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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, 12 May 2021

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WEDNESDAY, 12 MAY 2021


 The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

Mr Speaker (Hon. Curtis Pitt, Mulgrave) read prayers and took the chair.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I respectfully acknowledge that we are sitting today on the land of Aboriginal people and pay my respects to elders past and present. I thank them, as First Australians, for their careful custodianship of the land over countless generations. We are very fortunate in this country to have two of the world's oldest continuing living cultures in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples whose lands, winds and waters we all now share.

SPEAKER'S RULING


Tabled Papers, Out of Order

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, Standing order 233 provides that members should not refer in the House to matters awaiting or under adjudication in all courts exercising a criminal jurisdiction. Standing order 233 applies from the laying of criminal charges until the matter is disposed of by the court. I also remind members that making redactions using a texta proves ineffective, particularly when scanned for electronic publication. I refer members to previous rulings and statements in this regard.

Yesterday during adjournment statements the member for Surfers Paradise tabled a bundle of documents. The Deputy Speaker directed the clerks at the table to withhold tabling for a detailed review as to their compliance with standing orders. Following a further review, I have ruled that the tabled documents are out of order because the documents contain criminal charges contrary to the sub judice ruling in standing order 233, unparliamentary language and ineffective redactions. The member may wish to table the documents excluding the sub judice material and with appropriate redactions applied to the remainder of the documents. The Table Office can assist the member with this if necessary.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT


Parliamentary Friends of AFL

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on the Speaker's Green today from 1pm the Parliamentary Friends of AFL will be holding an event for members to meet with AFL and AFLW players. There will be an opportunity to get close with the Premiership Cup and discuss all things AFL with players from both the Brisbane Lions and Gold Coast Suns as well as members of the Brisbane Lions AFLW champion premiership team. There might even be an opportunity for a kick or two! I thank the co-chairs of the Parliamentary Friends of AFL, the Attorney-General and the member for Bonney, for hosting this event and I commend the event to the House.

Honourable members: Hear! Hear!

REPORT


Crime and Corruption Commission

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise that I have a report to table that I have received from the chairperson of the Crime and Corruption Commission. In accordance with section 69 of the Crime and Corruption Act 2001 a report titled *Investigation Arista: A report concerning the investigation into the Queensland Police Service's 50/50 gender equity recruitment strategy, May 2021*. I table the report for the information of members.

Tabled paper: Crime and Corruption Commission: Investigation Arista—A report concerning an investigation into the Queensland Police Service's 50/50 gender equity recruitment strategy, May 2021 [\[621\]](#).

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

School Group Tours

 **Mr SPEAKER:** I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Rochedale State School in the electorate of Mansfield, Jindalee State School in the electorate of Mount Ommaney, Robina State High School in the electorate of Mudgeeraba, and Murrumba State Secondary College in the electorate of Murrumba.

PETITIONS

The Clerk presented the following paper petition, sponsored by the Clerk—

Palliative Care

30 petitioners, requesting the House to urgently address Queensland's palliative care deficit and to follow the usual Standing Orders when the "voluntary assisted dying" bill is introduced to Parliament [\[622\]](#).

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


Wood-Burning Fires

278 petitioners, requesting the House to ban all indoor and outdoor wood burning fires [\[623\]](#).

Petitions received.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Federal Budget

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.35 am): Some of our fears about the federal budget have come true. Queensland has once again been overlooked for vital infrastructure spending. These are the facts: for infrastructure, yesterday we said that New South Wales got \$3 billion—in fact they got \$3.3 billion—South Australia, \$3.2 billion; and Victoria, \$3 billion. Queensland gets \$1.6 billion, half the spending of other states despite the fact that Queensland's population is the fastest growing in the country.


By 2025, on the federal government's own forecast, Queensland will have grown by 84,000 people moving from interstate. That is 84,000 people paying their taxes and deserving of their fair share. But we do not even get all of that \$1.6 billion now; we have to wait 10 years. This is an election budget, but the federal government's priorities are clearly in Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia.

Some of the budget is welcome. I will happily give credit where credit is due. There is a commitment to our fifty-fifty partnership for the Olympics if we are successful in being chosen as hosts later this year. There is increased funding for mental health, something I raised yesterday as well; more for women including funding for endometriosis and research into preterm births; and \$1.1 billion for women's safety. All of that is welcome. There is increased funding for aged care but, after the horrors revealed by the royal commission, this is well past due. We do not see anything to house the 600 people currently in hospital beds in our hospital system when they should be in aged-care homes. This would ease the burden in our hospitals in a single stroke of the pen.

Aged care is a federal government responsibility. I welcome higher incentives to retain regional and rural GPs, something we have also been raising. Additional tax cuts to low- and middle-income earners is welcome as well. So too is the commitment to train more apprentices and more support for child care, something that we are committed to as well. But where is the support for our tourism industry? Cairns and the Whitsundays will continue to battle the same economic headwinds this year as they did last year without the same support.


The Treasurer will detail the many ways the federal government continues to let down Queensland. I will talk about just one. The most glaring omission from last night's budget is regional quarantine. In this ongoing age of COVID, there are two things Australia needs: safety and certainty. Regional quarantine is our last hope for both. Returning stranded Australians from overseas, plugging the gaps in the labour market, the return of foreign students and the return of international travel when that eventuates are all problems solved by regional quarantine. Quarantine is a federal government responsibility that is being shouldered by the states. Our hotels were never designed for long-term quarantine. Our hotels are not hospitals. Last night the budget revealed that international borders will not open for another year. We support that because they need to be open when it is safe to do so. That is another Christmas before families see each other. Regional quarantine reunites families sooner.

Coronavirus, Update

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.38 am): In terms of our COVID daily update, today I can confirm that we have had three new cases, all overseas acquired and detected in hotel quarantine. There are 18 active cases. There have been 7,066 tests in the past 24 hours, and 162,239 total vaccines have been administered to date.

A man in his 30s has tested positive in Victoria. As a result, the Chief Health Officer has ordered anyone who has been at a venue where this man has been must isolate and get tested. Anyone arriving from Victoria after 1 am on Thursday who has been at one of those venues will have to go into hotel quarantine for 14 days. The list of the sites is currently on the Queensland Health website. These measures are the same as other states and identical to those implemented during recent outbreaks in New South Wales and Western Australia.

Nurses and Midwives


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.39 am): Every day in hospital and healthcare facilities throughout this state our dedicated nurses and midwives care for thousands of Queenslanders in our EDs, our children's wards, our nursing homes, everywhere in our health system. They have been on the front line of our COVID response, saving lives during the pandemic. Their tireless work is celebrated with this day in their honour, International Nurses Day. We pay tribute to their enormous contribution. It can be a thankless job and often means time away from their families and many sacrifices. I have seen firsthand the dedication and commitment of Queensland's nurses and midwives to ensure the best for those in their care. We are continuing to invest in frontline health staff. Since 2015, there are 7,500 more nurses and midwives. We have funded 400 nurse navigator positions. We have committed to an extra 5,800 nurses. We were only the fourth jurisdiction in the world to legislate nurse-to-patient ratios in our public hospitals for safer workloads and better outcomes.

In our aged-care facilities we require a minimum of 3.65 hours a day of nursing care to each resident. That means more nurses in those facilities. I welcome the nurses and midwives who are with us today in our public gallery and of course their great union secretary, Beth Mohle. Welcome, everyone. For their—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Member for Kawana, these are nurses and midwives, and we thank them for joining us here today. For their dedication and hard work today and every day, we say thank you.

Small Business

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.41 am): Running a small business is tough at the best of times, but COVID-19 has made that job even tougher for thousands of small business owners right across our state. This month marks Queensland Small Business Month. As members know, 97 per cent of Queensland businesses are small businesses. Many small business owners and their staff worked around the clock to keep their businesses running throughout the pandemic. They adapted and changed and we are so proud of the work that they have done and today we acknowledge the importance of small business to Queensland's economy.


Tonight the Minister for Small Business and many of our cabinet colleagues will join dozens of small business people to recognise their achievements at a Queensland parliamentary reception. I am proud to say that we are investing heavily in small business. At the election I unveiled our Big Plans for Small Business strategy aimed at supporting Queensland—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: When members to my left are finished worrying about their RSVPs—


Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes; thank you, Mr Speaker. During the election I unveiled our Big Plans for Small Business strategy aimed at supporting Queensland firms to scale up, grow and upskill their workers. We on this side of the House back small business, and small businesses know that Labor backs them. We are rolling out our \$140 million small business program. Applications for the Business Growth Fund are now open. The fund will provide grants of up to \$50,000 to help small businesses grow and create jobs. Our support for small business is an important part of our economic recovery plan for Queensland.

Public Service, Working Arrangements

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.43 am): One year ago COVID-19 changed the way we did things—the way we spend time with family and friends, the way we learn and the way we work. At the height of the pandemic and based on the expert medical advice of the Chief Health Officer, working from home became normal practice for many Queenslanders. This included some of our hardworking government employees. While doctors, nurses, police officers, teachers and many other frontline workers such as our paramedics delivered services from their usual place of work, some government workers who would usually work in the Brisbane CBD were instead working remotely. I have heard from CBD businesses and peak bodies about the impact this has had on local foot traffic and turnover. Our CBD businesses are doing it tough.

That is why I am pleased to confirm that, based on the latest health advice, Queensland government agencies are working on plans to return all staff safely to the workplace. For our own CBD businesses, this means more people buying their goods and services. It means more people buying coffee, breakfast, lunch, dinners, supporting local cafes, buying meals and more people doing a spot of shopping during their lunch break, supporting local retailers. It means more Queenslanders supporting Queensland businesses. It will also send a clear message to private sector businesses based in the CBD that now is the time to return to working in the CBD. Of course if there are any outbreaks we will always amend that advice based on the Chief Health Officer's advice, but at the moment it is safe to return to work. Agencies will work with individual employees should they have any certain circumstances that will need to be considered and we will always take account of the latest expert medical advice, but I want more Queenslanders supporting Queensland businesses.

Federal Budget

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (9.45 am): I begin my ministerial statement by acknowledging the mighty nurses and midwives of Queensland. One of the greatest honours you can have is to be the son of a nurse or midwife, and my late mother was both, so I want to acknowledge the outstanding health care that nurses and midwives provide to Queenslanders wherever they live in our great state.

The federal budget has ripped off Queensland. Yesterday we thought it was going to be bad, but now the federal budget has gone from bad to worse. We already knew we were being duded on the road and rail infrastructure spend, getting half of what the Morrison government was pouring into rust bucket states like South Australia, but it is even worse than we feared. It was already half of what South Australia was getting and now we learn it has been halved again. Only \$800 million of the announced funds are actually in the budget. Queenslanders are being held to ransom. You have to vote for Scott Morrison twice to get what we have been promised, but it is a different story if you live in a Liberal state. It is a very different story indeed. The Liberal states of New South Wales and South Australia get their billions paid in this budget while thousands pack and leave through net migration.

Mr Mander: What about Victoria?

Mrs D'Ath: What about Queensland?

Ms Palaszczuk: Yeah, what about Queensland?

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the Premier. Don't worry about Victoria, member for Everton; worry about Queensland! New South Wales gets \$1.4 billion in the budget. South Australia gets \$2 billion in the budget. They do not have to wait. If you are lucky enough to live in some Liberal MPs' electorates, you will get a chop out too—\$77 million to underwrite the Portland aluminium smelter in Victoria—foreign owned, doesn't matter, cash for you.

Meanwhile, Ken O'Dowd, the outgoing member for Flynn, has demonstrated his total irrelevance. He could not get one cent—not one dollar—for our Australian owned aluminium smelter in Gladstone. And they are not the only regional Queenslanders to miss out: nothing for the Bundaberg East flood levee, so thanks for nothing, Keith Pitt; nothing for Toowoomba's Wellcamp Entertainment Precinct, so thanks for nothing, member for Groom—whoever you are. The Sunshine Coast Stadium gets zero, so thanks for nothing, Andrew Wallace; and there is nothing allocated from the \$195 million owed to the people of Townsville, so thanks for nothing, Phillip Thompson. Queenslanders will only get what they need when they start making these federal LNP seats marginal.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DICK: While Queensland has been failed by this rotten rip-off budget, our nation has been failed by the hubris and incompetence of the Morrison government's botched vaccine rollout. Only last week the Reserve Bank of Australia said that our economic growth would be 3¼ per cent by 2023. The

federal Treasurer, Josh Frydenberg, has now wiped off three-quarters of a percentage point, with projected growth of just 2½ per cent. That cut in economic growth equates to \$25 billion in lost economic output which we can only assume is due to the Morrison government's failure to deliver the vaccine to Australia. What that means is our nation is \$25 billion poorer as a direct result of the federal government's failure to vaccinate Australians.

