Survivorship program. This is an online platform delivering care, real-time condition monitoring and virtual at-home appointments with a clinical nurse. Professor Jeff Dunn AO, who is leading the program, says that the program will help keep survivors out of hospital and supported at home, where they will be encouraged to be active in their treatment plans.

I am so pleased to see this pilot program take off in Ipswich. It builds on the important work that is already being done by the Ipswich Prostate Cancer Support Group, which has been providing advocacy and support to men with prostate cancer and prostate cancer survivors since 2004. I want to acknowledge the great work done by Len Lamprecht, who started the Ipswich Prostate Cancer Support Group and was its convenor up until last year. There is not a single elected representative in that time who has not met with Len. He is tenacious in his advocacy and I take my hat off to him. The new convenor, Dennis Ellis, is filling his shoes very well and doing great work as well. The group's advocacy and support has been an immense help to men and families impacted by prostate cancer. Len Lamprecht and the group have worked very hard over the past 17 years to build up relationships with West Moreton Health, Ipswich Hospital and a range of prostate health specialists and professionals. Their work has helped ensure Ipswich men get the best level of care they need.

I want to finish by thanking USQ for its investment in Ipswich. Since establishing its Ipswich campus in 2015, USQ has developed a great relationship with our community and has shown a real commitment to Ipswich. Last month I attended, along with my colleagues the members for Bundamba, Ipswich West and Jordan, the opening of its brand new School of Law and Justice at the Ipswich campus—the first law school ever to open in our city. It is a great win for Ipswich students who want to study law locally and develop connections with our local legal community. I look forward to Ipswich's new law school partnering with our local community.

Western Queensland, Grasshoppers

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (2.49 pm): I rise to speak again on the issue of grasshopper swarms in the Longreach and Winton districts and the complete lack of support by the minister for agriculture, Mark Furner. It is a disgrace. His inaction is sending graziers in Western and Central Queensland, and also in Southern Queensland, to the wall. Only after the Leader of the Opposition had inspected the situation firsthand was I able to get Minister Furner to show any interest.

Today in the *Queensland Country Life* it is reported that he finally undertook an inspection for himself. Yesterday the minister said in the House that Winton was not a part of my electorate. His grasp of Queensland geography is distinctly unnerving so I give him marks for finding his way to Winton and getting out from Ferny Grove. He also belatedly secured approval for the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority to use Fenitrothion to try to contain the damage.

The damage is now covering over 1.5 million hectares. This is country that has suffered under drought for years and is still drought declared. Parts of the area were also devastated by freak monsoonal flooding at the beginning of 2019. This summer finally brought a promise that the drought may break. In the parts of the Winton and Longreach districts lucky enough to receive some summer

rain, the resulting pasture growth is the first real hope for graziers for many years. We know that when the weather shifts like this grasshoppers are a predictable concern. The minister for agriculture should have had landholder working groups in place back in October last year, not now. A suitable chemical control should have already been approved last year and supplies should have been placed on the Longreach and Winton airports ready to go. It is the role of the minister to form and coordinate a response across the district.

During the last sitting of parliament, in response to a question in the House from me, the minister said the department of agriculture was conducting a survey. Minister, these grasshoppers are eating, not meeting! They are eating pastures now. Today's *Queensland Country Life* reveals that the Winton Shire Council has conducted a survey to calculate the damage bill. Mayor Gavin Baskett, who is a fantastic mayor for Winton, says the survey shows at least \$34 million worth of damage a year is being sustained by graziers. I will say that again: \$34 million worth of damage a year is being sustained by graziers because of these grasshoppers. However, Minister Furner has washed his hands of responsibility for containing this devastation and will not be providing any financial assistance to landholders using chemical controls.

Queensland graziers are outraged at Minister Furner's comments in the *Queensland Country Life* that 'it is not helpful to suggest this is a natural disaster. It builds up a false expectation.' Well, minister, the only false expectation we have is that you will do your job properly. You are not doing your job properly.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Direct your comments through the chair, please.

Mr MILLAR: This minister likes to describe himself as 'Furner, the farmers' friend'. He should either step up or step out.

Hervey Bay Electorate, Ambulance Station

 **Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (2.52 pm): I take this opportunity to inform the House of a great outcome that has been delivered on time in the Hervey Bay electorate by the Palaszczuk Labor government. As I have previously made members aware in this place, coming off the back of the Palaszczuk government's strong health response that kept Hervey Bay safe, the Hervey Bay electorate is getting back to normal. Because of the strong economic recovery plan we are on the path to recovery.

Last week I had the honour to welcome to Hervey Bay the Assistant Minister for Health and Regional Health Infrastructure who, on behalf of the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, officially opened Hervey Bay's second ambulance station at Urraween. In attendance as well on the day was my regional colleague, the member for Maryborough, who worked alongside me to secure this long-term infrastructure which sits on our respective electorate boundaries.

As part of its strong regional focus on health, the Palaszczuk government has delivered on its promise to build back better and with this new \$3.2 million state-of-the-art ambulance station it has done so. This station is an important step in enhancing ambulance services in Hervey Bay. The station will be home to 16 advanced care paramedics and an officer in charge, as well as an Indigenous cadet, with two new positions being created as part of the Palaszczuk government's commitment of additional officers starting across the state.

Staff operating at the new station will have access to state-of-the-art facilities, including a six-bay plant room, office space, day room, patient care store, rest study rooms, write-up area, training space, staff amenities and, more importantly, it will allow for future expansion. The building phase of this project created around 10 construction jobs during its completion, which were vital jobs for the tradies and apprentices of Hervey Bay at a time when they were most needed during the COVID pandemic.

The Urraween Ambulance Station will provide 24-hour rapid response to the developing areas of Booral and River Heads, as well as to the member for Maryborough's electorate areas of Dundowran Beach and Craignish and further afield to Toogoom and Burrum Heads. The station is strategically positioned next to the Maryborough Hervey Bay Road to enable a swift response in either direction. This new station is proof of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to keeping regional Queenslanders safe. In Hervey Bay and the Fraser region it shows that planning for new infrastructure and services is always ongoing, which is in stark contrast to the health sellout of the last LNP government that cut our regional nurses and doctors.

Every week more and more families are making the Hervey Bay electorate their home because, as we know on this side, the Palaszczuk government has made Queensland the place to be and is committed to delivering the best care when people find themselves in need. This new ambulance station

will be keeping the Hervey Bay electorate safe and strong. This is a great new piece of health infrastructure that our regional communities can all be proud of, delivered as promised by the Palaszczuk Labor government for the people of Hervey Bay.

Miami, Police Beat

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (2.55 pm): Further to the ongoing issues created by troubled people in the Miami area, I wish to advise the House that another appalling incident has occurred since this House last sat. A Japanese person was set upon by four youths in the middle of the Miami One Shopping Centre. I am advised by the local police that the juvenile crime squad are handling the investigation, which we know will only lead to a lettuce-leaf slap on the wrist for the perpetrators because of the Palaszczuk Labor government's soft-on-youth-crime legislation. It is just not good enough for my residents of Miami. I have spoken to senior police about the possibility of establishing a police beat in the Miami One Shopping Centre to send a loud and clear message to potential miscreants, such as the police beat that they have established in the Harbour Town shopping centre.

I have contacted the managers of the Miami One Shopping Centre who say they are more than happy to assist by providing a highly visible premise to police at a peppercorn rental to play their part in addressing this increasing level of bad behaviour in an otherwise peaceful and desirable residential area. I am pleased that as recently as this week in the House the Minister for Police has confirmed the use of police beats as a strong deterrent to crime when he said that the electorate of Pumicestone was soon to get a police beat in its central area. If it is good enough for the minister to provide a police beat in the Labor electorate of Pumicestone, then surely it is good enough to supply a police beat in the Miami One Shopping Centre, which obviously is not a Labor electorate and probably never will be.

As I have noted in this House previously, the minister for public housing refuses to change her policy of putting troubled people into short-term accommodation in an unsupervised capacity. To provide a solution to this unmitigated disaster of a policy we need to provide an upgraded police presence in the area to deter unacceptable behaviour from troubled people who in many cases are not in control of their own actions. Whilst there is a police station at Broadbeach and one at Palm Beach, it is 12.7 kilometres between those two stations, which is the greatest distance between any stations on the Gold Coast. The very fact that Miami is in an isolated position for police patrols lends itself immediately to an upgraded police presence, ideally through a police beat located in Miami One Shopping Centre. I look forward to the police minister taking a proactive stance in addressing this distressing activity in my local Miami community. If there are other solutions to this pressing problem in Miami that the police can provide, my Miami community would be enormously relieved to hear about it.

Quandamooka People

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (2.58 pm): I rise today to address a couple of contributions made over the last couple of weeks that were an attack on the traditional owners of the land I represent, the Quandamooka people, in particular their prescribed body QYAC, which is the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation. I expect it from the member for Oodgeroo. He has been doing the same trick of dividing the community for a decade.

Dr ROBINSON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I find those comments offensive and I ask them to be withdrawn. They are also misleading.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): The member has taken personal offence and asked that those comments be withdrawn. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr BROWN: I withdraw. Time and time again we have seen divisions caused on Minjerribah, inflamed by the member for Oodgeroo. However, what I did not expect—

Dr ROBINSON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Again I find those comments offensive and personal. I ask for them to be withdrawn. I encourage the member to be considerate of your ruling.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, Minister! While I am taking points of order I will have silence. The member has taken personal offence and I ask that you withdraw.

Mr BROWN: I withdraw. I did not expect that from the Greens in South Brisbane. I expected it from the member for Oodgeroo. We know he has dinner with Pauline Hanson—

Dr ROBINSON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. It is the same comment, three times now. I find it offensive. I ask him to withdraw and encourage him to accept your rulings.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence and I ask you to withdraw.

Mr BROWN: I withdraw. What I did not expect was for the Greens to do the same trick. The member for South Brisbane came in here to saddle up to a minority faction of QYAC for political purposes. We are the party of native title. When the Mabo decision came down, the Keating government took on that hard reform—and it was hard reform, particularly here in Queensland. The disagreements that the Goss government had with the Keating government are well documented, but we pressed forward because it was the right thing to do.

Once a prescribed body is recognised under federal law, you need to recognise that. You cannot choose time and time again, when it suits your political benefit, to saddle up to a minority faction. There are proper processes under the prescribed body. By doing that you are not recognising native title. You are not recognising the prescribed body. You cannot pick and choose, which is what the member for Oodgeroo and the member for South Brisbane do time and time again.

Dr ROBINSON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr BROWN: You can see he is interrupting because he does not like the truth.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Capalaba, resume your seat.

Dr ROBINSON: Mr Deputy Speaker, this is at least the fourth time that he has said the same thing. Again I rise to a point of order because I find it offensive and I ask—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are procedural matters that you can use in relation to that. If you find it offensive I will grant that point of order but there are other procedural matters that you can use.

Dr ROBINSON: I find it offensive and I ask for it to be withdrawn. Again, I encourage him to support your rulings.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, while I will allow the point of order, I am not in any way, shape or form adjudicating on whether what you are taking offence at is correct or incorrect. I am simply applying the standing orders, which state that you have the right to take offence and ask for something to be withdrawn. I will ask the member to withdraw.

Mr BROWN: I withdraw. You have to recognise the traditional owners. It is their land. They have been recognised by the Federal Court under native title legislation. When you choose to ignore that, which the member for Oodgeroo and the member for South Brisbane are doing to suit their political benefit—

Dr ROBINSON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Again I have been named by the member. I find his comments to be inaccurate and offensive and, for about the fifth time on the same issue, I ask that he withdraw.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, I rise on matter of privilege suddenly arising. The member for Oodgeroo is abusing procedural matters to interrupt a speaker. He is taking offence at things that are clearly not offensive.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Resume your seat, Manager of Opposition Business. You will have your chance in a moment.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I simply draw your attention to what I believe is an abuse of the standing orders and procedure to deliberately disrupt the speaker, by the member for Oodgeroo.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, I do not believe that is a matter of privilege suddenly arising. I think you are trying to take a point of order. I will hear your point of order, Manager of Opposition Business, if you have one.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I have two points. First, if the minister wants an abuse of process, that is it. Secondly, if a member takes offence at a comment by a member in this House—whether it is one, two, three, four or five times—the member or minister who makes that comment must withdraw. It is not up to the minister to determine how many times a member takes offence. We have a precedent whereby if a member finds comments offensive then they are withdrawn.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: There will be order, members, while I am taking advice. Member for Capalaba, the member has taken personal offence and I ask that you withdraw.

Mr BROWN: I withdraw. The Greens and the LNP are playing the same game of not recognising native title and not recognising the traditional owners. We have to respect what they want to do on their lands. We should not play petty politics at a particular time to drive division on the island to suit political purposes. That is completely wrong. I call on both the member for South Brisbane and the member for Oodgeroo to unite on the island—

Dr ROBINSON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr BROWN: I call on them to unite. You cannot take offence at that. You cannot take offence at asking people to unite.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Member for Capalaba, resume your seat.

Dr ROBINSON: Mr Deputy Speaker, it is the same line.

Mr BROWN: No. Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Resume your seat, member. I will hear the point of order from the member for Oodgeroo.

Dr ROBINSON: The member has once again personalised it and named me.

Mr BROWN: No, I mentioned your seat.

Dr ROBINSON: As the member for Oodgeroo I find offensive the line of comment that he is making. I am not debating it; I am simply saying that he continues to name me. I find it offensive and, for about the sixth time, I ask him to withdraw and accept your rulings.

Mr BROWN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Merely by mentioning the name of the seat—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Capalaba, resume your seat. Member, the repeated statements that you are making about urging the member to accept my rulings are problematic in that the member has consistently followed the rulings of the Speaker. I ask you not to bring that in again. The member has consistently withdrawn when he has been asked to withdraw. Member for Capalaba, you have a point of order?

Mr BROWN: Yes, Mr Deputy Speaker. Merely mentioning the seat of the member should not be cause for taking offence.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order, member for Capalaba. There are grounds that if you mention a member's seat or the person by name they can take personal offence. The member has taken personal offence and has asked that you withdraw. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr BROWN: I withdraw. I simply say: respect native title and respect the traditional owners. It is the law.

(Time expired)

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Report, Lapse of Notice of Motion

 **Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): In accordance with standing order 71, the notice of motion relating to report No. 28 has lapsed.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from p. 550.

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (3.08 pm), continuing: When it comes to seniors, people with disability and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, I look forward to working with those three inspiring and important groups of Queenslanders to deliver real and meaningful outcomes for them as individuals and for the communities in which they live.

In conclusion, I wish to quote the *Hansard* of this House and a speech of Mr Andrew Petrie MP. Andrew Petrie was the son of Mr John Petrie, who was well known for being involved in the early establishment of the City of Brisbane. He was the first mayor of the city. John Petrie contributed to the

construction supply chain for the very building that we stand in. His son Andrew Petrie was the member for Toombul. In 1897, during the second reading speech on the Aboriginals Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Bill, he said—

I have always felt that our Aboriginals have been very badly treated; that while we have come here and taken their land we have allowed them to mix with whites and adopt their vices and evil habits.

Some 125 years on I believe that Mr Petrie would agree with me when I say that this always was and always will be Aboriginal land.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (3.09 pm): It is extremely humbling to be re-elected for a fourth term as the member for Nanango in this the 57th Parliament. I sincerely thank my community for putting their faith in me. There is just so much opportunity in my electorate of Nanango, and in fact across regional Queensland, but it needs backing with better roads, better health services and less red and green tape for our primary producers and our small businesses. That is what I will be working to achieve for my communities right across the South Burnett, Somerset, northern Toowoomba, Cherbourg and western Gympie regions. I will continue to work hard each and every day because I love my region, my area and all the incredible people who call that beautiful part of the world home.

There are many people to thank who ran the Nanango campaign. There are too many to name individually, but I must acknowledge their hard work and their dedication. Given my position, I was not able to be there very much. I wish to thank my—I was going to say 'long-suffering'—campaign manager, Chris Andersen, and his incredible wife, Patricia. Patricia has been suffering a few medical conditions in the last couple of years, and Chris has just been wonderful.

To Jackie and John Allery and Riley and Gus but particularly Callum Allery, who, along with his mates, did some extra work this time: I thank you. Susan Mortimer and her husband, Peter, were incredible. I thank Col Kiem and all the booth captains. Then there was Zac and Andrew. I will only say their first names because they may work very closely to the government, but these two incredible young men took a full two weeks leave to work full-time on the Nanango campaign. They stood in the rain and endured so much, and I would not be standing here if it was not for all those people.

To Cath and Jules but particularly Lenny and Belinda from my Nanango office, I thank you. Belinda Pennell worked for me from day one in 2012 and then Lenny Hams joined me about a year later. These ladies are exceptional. Like every member of the House, I have incredible people who do so much for me on behalf of my community.

I also want to acknowledge a long-time supporter, Ian McAuley, and his wife, Di. Ian sadly passed away on 20 October 2020, not long before the election. Ian was such an incredible man. I want to thank him for his contribution to Queensland, but he was also such a great friend of my family. I very much would like to honour Ian and thank him for everything he did.

There are so many more to mention: Sean, Duncan, Kathy, John, Gil, David, Lorelle, Ian, Jeff and Jenny. I cannot do what the member for Glass House did and name them all; there are too many. I will get to my family in a moment, including my daughter Elke, who is a first-year uni student at QUT and who is sitting in the public gallery.

As the immediate former leader of the opposition, I congratulate the new leadership team on their important role. An opposition has a very important role in the Westminster system of government—that is, to hold the government to account. In this House, the members of the Labor Party often act in a way that reveals the arrogance of long-term government. They do not treat the members of the opposition or the crossbench in a manner that respects our constituents and the choice that our constituents have made in electing us to our rightful spot in this House. It is a position that is afforded to so few. We have been elected on behalf of our constituents. I council members, particularly those who sit on the Labor backbench who yell out, 'That's why you lost,' or, 'That's why you don't deserve to be here,' to never forget that our constituents have elected us, just as their constituents elected them. We are here because of our constituents—each and every one of us. The way the government arrogantly dismisses our questions, including questions on notice, and our role in this place shows just how out of touch and how arrogant it has become.

It was indeed an honour to be entrusted by my colleagues with the position of leader of the opposition and to act in this role for the entire 56th Parliament. I would sincerely like to thank the member for Everton, Tim Mander, for his friendship and hard work during that whole term as the deputy leader of the opposition. I would like to thank the entire LNP team, who worked so extraordinarily hard over the past three years on behalf of Queensland.

I give a special mention to our retiring members: Mark McArdle, Ted Sorensen and Simone Wilson. I want to give a shout-out to David Batt in Bundaberg and Marty Hunt in Nicklin, who were such incredibly hardworking local members; they will be sorely missed. I would like to welcome and give a massive congratulations to Amanda Camm, the new member for Whitsunday, who has already become an invaluable member of our team.