Despite this record of failure and economic mismanagement by the Morrison government, Queenslanders will be better off because they live in a state led by the Palaszczuk Labor government. Don't take my word for it; look at the federal budget papers themselves delivered by the federal LNP. The federal budget shows that 84 thousand—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left!


Mr DICK: The members opposite may like to listen: 84,600 Australians will move to Queensland on a net basis over the next four years.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members are aware that there is nothing contained in the standing orders that allows for interjections. I will tolerate a certain amount, but it is too high. Regardless of the statement being one which you may not like, it is a statement being made in accordance with the standing orders.

Mr DICK: The federal budget shows 84,600 Australians will move to Queensland on a net basis over the next four years. That is a city the size of Rockhampton that will be moving to Queensland. As the rest of the nation languishes with below-trend growth, these interstate arrivals will help support economic growth, but that growth in our population, leading the nation with interstate migration, will put more pressure on infrastructure which is exactly why Queensland has been so clearly ripped off by the Morrison government. We need more than other states, but we have received less. We needed better economic growth for the nation, but the Morrison government has delivered less. We needed more support for regional Queensland, but the federal government has failed on every single count. While the Morrison government fails our state, Queenslanders know the Palaszczuk Labor government will always stand up for them and their jobs.

Federal Budget, Infrastructure


 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) (9.50 am): Australia is at a crucial moment in our recovery from the pandemic. We are now well over a year into the COVID-19 pandemic but thanks to our health response we are 12 months, maybe more, ahead of other countries around the world when it comes to the post-pandemic recovery. Other countries will look to Australia and Queensland to see how we leveraged this head start, giving us an incredible opportunity to show the world what can be achieved. That is what makes last night's federal budget so important. For some reason though, the federal government want to spend their stimulus money anywhere but Queensland. The federal Treasurer announced about \$10 billion on major infrastructure projects over the next 10 years, but Queensland, the nation's fastest growing state, will only get \$1.6 billion of that. New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia will all get \$3 billion or more in federal funding for new projects.

Queenslanders just want their fair share. The Palaszczuk government knows investment in vital infrastructure will drive our state's recovery, resilience and confidence. Major infrastructure projects create thousands of jobs, which is exactly what will get our economy back up and running. Since 2015 we have invested over \$50 billion in infrastructure projects. The government's capital works and infrastructure program is increasing to more than \$56 billion over the next four years—the highest spend for over a decade. This will directly support diverse employment and economic activity across all regions, with \$14.8 billion worth of infrastructure investment in 2020-21 estimated to support 46,000 jobs. Over 58 per cent of the total jobs supported will be in regional Queensland. While we have a \$56 billion pipeline of projects over the next four years, last night's budget showed that over the next four years the federal government is only giving Queensland \$807.5 million of our promised \$1.6 billion. New South Wales and South Australia, both with LNP governments, get \$1.4 billion and \$2 billion respectively.

One of many lessons we have taken from COVID-19 is that we need to be flexible and resilient to deal with global health impacts and our usual suspects of natural disasters, changing demographics and population growth. Queensland is the place to be, recording our largest net migration since 2003 so why has the Morrison government opted to spend their borrowings in the southern states while Queensland is booming?

I would like to acknowledge that it is International Nurses Day. We would not have got through the pandemic without the hard work of every nurse who kept our system going. Some of them are in the gallery with us today and I would like to welcome them and thank them for everything they do every single day.

Federal Budget, Early Childhood Education

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.53 am): I too join in saying happy International Nurses Day. If I am ever sick, I am happy to be nursed by Queensland nurses.


Yesterday in this House I called on the federal government to provide certainty for Queensland families by ending the succession of short-term kindergarten funding agreements and provide a long-term national agreement. This is a matter I have spoken about many times in the House. I have always said that I would advocate for this for as long as it takes to get some action from the federal government. We know how important it is to give our kids access to high-quality kindergarten. The sector has been crying out for long-term funding certainty.

I raised the issue again at the recent education ministers meeting and wrote to Minister Tudge calling for action to end the succession of short-term funding agreements. Before Minister Tudge, I raised this issue with his predecessors, ministers Birmingham and Tehan. Last night finally we had a breakthrough. After two independent reviews and seven short-term extensions to kindergarten funding, the Morrison government has finally made a commitment to a four-year kindergarten funding agreement. We look forward to seeing further details of this announcement, including Queensland's funding allocation, and working with other jurisdictions to develop the initial four-year agreement.

As always, the Morrison government has had to be dragged kicking and screaming to do the right thing. It has taken them eight years of policy and funding neglect that has left the kindergarten sector and families unable to plan long term. Only when presented with a political problem have they acted. It is the same with childcare announcements that will not even start until July 2022. Childcare fees have rocketed around 36 per cent since 2013 under the coalition. In the past quarter alone they have soared 2.2 per cent, more than three times CPI, but there is not one cent of fee relief in the next 12 months and there is nothing at all for 750,000 families with one child in child care.

There is nothing new on education in the budget. It is a hotchpotch of cobbled-together items with no coherent national vision for education. I note the \$1.2 billion non-government schools Choice and Affordability Fund once again has not been extended to state schools—another missed opportunity. All we ask for is funding equity. I note there is \$10.7 million over four years for additional education resources for young Australians on the important issue of respectful relationships. I sincerely hope for the sake of our young Australians and students that we get better value for money than we did from the previous \$8 million that produced the milkshake consent videos. Our children and students deserve better.

Nurses and Midwives


 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.57 am): Today is International Nurses Day and I say thank you to all the amazing nurses around Queensland who do incredible work. Last week we celebrated International Day of the Midwife. Thank you to all our great midwives. Today in the gallery we are joined by nurses, midwives and Beth Mohle, state secretary of the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union. Welcome to the Queensland parliament.

On this International Nurses Day, I recognise nurses across the country and across the world. Many have lost their lives. It is devastating to see. Health workers are not only caring for people and seeing people dying in front of them, but across the globe they have been dying because of COVID. We acknowledge their incredible efforts and the loss to their families, their profession and their communities.

Queensland nurses and midwives are health leaders, delivering quality care to thousands of Queenslanders each and every day. This is an incredibly diverse profession, including specialist and aged-care nurses, nurse navigators, nurse practitioners and our mental health nurses, just to name a few. I acknowledge those who have been on the front line of our COVID response since February last year, those who did and continue to do our testing, those who stand up clinics quickly when we have community transmission to make sure that people are tested and we get those results as quickly as possible, those who have managed our hotel quarantine, those who have looked after our COVID patients and those who are now travelling around this great state of ours vaccinating people to keep us safe and allowing our economy to open up. I say thank you on behalf of the Palaszczuk government.


We recognise that nurses and midwives play a very important role in delivering high-quality services that are valued by Queenslanders. That is why since 2015 we have delivered 7,500 additional nurses and midwives and legislated nurse-to-patient ratios, which the Premier has talked about. That was a very important initiative that we are extremely proud of. This builds on the Palaszczuk government's longstanding commitment to bolster midwifery and nursing services, including \$50 million for 100 midwives and \$245 million for the nurse navigator initiative. In addition to delivering the 7½ thousand additional nurses and midwives, we created 400 nurse navigator positions. Once again I commend our nurses and midwives for their dedication and commitment in serving our community every day. On behalf of Queenslanders we say thank you.

Federal Budget, Health

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (10.00 am): While the Morrison government's latest budget includes welcome additional funding for aged care and mental health, it fails to give Queenslanders our fair share. The federal government also fails to address the Commonwealth's NDIS and aged-care failures that keep almost 600 Queenslanders in public hospital beds instead of in more appropriate care settings. The latest federal budget also fails Queensland on dental care by not extending the National Partnership Agreement on Public Dental Services, once again stringing us out and giving us funding only till March next year. Again the Morrison government is leaving thousands of Queenslanders who cannot access private dental care to fend for themselves, particularly those living in rural and regional Queensland. Also unaddressed in the federal budget is the ongoing exodus from private health care, which is adding further pressure to Queensland's public health system.

While the additional funding for mental health services is welcome, we want to see that money spent on real people in their communities. There is no point giving funding directly to providers that are absent from our rural, remote and regional communities. If there is no provider, there is no service. There is no point giving funding to providers that are not out in our communities. We need the money to get to the people who most need it. We need a federal budget that supports and strengthens health services for all Queenslanders. We simply want a federal budget and a federal government that will give Queensland its fair share and values Queensland, just as all Queenslanders do.

Federal Budget, Infrastructure

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.01 am): I also acknowledge our nurses and midwives. We have had a world-leading response to the COVID pandemic and nurses and midwives have played a crucial role in that. I thank them for all of their work to date and their continuing work.

Last night's federal budget is more proof that the federal LNP government is no longer the party of fiscal responsibility. The federal LNP are now the 'super spenders'—and it is the *Australian* saying that—piling on \$1 trillion worth of debt and focused only on winning the next election. The federal LNP may have an economic identity crisis; if only Queensland was getting a fair share of their super spending.

As we have seen so often before from the Morrison government, we get the big announcement and then we find out the bitter truth in the detail. Yesterday the member for Cairns and the member for Barron River would have been pleased to see \$240 million committed in the federal budget for the Cairns Western Arterial Road upgrade. We went to the last state election with a firm commitment. The Palaszczuk Labor government lead the way with a \$60 million commitment and we called on the federal government to support us to build four lanes to Smithfield. Last night we discovered that only one-third of the federal funding promised for the Cairns Western Arterial Road is actually in the budget, with the majority of it more than four years away—on the never-never.


As usual, Queensland loses out to the southern states and Queensland gets the raw deal on infrastructure spending. We see \$2 billion for a highway west of Sydney and \$2.6 billion for a motorway in rusty South Australia. We have seen the Morrison government promise \$2 billion for a fast train between Melbourne and Geelong, which is an announcement that within hours was dismissed by Victoria's transport infrastructure minister as a thought bubble. Of course, we remember that from Canberra there were zero dollars for Cross River Rail. There is \$2 billion for Victoria; zero here.

There are no sweetheart deals for Queensland in this disappointment of a federal budget. Queensland asked for \$800 million for the inland freight route but got only half of that. Only \$75 million of the promised \$400 million in federal funding for the inland freight route has been allocated for the next four years, that is, not even 20 per cent of the promise. We will have to wait for two federal elections

before most of the money gets out of Canberra and onto Queensland roads. Only half of the \$400 million promised for the Bruce Highway upgrade between Gladstone and Proserpine will be delivered within the next four years. There are also cuts to the federal maintenance spend, but you will not hear anything about that from those opposite. About 85,000 people are expected to move to Queensland in the next four years, which is how long Canberra has told Queenslanders to wait for half the federal funding promised for roads and rail in this budget—four years or more.

As usual the Palaszczuk Labor government will keep doing the heavy lifting on infrastructure investment. We will not sign up to deals to sell public assets like New South Wales did. The Queensland economy is strong because of the strong leadership of our Premier and this Labor government. We had strong leadership by our Premier and Deputy Premier when many times throughout 2020 the Prime Minister and others recklessly demanded that the borders be opened. Queenslanders remember. We remember who has form. Strong leadership means standing up for Queenslanders when it matters to protect their health, their jobs and our economy. This Premier and this government will never shy away from standing up for Queenslanders and fighting for a fair deal.

Federal Budget, Housing

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algera—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (10.05 am): I also acknowledge and pay tribute to Queensland's nurses and midwives. As a single mother of two very active sons, let me tell you I have had to depend on Queensland nurses many times. They are world class.


The budget delivered last night by the Morrison government has once again left vulnerable Queenslanders out in the cold. The Palaszczuk Labor government and stakeholders have been calling for the Morrison government to shoulder its responsibility and invest more in rental affordability initiatives, social housing and remote Indigenous housing. Those calls have fallen on deaf ears.

The Morrison government's big-budget housing package has nothing for those experiencing rental stress. It has no new money for those at risk of homelessness. It has nothing for remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to deal with overcrowding. There are no guarantees for the future of the National Rental Affordability Scheme except that it will end. We know that an enormous number of people are moving to Queensland and that is putting a lot of pressure on the private rental market. We are seeing more Queenslanders competing for rental accommodation and an increase in the number of vulnerable people who need housing support. But if anyone thought that this federal budget would be responsive to Queenslanders in need they would be sadly mistaken.

The Morrison government's big housing package is focused entirely on home ownership and that has not gone unnoticed. National Shelter has said that the budget continues the 'wilful disregard' the Morrison government has for investing in social and affordable housing and notes that instead they spruik the market while interfering in it and refuse to lift their share of investment in social and affordable housing that is so desperately needed. Mission Australia CEO, James Toomey, said that the Commonwealth government's absence of leadership on measures that are needed at a national level to end homelessness and increase affordable housing will force more people into homelessness. This federal government has turned its back on vulnerable people who cannot afford to buy a house and who are struggling just to pay the rent right now.

The Palaszczuk government is doing the heavy lifting when it comes to housing in this state. Our \$1.6 billion Housing Construction Jobs Program represents the biggest investment in social housing since World War II and will deliver 5,500 social housing and affordable homes by 2027. In the 2021 budget alone we have invested \$241 million to improve housing outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders including those living in remote communities. But where is Scott Morrison? He has left the field, vacated the space and left Queenslanders to fend for themselves. And from the opposition? Silence!

Federal Budget, Housing Construction

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement) (10.08 am): I too acknowledge Queensland's nurses and midwives and their union, the QNMU. I also acknowledge the statement made by my colleague the Minister for Communities and Housing because it highlights the truth about the Morrison government's budget and what it really means for Queensland tradies. This morning Queensland tradies, builders, architects and those in building product supply companies have woken to see that there is no plan from the federal government to sustain the housing construction market past the current COVID boom, and no plan to sustain jobs and support vulnerable Queenslanders.

Queensland has been calling on the Abbott, Turnbull and now Morrison governments to invest in housing affordability measures and support those at risk of homelessness by helping to address supply. Queensland has been calling on Canberra, as we heard, to come back to the table on the National Rental Affordability Scheme, on social housing and on Indigenous housing. It is not only vulnerable Queenslanders and remote Indigenous communities that the Morrison government has turned its back on budget after budget; this budget proves that the Morrison government has also turned its back on the 240,000 Queenslanders who work in the construction sector. It is undeniable that the conditions are good in the construction industry right now, but that cannot be expected to last forever, and there is no federal plan for what comes after.

To make matters worse, Treasurer Frydenberg believes that it was the coalition that created the construction boom. In fact, he claims, 'Our plan is working.' It is arrogant and delusional—as if the Morrison government somehow concocted the COVID pandemic, as if it is somehow responsible for Australians putting the cash that they saved in 2020 into their own properties, or looking now to cash in by putting their homes on the market while the boom is inflating prices.

Last night's budget bells the cat that it is an election budget, because a plan beyond the next 12 months would have meant a plan for a pipeline of work for the housing construction sector, but there is not. It should have delivered a fair share of job-creating investment. This budget is all about getting the Morrison government back into office and not about keeping Queensland tradies in jobs.

There is no money in the Morrison budget to forgive Queensland's historical housing debt in the same way as they have done for the Liberal states of South Australia and Tasmania. If they had done it here, it would have allowed for a pipeline of construction of over 950 social and affordable homes and a pipeline of work for Queensland tradies beyond the COVID induced boom.

You could say that Scott Morrison has missed the opportunity, that all he cares about is getting past the next election or that all he cares about is his job and not the jobs of Queensland tradies. Had Scott Morrison really had a plan for Queensland tradies beyond his own election, he would have matched the Palaszczuk government's funding for remote Indigenous housing. He would have included \$1.08 billion over 10 years for remote Indigenous housing to match our investment in a sector that offers jobs, apprenticeships and economic activity in remote economies where new housing plays such a significant role.

If the Morrison government was not so blindly ideologically opposed to supporting the most vulnerable in Queensland, it would have increased investment into social housing construction and it would have outlined a plan to fill the gap after the end of NRAS. That would have been a genuine plan to avoid a boom-bust cycle for the construction industry. For the Morrison government, it is only about the election cycle.

When the heat does eventually come out of the housing market, it will be only this Palaszczuk Labor government, and not the Morrison government, that is applying any effort, any real investment, and that will come through our \$56 billion Queensland pipeline of construction to keep Queensland tradies in work.

Federal Budget, Women and Girls



Hon. SM FENTIMAN (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.12 am): The year 2021 has given women across Australia their voice—a chance to call out inequality and outdated attitudes and to share their experiences with toxic culture. These brave, courageous women spoke up and said enough is enough, and they took this all the way to Canberra.

I welcome the federal government's investment in women and girls in the 2021 budget, and I thank them for their investment, but last night the real thanks should have gone to the incredible movement of women across the country who marched, spoke out and said, 'See us, hear us and believe us.' Because of these women, including many of our wonderful nurses and midwives, the national conversation is now focused on women's safety, women's health and women's economic recovery. I welcome the much needed funding for women's health, the commitment for a national partnership for domestic violence frontline service funding and additional childcare funding, and I also want to thank the Premier for putting these issues firmly on the national cabinet agenda.

We know that women were some of the hardest hit economically from the pandemic and continue to face ongoing challenges. Whilst I welcome emergency payments for women to leave violent relationships, what about paid domestic and family violence leave? One of the biggest barriers for women leaving these relationships is fearing that they will lose their jobs due to violence. Again, whilst

I welcome the increase in funding for domestic and family violence services—\$250 million per year—this funding is then cut by 99 per cent, down to just \$2.3 million, in 2025-26. I know we all hope that violence against women will have ended by then, but I think we are going to need much more money in the system to continue to support our frontline services.


We know that older women in particular, the fastest growing group of homeless people in our country, are victims of domestic and family violence. We need affordable housing so they can re-establish their lives. As the Minister for Housing has said, where is the housing investment? As QCOSS has said—

The federal budget was a missed opportunity to act on the housing crisis. We were disappointed to see no funding in this budget to build more social housing in Queensland.

We are also still waiting for the federal government to finally ensure that superannuation is paid on paid parental leave. How is paid parental leave the only leave on which superannuation is not paid? That means that women continue to be financially disadvantaged and left insecure. As Annabel Crabb said about the budget last night—


It's probably as close as you'll ever get to an apology from the Treasurer and the Prime Minister, and an acknowledgement that they got the gender balance badly wrong six months ago.

ABSENCE OF MINISTER

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.15 am): I advise that the Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs will be absent from the House today due to illness. The Premier and Minister for Trade will take any questions relating to the minister's portfolio in question time today.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance


 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (10.15 am): I give notice that I will move—

1. The House notes with concern:
 - (a) many Queenslanders have expressed serious concerns about the housing affordability crisis gripping Queensland;
 - (b) congestion on South-East Queensland roads is choking every day;
 - (c) there has been a chronic lack of infrastructure investment by the Labor government over the past six years;
 - (d) the Labor government is failing to meet its own targets for new social housing dwellings;
 - (e) the Labor government does not have an adequate plan for addressing demand pressures resulting from interstate migration growth, now or even before COVID;
 - (f) the Labor government does not have any plan for addressing housing affordability in the general housing and rental markets; and
2. The House calls on the Labor government to:
 - (a) build new infrastructure Queenslanders need and deserve;
 - (b) protect the lifestyles Queenslanders expect and deserve; and
 - (c) prioritise new infrastructure investment to support housing supply to ensure new homes and rental stock is affordable.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, question time will conclude today at 11.17 am.

Ambulance Service, Response Times

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (10.17 am): With the indulgence of the House, I pay my respects to the hardworking nurses on the front line on this significant day for them.

My question is to the Premier. Ambo insiders say that Monday was the worst service day in history, with no spare crews leading to some 12-hour delays. Stories have also come to light of an 18-year-old woman dying from a brain haemorrhage and another woman watching her husband die from a heart attack, both desperately waiting for an ambulance to arrive. Is Labor losing control of Queensland Health?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. Yesterday the health minister announced a \$100 million package looking at how we can relieve some of the pressures on our hospitals in Queensland. As I said to the Leader of the Opposition and to this parliament yesterday, I have placed this issue on the national cabinet agenda for next month. This issue is not unique to Queensland; it is—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, I have been very clear that when a minister, in this case the Premier, is being responsive to the question asked, I expect that the answer will be listened to. I hear nothing in the Premier's answer that warrants the reaction from members on my left.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I say in respect of the two cases that the Leader of the Opposition raised that I extend my sympathies to the families. No-one wants to see tragedies in this state. I know that our hardworking paramedics are doing the best they possibly can. We value them and acknowledge them. That is why we are planning to increase the number of paramedics in our state.

That is why our government is also firmly committed to building seven new satellite hospitals in South-East Queensland. I can advise the House that I have already convened a meeting about this and said I want these satellite hospitals built within two years. I have made it absolutely clear to our hardworking public servants that these are a priority for our government—announced at the election and to be delivered within two years. Planning is currently underway. We have identified sites. We want to see these satellite hospitals constructed because we know that if people can access services closer to home that relieves the pressure on our hospitals. Over the next four years around 800 beds will be added with the expansion of Logan, Caboolture and Ipswich hospitals. Planning is in place.

As the Leader of the Opposition asked for the indulgence of the House, I would like to ask for the indulgence of the House. When I talk about how much we value our nurses and midwives in this state, I find it ironic that the Leader of the Opposition talks about nurses and midwives when they sacked nurses in this state.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr Brown interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right, and they started in his hometown of Townsville. The most savage cuts were made in Townsville. No wonder he left Townsville and went to the Gold Coast.

(Time expired)

Ambulance Service, Response Times

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Minister for Health. An insider has told the opposition last week that, in relation to a death in southern Brisbane, a family member made multiple calls over an hour before a single office supervisor showed up with no defibrillator due to an equipment shortage. The patient later died. Hospitals in meltdown and lengthy delays for ambulances: is this the new benchmark for Queensland Health?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for his question. It is a very serious issue. My condolences go to the family. If the Leader of the Opposition is happy to forward me the details, I am happy to ask the Queensland Ambulance Service to look at the circumstances around that.

Mr Bleijie: I did that three weeks ago but no response.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left, the Minister for Health is being responsive to the question asked.

Mrs D'ATH: I will take the interjection from the member for Kawana. The response he gave me was quite a flippant response when asking for details. If I recall correctly, he said he was not going to give me details. I am happy—

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: We saw it yesterday and we are seeing it again today. On such serious issues, the way they have this tag line at the end of everything and talk down the system—

Mrs Frecklington: This is a serious issue.

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

Ms Bates: Patients are dying. It is serious.

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

Mrs D'ATH: We would think that when it comes to such a serious issue that those on the other side would be willing to listen to their own advice. The member for Mudgeeraba said on radio yesterday that we need to look at the underlying factors as to why we are seeing unprecedented surges over what we normally see.

Mr Crisafulli: Nurses. Ambos. They are calling us, asking questions.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: The Leader of the Opposition—

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. The Leader of the Opposition will cease his interjections. The member for McConnel will cease her interjections. I will not tolerate that sort of bickering across the chamber.

Mrs D'ATH: The Leader of the Opposition is sitting there talking about nurses and doctors and suddenly claiming to be their champion when he sat around the cabinet table and made decisions to sack them—4,400 health workers and 1,800 frontline nurses and midwives. To this day I still remember the phone calls I had and the conversations I had with nurses.

Mr Bleijie: People are dying.

Ms Leahy interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Kawana and member for Warrego, you are both warned under the standing orders. As I hear the answer, the minister is being responsive to the question asked. Minister, you have 51 seconds remaining. I ask that you please round out your answer in accordance with the standing orders.

Mrs D'ATH: The Leader of the Opposition can frown and scream at me as much as he wants, but when he wants to sit down and get a proper briefing on the issues in the health system and when he wants to stand up and start asking questions of the Morrison government about what they are going to do—

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: Apparently the Leader of the Opposition believes the Commonwealth does not have a role when it comes to health care in this state—no role whatsoever. If we want bed capacity we need the almost 600 people who are taking up beds today to be—

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am metres away from the speaker and I cannot hear a word that is being said.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, that is not a point of order. I am listening very carefully to the answer. I can still hear—acknowledging that there are significant interjections—the minister.

Mrs D'ATH: There should be some recognition by those on the other side—even if they do not take the government's word for it—that there are many spokespersons, many health professionals, many stakeholders, including those in the gallery today, who have said that we can free up almost 600 beds now if the Commonwealth steps in.

(Time expired)

Federal Budget

Ms BOYD: My question is of the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier update the House on what was in last night's federal budget for Queensland and how it compares to other states?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Pine Rivers for that very important question. I know that the member for Pine Rivers and every single government member here believes that Queensland should get its fair share from the federal government. Perhaps on the other side they want to back their colleagues in South Australia and New South Wales. We hear nothing from those opposite about standing up for Queensland and demanding our fair share from the Morrison government. As we said earlier today, some 80,000 people are projected to move here. We cannot blame people for wanting to move to Queensland—the best state in the nation, with a government that cares about them and their families.