In relation to the election, I back what the member for Everton said in his address-in-reply—so many others in this House, including Labor members, said it also—that it was a COVID election. Millions of dollars were spent on advertising, on ‘unite and recover’—it has miraculously disappeared—right up until election day. My great mate the member for Glass House just this morning in this House delivered a quote from some time ago: ‘In politics, what begins in fear usually ends in failure.’ People can already see that it is going to end that way. The fear campaign that those opposite ran across the state of Queensland is quite simply incredible.

I touch on the phone canvassing, such as that which was shared with us by an older gentleman from Bribie Island in the seat of Pumicestone. It was a new low. He recorded the Labor phone canvassing into Bribie Island. It was said to him—

Under the Liberals’ plan, people are going to die.

The elderly gentleman said—

Did you just say—did you just say under a Liberal government people will die? Is that what you just said to me?

The Labor phone canvasser said—

I just said under a Liberal government the borders will reopen and who knows what’s going to happen from there ... people will die ...

Let me clarify one thing: we did call for the borders to reopen and the Premier opened the border. Then when the second wave happened in Victoria, I went on local Brisbane radio and said, ‘The borders must be closed.’ The next day, miraculously, the Premier then followed and closed the borders. This fear and dirtiness from the Labor government suits them. It is the politics of fear and it has certainly worked for them.

Labor were able to hide all their dirty laundry behind that fear of COVID. They were able to hide their integrity scandals and their failures. Let’s remember that before COVID hit the government were besieged with integrity scandal after integrity scandal. I find it fascinating that the Premier has started this term with yet another integrity scandal, and her actions and responses show us that she believes she is above the Ministerial Handbook.

I am so proud of the influence that our team were able to have from opposition in the last term. We introduced seven private members’ bills: Criminal Code (Choking in Domestic Settings) and Another Act Amendment Bill, Criminal Code (Trespass Offences) Amendment Bill, Criminal Code and Other Legislation (Mason Jett Lee) Amendment Bill, Criminal Code and Other Legislation (Ministerial Accountability) Amendment Bill, Electoral (Voter’s Choice) Amendment Bill, Weapons and Other Legislation (Firearms Offences) Amendment Bill, and Protecting Queenslanders from Violent and Child Sex Offenders Amendment Bill.

We fought the vegetation laws and the reef regulations on behalf of our primary producers. We raised the issue around ice and the effect that insidious drug has on our communities and mental health. We pushed for air conditioning in classrooms across Queensland. We were ridiculed by the Labor government, but eventually they realised it was a very good idea and they adopted it. We lobbied for real-time fuel monitoring. We lobbied for rural maternity services to address the bush bubs crisis—a crisis that is still going on because those opposite do not understand that people in regional Queensland deserve the same representation as people who live in Brisbane.

I am particularly proud of the policies we developed in the domestic violence space. The tragic death of Hannah Clarke and her beautiful children rightfully sparked outrage. I knew it was time to take decisive action against domestic violence. We did act decisively. Within seven days of this tragedy I had announced a package of measures to strengthen Queensland’s domestic violence laws. This is one area where I stood up and said, ‘Let’s put politics aside and let’s do something.’

We talked about legislation to strengthen strangulation laws and increase sentences. We talked about introducing a new coercive control offence, laws to empower police to issue domestic violence orders on the spot, the rollout of GPS monitoring trials, more money for frontline not-for-profit agencies and emergency grants. I pleaded with the then Palaszczuk government saying that we did not need another inquiry, summit or review. However, nothing happened and our proposed legislation was ignored and left to lapse.

There is no doubt that the recent announcement by the Labor government is positive, and I have communicated that to the Attorney-General. We must ask why this was not done last term. Why has it taken the government and the new Attorney-General so long to act? No-one can imagine the terror and pain that Hannah and her children suffered in those final moments. Four beautiful lives were destroyed by an act of pure evil. More needs to be done, even now.

Fighting for water has always been one of the LNP's major platforms. We have the debacle of Paradise Dam—one of the worst infrastructure failures in Australia. While I said not too long ago in this House that Paradise Dam may be empty by June, it now looks like it will be empty by the end of this month if no rain falls in that catchment. I am passionate about water security and our regional areas. I was very pleased to be appointed the shadow minister for water and the construction of dams, regional development and manufacturing.

In relation to the commitments for my Nanango electorate, my plans remain firmly in place to fight for the services and infrastructure we so badly need, including: a new hall for Kilcoy State High School, which I think is going to happen; a full-time paediatrician for the South Burnett region; flashing lights for Kilkivan State School so kids can get to school safely; upgrades to the Kilkivan to Tansey Road, Bye Road, the much needed Maidenwell Bunya Mountain Road—I think I have talked about that at the beginning of every term—the Wivenhoe Pocket turning lane; the Barilil Weir; and, very importantly, a matter that the member for Lockyer and I have been talking about for several years, water security for the Somerset and Lockyer irrigators. We will continue to talk about that.

I will continue to advocate on behalf of my region for an improvement in the crime statistics and the security of people in and around the South Burnett. I thank our hardworking local police officers. They go above and beyond to look after my constituents and keep them safe. I can tell this House that many of my constituents are not safe and unfortunately do not feel safe.

I will continue to advocate for more and better health care. I know that the Palaszczuk government like to go on about the new Kingaroy Hospital. It is great, but what we need is services within those walls. It is wonderful to have a new building, even though it is \$12 million over budget and floods in summer rains. I think our CT scanner has broken. The maternity ward is already busted because of the rain. It was \$12 million over budget, but I am pleased to have the building.

What I want is support for the nurses, doctors and administration staff within that building. Over 80 shifts in the last little while have been short staffed. That came from the nurse who came up to me at the local butcher—a big shout-out to the little butcher in Kingaroy Shoppingworld—and told me she is an agency nurse. They were short staffed for the last 80 shifts. This is ongoing. There is no plan. There is no workforce plan in relation to this issue. We need better and healthier services for our regions.

I will continue to advocate on behalf of regional mums who choose to give birth in regional Queensland. I will continue to advocate for that, whether it is in Chinchilla or Theodore—no matter where it is. It does not matter that it is not in my electorate, but these women deserve to have some representation because those opposite continue to put out press release after press release and refuse to do anything. The member for Callide and I will continue to advocate for them. I am sure the member for Mudgeraba, as shadow minister for health, will continue to advocate on their behalf.

An electorate is made up of many people who contribute in their own way. There are a couple of people whom I want to acknowledge. One is Darryl 'Grumpy' Okely. Grumpy passed away in late 2020. Grumpy served in Vietnam with Whisky 6 Company, a New Zealand infantry company that was part of 4RAR, an Australian infantry battalion. There was not one event in the last six years at the Nanango RSL that Grumpy did not invite me to be at. On behalf of my whole community, I again pass on our condolences to Grumpy's wife, Mary. No event will ever be the same without Grumpy.

I acknowledge the passing of Paul Tunn. Paul was a long-term Yarraman resident who was part of Bomber Command in World War II. He was an airman. Vincent Paul Tunn died aged 97 in November 2019. In 2015 he was awarded the French Legion of Honour for risking his life for the liberation of France. I used to go every year with Paul Tunn to the Yarraman cemetery service where I had the honour of reading out the names of those who passed from service and were buried in Yarraman. Each time at the end of reading out all those names Paul would say, 'My name is still not on the list, Deb.' It will be a really sad Anzac Day this year without Paul.

Our community cannot exist without incredible community events—and there are so many. I want to give a shout-out to an incredible community event, which is not in my electorate—Weengallon Pink Ladies Day. It is run by a committee of volunteers. Last year I had the pleasure of attending and helping its committee president, Emma Montgomery. Some 900 people attended. It has been going for

20 years. Last year they raised over \$60,000. Emma, who was 49, passed away last week from breast cancer. I pass on my condolences to her husband, Bill Montgomery. Emma was a devoted mum to Georgina, Annabel and Lily. There are so many young people in our communities who are faced with cancer and the effects of cancer. To Emma, we thank you for the service that you gave to the Queensland community. May you rest in peace.

I am only in this place because of my wonderful community, my incredible children and my amazing husband, Jason. Jason, Isabella, Lucy and Elke are seriously the most unreal people—thank you. I know each and every one of us has stories about our families. It is the passing of someone like Emma that makes you really sit up and appreciate your children and your family. To my family, to my mum and dad and my siblings and my husband's mum and dad and his siblings, thank you all so very much.

In my maiden speech I concluded with these words and I would like to conclude with the same words because it is still the case: this honour is afforded to so few of us and we should never take it for granted. In conclusion, I would like to thank the people of the Nanango electorate for giving me the honour of being their representative in parliament. For those who have voted for me, I hope my efforts over the next years will reward your faith. For those who chose otherwise, I will be working hard to earn your support. In either case, I am here to serve you.

Interruption.

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Unparliamentary Language; Alleged Reflection on the Chair

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (3.29 pm): Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. I have been informed that in private members' statements the member for Capalaba may have used some very unparliamentary language when he was asked to take his seat. That has been allegedly picked up by the video feed. I raise this for two reasons: first, for the alleged unparliamentary language and, secondly, if in fact the member for Capalaba did say those words after being asked to take his seat by the Deputy Speaker, then there is a serious issue of alleged reflection on the chair. I will be writing to Mr Speaker about this matter.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed.

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (3.30 pm): It is with great pride that I stand in the chamber today re-elected as the state member for Jordan. I would like to congratulate all of the members who have been returned and welcome the new members to the 57th Parliament. It is indeed an honour and privilege to serve in this parliament—something that is never lost on me or that I ever take for granted. I love our Jordan community. It is truly special and every day I am witness to some of the very best people in our society. There are of course too many to mention, but I try to acknowledge them as often as I can.

I would like to thank the Premier of Queensland for her steadfast leadership not only during these most difficult years in a global pandemic but for the last seven years. The return of the Palaszczuk government for a third term is in no small part due to her remarkable leadership—something again that is not lost on me. I am very proud of the campaign that we fought in the seat of Jordan—a positive, engaged campaign that highlighted our considerable achievements and made a number of important commitments that focused on the needs and aspirations of our community.

When I ran in 2017 I did so because I could see some immediate and longstanding issues that needed to be fixed in our community. This included but was not limited to solving the parking issues at Springfield Central station, getting a solution to the Centenary Highway-Logan Motorway interchange, getting public transport for the communities in Greenbank and Flagstone, and fixing the bus zones in our Ipswich area as well. I feel very proud that I have been able to progress all of these issues in my first term.

Construction has now started on our \$44.5 million multistorey park-and-ride. The Minister for Transport and Main Roads and I inspected it only last week. Funding has been secured and planning is underway on the upgrade of the Centenary Highway-Logan Motorway interchange. The first ever

TransLink bus service has been introduced into Greenbank and Flagstone, and we improved and added bus services for our Ipswich area. These are just a fraction of the many things that, with the support of our Labor government, we were able to achieve for our Jordan community.

Importantly, I had a very clear vision and focus on why I sought re-election. I want to look beyond the immediate. I want to futureproof our Jordan electorate for the population growth we know is coming. Whether it is the Centenary Highway, our schools, our health services, our social services or our public transport, the next four years will be critical in planning ahead.

In 2019 we opened our brand new primary school in Spring Mountain. On the very first day a journalist asked me how we could justify building a \$40 million school for the 40 students who were enrolled. To me it was a no-brainer. We were actually delivering something ahead of the growth. We planned ahead. By the end of 2019 the school numbers had more than doubled and have continued to double in 2021. This is what I mean about futureproofing. Now that I have been fortunate to be re-elected as the member for Jordan, it is where I will be focusing my priorities.

We currently have 15 schools in the Jordan electorate—all wonderful schools but a number of them are continuing to grow very quickly. It is really important that we begin to plan for our future schools, to secure land and to confirm construction and opening dates. As part of our Great Schools, Great Future plan, Labor confirmed that we would begin the immediate planning for six new schools in and around the Jordan electorate: a new primary school in the Augustine Heights-Redbank Plains vicinity, a new primary school in the Bellbird Park-Brookwater vicinity, a new primary school in Springfield, a new high school in Greater Springfield, a new high school in Greater Flagstone and a new special school in Springfield.

Late last year we also announced we would develop a new primary school in Greenbank—the first school to be built in this area in 128 years. I was so pleased to be able to join the Premier, the Minister for Education and the member for Logan just a few weeks ago as we turned the sod on this \$73 million school. Construction is now underway under the experienced hand of FKG Group, who have built a number of our recent schools. A principal will soon be appointed and we are looking forward to seeing the first students walk through the school gate in term 1 in 2022.

I am also working with all of our current schools on planning for additional buildings. This includes Springfield Central State School, where we have committed \$9.3 million for new classrooms, and Springfield Central State High School, where construction is currently underway on a brand new \$12 million building. I am also in discussions with the principals of Springfield Lakes State School and Flagstone State School on their additional requirements going forward. New and growing schools need more teachers and teaching staff. I am really proud that we as a government have committed to more than 6,100 new teachers and 1,100 new teacher aides—the single biggest investment in teachers in Queensland's history.

Beyond schools, I also want to futureproof our skills base in the Jordan electorate. It is why we are funding the Springfield Regional Jobs Committee, a group firmly focused on connecting skills with future jobs. We have announced an expansion of TAFE which is really wonderful. Locally I am even more excited that we have announced the expansion of the WestTEC Trade Training Centre in Springfield—\$2.25 million so that our young people can get the skills and training for jobs we know are coming and will be available.

It was great to join some of those students of WestTEC Trade Training Centre last month at the Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence, where they not only got to meet the Premier—which they were very excited about—but also got to see what a future in defence manufacturing could look like for them. Whether it is welding, electrical work or AI, there are so many job opportunities emerging for our young people from our strong association and support of Rheinmetall and the Land 400 military contract. We are futureproofing education, training and skills in our region.

I want to thank our incredible health staff who have supported our community through COVID-19 and particularly when our own community in Jordan had two local outbreaks in 2020. Our health staff very quickly established fever clinics—a massive undertaking. When it comes to health, I know everyone's focus in my area is on a public hospital for Springfield. I really appreciate the desire of our community to see a public hospital for the region and I am a strong advocate for this.

Since being elected in 2017, I have worked closely with Queensland Health, with West Moreton Health and with the Mater on developing a plan for what expanded health services could look like. This is a massive undertaking and work is continuing with all stakeholders to progress this important initiative

for our community. I am also excited by some of the other key health initiatives for our region that will greatly benefit those in the Jordan electorate. Work has already begun on a new \$91 million acute mental health unit, providing 50 beds and something of critical need in our region. We have also announced that the Labor government will develop a brand new \$24.5 million alcohol and other drug withdrawal and rehabilitation centre for the Ipswich region—10 withdrawal beds and another 35 residential rehab beds.

I was fortunate to meet with some of the AOD clinical staff, and they were thrilled about this announcement because they know just how necessary a facility like this is for our health region. Of course, the \$460 million expansion of the Logan Hospital is absolutely critical for those who live in the Logan parts of my electorate. Again, we cannot build new hospitals or new health facilities without people. We have announced that we will grow frontline health staff—5,800 nurses and midwives, 1,500 doctors, 1,700 allied health professionals and 475 paramedics. We are providing health services now and beginning to plan for more health services here in our region.

Of course our economy has been challenged as a result of this global pandemic, and there are financial challenges which my electorate is not immune to. Many people have lost their jobs, and there is still much uncertainty with many industries impacted. In July last year I received a report that showed that in the suburb of Springfield Lakes those who were on JobSeeker rose from 347 to 1,014 people—more than triple; I do not underestimate the task ahead—which is why I truly believe our economic recovery plan is what is going to lead us through and is already showing that Queensland is recovering faster than any other state.

My immediate focus will be on continuing to support our small businesses because I know that in the Jordan electorate 97 per cent of all businesses are small businesses. We announced a \$140 million Small Business Strategy to help our Queensland small businesses recover from the pandemic, and I want to ensure that my local small businesses are getting the benefits of this strategy.

This builds on our government's record level of support for small businesses, including: \$950 million in payroll tax relief; \$1 billion in job support loans; \$196 million in COVID-19 adaptation grants; and \$100 million in electricity rebates. Locally, more than \$840,000 was distributed to local Jordan businesses through our COVID grants. I have spoken with many business owners who have received these grants, and I know how much they have helped at such a critical time.

Our plan for economic recovery is all about backing local businesses to create more local jobs. That is something I will proudly support not only as the member for Jordan but also now as the Assistant Minister for Treasury. I am honoured to have been invited by the Premier of Queensland to undertake this role. Working closely with the Treasurer of Queensland we will not only deliver on our Unite and Recover economic plan but we will deliver on the over 1,000 commitments our Labor government made during the election. I am also pleased to be working with the Treasurer on the investments side of the portfolio, which is very exciting.

Finally, I wish to thank the amazing and dedicated team of volunteers in the Jordan electorate who have supported me and Labor. Without them I would never have been able to be returned as the member or to achieve a sizeable swing of 7.1 per cent to Labor. Thank you to the wonderful and hardworking members of the Greater Springfield and Logan West branches, particularly our Carole Park cartel—Neil, Judy, Martin and Vince—who staffed probably the least busy pre-poll booth in Queensland but who never once left their spot and ensured that every single voter who did turn up had a Charis Mullen how-to-vote card. To our small but dedicated team in Flagstone, Terry, Trish and Bev, I am always so grateful for your support in this growing area of our electorate and for your sound advice. I would like to give a massive thank you to my incredible electorate team, Fran and Rose. I am only as good as I think I am because of their hard work, dedication to our community and amazing and positive spirit.

To the Labor Party team who were a big support to me, Julie-Anne Campbell, Zak Beers and Mitchell Kingston, thank you. To my union, the Australian Workers' Union, thank you Steve Baker and team for your continued support. Thank you to my good mate Milton Dick MP, who continues to support me without reservation and for whom I will always gladly return the favour. Thank you also to Shayne Neumann MP for his assistance and support and my parliamentary colleagues and friends for their support. I am so pleased to see you returned to this parliament.

Thank you to my truly amazing family: my husband, Sean, and my daughters, Zoe and Mary. Politics can be hard on families and we continue to navigate our way through it all, but I know that without you none of this would have any real meaning or purpose. It is truly the greatest privilege to be

part of our family. I love you all so much. Thank you to my wonderful parents, Leon and Katherine, and my brothers, Nickolas and Alexander, who all my life have been my biggest supporters and strongest advocates. Being part of a big Greek family is truly wonderful. You yell to be heard, you are always well fed and you always know how much you are loved.