The first step is to start getting extra funding from the federal government when it comes to infrastructure in this state. Let me go through it again just in case those opposite missed it earlier. New South Wales is getting \$3.3 billion. South Australia is getting \$3.2 billion. Victoria is getting \$3 billion. We get \$1.6 billion and really, when we look at the forward estimates—

Dr Miles: You have to wait 10 years.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We have to wait 10 years. There is only about \$800 million over the next four years. That is absolutely disgraceful. We hear those opposite talking about health. I would like to see some funding from the federal government for our aged-care residents who are currently in hospital. That would free up 600 beds immediately.

Do we see those opposite talking to those in Canberra? No. Do we see those opposite advocating anything in the federal budget? No. There is silence from those opposite. We know that the Leader of the Opposition likes outsourcing to the member for Kawana. If you are listening to the member for Kawana for advice, I can tell you that you are going down the wrong track. You listened for the last three or four years and you got nowhere and now you are listening again.

Mr Crisafulli: Barely a giggle!

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am glad the Leader of the Opposition interjected because the old gang is getting back together. When it comes to going back to the future, they have the former health minister Lawrence Springborg coming back to give advice and of course we know who the Leader of the Opposition's hero is: Campbell Newman. Campbell Newman is coming back as well. There is no future vision. They are not looking to the future. They are looking to the past. I think all of those opposite should take a deep long look at the structure of their party and get their own house in order.

(Time expired)

Ambulance Service, Response Times

Ms BATES: My question is to the Minister for Health. Another QAS insider has told of another tragic death. A patient with life-threatening sepsis on the Gold Coast waited two hours for an ambulance and died 20 minutes after arrival at GCUH. Is Labor losing control of Queensland Health?

Mrs D'ATH: I know that the opposition are probably going to spend all of today once again—

Mr Crisafulli: Yes, asking questions.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mrs D'ATH:—giving individual examples without any particular specifics or time frames or anything for me to be able to follow up in any genuine way. This is more about playing politics than it is about caring about the health system.

Yesterday I stood in this House and I went through in detail our commitment of \$100 million to start assisting with some of these pressures on top of our record health budget—on top of the biggest investment and increases in health staff. Since we came into government we have continued to increase investment. In fact, we have put us in the best position we can. Even overnight there were more media reports from interstate. In South Australia there was another example of a family talking about two-hour waits for ambulances and everything else.

This is a national issue. There needs to be a national conversation about what is happening right now across the system. Even what was announced in the federal budget is not going to fix our GP problems. The increase in bulk-billing incentives for regional and remote doctors is not going to help if you cannot get a bulk-billing GP in Pumicestone, on Bribie Island. That is not going to help in any of our areas. We are still going to see these pressures grow.

We announced \$100 million yesterday. I outlined in detail what those initiatives are. We are very proud that we are putting them in place. We came up with this list based on consulting—consulting with key stakeholders, with the workforce, with the HHSs and with Queensland Health—to find a pathway forward while we still look at the longer term reforms that need to happen in the health system both in our state and in the national system.

Federal Budget, Tourism and Infrastructure

Mr HUNT: My question is of the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier update the House on tourism funding in last night's federal budget and funding for regional infrastructure?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Caloundra for his question—and what a great local member he is. Isn't it wonderful to have some Labor members on the Sunshine Coast! I hope next time we will have even more, especially with the lazy opposition we have over there. Over here we have a hardworking government and a local member who is delivering. Over there we have an opposition where no-one knows what they are doing—not one person knows. They cannot even turn up to the opening of Beef Australia. Sorry, one person turned up.

Mr Minnikin: Numbers aren't their strong point.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Come on. I didn't see you there, member for Chatsworth. I didn't see the member for Clayfield there.

Mr Crisafulli: How many hours were you there?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I think I was there for about four or five hours on the first day and—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Two days!

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Premier, you would be assisting the House if you answered the question as asked, as opposed to an interjection.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members to my left!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Of course we know how important an upgrade of the Sunshine Coast Stadium is for the Sunshine Coast. Do we hear anything from the member for Kawana or the member for Maroochydore about the need for the upgrade of the Sunshine Coast Stadium? No, we hear nothing and there is absolutely nothing in the budget. On this side of the House we are prepared to commit \$20 million. I understand that the women's State of Origin is going to be played there very shortly. That is going to be wonderful. I am looking forward to going and supporting that game, supporting our women at the Sunshine Coast Stadium. There is nothing from those opposite and nothing from the federal government.

When it comes to tourism, there was not much for the tourism sector in the budget. We know how much our tourism sector has been hurting, especially with the international borders being shut. In fact, Daniel Gschwind, the CEO of the Queensland Tourism Industry Council, said that it was 'hard to find highlights in the budget' and that 'it will certainly be a challenge for us to find a way through the next year and beyond for our industry'. Of course we want to make sure that our tourism industry gets through this—as well, we welcome the apprenticeships—but there is no more funding for other regional activities and infrastructure across the state. In fact, we know that the Wellcamp Entertainment Precinct would be really good for the region, but there is no funding from the federal government for that. No-one is advocating on that side for it either. We will back the regions. Those opposite will do nothing.

(Time expired)

Ambulance Service, Response Times

Mr PURDIE: My question is to the Minister for Health. A QAS whistleblower has told the opposition of a paramedic being despatched on foot to a case in bayside Brisbane because a vehicle was not available at the time. Is Labor losing control of the health system?

Mr DICK: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The honourable member is asking for an opinion on the state of the health system contrary to standing order 115(c)(i). I ask you to rule accordingly.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! I will take advice from the table and members will sit in silence. As has been the case with the questions that have been asked today, I have given a degree of latitude to the minister responding. The question, whilst not seeking a direct opinion, still has relevance to the portfolio responsibilities that the government has control of. I ask the health minister to respond to the question. Again, I will provide that latitude, as I have throughout the questions being asked today.

Mrs D'ATH: As I outlined yesterday and as I outlined in my previous answer, in addressing the pressures that we are seeing with our ambulances, with our emergency departments and with our bed capacity across the hospital system, we announced a package of \$100 million yesterday which we will be rolling out across the state where those high demands are to address the issues.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, you have had a good crack today. You are warned under the standing orders.

Federal Budget, Infrastructure

Mr SMITH: My question is of the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on what the federal government budget means for infrastructure, particularly for my hardworking electorate of Bundaberg?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Bundaberg for his question. He knows only too well how important infrastructure projects are to his region to create jobs and deliver flood resilience to protect people's homes and businesses.

We have already heard a lot about how disappointing the Morrison government's budget last night was for Queenslanders. It was disappointing that they only delivered \$1.6 billion out of \$10 billion to Queensland. It was disappointing that we will only get \$800 million of that over the next four years and we will have to wait up to 10 years to get the rest. It was disappointing that they prioritised spending in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia, where they will all get more than \$3 billion. It is disappointing that little old South Australia gets \$1.4 billion over the forwards alone—so much more than the \$800 million committed to us—and it was deeply disappointing that there were zero dollars allocated in the budget for the No. 1 flood resilience project for Queensland: the Bundaberg East flood levee.

The Palaszczuk government has committed \$42.5 million to this project. We have undertaken a comprehensive investigation with experts who have determined that it is the most appropriate project and it will reduce the risk of flooding for 600 buildings. It will support 600 jobs. It is strongly supported by the Palaszczuk government, strongly supported by the member for Bundaberg, strongly supported by the Bundaberg community, and strongly supported by the mayor of Bundaberg, Mr Jack Dempsey, and his council. I understand that it is even supported by the member for Burnett.

The only person standing in the way of this project is Keith Pitt, the federal member. It is astounding that a federal member of parliament would stand in the way of a project that will stop 600 homes in his electorate from being flooded. He is effectively demanding that those families and businesses should have to risk flooding. In fact, do you know what his answer is? 'We should evacuate them faster.' That is his answer. There is no concern for the loss of property and the risk to life. He is standing in the way of this incredibly important investment.

On this side of the House we will never abandon the people of Bundaberg like the Morrison government has. We will never say that 600 homes should be left at risk and that the answer is just to get people out more quickly. We support the Bundaberg East flood levee, and it is about time the Morrison government did the same.

Hospitals, Wait Times

Dr ROWAN: My question is to the health minister. Carol from Ipswich contacted the opposition to say that she was recently taken to Ipswich Hospital. Carol waited for five hours in a hallway with two paramedics who could not leave to attend to other sick and injured Queenslanders. Is Carol's story a result of Labor losing control of Queensland Health?

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I will ask for a ruling. It appears that for the last two days the opposition is asking the same question over and over again. They slightly tinkered with that one, but they are asking the same question. There is a different preamble, but it is the same question over and over again. I ask that the question be ruled out of order.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left, I am listening to the minister's response. I need to hear that response, as does Hansard. The interjections will cease. Members will start being warned or alternatively asked to leave the chamber immediately under the standing orders.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I was seeking your ruling as to the same question being asked. Although it is a different preamble, the same question is being asked of me every time the opposition stands up. Under the same question rule, I ask for your ruling as to whether this question should be ruled out of order.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, on the point of order, you have ruled previously on the Treasurer raising an issue, but in this question the preamble extended into the question about Carol's heartfelt story, so it actually was a completely different question. We have not asked about Carol's story. There are plenty of bad stories, I can tell you, but that one about Carol—

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member. We do not need to have any editorialising during this period. Minister, I will consider your comments. I will not be making a ruling at this point. I am satisfied with the question asked in this instance and I will pay attention to future questions as is appropriate.

Mrs D'ATH: As I have answered previously to very similar—if not identical—questions, we have committed to \$100 million. Let me go through that again for the benefit of the opposition, shall I? From that \$100 million there is \$7.2 million to open an additional 26 beds at Ipswich Hospital; \$5.3 million for an additional 13 beds at West Moreton—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members, I hear the minister's response and I believe she is being responsive to the question asked.

A government member interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: I take that interjection. If you keep asking the same question I will keep giving you the same answer. There is \$7.1 million for an additional 26 beds at QEII Hospital; \$20 million for winter bed funding to open more beds in areas with the most demand—on top of the \$25 million we have already committed to, \$15 million of that opening up or purchasing 130 extra beds—\$15 million to permanently expand Hospital in the Home services; \$10 million to permanently expand Residential Aged Care Support Services—both initiatives we brought in as part of COVID, and we see the benefits of these initiatives and we are embedding them into the system going forward—\$5 million to pilot targeted expansions of post-acute services; and \$4 million to support appropriate discharge of long stay patients from hospital and ensuring they receive continued care in the right setting. I would like to talk about this.

Dr Rowan interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Moggill is warned under the standing orders. Comments will be directed through the chair.

Mrs D'ATH: That is \$4 million we should not have to find in our budget because it is a Commonwealth responsibility. I cannot wait any longer for the Commonwealth to do something about these people who are taking up beds and who should be rightly cared for either at home, in aged care or in a nursing home. There is \$4 million to expand our mental health co-responder model, which we know has great success; \$6.5 million reinvestment in successful programs delivered through the Care in the Right Setting Funding Program; \$5 million for a targeted expansion of the Transfer Initiative Nurse model—I thank the nurses for that—to support getting our ambulances back on the road faster. Thank you so much, because I know that is an important initiative.

Compare the over \$21 billion record budget of the Palaszczuk government to the cut of \$1.6 billion by those opposite when they were in government. The member for Broadwater at the time—who was not the member for Broadwater then—as a regional member said, 'This is an honest and responsible budget that will deliver lasting benefits to regional Queensland.' That is what they think of pulling \$1.6 billion out of the budget while we are putting over \$21 billion in—and an additional \$100 million—and investing in more doctors and nurses when they cut 4,400 health workers and 1,800 frontline nurses and midwives. Those on the other side have no credibility on this point. They can stand up and they can tell their stories, but the fact is they do not invest in health: a Labor government does.

Federal Budget, Infrastructure

Mr SKELTON: My question is of the Treasurer and Minister for Investment. Will the Treasurer update the House on the federal government's commitment to deliver vital infrastructure for Queensland, including my hardworking region of the Sunshine Coast?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Nicklin for his question and the hard work he is doing representing his community in the Queensland parliament. It is good to get a question on the federal budget. I do not know if any of those members were watching last night. Maybe they were watching *Beverly Hills Cop* on 9Go!

The heat is on, and the LNP at a state level simply cannot deliver for Queensland. The member for Nicklin and the member for Caloundra are distinguishing themselves in this parliament because they are finally standing up for the Sunshine Coast, which was represented for years by do-nothing state LNP MPs.