Four years may seem like a long time, but I know it will go by ever so quickly. There is so much ahead of us, including ongoing storm recovery for our affected residents in Springfield Lakes, Springfield and Greenbank. I want to once again thank the amazing people of the Jordan electorate for giving me the opportunity and the honour to advocate for them and speak for them in the 57th Parliament.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (3.42 pm): I rise to speak about the period leading up to the election and of course the honour of being re-elected as a representative of the people of Southport. Like so many others who have gone before me in this House I would like to add my gratitude to the chorus of thanks to Deb, Jason and her family for the leadership they provided during the last term of government and the election and Deb's deputy leader Tim Mander, the member for Everton.

As someone who has run and lost—I ran for mayor of the Gold Coast in 2008 and narrowly lost—I think I have something of an insight into just a little bit of the disappointment one feels through that experience but, more importantly, the impact it has on families. My best wishes especially go to Jason and Deb's beautiful family because it is not just the member who runs in those roles but also the whole family gets caught up in it. They absolutely served us as a party, and as Queenslanders they set a great example to all of us around the strength of their family.

I also want to add my congratulations to our new leader David Crisafulli, the member for Broadwater, and his family and David Janetzki, our new deputy leader, the member for Toowoomba South. I look forward to working with both of them through this term of parliament over the next four years because there is still so much to be done.

I also want to say how pleased I am with the opportunity I have been given to work as an assistant shadow minister in a number of areas. It is amazing how issues get a hold of you at some point in your life and then they keep coming back. When I first ran for council the issues I was passionate about were homelessness, the challenges of mental health that are so often brought on by drug and alcohol abuse, the need to stand up for our kids and the importance of providing hope and opportunity for our young people, so it is truly a privilege to have been asked to take on the areas of mental health, drug and alcohol treatment, families and seniors.

I also need to pass on a quick thanks to my former deputy whip Mark Boothman, the member for Theodore. We had a lot of fun in the last term.

An opposition member: He is still here.

Mr MOLHOEK: I know he is still here and he is still the deputy whip. Mark, it was an absolute treat to serve alongside you in that role. I know we still have plenty of good times ahead.

Of course, last year was a challenging year for Queenslanders, Australians and the world. I think it would be remiss of me not to say thank you to all those frontline emergency service workers across the state who have so wonderfully stepped up and taken such great care of us, protected us and provided comfort and support in what was an incredibly challenging year. While we are not quite through it yet, we have certainly come a long way from where we were standing this time last year in this House.

I also want to say thanks to a number of people in my team. I want to thank my campaign team: Allan Godbee, Andrea Chivers, Bevan Sim, James Kennett and Juval Stephens—who stepped in as the chair of my SEC on short notice when my previous chair sadly had to resign due to health issues; my good mates Steven Lutz and William Ou Bai; and my electoral staff Samantha Hawthorn and Jackson Hills, all of whom provided tremendous support and a lot of assistance in the campaign.

I want to thank all of my booth captains too: Adrian Bernard, who manned Bellevue Park State School; Allan Godbee and Steve Lutz, who looked after the Southport Baptist Church; David Lister, who was the booth captain at my old high school, Keebra Park; Doug and Sue Lipp, who are absolute stalwarts of the LNP. They stood there all day and ran the team at Benowa State High School. My older brother John ran the family booth. It has become a bit of a tradition that the family all line up at the Southport Community Centre. My brother John and my sister Connie always run that booth for me. Lea Fitzpatrick looked after the booth at Trinity College. Reg and Caroline Williams have been booth captains for me for many years and this year they looked after the booth at Ashmore State School.

Amongst the volunteers were some great people who helped out. It was great to have the P&F president from my old school, Arthur Lord, and some of his family on the booth at Keebra Park and through pre-poll. I also want to thank Anita and Alana Whimpey for their support during pre-poll and again on election day. Special thanks to Bruce Vasey-Brown, another great stalwart of our party who was there every single day on pre-poll and then in the afternoons would go and help someone else on another booth and pre-poll. They all did a fantastic job and put in a lot of work for us as a party.

I thank my old friend Kim Goldup. She is an old school mate from Keebra Park, one of the foundation students at that school, and a very decorated and acclaimed former police officer here in Queensland recognised for bravery and the work that she did in bringing down some of the paedophile rings around the time of Expo 88. I thank Kim and her new husband, Steve, for their assistance. To my adopted aunt and uncle, Ken and Liisa Stanley, thank you for helping out.

I did touch on my family. I have to thank my nephew, Peter Murray. I thank my niece Lynda Robertson and her husband, Cliff, and their three wonderful kids, Jacob, Zac and Katie. I also thank my other niece Elizabeth and her husband, Josh Leveridge, and their little boy, Rueben, who thought it was so much fun to be there on polling day helping out.

My sons, who are perhaps not always excited about election days and elections, always turn out on election day. To Tim and Sarah, to Andrew and to Matt, all of you, thank you for being there. I was a little disappointed this year that my son Dave and his wife, Maddy, could not help but unfortunately they were at the hospital delivering our second grandchild who arrived on election night.

Mr Krause: Poor timing!

Mr MOLHOEK: It was very poor timing on Maddy's part, I thought, but we have gotten over it and moved past it!

I also want to thank Rock and Joan O'Keefe from Ashmore Rotary. Rock was one of the founders of the new Men's Shed there. It was great that they were able to help. I also thank Ross Lee, who not only is a solicitor in Southport but also provides hundreds if not thousands of hours of community service time in running a community legal service for the people of the Gold Coast.

I have so much I want to talk about in this 20 minutes and it is never long enough. There has been some fairly significant news this last week and I thought it would be remiss of me not to mention it. I have had the privilege and honour of being a director of Bravehearts on and off for nearly 15 years. Sadly, but understandably, Hetty Johnston announced her retirement this week as the executive director. Hetty is well-known to everyone in this House. It would be remiss of me not to take a few minutes to focus on her accomplishments and her contribution to child safety not only here in Queensland but all around the nation. Hetty is without a doubt one of the most renowned child protection advocates in our nation but, as she said in her own words, 'Bravehearts has grown up and my time is done.' After 25 years, I think she is allowed to take a bit of a break and step away from the fray—not that she will be stepping too far away.

Hetty founded the organisation in 1977 amid a personal nightmare, and the organisation has grown to become the leading voice in the battle to prevent child sexual assault and exploitation. We have actually been working on a succession plan for a number of years, and Hetty, like myself, is pleased that we are able to move forward with some new leadership. We have a lot of great people in Bravehearts doing great work, and the vision and passion of Bravehearts will continue under the new chief executive officer, Alison Geale.

When Hetty launched Bravehearts, no-one was talking much about the issue, but now there are so many other voices in our nation who are talking about child sexual abuse, like our Australian of the Year, Grace Tame. As all members in the House would agree, the work of Bravehearts and the commitment of Hetty Johnston have saved countless children from harm. Under her leadership, we have seen more than a million young people educated in primary schools across the nation with Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure.

When Bravehearts launched its inaugural White Balloon Day, those initiatives resulted in a 500 per cent increase in the number of police disclosures annually. There is so much I could say about Bravehearts, but I probably owe it to the people of Southport to talk about my dreams and hopes for the electorate. Thank you, Hetty. All of us here are grateful for the work she has done. We certainly wish her well, and we know fully she will not be off the scene for long but it is time for her to take a well-deserved rest.

I return to my comments on Southport. The Gold Coast is a vibrant and growing city. Queensland is going through significant growth off the back of COVID with every man, every woman and their dog wanting to move here, and Southport is no exception. In my electorate, I have more than 65,000 residents but only 32,000 people on the electoral roll. One of the reasons for that is that we have a large number of Kiwis who are not citizens who live in some of the suburbs. We also have Griffith University and the health and knowledge precinct, so a large number of itinerant people live on the fringes of my electorate. We have a large number of domestic and international students. We also have a large number of businesses and manufacturing businesses located in the electorate. A lot of people come and go.

What is particularly interesting about Southport is that I have 18 schools. Some of my country colleagues would say, 'Gee, that's not many schools.' If Lachlan Millar were here, he would be saying, 'You should see how many I have in Gregory.' In a very small area, for some reason we have a concentration of schools. On a daily basis, some 23,000 students travel in and out of my electorate to go to school. There are five private schools and the balance are state schools. I can assure the House that every one of those schools is reaching breaking point in terms of capacity and I will be raising this with the minister in due course. Even my old school of Keebra Park has gone from 500 students a few years ago to more than 1,200 students this year. Benowa State High School has in excess of 2,200 students and Southport State High School has a student population approaching 2,000.

It will come as no surprise to the House that I have a bit of a shopping list of projects that I have been talking to the schools about. We desperately need more sporting and recreational facilities at Keebra Park. We need to establish some sort of a sports centre of excellence at this school because of the incredible track record that the school has in producing sports champions in so many fields of sport. We also need money to upgrade and extend the multipurpose hall at Keebra Park.

At Ashmore State School, we have priorities like a long overdue upgrade of the administration building, the need for a multipurpose hall and additional classrooms for prep. At Bellevue Park State School, it may not seem like a big issue but there is a desperate need for new fencing because there have been some significant security challenges in that area and it adjoins a park and there is a need for an additional fence. There is also a need to revamp some of the old classrooms to meet current standards and to provide some soundproofing for music rooms and performing arts. They are just a few of the things on the list of some 20 or 30 projects that we have identified in the Southport electorate that are so desperately needed to meet the growing demands of the school population in my area in particular.

There are so many other things that need to be done. One of the things that COVID has highlighted is the incredible shortage we have across the state in terms of facilities for the homeless. Aside from the obvious need for more public and affordable housing—and we have heard much about that today in the House—we need more crisis accommodation and support services for victims and families experiencing domestic violence. In terms of the facilities on the Gold Coast, at Southport Still Waters is a wonderful centre that the Salvation Army built in 1982. One of my reflections on this is that there has been very little additional capacity added either there or to any other service within the electorate.

The other issue we have seen throughout COVID is an uplift of people on the street with mental health and drug and alcohol addictions. While great strides have been made and a lot of effort has been put into trying to house some of these people, the sad fact is that some of these people do not wish to be housed. Unfortunately, we do not necessarily have enough services or accommodation facilities to meet the needs of some of the most disadvantaged people in our city. We even see evidence of that here in Brisbane and in other parts of the state.

The other project that I would like to flag today is the need for us to work up a plan in terms of safe corridors for international students. I know we still have a bit of work to do in respect of COVID. The Queensland economy and the Gold Coast economy are incredibly dependent on the income and even the cultural exchanges that come from that. I touched on the number of school students in my electorate. It might interest the House to know that even as we sit here today there are some 26,000 international students on the Gold Coast. There are 23 separate colleges within the Southport electorate and a couple of extra colleges in Surfers Paradise that fundamentally cater to advanced learning and advanced education not only for international students but also domestic students from all around Australia. Had COVID not hit when it did, we would have seen a record number of international students on the Gold Coast last year. There were 42,000 enrolled, and some 16,000 have not been able to come

because of international travel restrictions. To put that into context, if we look at export earnings for Queensland, mining is obviously the big one. The second largest earner is actually international education, worth \$9 billion about two years ago.

I should mention how pleased I am that TAFE has had further upgrades. We upgraded the Southport campus a few years ago. Last year additional money was spent on refurbishing level 3 or 4 to accommodate allied health services. Next week it will be my pleasure to join some of my colleagues and other members of this House and perhaps even the minister at the opening of the new \$13 million trade centre at the Gold Coast TAFE in Heeb Street.

Like my other colleagues, I also want to finish by briefly saying it is an incredible privilege to be a member of this House. It is not something that I take lightly. It is my intent to work just as hard this term, if not harder, for the people of Southport and the Gold Coast. They have given us their trust and we need to repay that with hard work and we need to deliver on the services, the facilities and the activities that people expect from us as a government.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (4.02 pm): I would like to start by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which this parliament meets and also the traditional owners of the electorate of Mackay, the Yuwi people, and pay my respects to elders past, present and emerging.

I would like to congratulate Mr Speaker on his reappointment as Speaker of the House. I would also like to congratulate all of the new members on both sides of this House. It is a very exciting time for them. It is also a very exciting time for the whole of the parliament especially with the Premier, Annastacia Palaszczuk, continuing to lead our great state.

The electorate of Mackay is the best electorate in Queensland. I would like to thank my community for putting their trust in me to serve them for another four years in the Labor Palaszczuk government. I will endeavour to ensure we continue to thrive and grow as a community and keep leading Queensland's economic recovery through the pandemic and well after the pandemic as well.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Premier and the Deputy Premier along with the health minister have listened carefully to the advice of the Chief Health Officer, Jeannette Young. They carried our state safely through the unprecedented pandemic. The Premier has been strong and has shown leadership that has kept us safe. She has been brave enough to make tough decisions and she has made them quickly.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank members of my community who pulled together and kept everyone safe in their homes during lockdown: the team at Meals on Wheels for delivering meals every day, disability carers for looking after our vulnerable, healthcare workers, police, ambos, teachers, supermarket workers—they all kept our communities going during lockdown.

During lockdown I made many calls to elderly and vulnerable members of my community. I am so pleased to report that I heard many, many stories of how the community of Mackay reached out to neighbours to ensure that the housebound were able to get their shopping and their medications and were not stranded at home. What was really special is that for some this was the first time they had contact with their neighbours. People really reached out.

The Premier's wise words, 'You cannot have a strong economy if you do not have a strong health response,' have played out to be fact in my electorate and across the state. The government's quick responses and work with industry on the ground have kept COVID out of our major industries. While other countries have had their mining industry interrupted, ours has continued to operate. Making quick decisions to halt interstate FIFO at crucial times has kept the industry safe and it has kept our mining industry going.

Mackay is a service centre for the mining industry, and keeping our industry safe has meant that our engineering workshops have kept busy. In fact, apprentices were employed during lockdown. This would not have been possible without the strong leadership of Annastacia Palaszczuk.

The sugarcane industry has been in operation in Queensland for about 140 years. The crushing season was able to get underway and get the 2020 crop off. If COVID was in our workforce, the mills would not have been able to start and the crop would have been left behind in the ground.

The Palaszczuk government is a jobs-growing government. We train and develop our communities to take up employment opportunities. The Mackay Resources Centre of Excellence was a 2017 re-election commitment and it has been delivered. The fact that the project was so innovative caused the Mackay Regional Council to jump on board and additional funding has meant that the centre is not just a training centre; it is also a true centre of excellence. The centre has state-of-the-art facilities

with its underground mining simulator that caters for realistic work conditions in the underground mine. It also allows workers to get some of their tickets in a safe environment. It is a facility of excellence in innovation, research and development for the mining sector and also other industries that need this research. There is no other facility of this standard in the Southern Hemisphere.

Manufacturing is vitally important to Queensland's future, both in the short and long term. The pandemic has shown the vital importance of a strong local supply chain and the need to secure local manufacturing. That is why I am very excited to have worked to secure the Palaszczuk government's election commitment to create a manufacturing hub in Mackay that will focus on bioproducts, developing new industries to diversify the output of our current agricultural industries. The manufacturing hub will boost export opportunities for our agricultural industry, create jobs and support long-term manufacturing in our region. Mackay will also be home to a future foods biohub that will provide another exciting opportunity for food production and processing sectors. The biohub will research how to value-add to our existing agriculture sectors by diversifying their customer base, creating high-value uses for produce and reducing the level of produce waste.

The additional focus on innovation and technology will also create more knowledge-intensive jobs in the region. The Mackay-Isaac-Whitsunday region is surrounded by rich agriculture—sugar, grain, dairy, vegetables, beef—and aquaculture. For some time producers have spoken about value-adding and developing innovative ways to use produce unsold at market to ensure all of their produce has value, with none left in the paddock. We should not see food wasted. The manufacturing hub will enable the development of new products; for example, enriched food powders from food that will not make it to supermarket shelves because of marks on its skin or it being the wrong size or shape.

The sugar industry has been part of Mackay's history for a very long time. I have been working to ensure there is a future for the cane crop beyond the price of sugar on the world market. Cane is a versatile crop and can be used to manufacture many different products including bioplastic, carbon bricks, fibre, building materials and biofoods. The biohub has the potential to kickstart new industry. They are getting off the ground in Mackay with some exciting developments to come soon. All of the planning for these new agribusinesses is part of the Advance Queensland Biofutures 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan. The Mackay-Isaac-Whitsunday region is ready to lead the thriving future foods industry in Queensland. I am proud that my region is not placing future growth into just one area.

As a community, we are not waiting for the future to arrive without forward planning for a skilled workforce. We need one that is agile, ready for innovation in traditional industries and skilled, ready and able to upskill for the future. The Palaszczuk Labor government is driving training in my community. Our ministers are rolling out opportunities for training and development of new skill sets and trades. I am determined that every person, whether at the start of their work life or a mature worker with years of experience, will have opportunities to grow their skills based on the work within our emerging and evolving workforces.

We do not have a crystal ball so we do not know what skills will be needed moving forward, but we can have the right support structures in place with our TAFE and universities to deliver modern training for new and advanced skill sets. The CQ Ooralea Trades Training Centre will upgrade training facilities and, as I have mentioned before in the House, with an injection of \$7.5 million, provide access to world-class training to workers who will service the Bowen Basin in terms of training apprentices in heavy vehicle maintenance. It is important to business and workers to be able to train close to home and where their jobs are.

The Palaszczuk government has continued to deliver increased medical services at the Mackay Base Hospital. The heart catheter lab is now operating at 24/7 capacity. No longer do patients need their heart issues dealt with away from Mackay. This means that fewer people need to be airlifted to Townsville or Brisbane. Life-saving services such as heart stents can be provided in Mackay. This service reduces the damage to a patient's heart. There is less loss of life and a healthier and quicker recovery for people in my region. Now it is only patients with major heart problems who need to travel for more complex services. Also, a designated orthopaedics ward is now in operation. It has specialised nursing staff and health workers. Mackay has an ageing population, so this service is giving quality care to aged people in terms of hip replacements, knee replacements and also much needed care to accident victims. This is a great service for my community.

Planning for the brand new \$30 million Sarina Hospital is on track. This facility will provide a modern, purpose-built, state-of-the-art service to people living south of Mackay and will also complement service delivery in the Mackay Base Hospital. The staff of Sarina Hospital deliver outstanding service in their current hospital and they truly deserve this brand new hospital.

Road construction has just been going gangbusters in my electorate. The Eton Range \$189 million realignment has been completed, making the transport connection from the Bowen Basin through to Paget and on to the Port of Mackay a great and very safe road. It delivered 295 direct jobs. Then there is the famous Mackay Ring Road at nearly \$500 million. This project is open, taking heavy vehicles off the suburban streets of Mackay. We are in the middle of the Bruce Highway Northern Access Upgrade, a \$110 million project. It is being constructed as we speak. It will deliver upgraded access to the new ring-road and take pressure off Mackay Bucasia Road. For many years, the communities of Mackay and Walkerston lobbied for a bypass road for heavy vehicles taking dangerous goods to the Bowen Basin out of the main street of Walkerston. Work on the \$150 million road will commence this year, creating more local jobs for our local families.

No-one wins a seat in an election without the support of strong and loyal branch members. Thank you to the Mackay branch. You all are fantastic. I am so fortunate to have a large family that is rock solid backing me. I give a huge thank you to my wonderful husband, Frank; my daughter, Catherine, and son-in-law, Ian; my stepsons, David and Edward; and my grandchildren, Kia, Keione and Sienna. Thank you to my sisters, Michele, Susan and Caroline; my brothers, James and Anthony; their partners; and all of my nieces and nephews. My parents, Bev and Jim, are very special people. They have a very big family but support each and every one of us through our adventures.

I also put on record my thanks to Julie-Ann Campbell, Zac Beers, John Battams and their team at party office for all of their support. I also thank Gary Bullock and the UWU team for their guidance, patience and perseverance. Jake and Connor, thank you. To my friends of many years and former colleges from the QTU: your friendship and moral support is valued. I also thank Ankita, Lucy, Casey, Suzanne and Murray for their outstanding, unwavering support. I give a special thank you to the volunteers who turned up to pre-poll each day in the hot North Queensland sun. You are legends.

Right at the start the campaign was really hit by the passing of Tim Mulherin. It was really special that the Mulherin family got behind me and continued to campaign. It was very valued and very brave of them. It was great to announce during the campaign a project that was so dear to Tim's heart: his beloved Great Barrier Reef Arena, a \$10 million project. I was so proud to announce that. This project will start about midyear. It is a great project and we all will enjoy seeing the arena coming of the ground. When I sat back and thought about the last election campaign, one thing that really stood out is that Mackay is a wonderful place to live and work, surrounded by a wonderful community. Thank you to my community.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (4.18 pm): It is an honour to be re-elected as the member for Scenic Rim for a second time, and for the fourth time to represent our region in the Queensland parliament. I thank residents for placing their faith in me to be their representative once again, firstly as the member for Beaudesert and secondly as the member for Scenic Rim, and to be the representative of individuals and the big issues that face our region and the entire state.

John Howard was elected as the prime minister of Australia 25 years ago on 2 March and his campaign theme was 'For All of Us', and that is how I approach my job as a public representative in Scenic Rim—to represent everybody, people who voted for us and people who did not vote for us. I am reminded of something that the great Vaughan Johnson said to our party room in 2012. He said that, when you are in your office, no matter who walks through the door, what walk of life they come from or who they voted for, your job is to represent them. That is how all of us should approach our job in this place.

Similarly, governments of all persuasions should always try to govern for everybody, not for narrow sectional interests. I implore the government that has been re-elected to adopt that mantra and to look after all parts of Queensland, all sectors of the economy and people from all walks of life. Indeed, the Scenic Rim electorate has a little bit of everything that is in Queensland. We have our rich agricultural plains and our national parks. We have the mountains. The Scenic Rim electorate also has part of Ipswich and part of Logan, so there really is a little bit of everything from around Queensland in the electorate. From Beechmont in the east which looks out over the Numinbah Valley and the Gold Coast to Grandchester in the west where—

Ms Bates: It's a great spot, the Numinbah Valley.

Mr KRAUSE: The Numinbah Valley is not a bad spot, but Beechmont and Binna Burra are pretty good too, member for Mudgeeraba. There is Grandchester in the west where we look up to the Little Liverpool Range and over to Laidley, where the inland rail will be coming through in a few years time. There is Cedar Grove in Logan and Yamanto in Ipswich, with growth issues around there and

Willowbank in particular. The Scenic Rim electorate faces a lot of different issues faced in various parts of the state. Despite the fact that it looks very green at the moment, farmers are still doing it tough. It is very dry.

Opposition members: Green drought.

Mr KRAUSE: It is a green drought. We have had just enough rain to make it look nice but not enough to really make an impact on the ground. One of our dams in particular, Moogerah Dam, is very low and without solid rain in the next couple of months irrigators will be cut off completely, which will have a huge economic impact in the Fassifern Valley.

The electorate also faces a lot of road infrastructure issues because of a lack of investment over a very long time and similarly when it comes to investment in social services in the Beaudesert corridor and in fact across the whole electorate. Around Ipswich the Cunningham Highway remains a very big issue with development going on at RAAF Amberley, a proposed development by EDQ at Ebenezer and also three proposed dumps before Ipswich City Council which will only make what is already a bad interchange—a dangerous interchange—at the Amberley interchange even worse.

I congratulate the member for Mulgrave on his re-election as Speaker and acknowledge his efforts to preside over this House in a fair manner that protects all of the privileges of members in the context of the rules and standing orders which are put in place by the government. I can only reflect that, if the government had the same fair-minded attitude to the way the House is run as the Speaker, we would all have a much better place here to represent our constituents.

When it comes to elections, it is always hard work and serving an electorate throughout a term is very hard work as well, so I want to thank my family for their support in allowing me to do so. To my wife, Kit, and our sons, thank you for helping me to work for the Scenic Rim electorate. There is a lot of sacrifice involved for families of members, and I am sure we can all agree on that. Often time that could be spent at home with family is spent in the electorate. We all know this and I thank my wife so much for her patience and steadfast support. I also pay tribute to my parents and parents-in-law for their never-failing support for the work carried out as an MP and for our family.

To all of the volunteers and supporters of the Liberal-National campaign in Scenic Rim—and there were a lot—thank you. A couple of other members have reflected on the hailstorm that came through on election day. It certainly affected my volunteers at Rosewood, Willowbank and Harrisville who were very badly impacted by hail. My father lost his car as a result of that hailstorm. He had already put a lot of dents in it—I can say that, and he would not mind me saying that—but when the back windscreen was taken out by hail it was finally time for him to let go of it. There were other volunteers too who were similarly affected as well as dozens of people in Willowbank who have lost their roofs.

Another member—I think it was the member for Jordan, but I am not sure—reflected on the slow rate of repair by insurance companies for people who lost their homes from that storm so many weeks after the event, and there should be a very swift resolution to that from the insurance company point of view.

Going back to the volunteers and supporters, I thank Ian Pocock as campaign committee chairman who put in so many hours organising important aspects of the on-the-ground campaign, including attending many early morning events to set up and fly the flag for our party.

I also want to thank the many LNP members and supporters who helped out on election day and during the two-week early voting period, especially for the respectful manner in which the LNP volunteers interacted with all voters—both those who were supporting us and those who clearly were not. This was in stark contrast to some supporters of other parties—both minor and major parties—who seemed intent on stirring up trouble and arguments among party volunteers at times. This is not what elections in Australia should be about, and far less in the Scenic Rim electorate. People should be able to attend polling places in peace and without experiencing the very unbecoming spectacle of party canvassers arguing and bickering amongst themselves. Thank you to the volunteers of the LNP who went about their task in a very respectful way. I thank them for their help.

I also want to thank those who work for the electorate in the Scenic Rim electorate office. Tim Andrews and Rachel Venz are there day in and day out—except when they go on holidays, of course—to assist me in fighting for our fair share in Scenic Rim. As we all know, the assistance of our electorate officers is vital in representing the voters. We also have an almost full-time volunteer in the office, Sheila Venz, whose dedication to the community continues after seven years since ‘retiring’ from full-time employment. Thank you. I also thank others who volunteered in the Scenic Rim electorate office during the 56th Parliament and continue to do so. It is a team effort and it is a team effort that everyone is dedicated to.

I acknowledge the election victory of the Premier. Just as we respect the will of the electors across Queensland—and I reflect on what the member for Nanango said in her address-in-reply—so the government should respect the will of the electors in the Scenic Rim electorate and in all of the other electorates that have not returned members of the government. Some of the issues I campaigned on have been continuously raised for a very long time. It is hugely insulting to the people of our region that they are continuously ignored. We are all Queenslanders. When something needs fixing—like the Amberley interchange at Willowbank, appropriate town planning and water security for Canungra or a range of social and family services around Beaudesert that simply do not exist or do not meet demand—it should not matter who you voted for; governments have a responsibility to all residents and all voters, not just those in government electorates.

I thank the member for Nanango, Deb Frecklington, for her enormous contribution as leader of the LNP. Nobody should be in any doubt as to the amount of effort put into the campaign by her, by Tim Mander, by the members of the shadow cabinet and by all members of the party room. As part of the LNP team led by David Crisafulli now, I will carry on fighting for our fair share in the Scenic Rim electorate—better roads, more police, appropriate planning and a fair go for our families, or, should I say, a fair go for our farmers, families and small businesses. That might sound like a three-word slogan—although it is a bit more than three words—but farmers, families and small businesses are key parts of our community. Even the member for Glass House has—

Mr Powell: I've stolen that line.

Mr KRAUSE:—shamelessly stolen that approach in fighting for farmers, families and small businesses. He picked it up on a visit to the electorate last year. Farmers are a key part of our local economy, families are vital everywhere and small businesses that represent over 90 per cent of the economy in the Scenic Rim electorate are so vital. There needs to be efforts made to reduce the burden of costs and regulation on small businesses.

Just this week I was approached again by a local small business man who is facing being shut down by a compliance notice given to him by council. This gentleman employs two people, one of whom was long-term unemployed before he gave him a job and an apprenticeship. Because of the huge costs—and we are talking tens of thousands of dollars of costs—that would be faced by him getting an approval from council, he could be put out of business and those two people lose their jobs.

That is a bad outcome for everyone. It speaks to a planning system that serves the planning system principles, the planners and the people who make decisions more than the communities it is meant to serve. I am putting that on the record because our planning system does not serve the Scenic Rim community appropriately. I am sure there are many other communities across the state who face the same issue. It is a handbrake on employment that should be taken off so that those jobs can be retained and, in fact, more jobs can be grown.

The last election was held against a backdrop of COVID-19. There is no doubt that had a huge influence on the undercurrents in all Queensland electorates. However, it was also held in the context of electoral laws that placed significant administrative burdens on political parties, but laws that also hugely favour the Labor Party and made it more difficult for other parties in campaigning. Without going into all the murky quagmire of these laws, let us just say that clearly they have worked out well for the Labor Party.

I will, however, mention one issue that some might dismiss as minor but which reflects the danger for governments and the electoral process when they venture into regulating signage and communication at polling places. For the Scenic Rim electorate 3,238 formal votes were recorded as absent early votes—early votes cast outside of the three early voting centres in the electorate. This is just under 10 per cent of the total formal votes cast. In all likelihood most were cast in Yamanto—which is about 300 metres from the Scenic Rim electorate—Ipswich and Jimboomba, in the neighbouring electorates of Ipswich West, Ipswich and Logan.

However, owing to the stupidity of Labor's election laws no candidates from the Scenic Rim electorate were able to display signage at these early voting booths in other electorates even though one was literally across the road from the electorate. What is even more silly is that some of these places had joint booths designated for election day, but not for early voting. Why the inconsistency? It is not right because all candidates should be able to canvass voters wherever they go to vote. That is what elections are about. There were 3,238 voters at the absent early voting booths. I was not able to have signage or to canvass them because of those signage laws. It also shows the failure of ECQ and the government who made these laws to recognise that communities around the borders of electorates will regularly go to other electorates to vote.

I have no doubt the government will again fiddle with the election laws this term because that is what they have a track record of doing: they did it in 2011, 2016 and 2020. They do it to suit themselves. I place on record my concerns that this Labor government is abusing its power in this parliament to put in place a financial gerrymander and campaigning laws that benefit Labor and disadvantage other parties. There should be, in my view, a discussion about constitutional reform that removes the right of a majority party in this House to constantly fiddle with and change the electoral laws of Queensland. We need consistency and we need fairness. At the moment we have neither.

The process of double entrenchment is one that would work by requiring the consent of Queenslanders for changes to some aspects of Queensland election laws. There are other means too. In most other states it takes the form of a second legislative chamber. That is another conversation entirely. The ability of the majority party to constantly fiddle with the election laws is anathema to democracy and we need to have a discussion about how that can be pared back and removed.

In fighting for our fair share across the Scenic Rim there are many issues that need to be dealt with. Police resourcing across the region is a big issue, particularly in areas where hooning is a particular problem, such as around Tamborine, Tamborine Mountain and Canungra, but also around the rural areas of Ipswich such as Rosewood, where there is sometimes a significant amount of rural crime and far too few police on the ground to deal with it. The weekend is the busiest time for tourism in Boonah, yet in the past 12 months there have been attempts by the Queensland Police Service—which were abandoned, thankfully—to reduce the number of weekend shifts out of Boonah Police Station. I acknowledge the government's building of the new Beaudesert Police Station. That is a good move, but there is a constant need for new resources in that area as well.

Beaudesert Hospital is a good hospital, but it could do more in terms of service delivery. Presently it is very under-utilised. Just last week I was talking to a surgery nurse at the hospital. The comment was made that there is so much more that could be done if there were more resources provided to the hospital out of the Logan district. They have a surgery that is only used once or twice a week, when there are people waiting for months for services. One of the examples given was that because on that particular day there had been a caesarean section carried out in the hospital, three people scheduled for dental appointments on that day were cancelled. They had to wait another two weeks for those appointments. We have huge dental waiting lists and a surgery there not being used very much and it would just take the decision of the district to allocate more resources to get those people looked after.

I reflect that on 5 March this year it has been seven years since the LNP restored maternity services to Beaudesert Hospital. They are still going strong. That was a decision that was made at the time by the health minister of the day, Lawrence Springborg, who said that we were going to restore those services and instructed the bureaucracy in Metro South to do it and they did. These things can be done, but to do it takes clear leadership and direction, and a determination to make services better for rural communities. Obstacles that are thrown up by administrators cannot be allowed to get in the way of what the objective needs to be.

Earlier on I mentioned dumps at Willowbank. Ipswich City Council has issues in the courts at the moment as a result of applications for dumps. The traffic on the Cunningham Highway around that area is already bad and we cannot afford to have hundreds of more truck movements on that road every day because it will claim another life in the future. None of us want that. It requires a determination to fix that Amberley interchange. It has been talked about for a generation. We are now getting yet another business case. The intersection has been studied and studied and studied. It just needs a design. There is funding on the table from the federal government of \$148 million for the Cunningham Highway. Let us use it, but let us hurry up and use it.

The PCYC for Beaudesert is something I am well and truly behind. I have spoken recently in the parliament about that. In the remaining time I have I want to touch on the issue of local government governance. There is a great deal of concern in the Scenic Rim at the moment about parts of the administration of local government. A lot of information and decision-making processes are tied up in confidential workshops in relation to which councillors are bound by confidentiality. This is restricting the ability of councillors to represent their communities. It looks as though councillors are more accountable to the council than they are to their voters. That is not the way local government should be and I think the local government minister needs to look at that system again to ensure that councillors are accountable to their community. I table certain documents in relation to the budget.

Tabled paper: Document, dated 4 December 2020, by the member for Scenic Rim, Mr Jon Krause MP, titled 'Tabled document: Written addendum to budget reply speech for Labor's \$28 billion "Broken Promise" 2020-21 budget' [\[314\]](#).

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (4.38 pm): I rise to respond to His Excellency the Governor's opening speech of the 57th Parliament. I extend to the Speaker my warm congratulations on his re-election as Speaker of the House. I am confident that he will continue to preside over the deliberations in this chamber with wisdom, forbearance and respect for the time honoured conventions that have served this parliament so well in the past.

I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which this historic building stands. In particular I acknowledge three great parliamentary colleagues: the member for Algester, the member for Bundamba and the member for Cook. Every decision has consequences, and lifting outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples should be at the forefront of every decision we in this place make. We must continue to strive to ensure that the decision-makers in this place collectively reflect more accurately the diversity of the communities that we serve. The perspectives of our First Nations people, women and our multicultural community must be considered. This house of democracy must move to be even more representative of the progressive Queensland that we now serve.

I am proud to stand with the Palaszczuk Labor government, which is progressive, committed to affirmative action and progressing the interests of women in our Queensland community. As women on this side of the chamber, we will challenge traditional understandings of leadership. We will approach complex issues such as coercive control, consent, the decision-making of our young people and domestic violence differently—all factors affecting our future economic and social prosperity—and we will forge a new discourse. I trust that the legacy of this 57th Parliament will stand to credit us all for years to come and will inspire the dreams and journeys of future generations of Queensland's men and women.

I congratulate all new members of this House on both sides. I congratulate my parliamentary Labor colleagues, and in particular the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the ministers, on achieving majority government. Contest is a vital part of our democracy but there is also much to be said for stability, especially during the greatest health pandemic since the Spanish flu, which peaked in the autumn months of 1918.

My electorate of Mansfield acknowledges the graciousness, integrity and decisive leadership of our Premier. In our Premier my community feel trust, adoration, admiration and steadfastness. It was during my time as principal of Glenala State High School that I first met the honourable member for Inala, now the Premier of Queensland. I admired her ability to lead a complex community intelligently and respectfully. She saw the good in its people and took every avenue available to her to knowledgeably improve people's lives. My community of Mansfield identifies similarly. The Premier continues to lead Queensland with the same grace, dignity, integrity and steadfastness that I first recognised in 2011.

COVID-19 has claimed many lives worldwide. To be precise, to date 2.6 million people have lost their lives, 909 of whom were Australians. With every challenge there also comes an opportunity, including an opportunity to invest. Today governments must invest as evidenced by the research of the OECD and the advice of the International Monetary Fund and the Governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia. Our strong health response in Queensland has ensured the foundations for the best possible economic recovery, that is, the opportunity for our government to borrow to invest for job creation. The greatest investment any government can make is in the people they serve.

Invest is what this Palaszczuk government has done, especially in my community of Mansfield. When I was elected to this parliament I vowed that I would strive to ensure that the Mansfield electorate became a hub of educational excellence. Every month more than 100 young families move to my electorate to access quality education. I know that a hub of educational excellence requires world-class infrastructure. It requires the resources and funding to inspire learning as well as effective teachers and strong educational leaders who apply explicit and precise strategies to improve student learning. It requires educators who teach their students how to think critically and creatively to identify future problems and opportunities, who inspire student confidence to apply complex and sophisticated formula, and who work together to ensure that the sum of the whole is greater than the sum of us as collective individuals. That is what such an educational hub should be.

What it should not be is a restrictive application of punitive measures that return our education system to an industrialised model of a bygone era nor the decluttering of the curriculum to facilitate a back-to-basics approach. And it is certainly not the blind pursuit of some self-acclaimed heroic budget surplus while neglecting to build one new classroom across Queensland in three years. That is what was on offer from the LNP and what happened under the LNP last time they held office.