Last night the federal budget was a slap in the face to every LNP voter in this state who has backed in Scott Morrison through thick and thin. We saw how the federal budget went from bad to worse: half-baked, half-priced infrastructure that was halved again. Now it is quarter-priced and completely undercooked, and the Sunshine Coast was not spared. Even though the Sunshine Coast has wall to wall federal LNP MPs, guess how many times the words 'Sunshine' and 'Coast' appeared in the federal budget? Zero, Mr Speaker; they did not appear. The Sunshine Coast Stadium is doomed. Two fine Queenslanders, Roy Thompson and Rod Forrester, want to invest \$11 million. We put \$20 million in our economic recovery plan and our budget to support that. There is nothing from the federal coalition.

What did Andrew Wallace, the federal member for Fisher, say? He said, 'I need them to keep their money on the table.' No, Andrew Wallace. You needed to do your job and get Scott Morrison to stomp up for the people who voted for you. Up in Townsville, what do we hear from Phil Thompson? In the paper he is trying to defend the fact that Townsville got nothing; instead, he said that the budget is good for the country. Memo to Phil Thompson: you don't represent Australia; you represent Townsville and you got absolutely nothing for them. It has been 282 days since he said on radio when I was in Townsville that he would deliver \$195 million for that community, that it was locked in, but he has delivered nothing nine months later.

As a former Townsville MP, you would have thought the member for Broadwater would have known a bit about supporting Townsville and not abandoning it like he did. That is exactly what Scott Morrison has done. I did not move 1,400 kilometres. I moved 14—that is what I did—and my vote has gone up every election. The Leader of the Opposition sits mute and absurd and says nothing about the federal coalition. He would talk about anything except the federal budget. Why? Because he has done nothing to deliver for Queensland.

Let me say this in conclusion. There is only one thing worse than Scott Morrison's rotten rip-off of Queensland, and that is a Leader of the Opposition who has no backbone and will not do anything to stand up for Queensland.

Mr SPEAKER: I think in the last part there might have been some language that could be considered unparliamentary. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr DICK: I withdraw.

Hospitals, Wait Times

Mr MICKELBERG: My question is to the Minister for Health. Twelve-year-old Abby from Buderim has suffered in pain and has been restricted to crutches for the last eight months while waiting for an initial orthopaedic appointment at Sunshine Coast University Hospital. Abby is a category 2 priority which should be treated within 90 days. How much longer does Abby have to suffer waiting for treatment? Is an eight-month wait the new benchmark for Queensland Health?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for his question. Obviously, I do not have the circumstances of that individual in front of me, but can I say there was one example given by the member for Mudgeeraba yesterday where it was claimed in the question that a woman had broken hips or a broken pelvis while she waited. I have been able to clarify that is not correct. They were seeking a hip replacement but this person was not waiting with broken hips. I was asked today—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms Bates interjected.

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

Whereupon the honourable member for Mudgeeraba withdrew from the chamber at 10.52 am.

Mrs D'ATH: One of the questions put to me earlier claimed that a supervisor from the Queensland Ambulance Service showed up without a defibrillator. That was the comment made. I can advise the House that that is incorrect. It was a case at Woolloongabba. The supervisor arrived on scene two minutes before the crew and she commenced CPR. She did have a defibrillator but chose to do CPR as the crew was close by. This is how QAS would approach this case.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Buderim.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Buderim, I am not sure whether you could not hear me because no-one could hear what was happening over your interjections but you will leave the chamber under standing order 253A. I have given clear guidance that members will be leaving immediately if they do not adhere to the standing orders. You will leave the chamber for one hour under standing order 253A.

Whereupon the honourable member for Buderim withdrew from the chamber at 10.53 am.

Mrs D'ATH: These issues are being put to me in question time without the detail around them for me to actually be able to fact check the circumstances, and often there is a lot of context around these issues. It is too convenient to come in here and say, 'This person has been waiting on this list for this long.' In fact, in relation to the patient and the hip replacement, it was the public health system that

diagnosed she needed a hip replacement. She had gone to a private orthopaedic specialist but they did not diagnose the problem, and when she came to the public health system we did. We put her on the surgical list to get fixed.

I respect every person who raises an issue and concern in relation to the health system, but you can understand why I will be a little bit cautious in accepting the premise of the questions that are being put to me without the factual information around them. If those opposite genuinely want to help any individual who raises these issues with them, by all means provide the accurate information to my office so I can follow up with the relevant HHS or the Queensland Ambulance Service to get an accurate response back to them. I think that is a reasonable way to manage these issues and I am happy to do that. I ask members if they have genuine issues raised by constituents or individuals who have had an experience and they are seeking a response to please provide those to my office.

Federal Budget, Workers

Mr BROWN: My question is of the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Will the minister update the House on how the federal budget has failed workers?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for Capalaba. He knows how important it is that we provide for working people in this country and particularly working people in this state. Under the federal budget, there is not much for working people. We are still seeing women in very precarious employment situations, and it is getting worse. There is nothing in the budget at all to support the changing of part-time, casual and precarious employment that has been very much at the centre of the COVID-19 health pandemic when we found that a lot of these workers were missing out or losing their jobs.

It is disappointing that there is nothing in the budget about criminalising wage theft. They made a commitment to do it. We have done it here in this state but there is nothing at the federal level. There is nothing about labour hire licensing laws. We did it here in the state. We were the first state to do so, but there is nothing in the federal budget. We criminalised industrial manslaughter but there is nothing for health and safety in the federal budget. We restored injured workers' rights and we continue to provide for working women as well. There is nothing in the budget about portable long service leave, there is nothing in the budget about paid parental and domestic violence leave, and there is nothing in the budget with regards to making sure there is gender equality in the workplace with sexual violence and the like.

There is a bigger slap in the face. You have to take notice of those opposite. Instead of raising sensitive issues to do with their constituents who may have had an issue with their health, they come in here, they mix it all up and they use it as a political tool. It just goes to show that in reality they do not care one bit. The member for Buderim raised an issue about one of his constituents but he did not raise it directly to get immediate help for that person. Instead he came in here and used it for political purposes and that is absolutely disgraceful, but that is what we get from those opposite. Time and time again, we have an 'insider' who said certain things. The 'insider' said there was no defibrillator. The 'insider' said that someone was waiting for different time frames with a broken hip et cetera.

There is no substance to what they are saying, just like they have no substance when it comes to looking after working people in this state or in this country. It is a disgrace that they come in here, during a world health pandemic, making up stories or exaggerating those stories for cheap political pointscoring. You are a disgrace. You deserve to be over there. While you take orders from the Leader of the Opposition—

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

Ms GRACE:—you will continue to be there.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, I tried to give you some guidance. You were in full flight, granted, but you are warned under the standing orders. Comments will be directed through the chair for the very reason that you have just demonstrated.

Health System

Mr JANETZKI: My question is directed to the Minister for Health. The federal budget last night allocated more funding for hospital services to Queensland than any other state on a per capita basis. Given the health minister also announced \$100 million to tackle—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I am sorry, member. Members to my right, I have asked that questions be heard in silence. Member for Sandgate, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Toowoomba South, you may wish to start your question again.

Mr JANETZKI: The federal budget last night allocated more funding for hospital services to Queensland than any other state on a per capita basis. Given the health minister also announced \$100 million to tackle immediate ramping issues yesterday, where now is the minister's plan to address the systemic problems inside Queensland Health?

Mrs D'ATH: Finally they make mention of the federal budget. Instead of identifying where all of the gaps and deficiencies are, of course those opposite say, 'Look how great the Morrison government is.' What a surprise! I do not accept the premise of the question. I will check for myself as to whether we are actually getting a good deal. In direct answer to the member's question, what I do know is that we do not see anything in the budget about closing the gap on health equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. I am very proud of what we are doing for our First Nations people with our health equity policy, underpinned by health legislation. We are the only jurisdiction in the country to underpin our health equity policy and to be closing the gap on health outcomes through legislation.

Mr Bleijie: Where's the plan, Minister?

Mrs D'ATH: I will take that interjection because their plan was three dot points, including, 'Let's have real-time data on emergency departments so people can start shopping around which ED they go to.' Sure, that will fix the problem!

We have already talked about the \$100 million that we are putting in to open up beds as well as a range of other initiatives to deal with those bottlenecks that exist in our system. There is the beds, what we are doing in emergency departments, how we get people from the ambulances and freeing up our ambulances. We are committing \$1.6 billion in health infrastructure, but the federal budget does not have anything—

Mr Dick: This year. One year, not 10 years. One year.

Mrs D'ATH: That is just this year alone, but where is any money from the Commonwealth to build an extra hospital in Queensland? Where is any recognition of population growth to give us the infrastructure we need for population growth in Queensland? Where is that in the federal budget? Those on the other side have gone really quiet on this now. They have been screaming all day at me, but no, they go really quiet when I ask: where is the money for health equity for First Nations people? Where is the money for getting people out of hospitals and into aged-care beds? Where is the investment in our regions for our GPs, which cannot be solved simply by bulk-billing; it has to be more than that.

As I just said, we have a number of strategies in place that are all public documents. Those opposite say, 'Where's the plan?' We put out a two-page press release with all the dot points. Those opposite put out—I would not call it a press release—something on a website after the media said, 'You said you had a plan. Where is it?' Then they put something out with three dot points and said, 'This is what we're thinking of.' We have a plan. We outlined our \$100 million yesterday. By all means I would encourage those opposites to have a read of it.

(Time expired)

Federal Budget, Health

Mrs MULLEN: My question is of the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Would the minister provide more information on the importance of investing in our health system and what the federal government's budget really means for Queenslanders?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for Jordan. I would like to say a little bit more about the federal budget. We saw funding for the COVID vaccination program announced last night in the budget. We expect this will equate to about \$102 million for Queensland based on our 20 per cent population share, and there was talk about the increased purchase of vaccines. What we do not know is whether this money is just for the vaccines that they have already announced they were going to purchase—the \$20 million extra for Pfizer they announced a few weeks ago—or is this extra on top of that?

As health ministers we have not been told what any of this money means. This is not something that you can announce and then say, 'Okay. Over the coming weeks and months we will work through the detail.' It is here and now. In terms of this vaccination rollout, if there are more vaccines to come, that is great; I welcome it. However, which vaccine? When are we getting it? How much are we getting? We need to know this so we can prepare for it. We will need to renegotiate how the rollout is to occur and how we plan for it if there are more vaccines. I will be very keen to hear from the Commonwealth what their plans are.

I turn now to the extra money in aged care. The federal government have committed an additional \$17.7 billion, which equates to about \$3½ billion a year. However, the royal commission said that we need at least \$10 billion a year to go into aged care to start dealing with the systemic, underlying

problems in the aged-care sector. Those opposite keep asking me what we are doing to deal with our bed capacity in our hospitals. Almost 600 beds are taken up by people who should have an NDIS package or be in aged care. What we heard announced last night was \$6½ billion over four years to release 80,000 more Home Care Packages over the next two years.

The number 80,000 might sound like a lot—and that is across the entire country—but as at June 2020 there were over 100,000 people waiting for a package. That money will not even get to any of those in the hospitals because these are people with complex needs whom the providers, particularly with NDIS, are not wanting to step in and look after. It is too convenient; they are going to deal with those on the list over here but not fully fund that list to work through the waiting list and still leave people languishing in our hospitals taking up beds. This is equivalent to building a large metropolitan hospital, almost 600 beds.

We need more commitment on this. We need more dental services. It is ridiculous and appalling. The former federal Labor government committed to a dental package. We know the Howard government scrapped the national dental—

(Time expired)

Regional Queensland, Health Services

Mr KATTER: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Trade. The Olympic Games has now become a high priority for the government while clearly subordinating any spending on critical regional health infrastructure deficits. The renal unit in Mount Isa has broken up families and must be the most underfunded service of its kind in Queensland. Alice Springs has 70 chairs and Mount Isa has 10. Will the Premier commit to no further spending on the Olympic Games bid until this deficit has been met?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Traeger for that very important question. Of course, on this side of the House we are absolutely committed to making sure that our health infrastructure is spread across the length and breadth of Queensland. Just in North West HHS investment alone, the Mount Isa health campus redevelopment is \$47 million; Mornington Island Hospital air conditioning replacement, \$10 million; McKinlay Shire Multipurpose Health Service, \$8.4 million; the Mount Isa Hospital mechanical and electrical upgrade, \$5 million; Cloncurry Hospital upgrade, \$2 million; and Mount Isa Hospital staff car parking, around \$1 million. Having just been out to Longreach and previously to Mount Isa, we know how important it is for families living in our rural, remote and regional communities to actually have good access to health care.

In relation to the Mount Isa renal service, I can advise that in 2019 the North West HHS was funded to significantly increase the capacity of the Mount Isa dialysis unit with three sessions per day available. In October 2020 we also undertook a review of the kidney services in the North West HHS, and it is really important that people get access to dialysis close to where they live. We understand how important that is.

In relation to the part of the member's question about the Olympics, we are hoping that Queensland is afforded the opportunity to host the Olympics in 2032. Whilst it is a considerable time away, it is my clear desire that all of Queensland gets to share in any Olympic glory. Of course, that means the very start of nurturing the next athletes across Queensland. We know that Greg Norman and Pat Rafter were born in Mount Isa. I want to see the next Olympic champions come from that region as well. We are spoilt for opportunity. We had young students in here earlier. We want them to aim for something as well. The Olympics gives us hope: it means 130,000 jobs and trade and investment. Our local businesses will benefit and our regional businesses will also benefit. Of course we hope that people will stay on and get out and explore all that Queensland has to offer. I have no doubt that the Olympic torch relay will go through Mount Isa.

I want to thank the member for the question. We hope that we will hear about Queensland's chances later this year. Fingers crossed it all goes well. I thank the Minister for Sport for his strong support as well.

Federal Budget, Infrastructure

Mrs GILBERT: My question is of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister update the House on the federal budget's implications for Queensland?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the member for Mackay, a fierce advocate who delivers for regional roads: Mackay Ring Road, Walkerston Bypass, Mackay Port Access, Mackay northern access. What great achievements she has made as the member for Mackay.

What a vacuous and tired budget from a tired government! It had all the bells and whistles, but when you look at the detail you realise that this budget has very little for our state—promotions and marketing versus reality. We are talking about \$1.6 billion in Queensland. Compared to the southern states, we were duded. Only \$800 million of that is in the next four years. Other states like New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia all get more in the forward estimates, and the total number is above that.

The devil is in the detail, and that is what we saw. For the Bruce Highway we got \$400 million, of which \$200 million is more than four years away. For the inland freight route they committed half of what we asked for—\$400 million—of which a measly \$75 million is in the next four years. That is the kind of disdain for Queensland that we are seeing from the federal government. I am sure the south-west mayors will not be impressed to hear that, after the good initial news, the detail means that they miss out on 80 per cent of it for the next four years.

The other particularly galling aspect of this budget was the federal government's attempt to claim credit for the COVID response in this country. We saw a relentless campaign by the federal government to open the borders last year. I table a range of documents.

Tabled paper: Bundle of media articles regarding the Queensland government's COVID-19 pandemic response [\[624\]](#).

Articles in May, June and September cite Morrison calling to reopen the borders. Even the Treasurer was doing this in June. A bevy of federal ministers was trying to bully Queensland and this Premier to open up the borders and see happen in this country what has been happening in other countries. It was the strong state premiers, led by this Premier, who saved this country. To hear the federal government try to take credit for that sickens me. It is repulsive. How dare they! It was not only them. We also had the Leader of the Opposition saying that our world-leading COVID response was like putting the doona over your head and sucking your thumb. He was in the cheer squad for the federal government. Thank God for the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the other strong premiers who led this country in response to the health pandemic. It is a disgrace that they are trying to claim credit for that. The other words you will not hear are 'regional quarantine'. They are running away from it at a million miles an hour.

(Time expired)

Land Forces Exposition

Dr MacMAHON: My question is to the Treasurer. How much money is the Queensland government spending in sponsoring the Land Forces weapons expo?

Mr DICK: I do not have the figure available to me now. I say to the member for South Brisbane, who was elected on LNP preferences, that every single dollar we are spending on Land Forces is an investment in the future of Queensland.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Something may have escaped a few members in the chamber. Member for McConnel, you were under a warning. That means no interjections. You will leave the chamber for the remainder of question time.

Whereupon the honourable member for McConnel withdrew from the chamber at 11.13 am.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Warrego was also under a warning. She will leave the chamber for the remainder of question time.

Whereupon the honourable member for Warrego withdrew from the chamber at 11.13 am.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, the standing orders are clear. If warnings are issued, there will be no interjections. It does not matter what position you hold in this chamber, that is the way the standing orders will be applied.

Mr DICK: I will acknowledge that the member for South Brisbane was willing to listen respectfully to the answer, unlike those members opposite. This is an important investment. This is the premier land defence conference in the nation, and we are proud to have secured it for Queensland. We have a 10-year plan. Our state has always been at the front line of our nation's defence. It was Queenslanders who fought on the front line during the Second World War to protect this state and nation.

We have always been at the front line of defence. Now we want to be at the front line of defence manufacturing. We do not apologise to those tens of thousands of Queenslanders who work in the defence supply chain in our state. The world is a changing place, I say to the member for South Brisbane respectfully. The world is becoming more unstable. There are asymmetric threats to our nation, not just

in the traditional military sense but also in the sphere of cyberwarfare, in the threats to cybersecurity, that rain down on our state every single day. We know of the thousands of attempts that are made to hack the Queensland health system. I knew that when I was health minister.

We need an array of defences for our state and nation and we need to create economic opportunity and jobs for Queenslanders. This is a very clear difference in so-called progressive politics in our state. Parties like the Australian Labor Party want to support good manufacturing jobs and jobs in defence and want to create an economic basis to create value in our economy so we have the taxation base to redistribute to those Queenslanders and Australians who need support for public housing, public health, emergency services, community support and disability services. All of that comes from the taxpayers of our state and nation.

The tens of thousands of houses the Greens want to build will not be funded by magical money that appears out of nowhere. We have to strengthen and grow our economy and strengthen and grow jobs. We do not apologise for supporting the defence industry, advanced manufacturing, aerospace, space, the hydrogen industry, renewables and new energy—all of those new frontiers that have only ever been delivered by Labor governments. Queenslanders know that. There is a clear choice: the one progressive force for economic growth, for social reform and for the development and progression of our nation is delivered by governments led by people like our Premier and the Australian Labor Party.

Mr BERKMAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Is the Treasurer taking that question on notice given that he accepted immediately that he did not have the figure to hand?

Mr SPEAKER: He has not indicated that he is doing so, so I do not believe that he is taking that on notice.

Mr SPEAKER: I call the member for Cook.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Question time has expired.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Kawana is correct.

Honourable members interjected.


Mr SPEAKER: Order! Even a broken clock is right twice a day!

WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND REHABILITATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 11 May (see p. 1281), on motion of Ms Grace—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (11.18 am): I rise to make a contribution in support of the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020, reintroduced into the Legislative Assembly on 26 November 2020 following the dissolution of the previous parliament. I am proud to stand in this chamber as a member of the Palaszczuk Labor government because we on this side of the House support those who support our community, and that is exactly what this bill does. The bill before us will give first responders and eligible employees of first responder agencies suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder easier, timelier access to necessary support and compensation by reversing the onus of proof and deeming their injury to be work related while leaving open the opportunity for evidence based rebuttal to dispute their claim.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I understand that Minister Grace was kicked out of the chamber for an hour.

Mr SPEAKER: No. In what may have been a lapse of judgement on my part, I only asked the members for McConnel and Warrego to leave until the end of question time.

Mr BLEIJIE: How unfortunate, but that is okay.

Ms Grace: I take offence at that!

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken offence at that. Will you withdraw?

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw!

Mrs D'ATH: This new legislation will complement existing workers compensation laws and entitlements and provide a different pathway for work related claims. We know that being a frontline responder is tough sometimes. They are the first trained people with skills to assist people in need who

arrive on the scene to help their fellow Queenslanders. They are the Queenslanders who roll up their sleeves in times of need and get on with the job regardless of the situation. They are the people who put their own lives on the line to save others.

This new legislation will apply to defined first responders and other eligible employees who are prescribed in the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Regulation 2014. These roles include traditional first responders who respond to life-threatening or otherwise traumatic incidents where time may be critical to prevent actual or potential death or injury to persons or to prevent or minimise damage to property or the environment. I am advised that the occupations or professions which are captured are: police officers; ambulance officers and paramedics; child protection officers; corrective services officers; firefighters, including volunteers and the rural fire brigade; State Emergency Service members; doctors and nurses working in certain areas such as emergency and trauma care and acute care; authorised officers within Child Safety and Youth Justice staff; local government; private sector workers performing the same role as paramedics working in the not-for-profit sector or in the Mines Rescue teams; and eligible employees who work for departments if they perform a role which exposes them to repeated or extreme details of traumatic incidents. As the House can see, this bill will support an array of first responders right across the spectrum.

The legislation before us today will mean that first responders who are struggling to cope with PTSD, a serious mental health condition, will not have to show that their injury is work related. The injury will be presumed to be work related unless an employer is able to rebut the presumption by showing that the worker's PTSD is not caused by their job. This is a positive step forward in supporting our frontline workers and it is a prime example of how the Palaszczuk government is continuing to back our frontline workers. This will also build on our legacy of reform legislation to support workers, including one of the first bills we introduced in 2015 to right the wrong made by the LNP government which saw us return workers' common-law rights. I read *Hansard* with interest when the shadow minister for industrial relations said yesterday—

The minister just said that Queensland has the best workers compensation scheme in Australia. The only reason the minister can make that claim is because she inherited the best workers compensation scheme in Australia.

What an absolute joke of a statement by the shadow minister for industrial relations—the person who was charged with industrial relations matters in the Newman LNP government. The member for Kawana should know that making false statements to this House is against the rules and I submit that the statement that we inherited the best workers compensation scheme from the LNP is completely misleading and call on the member to correct the record, because the member for Kawana has absolutely no credibility when it comes to industrial relations matters in Queensland.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: I will take that interjection. It is not a stupid point. It was those opposite—

Mrs Frecklington: I said 'student politics'.

Mrs D'ATH: Okay; I will correct the record: 'student politics'. Guess what? Those Queenslanders who were affected by those changes around workers compensation and the common law did not feel that way. They did not think that this was a trivial matter when those changes were made. It is the Palaszczuk Labor government which restored frontline services, including the hiring of more frontline responders to support Queenslanders.

As Minister for Health and Ambulance Services I am so proud of the work our frontline responders do on a daily basis right across Queensland. Whether you are in Coolangatta, Brisbane, Townsville, Cairns or out west in Longreach, Mount Isa or Birdsville, there is always a first responder ready, willing and able to come to your rescue and provide assistance.


I have met a number of paramedics and ambulance officers since becoming minister and I heard firsthand their experiences when they have dealt with incidents in Queensland. They are the ones who attend shocking car accidents and have to work in tough mental and physical conditions to cut people out of the wreckage, provide medical assistance and do their very best to get the person to a hospital or further medical assistance. This is not an easy job. I have witnessed the aftermath of a fatal car crash personally. I did not realise at the time the profound impact it had on me until I went into shock the next day. I can still remember it like it happened yesterday, and that was over two years ago.

The support people get, particularly our first responders, is critical to them managing their exposure to traumatic incidents. Not only is this bill important; we also need to ensure that our first responders are getting support early and are well informed of what support is available before they end up with post-traumatic stress disorder. I could only imagine how tough it is for our first responders to do what they do, sometimes multiple times a day, day in and day out 365 days a year, and for that I say thank you.

I have recently returned from Central West Queensland where I met a number of first responders serving in regional Queensland. These include Longreach paramedics Erin, Frank and Lauren; Barcardine paramedic John; and Aramac paramedics Dan and Gary—all of whom work in challenging environments and have to respond to an array of calls each week across an extremely vast geographical location. I heard firsthand the challenges that regional Queensland poses on our first responders. This includes driving over four hours in one direction to attend a tragic incident where the paramedic had to not only attend to the patient who had been in the crash but then stabilise them and return them to the nearest hospital, another four-hour drive away.

In a recent visit to Thursday Island with the member for Cook I sat down for a chat with the hardworking paramedics on Thursday Island. They described how on any given week they are in and out of helicopters travelling vast distances to administer health care. This could include flying to a ship off the coast or to a remote island to attend to the sick or injured person. They would then assess the patient, stabilise them and transport them to the nearest healthcare facility—all while administering a high level of healthcare support along the journey. They are confronted with difficult and challenging situations each and every day in different environments and settings, and for that we thank them. These are just some examples of many that occur each and every day across the state by our hardworking Queensland Ambulance Service staff, doctors, nurses—our first responders—who go above and beyond to ensure that Queenslanders have access to high-quality health care.

Police officers leave their homes every day not knowing what they are walking into. When they go to knock on that door when they attend an incident, they do not know what they are going to be faced with. They put their lives on the line to keep us safe, and we say thank you. The legislation before the House will further support our first responders and I wholeheartedly commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr HUNT** (Caloundra—ALP) (11.26 am): I rise to speak in support of the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020. The Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020 introduces presumptive workers compensation laws for first responders diagnosed with PTSD. The objective of the bill is to provide an alternative claims pathway for first responders who are struggling to cope with PTSD that presumes that they have a work related injury, unless it is proved that their injury was not caused by work. As the German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche said, if you gaze long into the abyss, the abyss will gaze into you. This is precisely what happens to our emergency services workers and first responders. So long do they spend looking into the abyss of trauma that eventually it will consume some of them.