A quality education transforms the lives of individuals, families and whole communities. We are delivering a \$39 million investment in new modern school facilities in Mansfield. The funding is included in the \$1 billion Great Schools Great Future education policy to modernise schools and support 3,100 local construction jobs across Queensland. That includes new classrooms at Mackenzie and Rochedale state schools and a new \$8.8 million building to replace the classrooms lost in the fire at Upper Mount Gravatt State School as well as a \$500,000 outdoor play area. To cater for continued growth in enrolments, my election commitment also includes \$6.74 million for new classrooms and a canteen at Wishart State School. Mansfield State School is receiving \$12.41 million to provide a new building of classrooms and a refurbished music block. Mansfield State High School will get a new \$29 million classroom building and Rochedale State High School will get a new \$12 million hall. We are also on track to deliver air conditioning for all staff rooms, classrooms and libraries as part of the \$477 million Cooler Cleaner Schools Program.

I am proud to have secured a \$500,000 commitment to begin the priority safety upgrade to Ham Road for Mansfield state primary and high schools. We expect that that funding will be matched by the Brisbane City Council under the local road improvement program. We will employ more than 6,100 new teachers and 1,100 new teacher aides over the next four years. The Palaszczuk government has a clear vision for education in Queensland. Education is the best investment that we can make for the future of Queenslanders and for the future prosperity of our great state. It is also pleasing to see a strong commitment by the Palaszczuk government to provide free TAFE to Queenslanders aged under 25. That is welcomed and will be valued immensely by the young people in my community.

We are keeping Queenslanders safe. The Palaszczuk Labor government will deliver an extra 2,025 police personnel—125 in the Brisbane south region over the next five years. The delivery of seven satellite hospitals—one in Brisbane south—will enable our acute hospitals to continue to safely manage patients via alternative models of care and is worth \$265 million. Recently I joined the former minister for health and the Chief Health Officer to announce a \$12 million investment to establish a 24-bed ward at the QEII Jubilee Hospital. That is what Labor governments do and that is exactly what the people of Queensland elected Labor to do.

Social isolation and loneliness is a well-documented and researched New World issue that was identified prior to the pandemic but which has been exacerbated since COVID-19. Since my election in 2017, I have worked closely with the University of Queensland's schools of psychology and sociology, the Mount Gravatt Community Centre and the Queensland Community Alliance to proactively address that important issue in my community. The employment of social workers, known as link workers, as part of our Ways to Wellness program has attracted ongoing committed funding of a further \$124,000 of \$498,356 by the Palaszczuk government. I am proud of that program, the international interest it has attracted and the significant outcomes achieved to date for our local people. An \$18.9 million investment across Queensland neighbourhood centres will further enable CEO Deb Crompton at the Mount Gravatt Community Centre to continue their tremendous work supporting our most vulnerable.

Small businesses play an important role in my community. Our strong health response has meant that we can get back to business as usual. Some 177 of the small businesses in my electorate have received Palaszczuk COVID-19 adaptation grants, totalling \$1.8 million.

Thanks to the great work of Queenslanders under the stewardship of the Palaszczuk Labor government, the Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young, and her incredible team, our community groups can enjoy the activities and friendships that we all cherished preCOVID. There are over 60 community groups that provide all types of activities across the Mansfield electorate, driven by passionate workers and volunteers. They include: the Brisbane Orchid Society, of which I am the proud patron and which is holding its 27th annual orchid show on 22 and 23 May; Gertrude Petty Place Bushcare group, led by fellow Sheamus O'Connor, a fellow educator; the Fiji Senior Citizens Association of Queensland, led by Surendra Prasad; the Greek Orthodox parish community; the Inner Wheel Club of Wishart; Mackenzie Neighbourhood Watch; the Mount Gravatt Environment Group, led by Michael Fox; the Mount Gravatt Lapidary Society, led by Jim and Tina Horton; the Mount Gravatt Meals on Wheels, led by Carmel Trew; the Rotary Club of Wishart, led by Sue Ellis; St Bernard's and St Catherine's Catholic parish, led by Father Pat, Debbie James and the team; the Genealogical Society of Queensland, led by a past colleague Helen Veivers; Southside Community Care; and the Wishart Community Hub, led by Jim Renshaw.

Great sporting clubs abound: the Australian Academy of Martial Arts Karate-Do Club, Clairvaux Football Club, Easts Mount Gravatt Junior Rugby League Football Club, Mount Gravatt Hawks, Mount Gravatt Little Athletics and the Mount Gravatt Vultures Football Club, to name a few. The Gambling Community Benefit Fund provided \$759,000 to 40 local community, service and sporting groups in my electorate for much needed resources.

In my second term as the member for Mansfield I am proud to deliver the following election commitments: \$1.5 million for the stage 2 development of the Mount Gravatt Youth and Recreational Club Sports Complex, \$92,000 for the Rochedale Scout Group, \$50,000 for the Mount Gravatt Men's Shed, \$70,000 for the Mount Gravatt Vultures Australian Football Club, and \$90,000 for the Mount Gravatt Hawks Football Club.

Like other relatively new members of this chamber, I find myself in this House because the good people of my electorate have placed their faith in me to represent them. I do not take this for granted and I intend to continue to spend every day as the local member representing their interests, both in this place and in the wider community.

Some 34,401 constituents and 18,326 households call the suburbs from Mount Gravatt in the north-west across to Burbank in the east and down to Rochedale in the south home. Mansfield has largely been populated with urban residential development. Significant gentrification is abundant. The concerns, interests and hopes of my constituents are not dissimilar to those experienced in other capital city electorates. The decisions that are made by governments of all levels are felt in communities like mine, and decisions made with care, respect and foresight are what the people of Mansfield ask of those they select to represent them.

My community are discerning. They have demonstrated discretion and decisiveness. They analysed the candidates. They clearly determined what was on offer. My community refused to be hoodwinked by propaganda or the LNP's fabricated ideology that is so far removed from what Queenslanders want. They were disgusted with some of the antics and tactics, including the non-means-tested \$300 off vehicle registration, in your bank account by Christmas, costing Queenslanders \$1 billion. Neither the bunny-suited young woman and the young man dressed as Spider-Man at Saturday morning street stalls nor the truck that displayed a dead foetus circling our community for months prior to the election, for all of our children to see, in any way contributed to the edification of the electorate. This is not what my community wants.

Best described as middle-class aspirational, Mansfield is an area that many families have chosen because of the lifestyle it offers: excellent access to high-quality health services, good public transport and an abundance of recreational facilities. We are proudly multicultural, with almost one-third of all residents in the electorate having been born overseas—and we are all the richer for it.

The Mansfield community is an intelligent and sophisticated community. En masse they are highly educated and employed. We are a community that pride ourselves on integrity and strong humanitarian values. My community have a strong commitment to social justice. They have a sophisticated view of the world with clear understandings of the complexities of poverty, disadvantage, opportunity and luck. They understand that only a Labor government provides the opportunities for them and for their children to get ahead. The community could see the recent campaign by those opposite as essentially just window-dressing, with not much depth. They overwhelmingly rejected any alignment with the ultraconservative ideology which does not reflect the majority of views in the community.

We are a very diverse and multicultural community with a spectrum of faiths, backgrounds and beliefs. Many members of my community come from countries where they did not have the opportunity to vote, especially women. My community acknowledged that the LNP were not going to be accepting of their diversity. In my community of Mansfield, our faith and religion and how we vote are deeply private matters and are to be treated with respect. There is an overwhelming belief that there must be separation of state and religion to preserve our democracy and independence. I guess this is one of the hallmarks of being educated. There is a mutual respect to defend the right to faith but to embrace tolerance.

The older members in the Mansfield electorate did not feel safe with the LNP, their continued indecision and vacillating on how best to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. They wanted steady leadership displayed by both me and our Premier, and the figures speak for themselves. At the 2020 election, an increase of 6.75 per cent in first preferences went to Labor compared to the 2017 election, with a primary vote of 46.14 per cent and a distributed preference count of 56.8 per cent, up 10.6 per cent from 2017.

Progress is inevitable. It is the thoughtful management of change that makes a difference to people's lives. There can be no doubt that a diversity of real-world experience enriches the perspectives of any elected official and helps one to better understand the needs, aspirations, frustrations and fears of the constituency they represent. Real-world experience tells one to tread thoughtfully, to ask

questions in order to critique and to better understand, to listen, to resist punitive measures in response to complex matters, to act discerningly, to consider consequences, to appreciate the impacts on real people.

My experiences position me strongly to support the needs of my schools and to respond to the aspirations of my families. Public education is the pillar of our democracy. It is the only medium to progress greater equality for all Queenslanders, regardless of one's birthplace, nationality, disability, religion, socio-economic status or gender. My community knows who values education, not from slogans but from the policies, investment and decisions that we see when a Labor government is in office and when a local member genuinely believes in the children, their families and the community they serve.

My re-election would not be possible without the amazing team of tireless workers and volunteers who supported me in the years and months leading up to the election of a third consecutive Labor government on 31 October 2020. Together we made over 42,000 phone calls, over 14,000 doorknocks and 28,000 interactions with our community. I would like to thank my fearless and considered campaign director, Sarah Mawhinney, who orchestrated a sensational campaign. Sarah has a brilliant political mind. She is a remarkable woman and a great mentor to young women in the Australian Labor Party. Her precision, strategic focus and drive kept our team on track and on target to win.

There are so many people I wish to thank: assistant campaign director Stephanie Kameric; Mansfield branch president Adam; secretary and dear friend Dr Shane Warren; treasurer Ben; another of my dear friends Tricia Ryan, a Labor true believer—a former nun whose inner peace is infectious and who was by my side every step of the campaign; present and past staff of my office; the McMillan team of Steve and Kathy Pain, Annie, Stephen, Col, Katie, Abdul 'Papa', Mona, Emily, Jayne, Marilyn, Gary, Neida, Ann, Mary, former colleagues, and everyone on pre-poll and at polling day booths.

I thank our Queensland Young Labor team. Our Australian Labor Party is in great hands when we look at the qualities of the young people coming through our party.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Speaker has reviewed and approved my address-in-reply speech for incorporation and, as such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Mansfield, given that you spoke for 20 minutes, I will have to take advice and come back to you.

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (4.59 pm): I rise to respond to the Governor's speech and in so doing acknowledge the Governor and his responsibility to ensure stable government in Queensland. Firstly, I thank the people of the state seat of Coomera, which encompasses around 330 square kilometres at the northern most part of the Gold Coast, for their confidence in me and for allowing me to represent them for a fifth term. I am honoured to be their representative and assure them that I will represent their interests in this House and, in so doing, hold the government to account at every opportunity.

Thank you too to the people who supported me during the last election for your efforts. I particularly acknowledge two individuals who were there for me, were the backbone of the campaign and were ably supported by many, many others. Mike and Bailey, thank you both for your constant support. Without you and without the rest of the team we could not have achieved a fifth term. To my wife, my sons, my brother Kev and my grandson, thank you for your constant support and encouragement. In particular, I thank my wife, Pauline, who works tirelessly in my office as a volunteer through every term and so much more. Thank you, my love. Believe me when I say that without your support and encouragement I do not believe I could do this job.

To my staff: Trish, who has been with me from the start and is a solid support, keeping an eye on absolutely everything and with an attention to detail that is incredible; and Judi, who just loves her job so much.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr CRANDON: That shines through, as Deb Frecklington has just acknowledged, in the way she greets everyone and deals with everything that is thrown at her. What a great team. Now we have Jodie doing a few hours a week on a part-time basis. She did some casual work with us last year and made it very clear that she wanted to work with us going forward. That is a direct reflection on the positive office environment.

I also thank then leader of the opposition, Deb Frecklington, and then deputy leader, Tim Mander, for their efforts and constant support of me in my role as the member for Coomera. Thank you both sincerely. Thank you for your tireless efforts.

I turn now to my speech on the address-in-reply. I do not recall any comment by the Governor that urged the government to go slow on the northern Gold Coast roads program. Nowhere in the Governor's address did I hear him say that he expected the government would go slow when it came to delivering infrastructure on the northern Gold Coast. Sadly, that is what is happening in the fastest growing region in Queensland. We now have over 46,000 voters and an estimated 84,000-plus residents according to the Queensland Government Statistician, and yet we have a go-slow mentality by this government.

'What projects?' I hear you say. I am glad you asked. Let me start with the second M1, the Coomera Connector as it is also known. It is more popularly known as the second M1. It is intended to eventually take 60,000 vehicles—

Mr Power interjected.

Mr Perrett interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Logan and member for Gympie, stop your cross-chamber quarrelling please.

Mr CRANDON: The second M1, the Coomera Connector, is ultimately meant to take 60,000 vehicles off the M1.

Mr O'Connor: When?

Mr CRANDON: Beyond 2024 is my best guess. I take the interjection from the member for Bonney. I will spend a little bit of time on that project. The LNP had a plan to deliver stage 1 which was going to be around six and a bit kilometres. It was going to be completed this term. It was going to start in Shipper Drive on the northern side of the Coomera River and finish at the Gold Coast Highway on the other side of the river. It was going to be around 6.1 or 6.2 kilometres.

In came the government with five minutes to go before the election and suggested that that was absolutely ridiculous—it is not long enough, it is not going to do anything and it is going to cause all sorts of trouble. They were going to do a 16-kilometre stretch of road. My question was—and many papers asked the same question: when, Minister? 'It will take some time,' was the response generally speaking, 'but we will start it this term'.

It turns out that Labor's stage 1 is stage 1 north, stage 1 central and stage 1 south. In any other language that is three stages. The first stage is going to be delivered this term. How long is it? It is less than four kilometres. In fact, what it is is a very long bridge. It is the Coomera River bridge that starts at Shipper Drive on the northern side of the river and finishes at Helensvale Road, nowhere near the Gold Coast Highway, on the southern side of the river. The type of congestion that the minister was talking about our plan was going to cause is going to be multiplied.

What do we see then? Sometime—fingers crossed this term—we may see stage 1 central started. It will not be finished this term. That will be finished maybe next term. Who knows when we are going to get stage 1 south started. Probably sometime after 2024 when we see those three segments finished—and that is a 16-kilometre stretch of something like a 56-kilometre road. That is 16 kilometres over the next two terms of a 56-kilometre road. When would members like to guess the next 40 kilometres will be delivered by those opposite? It will not be sometime this decade. It might be sometime next decade, if we are lucky. Fortunately, 2024 might change things around a little. We might see an LNP government come in—and I sincerely hope we do—and then we can actually look forward to fast-tracking some of these projects.

We have had a couple of wins, by the way. The police station is now committed. With a lot of lobbying, the police station has now been fast-tracked. I have to thank the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services for being prepared to give up part of a block of land that was under his—

Mr Crawford: As in the old one not the new one?

Mr CRANDON: My apologies, I thank the former minister for giving up a piece of land on Cox Street which is where I had been saying for some time that we need a new police station—the never-to-be-built Pimpama police station. We got the block of land. In came Katarina Carroll and all the stars lined up. She had been there for six weeks and came in and said, 'That makes complete sense. We are building a police station there.' It was a done deal. Then we just had to see it fast-tracked. Guess what? After a lot more lobbying it has been fast-tracked. It will be delivered in November this year.

All of the whinging I do, as referred to by the police minister—

Mr Power interjected.

Mr Perrett interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Logan and member for Gympie, you are both warned under the standing orders.

Mr CRANDON: I do not take all of the credit for the work that has been done. My constituency kept on working hard and lobbying the government right alongside me. There were petitions and so forth to get that sorted.

An honourable member: Petitions? I have never seen any petitions from you!

Mr CRANDON: I have a few petitions. If members want a bit of information on petitions, I can tell them that last term there were 33 petitions from me. There were another eight petitions that I lodged last term but they did not come out until 1 December so technically they could not be counted for last term. All in all there were 41 petitions. A few of them have got through and we have had some wins.

One petition that we have not had a win on—that is a good segue—is the number of police we are going to have at the Pimpama police station. Try as I might, I have not been able to get from the minister how many police we are going to have at the Pimpama police station. God forbid, please do not even think about taking them from Coomera Police Station because that will create all sorts of havoc. Today I can inform the House that I have written to Katarina Carroll—I have got around the obstacle—to ask her to please provide me with some information in that regard. We will see how we get on with that one.

Exit 41 is another win. We are actually going to get exit 41 delivered this term—guaranteed. In fact, it might even be delivered in 2022. Again, that was the result of a lot of lobbying and a lot of support from the federal government who came in with 50 per cent. The same cannot be said about exit 38. Exit 38 has had a business case in place since 2018. There is not one dollar in the budget or the forward estimates for exit 38. It is most desperately needed, but there is no money there. Fingers crossed that we might get exit 49 in 2023 or just before the next election in 2024—how would that be for timing! How would that be for delivery! Exit 45 south never came to fruition. We have had no luck there. We cannot get a second exit from the M1. All we are getting is a slip lane to go back on to Lahrs Road right outside my office—and, no, that was not for my benefit!

The hospital and health precinct is an interesting one. Fascinating material was released by the Premier on the day the polling opened—on 19 October. The headline read ‘\$160: First look at Gold Coast’s new hospital in fastgrowing north area’. That sounds like we are going to get a hospital. Doesn’t that sound like we are going to get a hospital? \$160 million is a good start. No. How much do you reckon of that \$160 million was for that hospital?

Mr O’Connor: I know the figure, but I’ll say, ‘Not much.’

Mr CRANDON: There was \$3 million for planning. We had committed \$4 million to do the planning. By the way, I have met with the CEO and the chair of the hospital board. They have told me that they are going to have to go back to the government to get more money because \$3 million is nowhere near enough. We would have been closer at \$4 million, but who knows.

There it was with photos and all sorts of things. There were even drawings. There was a photo of the Premier standing with the health minister and the candidate with a drawing on a board—somewhere in the Gold Coast hospital, I think—saying, ‘Look at this! Look at what we are going to be doing.’ No, they are not. They are just going to plan one. It has nothing to do with actually delivering a hospital at all. Anyway, I digress.

I have only seven minutes to go. I have about another 15 items that I have to talk about. I do not know how I am going to get through them. I will cut through to a few items. Here is a good one. We have been constantly fighting for a police citizens youth club on the northern Gold Coast. That all started with a petition, as a matter of fact. In fact, there were two petitions back to back. Both petitions were knocked back: ‘No. We’re not building a police citizens youth club on the northern Gold Coast. That’s not happening.’

It does not matter that we have huge support. We have a ‘coalition of the willing’ on the northern Gold Coast for this police citizens youth club. The Gold Coast City Council is on board. Business owners around the area are on board. Local doctors who work with youth are on board. Local school principals are on board. The Rotary Club of Ormeau-Pimpama is a huge supporter of the project and in fact pulled a proposal together to put to the Gold Coast City Council to try to secure the land. The North Gold

Coast RSL Sub Branch is on board. Man Up—one of the groups that works hard in the community with youth—is on board. The police are on board. But the government is not on board, so there you go. We had no luck there.

I was talking about the exits from the M1. I talked about exits 38, 41 and 49. Are you listening?

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Mr CRANDON: I ask the Minister for Transport and Main Roads to take a leaf out of Education Queensland's book, because they know how to plan and deliver infrastructure in advance of what is needed. When I came to office in 2009 I had nine schools; we now have 22 schools. No. 23, the special school, is coming on board in 2022. That is all great news. It is all great planning by Education Queensland. I have over 19,000 students going to school in my electorate. In fact, there are three schools just outside my electorate that take another 2,000, so I have over 20,000—probably 21,000— young people who go to school from my electorate and most of them are going to school in my electorate.

That is where the Minister for Transport and Main Roads should take some advice from as far as planning is concerned. I know that he is sensitive about these issues. In fact, I know that the Minister for Police is also sensitive about these issues. To be honest, when it comes down to it, I am sensitive about these issues as well. So when the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and the Minister for Police are reported in the media as saying, 'The member for Coomera, Michael Crandon, is whingeing,' it causes me to reflect on my role. What the member for Coomera is actually doing is bringing forward the issues that are of concern to the residents of the Coomera electorate. In effect, what the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and the Minister for Police are saying is that the people of Coomera are whingeing. They are pointing the finger at the people who elected me to this place and saying they are whingeing—and that is not on. As I mentioned earlier, these people live in the fastest growing region in Queensland.

Exit 49 is a classic example of a project that needs to be fast-tracked because it is the conduit to the centre of the fastest growing region—the suburb of Pimpama. Really, the minister and his advisers do not even seem to understand the detail of the northern Gold Coast region. I spoke yesterday about the response from the Minister for Transport to one of my constituents who wrote directly to him, and copied me in, talking about a bus service in Coomera. That is not bad given the inquiry was about the 729 bus service which does not go anywhere near Coomera! It is a bus service between Ormeau station and Beenleigh station.

Mr Power: Isn't it in the electorate of Coomera?

Mr CRANDON: I take the interjection from the member for Logan. That is not what the letter of response said. It talked about Coomera the suburb. Not only did they not research it; the proof of them not researching it was that they did not know the area the inquiry was about. It brought back memories of me pushing for an extension of the 722 service and the minister saying that constituents could catch another service after five o'clock if they could not catch that one. He did not realise that there were no other services on that route! We are not the middle of Brisbane; we are the northern Gold Coast. We have one bus service. They did not realise that. It could not happen. They did not know that there were no other bus services there.

The Ormeau train station car park was another classic example that they did not understand. I arranged a half-hour meeting, but he arrived eight minutes late and left on time, so I was given 22 minutes to talk about a whole bunch of issues. Anyway, in that particular case I did have a win because I explained to him that we needed more than 70 additional car parks at the train station. They argued that there was not any room; I argued that there was. He listened to me finally—and guess what? We got 125 additional car parks at Ormeau station, so I thank the minister for that.

In my last minute I now turn to the election itself. There were dirty tactics but I hasten to add not by the candidate—by his Labor overlords, yes, and by some of his supporters, yes, but not by the candidate. He played a clean game. He was a straight shooter and I appreciated that, and he appreciated the way we ran things as well.

In closing, I make a commitment to all residents of the Coomera electorate that I look forward to representing them to the best of my ability. I congratulate all members on both sides of the House and the crossbench on their wins and wish them well in the challenges that will confront them in this 57th term of the Queensland parliament.

Debate, on motion of Mr Crandon, adjourned.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (5.19 pm): I seek to advise the House of the determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. On 11 March 2021, the Committee of the Legislative Assembly resolved to extend the reporting date for the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee inquiry into the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 from 9 April 2021 to 16 April 2021.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from p. 585.



Ms HOWARD (Ipswich—ALP) (5.21 pm): I am thrilled to be delivering my third address-in-reply speech in this House as the member for Ipswich and as a member of the Palaszczuk government. Firstly, I would like to congratulate the Speaker on his re-election to the high office of Speaker of the 57th Parliament. I look forward to working with him and the Deputy Speaker, the member for Greenslopes, and all of the temporary speakers, including yourself, over the next four years.

I would also like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet and extend my respect and acknowledgment to elders past and present. We now have three First Nations people in this parliament who are changing the landscape in leadership and paving the way for a better Queensland. I pay my respects to the members for Algeester, Bundamba and Cook.

Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk has distinguished herself as an exceptional leader throughout the past two terms and in particular during 2020, which was an historically significant year. At a pre-poll booth during the election last year an older gentleman approached me to tell me that he was voting for me. He went on to express his admiration and confidence in the Premier. He also referred to the leadership of Jacinda Arden in New Zealand. This thoughtful man then went on to tell me that he could not help but wonder how many opportunities have been missed in society after so many years of inequality when women were not even allowed to work, let alone have leadership roles in society.

I congratulate the Premier, Deputy Premier and Treasurer for their leadership and on their re-election. I would like to extend a warm congratulations to all of the ministers who have been appointed and sworn in to the front bench of this 57th Parliament. We are in extremely good hands. I extend a hardy congratulations to all of my parliamentary colleagues. We have all worked extremely hard, and one of the many rewards of this job for me is that I get to work with you all for another four years. In particular I want to mention and congratulate my immediate neighbours: the member for Ipswich West, the member for Bundamba and the member for Jordan. It is great working with you and joining forces to get results for our fabulous part of the world. I acknowledge the new members of parliament: the members for Cooper, Hervey Bay, Mundingburra, Caloundra, Bundaberg and Nicklin. It feels so good to list them off. I am enjoying getting to know you all and working with you during this term.

As I have said, 2020 was an historical year. I am filled with admiration and respect for the discipline and compassion of my constituents. The changes we have had to endure have been significant, but the overwhelming sentiment among the numerous people I spoke to in Ipswich in the past year has been to sacrifice their own privations for the good of the greater community. It is something they have done without a second thought, and I am proud to represent those people in this parliament. I thank them for putting their faith in me for another term. I do want to acknowledge those businesses that have not withstood the restrictions, and I assure them that I will work with them to help them rise again or reinvent themselves. Small business is the backbone of this state, and I will do all that I can to support them through our recovery.

If it were not for the Premier, Deputy Premier, Treasurer and the Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young, we would be in a far worse position. Because of their strong and sage leadership Queensland has been 'good to go' for quite some time now, and the employment figures and economic results reflect that strongly.

I have learned over the years that each election has its own particular dynamic. I am pleased to report that the 2020 election—in Ipswich, at least—was one of the most respectful and civil that I can recall. I want to thank all of my opponents and their volunteers for making democracy in Ipswich great again.

Being a member of the Labor Party has many positives, not least of which is our incredible branch members. I have been proud to have worked alongside many of them over the past 25 years on numerous elections. None of us on this side of the House would be here today if it weren't for these stellar human beings. To all of those volunteers who worked on the Ipswich campaign, who doorknocked, made phone calls, worked on pre-poll and election day, stood on street corners and at train stations and mobile offices, I thank you.

I want to make special mention of my campaign director and good friend Wayne McDonnell, who agreed to take on the role when I first decided to run in 2015 and who showed up again in 2017 and now in 2020. You make campaigns fun. There is never anything left to chance, and I thank you. Margaret Doran has dedicated her life to Labor values and continues to make a valuable contribution to local Labor and each election campaign. You mean the world to me, Margaret, and I feel privileged to call you a friend.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Stop the clock. Members to my left, take your conversations outside, please. Member for Cairns too.

Ms HOWARD: Paul Cantrall and Peter Duffy, I thank you for your tireless work organising volunteers, doing up rosters and your sound advice. I want to make mention of Sarah, a woman whose home I doorknocked during the campaign. Sarah went on to make a significant contribution to the Ipswich Labor campaign, despite never having worked on one before. I am very grateful for her hard work and wisdom. I hope we did not turn you off forever, Sarah. It is only four years until the next one. It is not just politicians' and candidates' families who make sacrifices; so too do family members of campaign volunteers. I want to thank my dear friend Bronnie as well as Megan, Lyn and all of the family members of our hardworking volunteers.

I could not do what I do without my own family. I want to thank my partner, Simon, who is my best friend, my sounding board, my biggest fan, and who is always prepared to give me sage advice whether I want to hear it or not. Simon also worked incredibly hard on my campaign, putting in many hours and helping plant pictures of my face in numerous yards across Ipswich. My daughter, Samantha, and son-in-law, Tom, have become seasoned campaigners since they moved back to Queensland. It seems to come with the territory, but there is something really special about working alongside your own children during an election campaign. My son, Oscar, was in lockdown in Melbourne for the duration, but he continues to be an inspiration to me just by his existence.

I would like to thank the state secretary of the Services Union, Neil Henderson, whom I like and admire enormously. I am incredibly thankful for the support of my union and of the union movement in general. I thank Steve Baker, Chris Gazenbeek and Peter Biagini for their ongoing support as well. Jules Campbell, Zac Beers and John Battams from the party office did an outstanding job running this campaign, and I extend my sincere thanks to them and Mitchell Kingston for their support and hard work.

I sometimes have to pinch myself at my great good fortune to have Keryl Harman and Sophie Noble working in my electorate office. Keryl has been an invaluable part of my team for three years now and Sophie just joined us in May last year. These two exceptional young women are professional, hardworking and talented. My re-election is in no small part due to the way they represent me in my electorate office. I am very much looking forward to working with them for the good people of Ipswich for another four years.

There is much to be done, and I am looking forward to continuing to deliver results for Ipswich. A few months ago I turned the sod on the commencement of construction at the \$34.8 million East Ipswich train station upgrade. A month or so before that I attended the official opening of the exceptional \$24.8 million redevelopment of the Ipswich Turf Club. Ipswich Hospital now has a brand new \$5.2 million MRI, and construction is now underway on the \$91 million brand new mental health unit and the \$25 million, 26-bed ward. Planning is also moving forward on the new \$40 million satellite hospital to be built in Ipswich. Construction is now complete on the block of 20 social housing units in the CBD of Ipswich. It looks amazing. I know that the new residents who move into the complex will enjoy quality living in the heart of town. It is just one of the 383 new social housing dwellings to be built over five years to 2022. This is what Labor governments do.

I started this year in my usual way: catching up with the hardworking school principals in my area. They have all mentioned the difference our investment in air-conditioning their schools has made to the lives of teachers, staff and students. Ipswich is hotter than most places in South-East Queensland and this summer has been no exception. I want to thank the education minister, Grace Grace, for making this important initiative a priority. The next four years will allow me to focus on what needs to be done to make Ipswich a great place to live and work.

One of the ways we can do that is to make sure we look after our natural assets and provide green spaces for the public to enjoy. I have long been interested in the great potential of the Bremer River and waterways. For far too long they have been neglected and mismanaged; however, there is growing enthusiasm in Ipswich for rehabilitating our waterways to improve local biodiversity and provide green spaces along our river that the public can easily access and enjoy. Darren Close, vice-president of the Bremer Catchment Association, is doing excellent work rehabilitating the section of the Bremer River near East Ipswich. I must also mention Job Atkinson, who has a vision to rehabilitate the Bremer River near West Ipswich. These individuals' enthusiasm, along with the great work being done by the Bremer Catchment Association, is helping to protect and improve our waterways.

The Ipswich electorate is mostly suburban, with remaining greenfield areas fast filling up with new housing developments. This means that residents in Ipswich are fiercely protective of what natural spaces we have left, and they are eager to ensure that our industrial and mining history is not used as an excuse for newer industries to come in and cause more pollution and damage to our local environment. I will focus on what more we can do as a city to protect our natural environment, improve biodiversity, develop sustainably as a growing city and make sure we provide natural spaces and eco havens that Ipswich residents need to enjoy a good quality of life.

My other focus over the next four years is ensuring that Ipswich is not left behind when it comes to getting its fair share of infrastructure and services. Our city is the fastest growing local government area in South-East Queensland. We can expect around 500,000 people to be living in Ipswich by the year 2040, so it is absolutely critical that we have adequate roads, public transport, health services and schools to keep up with that growth.

The Palaszczuk government's plan to unite and recover throughout the coronavirus pandemic saw a total of \$11 billion in stimulus funding to invest in Queensland's economy and boost productivity and jobs. More than \$7 billion in initiatives which directly supported Queenslanders' health, jobs and small businesses were delivered in the first stage of our unite and recover plan, and an additional \$4 billion was committed as part of the COVID-19 Fiscal and Economic Review. The Treasurer in his budget speech last year was clear on the need to borrow this money to rebuild Queensland and get it on the road to recovery. In places like Ipswich, where the number of unemployed people has risen due to the impacts of the pandemic, stimulus measures are vital to bring back confidence and secure local jobs. A reckless focus on austerity and needing to get back to surplus does not cut it for those people in Ipswich who have lost their jobs or businesses because of a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic.

Last May, I welcomed a number of stimulus-boosting initiatives for Ipswich that will create the local jobs we need in our city as well as provide much needed public infrastructure. This includes the \$10 million upgrade to the five-ways intersection at East Ipswich, which is currently in the planning stages, and the \$3 million for Ipswich City Council to help carry out seven infrastructure projects in the Ipswich electorate under the Works for Queensland program and the unite and recover stimulus package.

There are 85 small businesses in the Ipswich electorate which shared in almost \$740,000 worth of funding allocated through the Small Business COVID-19 Adaptation Grant program. In the lead-up to last year's election, the Palaszczuk government invested an additional \$46.5 million for stage 1 of the Ipswich Hospital expansion. This will allow the hospital to expand their emergency department, put in a new obstetrics theatre and expand their renal dialysis and nephrology services. The investment will also fund a \$24.5 million alcohol and other drug withdrawal management and rehabilitation service to meet the growing demand for rehab services in the Ipswich and West Moreton region. I am very excited about the proposed satellite hospital for Ipswich which will be invaluable as our population continues to expand at a rapid rate.

Schools in the Ipswich electorate also benefited from our COVID stimulus, with \$2.15 million delivered to upgrade learning facilities and carry out maintenance and minor works. I welcomed \$1 million in funding to progress a detailed business case for the Ipswich to Springfield rail line and \$400,000 to undertake a study into Ipswich's transport needs. These stimulus packages will boost jobs for locals, create vital infrastructure and services for our growing city and restore confidence in our local economy. Over the next four years, I will fight hard for more of that kind of investment in Ipswich.

Ipswich is in a prime location to take advantage of a number of opportunities provided by the defence industry. Our city's close proximity to Brisbane and the Amberley Defence Force base was a factor in Ipswich being named and recognised as one of two defence hubs in Queensland. The hub provides opportunities for small to medium businesses in Ipswich, enabling them to take advantage of defence supply chains that have been opened up by larger defence manufacturing companies based in Ipswich, like Rheinmetall, Boeing and TAE Aerospace.

In February this year, I was pleased the Premier brought her entire cabinet to Rheinmetall's new facility at Redbank to sign the MOU committing our government to a long-term partnership with Rheinmetall in support of their work securing the phase 3 contract to deliver 450 infantry fighting vehicles for the Australian Army. The Premier and the cabinet got to see Rheinmetall's innovative work in building and designing the Boxer CRVs which they are delivering as part of the \$5 billion phase 2 Land 400 contract they landed with the ADF in 2018. If Rheinmetall lands the phase 3 contract, it would deliver 500 highly skilled jobs on top of the 450 jobs already being brought to Queensland through the phase 2 project. This partnership between the Queensland government and Rheinmetall is a huge winner for Ipswich and will support a thriving advanced tech industry in Queensland, delivering thousands of highly skilled jobs and opportunities for local people and businesses.

Rheinmetall's MOU with TAFE Queensland will also ensure that our young people can access skills programs that prepare them for the high-tech skill sets that future employers need to grow and boost productivity. The thousands of job opportunities in defence manufacturing come at a time when school leavers are now finding themselves in a more precarious job market or are embarking on careers that provide less long-term security than in the past. Giving our young people hope by showing them that they do not have to leave Ipswich or go interstate or overseas to get decent, well-paid jobs is something that is well worth investing in.

As the member for Ipswich, I look forward to seeking out opportunities for Ipswich that will provide benefits such as jobs, frontline services and productivity-enhancing infrastructure. In addition, I will be seeking out opportunities to improve our city's natural environment so that people can enjoy a decent quality of life. These are the things that matter to Ipswich people—having a decent job and a good quality of life. Over the next four years, I will work hard to secure those opportunities and deliver on those outcomes.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (5.35 pm): Fellow members, congratulations on your election results. Most importantly, thank you to the people of the Lockyer electorate who have allowed me this wonderful opportunity to continue to represent them in this honoured place. I will work hard to fulfil the hopes and expectations of me during this term.

Mr Deputy Speaker Krause, congratulations on your re-election. I also congratulate the Speaker of this 57th Parliament. Through you, I also congratulate the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Broadwater, David Crisafulli, as well as the deputy leader, the member for Toowoomba South, David Janetzki, and our shadow cabinet for their recent elections and appointments. I congratulate the Premier and her ministers on forming government. I will be working hard to hold you to account and to help claim those benches in October 2024.

I sincerely thank our former leader, the member for Nanango, Deb Frecklington, and deputy leader, the member for Everton, Tim Mander, as well as our former shadow cabinet for their enormous combined efforts in a very challenging campaign. I listened with pride when the member for Nanango gave her address-in-reply speech earlier this afternoon—pride because of the report card our former leader outlined. It is encouraging and I ask all of our LNP supporters and all Queenslanders to have a look at that report card. It was a remarkable list of achievements from opposition.

As we all know, it takes a team to win an election and there are so many people for me to thank. To our team of election volunteers, I can only say thank you for the countless hours of work you put in. Mention must be made to my pre-poll teams. In an election like no other, your invaluable efforts over an extended and busier period were second to none. We had nearly 140 volunteers help us through the pre-poll and on election day, filling all the booths for every hour. Thank you to all.

Special mention must go to the Fernvale crew: Ray and Gloria Tunstall, Roland Sjollem, John and Sue Gregor, as well as Sean and Nikki Choat, who together with their family were true warriors. The Gatton pre-poll of Andrew O'Brien, Ray Hawley, Peter and Lesley Bugg, PJ Charlesworth, Rob Randall and of course my Deb and others did a great job. To our campaign team, your continued commitment was far beyond anything I ever expect.