It will come as no surprise to anyone in this chamber to hear that I have chosen to single out custodial officers for singular mention in this address. Naturally I have a bias in that direction. Twenty-one years on the job means that custodial correctional officers will always be uppermost in my mind, but I do so for another reason as well—to give custodial officers a voice. We—they—are invisible. The very nature of the work and the architectural and security requirements that go into making a correctional facility isolate the staff who work in them. What this means is that custodial staff do not attract the accolades that are so rightly showered upon other responders.

Everyone will be and should be full of praise for the excellent work carried out by Queensland police, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and our Queensland Ambulance Service. Their work is on full public display and when they do encounter difficulties in the area of mental health the public is supportive and sympathetic as a consequence of long exposure to the efforts of these services, and as well they should be supportive. Our coppers, our firies and our ambos are our front line and community safety.

But what of the screws? What does anyone acknowledge about custodial correctional officers? They are the stuff of either satire or revulsion. Portrayed as comical, brutal, cruel or callous, their role in community safety is rarely acknowledged and even less well understood. I said in my maiden speech that custodial officers start every shift by walking into the lion's den. Well, those lions bite and they leave scars, psychological as well as physical. So confronting is the role that radio traffic in a custodial centre is divided into innocuous sounding coloured codes that hide the true trauma behind every event. A code green is an escape attempt. A code purple is an exterior threat to the perimeter. A code silver is a prisoner who has climbed on to a roof or a vantage point, but there are other colours that custodial staff must deal with.

A code blue is a medical emergency, which sounds harmless enough, but it can be any number of things in a custodial setting. It could be a prisoner experiencing chest pains or a sprained ankle, or it could be the aftermath of some of the most graphic episodes of self-harm. Custodial officers routinely deal with people with cognitive impairment and a vast range of psychological presentations. Nearly

every custodial officer in Queensland will have responded to a self-harm episode where the cell they enter is quite literally awash with blood. To enter the cell and render assistance is to walk across the sticky mass of coagulated blood. The sweet metallic smell of large amounts of spilled human blood stays with an officer long after the code has been called down.

Cognitively impaired prisoners will self-harm with anything available. They can and will rip off sections of toenails and use them to literally saw through their own flesh until a blood vessel is reached. I have witnessed the aftermath of a prisoner who was mechanically restrained but was so determined to self-harm he bit into and ripped chunks out of his forearm until he reached a blood vessel and then, using only his teeth, pulled it out and severed it. Does anyone imagine that this line of work does not leave scars?

I have seen the aftermath of a prisoner who wrote his own suicide note in bright red arterial blood on the floor of his cell. Fortunately the officers responded in time, as they almost invariably do, and saved the prisoner's life. My colleagues have witnessed prisoners autocannibalise—that is to say, my former workmates were forced to respond time and time again to a prisoner who, over a six-month period, bit off and devoured nine of his own fingers, one knuckle joint at a time. The health ramifications of these incidents are still being felt. Does anyone imagine that this line of work does not leave scars?

A code black is a prison riot. These are not for the faint-hearted. My own centre at Woodford experienced one not long before I departed to campaign in 2020. They are noisy, chaotic and terrifying for all concerned. Fortunately Woodford, like some other centres, is blessed with an emergency response group: regular officers who undertake a significant level of extra training in order to confront the more dangerous situations. They are an invaluable resource in every centre sensible enough to train and retain an ERG. Riots though are mercifully rare and are invariably concluded with the deployment of chemical agents and a significant application of force which is justified, authorised and excused under the act. However they start and however they conclude, they are dangerous for all concerned and they are traumatic. Does anyone imagine that this line of work does not leave scars?

A code yellow is an officer who requires assistance. This could be to subdue prisoners who are assaulting each other or, more chillingly, to assist an officer who is being assaulted. An officer assault is a haunting thing to listen to on the radio. When an officer is being assaulted or responding to an assault, an entire correctional centre will stop and collectively hold its breath. An officer will usually be trying to fend off multiple assailants while trying to make a coherent call on the radio. The effort and the anxiety is very clear in the officer's voice and the custodial officers in non-responding posts will often look to each other and say, 'That sounds like a bad one', meaning that an officer will almost certainly be leaving in an ambulance. These same officers will then take a moment to compose themselves, disguise their own anxiety with an off-colour, gallows-humour-style joke and then go onto the floor in their own unit wondering if they will be the next one to leave in an ambulance. Does anyone imagine that this line of work does not leave scars?


Indeed, some of my workmates have been unfortunate enough to be involved in what is known in prison lingo as a bronze-up. For the uninitiated, a bronze-up is when a prisoner covers himself, and usually part of his cell, in his own excrement and then deliberately becomes violent and noncompliant. The responding custodial staff are then forced to be close with the prisoner and use control and restraint techniques to restore the security and good order of the prison. Please take a moment to imagine having to touch and wrestle to the ground a noncompliant adult who is covered in faeces. Does anyone imagine that this line of work does not leave scars?

The risks of other frontline workers are not any less, but they are also well known and easily identified and well documented, too. The fact that few, if any, people in this chamber are familiar with what I have just outlined is testimony to the isolation and the corresponding lack of understanding of custodial officers in the broader community. They face demons of their own, but they do so usually with only each other to lean on. This is not ideal for an industry that, as I have just outlined, positively courts trauma and the detrimental health effects that follow.

Couple this with one overarching and dominant factor: custodial officers run towards danger. The blood, the violence, the codes and the lack of appreciation does not change the single and most noble trait of custodial officers around Queensland: custodial officers run towards danger. When every sensible person would recoil from the horror and the graphic scenes, custodial officers run towards danger. When the most basic tenets of humanity and survival dictates self-preservation, custodial officers run towards danger. I acknowledge the efforts of a hardworking group known as Response—Adrian Bourke, Karen Davis, Craig Miller, Shannon Webb, Tom Hosier and Sean Street—custodial staff working very hard in this space of custodial mental health.

These amendments—this recognition of the potential health effects of the prolonged exposure to trauma—are a fundamental recognition for custodial officers that finally, critically, significantly someone has listened. This government and this minister should be congratulated for that. On behalf of every screw in Queensland, I commend this work to the House, not simply for what it can do but, more importantly, what it speaks to.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Those members on a warning include the members for Capalaba, Nanango, Kawana, Broadwater, Moggill, Buderim, McConnel and Sandgate. We still have the member for Mudgeeraba and the member for Buderim out of the House.

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (11.36 am): I acknowledge the contributions from the member for Caloundra, the member for Macalister, the member for Barron River and the member for Thuringowa. Initially some of those speakers did not have their name down on the list to speak, but this House is appreciative of the contributions that they have given. I know it was very difficult to relive those stories, but I feel it was vitally important that those members did share their stories. It has added a lot to the debate and I thank them for that.

On International Nurses Day I thank nurses and midwives for the fantastic work that they do, in particular those working in emergency situations, and acknowledge what this bill will do for those health workers. This bill will undoubtedly save the lives of first responders. Not only does this bill demonstrate that we support and have the back of those first responders; it will also tear down a barrier that has faced so many of them when putting forward WorkCover claims in relation to PTSD.

In my former role as a union official with the United Workers Union we looked after two groups that this bill relates to: prison officers and ambulance officers. I have dealt with many a WorkCover claim. I remember one which involved a female ambulance officer who was separated from her partner at a party. She was cornered as her partner was assaulted in another location at the house. That was a very traumatic situation for the ambulance officer. Her claim took over three years, which is just wrong.

These workers take up roles as first responders to do the best for those in our community in their time of need. When they needed support, when they needed our help, they were faced with a system that required them to jump through many hoops and go through many barriers to have their claim recognised. This bill will reverse all of that. It will ensure that those workers hear us say, 'We believe you. We believe that you can see absolutely traumatic and life-changing events every single hour of your day. If you do succumb to PTSD, we believe you when you say that you got it during your time in the workplace.'


As I said before, this will lead to lives being saved because workers will know that they do not have to jump through hoops anymore; they will know that they have the support of this government and a system that now says, 'We believe you. Once acknowledged by a specialist, we believe that you did suffer those injuries through work and you do not have to prove it any further.'

I was not a frontline health worker; I was a pathology scientist with a weak gut. I was very appreciative of the fact that the tests that I had to do were not connected to the patient because it meant that I did not have to face the human reality of trauma. The closest I came to that was a test called a CSF test, a cerebrospinal fluid test, particularly when it involved a paediatric patient. When doing one of those tests I would start to think about what that baby was going through to need a lumbar puncture, which extracts just a couple of millilitres of fluid. Sometimes it was obvious that the procedure had gone wrong because you would get more than the couple of millilitres that is physically possible to be in a paediatric patient and the fluid would contain blood. You could not send the test back and say, 'Hey, you need to collect this again.' You had to do the best that you could. That is the closest that I came to a patient in trauma and need. I do not know how our first responders do it because even now that affects me, even though it was just a small taste. I did not deal with the trauma that people see in ER departments, that fires wielding the jaws of life deal with, that ambulance officers, doctors and nurses experience and that corrective services officers see day in, day out.

It is fantastic to be part of a Labor government that acknowledges that we need to make changes in this area. It is not good enough that we have a system that makes it too hard for our frontline health workers to have their PTSD recognised and compensated for. I give a shout-out to all the submitters to this inquiry. I acknowledge the unions, particularly my union, the United Workers Union, which stands up for the ambulance officers of our state, and all the other unions that took the time to submit. I note that the true unions took the time to stand up for their workers, but the others were missing. The scab nurses' union and the scab ambulance union did not stand up for their supposed members—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order! Member for Capalaba, if I am not mistaken the use of the term 'scab' has been considered unparliamentary in the past. I ask you to refrain from using that language.

Mr BROWN: Is there another adjective? Those phony unions take money for profit, but when it came time to making a submission to this inquiry they were not there for their members. They are there for profits only. The true unions—the Nurses and Midwives' Union, the United Workers Union, the AWU and many others—did take the time to stand up for their members and put in submissions, and that has led to what we are delivering in this chamber today. This is vital reform for first responders. As I have said previously, I have no doubt that this legislation will save their lives. I am proud to be part of a government that supports those workers. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (11.44 am): I rise to contribute to the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020. This is an important bill because it furthers the conversation around post-traumatic stress disorder. PTSD is not something new; it has always been there. I value the opportunity to speak on the bill today.

As more information and awareness comes to light in society about the effects of PTSD, our legislation must reflect that awareness. This bill does just that. It provides the assistance needed by our first responders to overcome the barriers facing them in obtaining compensation—barriers such as identifying the cause of their condition after many years of exposure to trauma, the stigma surrounding the lodging of compensation for mental health and the difficulty and the added stress of the claims process. Reversing the onus of proof is crucial because exposure to repeated trauma is an everyday occurrence for those workers. I used to coach Rugby League with a senior police officer who would tell me stories that made me think, 'There is no way that could be true,' but they were true. They happened every single day to him and his police colleagues. That is happening throughout the state.

In considering the bill and impacts on our first responders, I thought about things from a macro level. I thought about how traumatic events can impact entire communities. An event can stay with a community for years and for decades. This morning I thought about the Childers Palace Backpackers Hostel fire in 2000 that rocked the entire state of Queensland. It did not affect just Childers and the region of Bundaberg; it affected the entire state of Queensland. Fifteen lives were tragically and brutally taken. To this day that event stays in the minds of many, especially in the Bundaberg region. Last year, 20 years after the Palace Backpackers Hostel fire, another backpacker hostel went up in flames, this time in the Bundaberg CBD. Luckily no lives were lost. Because of the safety reforms that followed the Childers Backpackers Hostel fire, all of the backpackers got out safely. However, when all in Bundy woke up to the news of that fire we immediately thought, 'What if this is another Childers backpacker event?' All of our minds went to that occasion 20 years before.

I raise that reflection because it illustrates just how difficult it must have been and must still be for the first responders who were there on the night, who were there in the early hours of the morning and who were there in the days, the weeks, the years and the now two decades following. To attend such an event is traumatising and it must stick with them every single day of their lives. How blindsiding it must be when a trigger moment comes across their minds and they are reminded of such an event. We have heard about some of the horrific stories and images that do not leave our fires, our paramedics, our police and all of those called to the front line.