To Glen Pavey, our chairman, your management skills were again vital; taking time off to handle things in those last couple of weeks allowed me to be at pre-poll almost 100 per cent of the time. To our treasurer, Brett Qualischefski, and our secretary, Jo Swygart: your efforts again were key to our success. I thank the federal member for Wright, Scott Buchholz, for his support and collaboration in fighting for Lockyer. Our team effort saw the Lockyer first preference vote sail past 45 per cent—the highest first party preference in Lockyer for many elections—and our two-party preferred vote of 61.52 per cent was also one of the best improved results across the state.

The result was a reflection of the efforts over the full three-year term. At the heart of those efforts is my family: mum and dad, brothers Geoff and Grant, sisters Ree and Jen, and their families, through to Sam, Millie and Tom and their families. Thank you for your love, help and support. To my darling Deb, thank you for all that you do behind the scenes. Your love and advice when I need it most is always accurate, well considered and available. Thank you.

In this House we all know how important our electorate staff are, helping thousands of constituents. Angie Campbell and Julien Barrett, your professional dedication is only matched by your genuine personal interest and care for those who need help. Our goals were achieved by the ongoing attention to detail that they both showed. I am eternally grateful. I thank them for their ongoing friendship, dedication and support. We make a great team.

I have said this before, but for the benefit of the new members in the chamber, I thought it important to reaffirm that Lockyer is, in fact, the centre of the universe. Lockyer is bounded by the Great Dividing Range to the west and Main Range National Park to the south. Darryl Low Choy of Griffith University and chairman of the Regional Landscape and Open Space Advisory Committee will tell honourable members that Lockyer provides a significant amount of environmental services to greater South-East Queensland. If it were not for the Lockyer electorate, the people of greater South-East Queensland would not have enough clean water or clean air to breathe. They also would not have much food to eat as we are recognised as the seventh most fertile valley in the world. We are just an hour from the Brisbane CBD and have a wonderful rural lifestyle with great restaurants, cafes, clubs and pubs to visit. I say to honourable members: come for a drive, have a feed and take home some great local produce. They might even like to stay.

I was first elected in November 2017 and since that time I have worked hard to establish relationships with both the Lockyer and Somerset regional councils that make up my electorate together with the state and federal governments, both executive and elected representatives, as I believe this is key to getting results. I am not sure what the successes of the future may be, but with strong relationships at all levels of government, working in the spirit of cooperation, the benefits to our community will come.

It is rewarding to have helped thousands of individuals with personal problems ranging from critical health issues to neighbourly conflicts. The many complaints about roads, health, education, law and safety have been followed up and our success in providing outcomes is at an extremely high level. We have also secured funding of over \$16 million from competitive grants and funding programs for over 600 community groups within the electorate. We have assisted hundreds of farmers with applications for drought assistance and funding. I have been heavily involved in the Lockyer Water Users Forum and Lockyer Valley and Somerset Water Collaborative, and we have secured 50,000 megalitres of new water from Wivenhoe Dam to improve water security for our farmers. We discovered during the term that water meters were faulty and we secured \$2.5 million through the federal government to have those replaced. Thanks again to Scotty Buchholz; his ability to negotiate the corridors of Canberra is the best I have seen.

Over \$18 million of capital improvements to new classrooms and additional facilities to some of our 35 schools have also occurred. The growth in Plainland continues and we have supported and overseen the construction and opening of an additional private Catholic secondary school earlier in the year. We have also assisted a veterans charity to find a home, which I was honoured to open last year.

Although in the planning stage for approximately 10 years, last month we finally saw construction begin on the over \$600 million Southern Queensland Correctional Centre. This will bring hundreds of jobs to our region, and we are continuing to make sure that this project has as many local contractors and businesses involved as possible.

With the help of the local community, we have managed to secure two additional police officers stationed at Helidon, doubling their workforce. While speaking about Helidon, our team has also successfully achieved a great outcome for the Helidon State School community after school trees became a flying fox roost in 2019. After significant consultation and negotiating the legal maze of environmental protection and controls, the Department of Education together with the Lockyer Valley Regional Council and Ecosure, led by Jess Bracks, control measures were able to be put into effect over the subsequent weeks and students were able to return to the school safely early in 2020.

Following community representation, meetings with council also resulted in the relocation of a waste facility at Glenore Grove. We fought for signage and road marking at the dangerous intersection at Lake Clarendon and were successful in having a previous negative decision by TMR overturned. We

secured \$14.4 million of funds for road safety upgrades to the Brisbane Valley Highway. Together with the member for Nanango we will continue to fight to secure the desperately needed funds for widening and safety upgrades on the Brisbane Valley Highway like the recent James Road improvement.

I will continue to fight to see other major arterials upgraded, especially the Forest Hill Fernvale Road, Gatton Laidley Road and Gatton-Helidon Road. Importantly, we have secured other minor road safety programs across the electorate and I have recommitted to fight for the \$15 million of state funding to top up the Liberal National federal government's \$60 million commitment to upgrade dangerous intersections on the Warrego Highway. This contribution is part of a \$75 million road package which will improve acceleration and deceleration lanes making our roads safer. During the election campaign the LNP committed to that \$15 million goal. I call on the minister to once again stop playing politics and help our roads become safe. It is not about getting people home from work 10 minutes earlier; this is about more lives lost on the Lockyer roads.

I will also fight for the much needed overpass at Glenore Grove crossroads or, more accurately, the Warrego Highway-Forest Hill Fernvale Road intersection. This is one of the worst intersections on the highway. This improvement, done right, will also address the flooding issues on the national freight route.

During the last six months I joined forces with the Clean Up Somerset Waterways and Somerset Regional Council to help find solutions and clean up some of Somerset region's polluted waterways. That is a great campaign with the Somerset Regional Council.

I congratulate Mayor Lehmann and the Somerset Regional Council on recently installing the CCTV and bollards. It has changed the recreational areas on the Brisbane River back to one that a family can enjoy. The Brisbane River and its recreational areas is one of the best assets of South-East Queensland. The 24/7 flow of the river makes it very unique in a global context. People of Brisbane will not believe me when I tell them that sections of the river look like trout streams in New Zealand. This asset enables a proposed paddling trail with toilets and rest areas and it will provide even greater tourism opportunities. Despite the successes over the past three years, there is always more work to be done. My promise to the people of Lockyer is that I will continue to work hard for the next four years.

There is no doubt about the increasing customer and community expectations. People hate waste. They do not want to see their governments wasting anything including time in this chamber on less important issues and squabbles. People want to see their representatives working hard for them and their interests.

There are many tremendous businesses and organisations in the Lockyer. The University of Queensland Gatton campus celebrated its 120th anniversary in 2017. This world renowned research university contributes enormously to the diversity of our community and the economy.

Many advances are occurring in the agribusiness sector with our next generation farmers being well educated and innovative. Enterprises like Qualipac, Koala Farms, Sutton Farms, the Linnan's Maragi Farms, Rugby Farm, the Mulgowie Farming Company and Vanstone Produce to name a few, together with Stanbroke Beef and Withcott Seedlings are leading Australia in their practices and servicing national and international markets.

Despite the successes of these businesses, the biggest issue facing our agricultural sector is the ongoing threat from drought and the lack of water security. As the bumper stickers read, 'Every family needs a farmer,' and, 'No farmers, no food.' This is serious. Water management and infrastructure should be beyond political bounds. There is a solution. The Lockyer Valley and Somerset Water Collaborative together with industry and policymakers have completed work on the single most important water security project in Queensland. The strategic business case for this project was recently made public, and my thanks goes to the member for Nanango, the shadow minister for water, who attended the unveiling of the plan.

The project is of critical importance to not only the Lockyer and Somerset growers but also the entire state. It will deliver 363 jobs during construction and 1,923 ongoing jobs through the additional agriculture and tourism benefits. The project will see sustainable agricultural production increased by \$210 million per annum, a total economic benefit of \$300 per annum. This is a no-brainer. The farmers have contributed \$50 million towards this project as a sign of their commitment.

The federal Treasurer visited Lockyer and has encouraged the state government to apply for 50 per cent funding under the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund. I thank the state water minister, who recently visited Lockyer again. I ask the state to commit to its share of this great project in the 2021-22 financial year.

I want to protect our rural lifestyle in Lockyer. It is my key goal. We must maintain our agricultural areas and also provide our communities the roads they need while keeping our families safe and healthy. Lockyer is part of the region's western growth corridor. Our population is growing and so is our traffic. As I have mentioned, the Brisbane Valley Highway and the Warrego Highway run through the area and, despite some success in securing upgrades, we must continue to see those roads improve.

I congratulate the mayors of Lockyer, Toowoomba and Ipswich—Tanya Milligan, Paul Antonio and Teresa Harding—for their cooperation and success in securing through the council of mayors Brisbane \$15 million for the proposed high-speed passenger rail from Toowoomba. I was a member of the Gowrie to Grandchester Rail Corridor Study that formed the basis for the planned inland rail freight route, originally established as passenger rail. I was part of the council that developed a clear position paper. It instructed the government that this inland freight route might be a project of national significance, but it cannot come at the expense of Lockyer. The section through Lockyer is recognised as one of the most complex and difficult. Let's get it right. We must see no loss of community connectivity and no future flooding impacts. We must minimise the loss of good quality agricultural land and, most importantly, this new infrastructure must deliver enhanced intermodal transport, including busways and bikeways, and enable that high-speed passenger rail to Toowoomba. It will ease congestion on our roads.

As I have said before, in my former role as a police officer I saw the real world in terms of the innocence lost at the hands of sickening acts of cruelty and torture or the countless families whose lives have been shattered by the sudden death of a loved one. I have seen many vibrant, young, productive lives lost to the drug abuse that rips families and our communities apart. The social and personal effects of domestic and other forms of violence are very difficult to cope with. I was proud to have established the Lockyer Valley Says No to Violence initiative, changing the community conversation so that people say, 'We don't tolerate any forms of violence.' Ownership by the community is key to fighting this problem.

I have seen firsthand that the criminal justice system is rarely effective as a deterrent. We need to deliver punishments that are. I am not just talking about bigger sentences; this is about the types of sentence—ones that have consequences for actions, where the victims are recognised and offenders' liberties are affected.

If we invest early in our youth, they are far less likely to come to the attention of police as adolescents. Investments in proactive solutions for families and children from birth through their formative years, such as guidance officers, trauma officers and chaplaincy programs within schools, must be well funded. These programs and other more intense interaction change children's lives. My experience has shown me that encouraging youth to participate in community life is the front line in our fight against drugs and crime. Academics agree: youth engagement is the opposite of addiction.

As I enter my second term as the member for Lockyer I am reminded that longevity might create stability but it does not create success; nor does blind loyalty. However, longevity based on loyalty and built on trust allows spirited decision-making and creates a powerful shared commitment to goals. These are the ingredients that over time will create a culture of trust and opportunity so that all can share in the success.

On reflection, all of the great people in my life and other leaders that I respect all have integrity, a strong work ethic, principles and, most importantly, passion for their chosen goals. People are enterprising. As a leader, set a goal with the necessary resources and get out of the way. The people will surprise you. Governments should do the same.

I will continue to do my best for the people of Lockyer and for Queensland. 2021 has been a very challenging year and 2020 was even worse. I place on the record my appreciation of the federal Morrison government for its efforts in keeping Australians safe. The efforts of Prime Minister Morrison and Treasurer Frydenberg with JobKeeper and JobSeeker have saved Queensland from a terrible train wreck of an economy that could have been much worse. I look forward to the next four years and to seeing the LNP in government in 2024.

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (5.54 pm): I gave up believing in the tooth fairy many years ago! I congratulate you, Mr Deputy Speaker Kelly, for being appointed as Deputy Speaker. I acknowledge possibly one of the best Speakers we ever had in this parliament: Curtis Pitt. I thank you both for your wonderful guidance over the years.

It is very humbling to be re-elected as the member for Maryborough. This is my third term as the member for Maryborough. Formed in 1865, Maryborough is one of the oldest electorates in this state. It is a very proud electorate. We in the Maryborough electorate are noted for being great innovators. We started with engineering, trains and timber.

I thank the voters of the Maryborough electorate, because they are great people. They are very honest people. They tell you straight to your face if you are wrong. If you do something right, they will congratulate you. They are probably the most salt-of-the-earth people I ever came across. Being born in Western Queensland, I know that the people of Maryborough are very good people.

Mr Harper: They must think a lot of you, too!

Mr SAUNDERS: I take that interjection from the member for Thuringowa: they do think a lot of me! I think a lot of the Maryborough voters. I really appreciate them giving me a third term in possibly one of the greatest state governments ever, the Palaszczuk Labor government. It is a government very focused on regional Queensland.

Before we jump aboard the Saunders train and go for a trip, I want to thank some people. First, I thank a very good friend of mine who has retired from my office. We call him 'the General'. His name is Ron Fossen. Ron served this country for 15 years with distinction in one of the top units in this country. He is a great bloke. I have known Ron for many years. It is sad for me to stand here tonight and talk about Ron retiring, because we never think we are going to retire. At 61 years of age, Ron decided that he had had enough. After serving his country and doing what he did, I can appreciate that.

Ron is one of the reasons the Palaszczuk government was elected. Ron was my campaign director in 2015. No-one is more committed to the Labor movement and to justice in this state than Ron. I really miss him being in the office. He was my office manager since 2015. He is a great Together member. That is the association I had with Ron for many years. Ron is probably tuning in tonight. He gets embarrassed when given accolades. I just say thanks, mate. Thanks for your service not only to my office and to the people of Maryborough but also to the community. Ron is very community minded, as he was for his country when he served in the armed forces. Ron will be missed.

I also thank the Maryborough ALP branch in which we have some great members. The 300-odd volunteers worked tirelessly in the heat of the October election, standing shoulder to shoulder. They are people who believe in the Labor movement and in what this government is doing. They believe that no-one should be left behind. We would not be here without people like them. I refer to people like Jim Nilon. We have been friends now for 41 or 42 years. He stood for the seat of Gregory in 1989 against Vaughan Johnson. We worked together on that campaign. When we look at people who help on campaigns, I have a great mate called Peter Killeen, an AMWU delegate—

Mr Tantari interjected.

Mr SAUNDERS: He is a great man; I take that interjection from the member for Hervey Bay. Pete Killeen is the AMWU delegate at Downer and Pete is one of the reasons why we are building trains at Downer. Pete is a fantastic man and has worked very hard for the workers at Downer.

There are three people whom I really want to congratulate. One is the Premier. The Premier has shown that she is a leader with backbone and a leader of substance for this state. The second is the Deputy Premier, who did a fantastic job during the pandemic. The third is the Treasurer. The Treasurer has his hand on the tiller guiding us through these tough times. Without the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Treasurer, I would hate to see where we would be now.

Mr Harper interjected.

Mr SAUNDERS: I take that interjection from the member for Thuringowa. I ask members to close their eyes and think about the 64 times the opposition wanted the borders to be opened. The situation in Queensland would be like the situation in England, Spain and other areas. We would not be able to get out and about. I have a lot of gratitude and respect for the Premier for standing firm and standing up to the bullies in Canberra—standing up to those bullies who tried to stand over her. That is the sign of a good leader. That is why Queenslanders voted for Labor.

Debate, on motion of Mr Saunders, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Moggill Electorate; Queensland Ballet, 60th Anniversary; Australian Catholic University, Vice-Chancellor

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (6.00 pm): As the Liberal National Party's shadow minister for the arts, I rise to congratulate the Queensland Ballet on its 60th anniversary gala which was held last Friday night. The Queensland Ballet, founded in 1960 by Charles Listner OBE, is Queensland's premiere ballet

company. The Queensland Ballet has a rich legacy and proud history with outstanding leadership being provided by current Artist Director, the world renowned Li Cunxin. I congratulate all performing dancers and the entire Queensland Ballet team on an amazing 60th anniversary gala.

Recently as the LNP's shadow minister for education I attended the formal welcome ceremony for Professor Zlatko Skrbis, the fourth Vice-Chancellor of the Australian Catholic University, along with many other distinguished academic, community, legal and religious representatives, including Sister Angela Mary RSM AO. It was a pleasure to welcome Professor Skrbis to his role.

I also want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the many Australia Day events that were held in January of this year across the electorate of Moggill as well as some very important local residents. I pass on my warm congratulations to the following local residents on their recognition in the Australia Day honours list: Mr Peter Kearns AM for his service to education; Mrs Kirsty Brown AM for service to youth through Scouts; and Mrs Sue Thompson OAM for service to music education. It is always a pleasure to recognise the contribution of residents to our local community and the state of Queensland. I also wish to acknowledge the 50 new Australian citizens who were conferred citizenship at the Kenmore citizenship ceremony which was organised by the Rotary Club of Kenmore. Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic primary school kindly hosts this event every year and I want to take this opportunity to welcome its new principal, Mr John Bates, and thank outgoing principal Mr Andrew Oberthur for his service. I recently had the opportunity to meet with Mr John Bates and I share his passion for education and fostering a safe and productive learning environment in all of our schools.

On Australia Day I also visited the Mount Crosby Bowls Club for its community barbecue. I want to offer my special thanks to Mount Crosby Bowls Club President, Steve Spina, and his executive committee on putting together another fantastic community event. Australia Day would also not be complete without the annual Pullenvale Lawn Mower Race.

Finally, I also attended the annual Brookfield Show Society's Australia Day picnic. As always, it was a wonderful celebration of community spirit and certainly plenty of fun for local families. I congratulate Brookfield Show Society President, Cath Fullerton, and her executive committee on another successful event. I commend all community organisations for their hard work and support of our local community and specifically the QCWA Moggill branch on its recent International Women's Day morning tea—

Mrs Frecklington: Hear, hear!

Dr ROWAN:—which the member for Nanango also attended.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member for Moggill, we were very sad to lose John Bates from St James, Coorparoo. He is a very good principal.

Mount Ommaney Electorate

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (6.03 pm): Late last year our Oxley community gathered on a very hot November Sunday to officially open a red bench in Oxley's Cawonga Park. Members will be aware that these benches are meant to start a conversation about domestic violence, in this case in the community of Oxley, and I am proud to say that this conversation got off to a great start in large part thanks to Oxley local Marilyn Roberts.

Marilyn is one of those amazing women in Oxley. She is always busy volunteering here, there and everywhere and on this day she was the guest speaker at the opening of the bench alongside Betty from the Red Rose Foundation. Marilyn is a survivor of domestic violence and spoke in harrowing detail about her experience. It brought me and everyone there that day to tears, particularly as she spoke about the role of the bystanders in her family and the role that we can all play when we see a family member or a friend being abused. I know that everybody who was there that day was touched by her honesty and willingness to share so that we can do better for future generations.

That event was well supported by the team at the Oxley Boomerang Bags which provided a lot of volunteer support to make the day a success, but tonight I want to single out just one of them—Lara Minion, who has been instrumental in setting up and sustaining the Oxley Boomerang Bags group that has made hundreds upon thousands of gorgeous high-quality bags over the years. Lara has been an amazing volunteer in our community in many ways over many years and I am sad to say that she and her family, the Minions, are going on an adventure around Australia now that it is COVID-safe to do so and leaving our community for the next little while. She has promised that the family will return in August next year and I am going to hold her to that because we are going to miss them greatly.

Finally, just down the road is the Oxley Men's Shed, which was opened and started by John Brown. He started that shed over a decade ago and has only just stepped down as president after continuously serving in that position for over 10 years. That is an amazing commitment at any age, but John is well into his 90s and I think that is pretty outstanding. Men's sheds have normalised the conversation around men's mental health. We know that suicide is the No. 1 cause of death in men aged 18 to 45, so this is incredibly important. The flow-on effects from men's sheds have also been that men can increasingly see the value and importance of close male friends who can be confidants and support people in tough times, even if they are not members of sheds. The shed in Oxley has so many members and it has certainly become an Oxley institution. It is a wonderful way for blokes to take care of their mental health and the men of Oxley certainly owe John for opening it.

Nanango Electorate; Jensen, Mr K

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (6.06 pm): On 1 May last year, a young man from my Nanango electorate took his own life. His name was Keelian Jensen. He was just 19 years old and he and his family lived in the Somerset region. Earlier this month I met with friends and family of Keelian, along with Somerset regional councillor Kylee Isidro and the Somerset community development coordinator Lyn Buchanan, to talk about youth mental health in our region. They told me about Keelian and what a wonderful young man he was. They said he was a loving and gentle person, an affectionate boy who wore his heart on his sleeve and felt everything.

Although he had had his share of mental health struggles in the past, he appeared to be in a good place before his death and his suicide took them all by surprise. They explained that on the night of his death he was online and he started searching—very normal things at first like new games coming out. By about 1 am he started searching items relating to how to take your own life. He read a website and watched a YouTube video. He searched how to tie a noose. His family was shocked. We know that at one point a Lifeline ad popped up on one of Keelian's searches, but this was easily bypassed.

This has led to the family's call and petition to make Google do more to filter or block search results for specific suicide items. The petition has been signed by more than 3,400 people. It is a chilling call by his aunt Camilla, who tells us what happened on the night. The petition asks for specific pro-suicide keywords to only return information with sources for mental health assistance. They want Google to block content which gives explicit information on how to end your life. Above all, she wants Google to help make the internet a safer place for everyone. If this had been in place on the night of Keelian's death, they wonder whether this young man may still be here with them today. I strongly support this call. Surely this is something that Google can try to do to help make our world a better place. Youth suicide continues to affect communities right across everyone's electorate.

I briefly want to mention an excellent program that services parts of the electorate of Nanango, the health service navigator. Our local navigator is Andrea McGee who works for RHealth. She has assisted my office on many occasions. She does the groundwork to help people understand and navigate the local pathways to mental health and other community support services. It is an excellent service. I thank her for her commitment in this vitally important role.

Sanfilippo Syndrome

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (6.09 pm): I rise this evening to talk about Sanfilippo syndrome, a rare genetic syndrome that causes fatal brain damage. It is a type of childhood dementia and, tragically, most children diagnosed with it will never reach adulthood. In Australia approximately one in 70,000 children are diagnosed with Sanfilippo syndrome.

At the end of 2019 my long-term electorate officer and friend Jill and her husband, Brendan, received the devastating news that their son Rory has Sanfilippo syndrome. Jill had become concerned that Rory was not quite meeting his learning milestones in kindy and then prep so she visited a paediatrician to identify if he was experiencing a learning difficulty. She and her husband visited a paediatrician with a child with suspected developmental delays and left with a terminal diagnosis. Jill and Brendan described receiving this news as absolute devastation, like the world stopped turning and nothing would ever be the same. They were advised to also have their daughter, Anna, then two, similarly tested. Their devastation at Rory's diagnosis was soon to be confirmed a second time in Anna's case.

Sanfilippo is a metabolic disorder which means there is a problem with one of the chemical reactions that naturally occur in the body. It is caused by the lack of an enzyme that normally breaks down and recycles a large complex sugar molecule called heparan sulfate. Sanfilippo mostly affects

the brain and is one of a group of conditions called childhood dementia. Over time brain cells fill up with waste that the body is unable to process. As the brain gets progressively damaged, children experience severe hyperactivity, disordered sleep, loss of speech, cognitive decline, cardiac issues, seizures, loss of mobility and finally death, usually before adulthood. There is currently no treatment or cure available to children diagnosed with this devastating disease, but there is hope. Researchers around the world are working hard to develop effective treatments.

In June Brendan will be participating in Hike for Hope 2021, walking the Larapinta Trail with other supporters of the Sanfilippo Children's Foundation. Their aim is to raise money and awareness of this very rare condition. This adjournment speech is my small contribution to supporting their efforts to raise awareness of this rare and cruel condition—this speech and a contribution to Brendan's Hike for Hope fundraiser page at Sanfilippo.org.au. In November last year Jill and Brendan welcomed baby Juliette to the family who is thankfully unaffected by the condition. They are now fighting to give Rory and Anna a long future with their younger sibling, whom they adore.

Warrego Electorate; Housing

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (6.12 pm): Businesses are crying out for more staff across the south-west in my electorate. There is a 40 per cent fill rate on vacancies. For every 10 jobs businesses can fill about four of those jobs and it takes about 40 days to fill a position. There are vacancies in tourism, administration, health, diesel fitting to name a few. The Golden West Group Training Scheme tell me that they have apprenticeships and traineeships that they cannot get a single applicant for. Through the hard work and good leadership of the local governments we are seeing increased economic activity across the south-west and a diversification of local industries. There is also the expansion of businesses like Western Meat Exporters, a sheep and goat abattoir, who will employ 30 staff over the next 12 months. This expansion will generate many more jobs across the Charleville district.

However, the lack of housing is holding back the region and holding back businesses from expanding and growing and filling those jobs. For so long these communities have wanted to fight back on the population drift away from their communities but now they are being held back by the lack of housing. Prospective employees who want to move to the region are struggling to find housing. Business last week raised with me that 12 families were unable to relocate to Roma because they could not find suitable housing. In Roma the rental market is very tight. In Charleville there are more people applying for rentals than the number of properties that agents have available to rent. In St George at any one given time there are probably only about four properties to rent. There is very little vacant land to build on and single pensioners often find that there is no housing in their price range.

We are seeing this as a result of the state Labor government's poor planning and lack of investment in infrastructure, causing a regional housing crisis across the south-west. It is shameful that the state Labor government is ignoring the housing needs of regional communities and aspirational regional Queenslanders. I call on this state Labor government to release more land, build roads and work with the local governments on the water and sewage infrastructure needed for the release of more housing lots.

After six years unfortunately this state Labor government is out of ideas when it comes to dealing with housing in the regions. It is this inaction that is holding back businesses. It is holding back growth that is critical to these regional communities across the south-west. I call on the state Palaszczuk Labor government to invest in housing. They need to work with the local governments to make sure that infrastructure for water and housing is brought online. For instance, in a place like Charleville it will cost the council around \$2 million to provide the trunk infrastructure to release more land lots. We do not have a smaller communities scheme to help that council. They are absolutely desperate for that expansion to grow their population. They have good sustainable jobs, but they do not have housing to house the people who could fill the jobs.

Queensland Women's Week

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (6.15 pm): As we approach the end of Queensland Women's Week I acknowledge the women, in particular the young women, who have attended events throughout the week here in Parliament House and in our local communities. In this Women's Week I would also like to acknowledge the women on whose shoulders I stand, those known to me who have guided me and to those who have been fighting for women's equality for centuries. I am here, I stand in this chamber with a voice and a vote, because they persisted.

Locally we celebrated with women from a variety of backgrounds and in my area the local students at Windaroo Valley State High School with their annual women's breakfast. I was pleased to be a guest speaker that morning. Mrs K, who organises the girls group at the school, spoke of the role that women played in her mother country Russia where women's day is actually a public holiday. On 8 March I attended the Beenleigh siroptimist breakfast where women from a range of occupations and businesses joined high school students from across Logan. It is always great to celebrate the achievements of other women.

While we celebrate this week, mostly this week we are tired. Women are tired. We have collectively fought for so long and yet women are still not safe. They are not safe on the streets, they are not safe in their homes and they are not safe in their workplaces. Events thrust into the national consciousness in the last month while in reality do shock us they also do not surprise us. Almost every woman has experienced a sense of fear walking alone. There is a reason we tell our daughters to carry their keys between their fingers as they walk to their car. How many men in this House have been counselled to do that? When we start at the workplace there is usually someone who takes us aside and points out the male colleague to avoid being left alone with.

Why do we have to keep having these conversations with our sisters and our daughters: be safe, look after yourself? When are the blokes going to step up and maybe suggest to their peers they should maybe be a little bit less creepy, a little bit less lecherous? When women have the temerity to speak out, to report, they are howled down, they are not believed and they are called liars. 'How could you make those accusations?', they say. 'Have a care to the reputational damage you cause when you point the finger,' they cry. There is no regard, of course, to the broken woman before them; and no regard to the broken child before them when the accused is their mate.

On 15 March women around the country will march. They will march in support of every victim who has not been believed. They will march for the women who did not have the strength to continue. They will march because there is so much more to do.

Australian South Sea Islanders

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (6.18 pm): Two decades ago Australian South Sea islanders listened with tears in their eyes to many of the commitments and promises made by politicians, state and federal, who recognised their community's unique role and vowed to act on those commitments through their policies, programs and services. Thankfully, today I spoke with the Minister for Multicultural Affairs. As we are yet to make reparations we need to get together to make some changes in this space. I thank the minister for that.

In a recent parliamentary brief I asked for a list of all the government programs and services available to the South Sea islanders in Queensland and I shared that with the minister. The response I got back from the brief cited a single solitary scholarship program created back in 2001 that I had never heard of and I bet the majority of South Sea islanders back home have not heard of it either. Apparently it is managed by the Public Trustee, which annually pays money from the fund to Central Queensland University, James Cook University, QUT and the University of the Sunshine Coast. Apart from that, I can find out little else about the program such as how the money is allocated, how much goes to each university or how many South Sea islanders have benefitted from it and in what ways. I would also like to know what happens to the money in years when no South Sea islander scholarships are awarded. Does it go back to the foundation or does the university hold on to it? I do not know.

I have asked for a statistical demographic profile on South Sea islanders only to be told that data regarding life expectancy, labour force participation, drug use and mental health could not be located specifically in relation to Australian South Sea islanders. I asked how many were currently employed in the Public Service and was told that there is also no record of how many people in the public sector identify as South Sea islanders. Despite all of the fine rhetoric, it seems clear that not a lot has been done for the Australian South Sea island Kanakas. Madam Deputy Speaker, I am sure that you understand and that you know a lot of those people yourself. Sadly, no data is being collected and no details are being recorded. No research on their needs has been carried out and no assessment obtained on their health, social, educational, employment or economic outcomes.

The Australian South Sea islanders have been a patient people for over 160 years. They have faced and survived many obstacles. This is not really good enough—not by a long shot. Clearly for the Queensland government closing the gap counts if you fall neatly within one of the Paris Agreement's Sustainable Development Goals, which clearly my people do not. As a result, today the South Sea

islander people remain the most marginalised and disadvantaged ethnic group in Queensland, facing high levels of disadvantage, discrimination and neglect as they have always done in this state. They are still a forgotten people and I am glad that the minister and I can do something about changing that aspect going forward.

Coronavirus, Vaccine; Queensland Women's Week

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (6.21 pm): Queensland's success in managing the spread of COVID-19 means we can now focus on crushing the virus with a successful vaccine rollout. Just over two weeks ago the very first COVID jab was administered in our state at the Gold Coast University Hospital and since then vaccination hubs have been stood up from the Gold Coast to the Far North. Queenslanders are now receiving the Pfizer vaccine in Brisbane, Cairns, Townsville and on the Gold and Sunshine coasts. With supplies of the AstraZeneca vaccine secured, we have been able to expand the rollout in Queensland to Bundaberg, Toowoomba and my community of Logan.

With the initial phase of the vaccine rollout focused on health workers and hotel quarantine staff, the fantastic Logan Hospital team have been at the head of the queue. Over two days 113 doses of the vaccine were administered to local doctors, nurses and other Queenslanders who continue to stand resolute on the front line. If our doctors and nurses are vaccinated then they are best protected and that means they can help more people in the fight against COVID-19. That is crucial because the ongoing efforts of Logan Hospital staff to care for our community during this pandemic have been nothing short of extraordinary.

Over the past 12 months Metro South Health services, which include Logan Hospital, have looked after the second largest number of COVID cases in Queensland. In that time Metro South has seen 337 cases and recorded zero deaths, which is an outstanding achievement given the pressures of the global pandemic. Additionally, Logan Hospital staff have conducted a massive 32,188 COVID tests since March 2020. Those are huge numbers that have ensured we have overcome the threat of outbreaks quickly. Now, with the vaccine rollout underway, we can see the light at the end of the tunnel for Logan, Queensland and our country.

Before I finish, I would also like to use this opportunity during Queensland's Women's Week to pay tribute to my mother who was a dedicated nurse. My late mother spent her life caring for others and instilled in me the drive to serve my community in the pursuit of a brighter future for all. This year's Queensland Women's Week, which is happening right now, has seen me reflect on her career and that of all of the outstanding women in the electorate of Woodridge and the City of Logan who make a real difference to our community. I refer to women such as the principal of Kingston State College, Fran Barker; the CEO of Access Community Services, Gail Kerr; Galila Abdelsalam of the Islamic Women's Association of Australia; Catherine Bartolo, the CEO of YFS; and Stacey Ross, the CEO of the Centre for Women. Our state is richer, stronger and brighter because of the vital contribution that those women make to our community in Woodridge and Logan and our state of Queensland.

Goondiwindi, Crime

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (6.24 pm): I rise to speak about the town of Goondiwindi in my electorate, which is a fabulous town.

Mr Stevens: A great town; the Royal Hotel.

Mr LISTER: There are plenty of good hotels. Goondiwindi has one thing that no other town can claim. Bernard Salt, the esteemed demographer, said that it is the greatest regional town in Australia. He said it outperformed all other Queensland country towns thanks to its surprise package of above-average income, demographic diversity, low unemployment, a cohesive community and well-performing public services such as schools and medical services, which is all true.

Mr Minnikin: And a great state MP.

Mr LISTER: I hope to do my bit; thank you very much, member for Chatsworth.

One of the difficulties that Goondiwindi faces is crime. Today I was sent an email by a resident of Goondiwindi, Mr David Parker, who urged me to speak about the matter of crime and the effects it is having on the community. It seems that night after night the same offenders are committing the same crimes—property crimes, theft, assaults and antisocial crimes. One of the sectors particularly affected is the Goondiwindi Regional Council. I know that the council staff are immensely proud of the work that

they do to keep the gardens and facilities in good nick, but are they losing vehicles, structures and so forth to vandalism. That matter is causing a lot of consternation and concern in the community. I will read a short excerpt from the email that I received from Mr Parker. He said—

Most people I talk to and watch on social media are becoming very agitated and I have seen some very militant and aggressive posts on Facebook from time to time. We do not need Goondiwindi to return to the ways of the past with riots and retaliation among our communities, but my fear is I am seeing a smoulder from the local communities on both sides of the border that needs to be extinguished ...

In decades past in the town of Goondiwindi there have been vigilantes and riots. Those things are to be condemned. One of the things that gives rise to such condemnatory behaviour is people becoming frustrated if they feel that their property is not being adequately protected and their rights as law-abiding citizens are not properly recognised. Without wanting to offend standing order 231, I would say that this is a matter that we ought to consider and at the appropriate time I will have more to say on the matter.

I can say to the people of Goondiwindi that I understand. I hear your concerns. Today I have heard a government member decry the evil of using punitive measures to protect a community. I would say that we need to find the right balance and that is not it. I want to tell the people of Goondiwindi that I will do all that I can to fight for their community. We need to do what we can to rid them of the crime problem that is facing an otherwise great town.

Parkinson's Disease, Fundraising Walk

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (6.27 pm): Eighteen and a half thousand Queenslanders live with Parkinson's disease. My mother is one of them, and before he passed away my father was also one of them. It is a progressive neurological disease. The symptoms include the loss of the ability to walk, speak and eat. Often it results in quite significant pain for people as well as problems with memory, sleep and depression. I have seen all of that in my mother and I saw most of it in my late father. It is pretty hard to watch when it is someone you love.

My parents were both very active in the community. They were very active in St Peter's Catholic Church at Coolum. They were the mainstays of the St Vincent de Paul Society. They loved their choir. Once a month at their first Friday picnic group they would gather with their friends. They were great bowlers in their time, winning a couple of second or third pennants of some description and they loved their long walks on Coolum Beach—and who wouldn't? It is really hard to see people lose their ability. When you lose the ability to speak you also lose the ability to sing. Some of my fondest memories of my parents were of Mum and Dad around the piano. Mum would play and she and Dad would sing together.

The only real solution is research. Parkinson's Queensland do a really great job of advocating on behalf of people with Parkinson's, but to do research you need money. 2020 was a really tough year for fundraising. Parkinson's Queensland has launched the 'This is Parkinson's' campaign. They have asked people to challenge themselves to do something that pushes them a bit to raise money. My brother Vince and I put our heads together and we have decided that we will take a really big walk for Parkinson's. We are going to walk from my house in Greenslopes to my mother's place in Coolum Beach. We will start on Easter Saturday. Over nine days we will be walking around 270 kilometres, which will be about 30 kilometres a day. We are taking the scenic route. We are not going up the M1.

An honourable member: That is probably sensible.

Mr KELLY: It is probably a sensible thing. The nice thing is that my two sisters and three of my other brothers will join us as we march into Coolum. Everyone is welcome to participate. All members of parliament are very welcome to participate. We will be having a parliamentary drop-in for Parkinson's Queensland next sitting. It would be great to see members there. Of course, people can make donations and those who are interested can even join the walk.

As many do, I play hard in here. Most of us play hard in here. I give as good as I get; I would like to think that I probably give better than I get. Parkinson's does not care what colour is on your corflute. It does not care what your political views are. It will strike anyone at anytime. I was really pleased when the member for Glass House reached out. He has his own journey with Parkinson's. He has offered to join the walk for three days. That means a lot to me. It is greatly appreciated. I appreciate everything that everyone has done so far to support the walk. We can beat this with research. I hope that one day nobody else has to have the Parkinson's journey that my family has had.

The House adjourned at 6.31 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, 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, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Skelton, Smith, Stevens, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Watts, Weir, Whiting