Yesterday I listened to the member for Thuringowa speak. In his speech his passion, dedication and, I have to be honest, his bad jokes all came out. One of the jokes was funny but I had heard it five times earlier that day. It was great to hear the member for Thuringowa share stories and we could hear in his voice how those stories were coming back to him as he spoke. I am sure that more and more memories came back to him with each line that he spoke. We could hear in his voice how deeply it was hitting home to him. Even though I know he values this place, we could hear how he values being out there with his ambo colleagues at an extreme premium.

I was lucky enough to see the member for Thuringowa in action. At the end of the last sitting week, we were out for dinner. The member for Thuringowa noticed that there was a gentleman in the street who had fallen over. Immediately the member for Thuringowa, the member for Redlands and some nobody called the member for Bundaberg went over there. I just wanted to know what I could do to help, but the member for Thuringowa knew exactly what to do. He leapt into action; it was fantastic. You could see his care in the way he treated this gentleman, who was in a slight bit of a state and needed a calm voice. I know that the care shown by the member is something he has learned over many years and continues to demonstrate. It was wonderful to be his assistant paramedic for a night. I think teaching me once was enough for him; I do not think he will take me on a ride anytime soon. It was fantastic to see what he and all of his colleagues across our great state do each and every time they take a shift.

I also note the member for Caloundra's contribution as one of the most powerful speeches to ever be given in this place. I have heard some of those stories told previously, but until today they were just anecdotes that the member had told me. When you put them into the context of this bill, you realise that it is not an anecdote for those people who are working in corrective services; they face trauma every single day of their life. I thank the member for Caloundra for bringing that up in this context because what was once an anecdote told to me has given me a brand new perspective on the lives of people on the front line. I thank him very much for that contribution.

I thank all of those members in this House who have made a contribution that maybe they would not normally have done but who realise the importance of this bill in providing that much needed compensation, that reversal of the onus of proof, for workers who need it most. That is why I am so proud to be part of this Palaszczuk Labor government—a government that has now been in government longer than the Goss government. I am very humbled to be a newcomer to a government that is standing up for Queenslanders, is looking after workers, and will always continue to do so.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the hardworking members of the United Workers Union. They are my union. They gave me amazing support throughout my campaign, because they knew that they wanted to back workers in Bundaberg. To all members of the United Workers Union and to all frontline workers who face that trauma each and every day and will do so for the rest of their careers, because they are incredibly powerful and strong people, I give my sincerest thankyou. I support this bill wholeheartedly.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) (11.52 am): I rise to support the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Queensland's first responders put their lives on the line every single day to keep Queenslanders safe. For them, their jobs are more than just a pay cheque. While I was health minister for three years I met a lot of ambulance officers—I even got to ride along with a few—so I have seen firsthand how they pour their heart and soul into their work.

I have also seen firsthand just how grateful Queenslanders are when they are in that moment of need and that teal uniform shows up. I know that most Queenslanders want to know that their government is doing all it can to support these vital workers. Our first responders face the very real possibility of being hurt or worse. They know this; their loved ones know this. If they are hurt, sometimes their injuries are not visible. We all know the term 'fight or flight'. Sufferers of PTSD can feel that sensation constantly, even when there is no threat. This can lead to nightmares, flashbacks and difficulty with change or self-expression.

Researchers are continuing to determine exactly how PTSD affects the brain. PTSD victims lose volume in the hippocampus due to elevated stress hormones. As a result, they may have trouble telling the difference between the past and present, leading them to avoid situations that remind them of their trauma. It would be a horrible way to live.

Most Queensland workers can come home from work and switch off. Our first responders often see things unimaginable to many Queenslanders. Many of them are haunted by images of what they have seen while at work. It is no surprise that many struggle with PTSD. One in 10 first responders likely have PTSD, with five per cent experiencing suicidal thoughts in the last year. Traditionally, when they have gone to get help they have encountered a stigma associated with mental health care. This has been a significant barrier. The workplace culture of simply 'manning up' stops many more from accessing the help they need and they deserve. The process of demonstrating that their PTSD was a direct result of their work is another hurdle which often puts the support they need out of reach. As a government, we should be doing everything we can to make that mental health care more accessible. This is what this bill seeks to do.

As it stands, first responders must jump through those hurdles to access workers compensation for PTSD, made all the more difficult by the fact that these injuries are invisible. There are no visible wounds, no cuts, no bruises, no broken bones, but the damage is there and it needs to be treated. In order to access compensation, these workers must currently demonstrate that their PTSD was caused by their work. This bill, if passed by the House today, will reverse the onus, with PTSD being presumed to be work related unless proved otherwise.

During the pandemic, our first responders have gone above and beyond the call of duty, making unbelievable sacrifices in Queensland's battle against the pandemic while also doing their day job: the police who were at the border, keeping Queenslanders safe and keeping the virus out of our state; the paramedics who have transported COVID-positive patients, keeping them safe and removing the virus from the community; the firefighters who have diligently gotten on with their job, fighting record bushfire

season after record bushfire season while also supporting Queensland's pandemic efforts and always being ready to travel to other states to help them fight their bushfires; and the often unsung heroes, the emergency despatchers who are the first to take the call and the first to take action. If any of these heroes were injured in the line of duty, we would be mortified to see them have to demonstrate that their injuries were incurred from their work. It is time to treat PTSD as if it was any other injury sustained by our first responders.


I thank the member for McConnel for being the driving force in this parliament to make these changes. As Minister for Industrial Relations, she has placed the safety of workers at the forefront again and again, and again today. I also know that the member for Morayfield, the Minister for Police, has worked very closely with her and with the Police Union to prepare these laws in a way that will ensure that our Police Service and our police officers are protected and get the protection that we intend for them.

Some members will have been surprised to learn this week that the member for Thuringowa used to be a paramedic! I thank him for the contribution he was able to make, drawing on all of that experience, and for his constant and unwavering support of our first responders, and acknowledge that he is now again one, still doing some shifts up there in Kirwan.

I also acknowledge the member for Barron River's deeply personal contribution. I knew both the member for Thuringowa and the member for Barron River as ambos before any of us were in this place. While I knew of some of their experiences, many of us have been moved by hearing about them in this debate. Unfortunately, we heard, the member for Barron River knows better than most the horrific scenes first responders encounter when they respond to incidents. I think they both demonstrated why we need to change the act to better provide for our first responders.

Finally, I want to thank each and every one of Queensland's first responders. Every single day they save lives and protect Queenslanders. We all owe them a debt of gratitude. I hope that this bill sees fewer first responders take their own lives and that fewer families have to suffer the tragic loss of a loved one because they could not access the help they needed in a timely and easy fashion.

On this side of the House we will always put workers first—their safety being among our highest priority. We rightly expect that when our paramedics, police and firefighters arrive on the scene of tragic accidents they have the right equipment. We should also expect that when they come back, they have all the equipment they need to recover. That is precisely what this bill intends to do. It is what motivated our government to bring it forward. It will, I believe, make a very big difference to the lives of Queensland's first responders. I am sure it will be welcomed by them and by the community that they serve. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (12.00 pm): I rise to speak in favour of the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020. Almost 12 months ago a woman in our community, Karen Gilliland, was horrifically killed. A court case is still underway. Her estranged husband was arrested and charged with her murder. On the day that Karen was murdered, the police and first responders who responded to that incident described the crime scene as the most horrific crime scene they had ever come across. After that incident, I publicly called for honours to be bestowed on the police and other emergency service workers who rapidly responded to calls for assistance at the home where this tragic domestic violence incident in Rockhampton occurred—an incident that saw the death of Karen Gilliland.

Ms Gilliland died in the most horrific circumstances. Police, paramedics and hospital staff responded rapidly to this incident and did their best to save Karen's life while, sadly, her children watched. Police chased and apprehended the suspect in pitch black darkness down on the banks of the Yeppen Lagoon around the Rockhampton Botanic Gardens. I understand from what police reported that it was a young constable, a 21-year-old mother, who had to draw her weapon on the suspect when they had no idea whether or not he was armed and in pitch black darkness. They had no idea what they were facing. For that young constable to be able to draw her weapon and apprehend that suspect in awful circumstances showed so much courage.

We expect police and other emergency service workers to go out and face these types of issues on their watch, but we should not lose sight of the fact they are men and women, just like us. Our first responders do not get to wake up every day knowing it will be a quiet day in the office, free from abuse, harm and tragedy. These people—our brothers and sisters, husbands and wives—are normal people doing extraordinary things.

I acknowledge the former first responders who now serve in this place who have given amazing contributions in the parliament throughout this debate, including my friend the member for Thuringowa, Aaron Harper, and the member for Barron River. I note the amazing contributions of members like the

member for Caloundra, the member for Macalister and the member for Greenslopes. I also acknowledge the former union organisers and delegates in this House who worked either as first responders or directly with first responders and the challenges that come with that representation and advocacy.


On many occasions, working as a first responder involves confronting life and death in situations akin, in part, to war zones. When these people are not on the job, how many times do we hear of off-duty firies, ambos, police, doctors or nurses attending emergencies in the course of their everyday lives—becoming involved in heroic rescues or car accidents or fires? They deserve not just our thanks but also our protection, as their government, when it comes to empathy, compassion and treatment as a result of injuries they may sustain as part of their work.

This bill talks of compensation and rehabilitation, but what it is ultimately about is our duty of care as a government and employer of public servants. It aims to take away some of the processes that employers of first responder agencies currently have to navigate in an effort to see the just and fair compensation and rehabilitation they need, particularly if they suffer post-traumatic stress disorder.

The community has rapidly come to accept and, we hope, understand PTSD and its often debilitating impact on people, particularly through the suffering of our defence force personnel, and the impact on people's family and friends. With this newfound understanding of such a severe mental health issue, I am pleased that this bill aims to introduce presumptive workers compensation laws which ease the onus of proof from the first responder in any claim.

I commend the work of Beyond Blue in helping to shape this bill—particularly their 2018 survey of police and emergency services on the issue—and also the work of the 2019 Senate committee inquiry. One of our jobs as a government is to improve on the current compensable PTSD processes and make the system less stressful and adversarial for first responders when they are trying to establish and confirm the incidents which led to them making a claim. Importantly, too—and on International Nurses Day—this bill delivers a head of power which includes, among other employees, 'a doctor or nurse employed in emergency and trauma care, acute care, critical care, or high-dependency care, will also be covered'.

There were a reported 113 PTSD claims in the public sector from 1 July 2019 to 31 May 2020. This bill will not prevent or reduce those PTSD claims, but it is critical in delivering the fastest, most essential mental health care possible to our first responders, in a compassionate, fair and just manner befitting a Labor government. I congratulate the members of the Education, Employment and Training Committee for their work. I commend the work done by the Minister for Industrial Relations and the department. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (12.06 pm): I am pleased to support the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020. I commend the Minister for Industrial Relations, who is a fierce advocate for workers in Queensland, who has done excellent work on this bill. I, along with many others in this House, acknowledge those MPs who were first responders in their former careers and who have shared their incredibly moving stories in this House. It is clear evidence to me that their obvious bravery is extended to them being able to tell some of these stories in this House. I know in my community that many of the first responders I talk to take great comfort in knowing that there are legislators in the Queensland parliament who have had careers as first responders and who can speak for them and share some of those stories.

This bill is about looking after our first responders by improving their compensation experience and mental health outcomes. Our police officers, ambos, firies, child safety officers, corrective services officers, emergency health workers all witness traumatic incidents on a daily basis responding to emergencies, death, injuries, catastrophic disasters and sexual assault and abuse. Their jobs are critical to our functioning society. Their bravery and courage in dealing with these daily incidents is to be commended.

My daughter is an advanced trainee anaesthetist at the Gold Coast University Hospital. In her short career as a doctor and intern at various public hospitals across Queensland and the ACT, she has encountered many traumatic situations while she has been at work. She said that if it were not for the nurses that she works with but in particular the security and police officers who are always present in emergency departments, they would not be able to do their job of saving people's lives. As a mother of one of those workers, I am eternally grateful for their presence as well.

Their wellbeing should also be of our utmost concern. Being exposed to traumatic incidents and life-threatening situations on an almost daily basis takes its toll on our first responders' mental health. They are at a higher risk of developing PTSD simply through their work duties which they perform on a daily basis protecting and saving Queenslanders.

Previously accessing workers compensation has been daunting for these workers and frustrating for them as well due to the legislative test for injury that they needed to fulfil. Most first responders are unable to identify one single event that led to their diagnosis of PTSD. Rather, it is usually cumulative exposure to trauma over many years which can lead to PTSD.

Making our first responders prove that their work duties led to their PTSD diagnosis only compounds their distress and leads to lengthy investigations which delays their claims. It can invalidate their experience, delay their recovery and devalue the important work that they do. We must do better to support them.

This bill provides Queensland's first responders with an important safeguard under the workers compensation scheme if they are diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder. Under these new laws, first responders diagnosed with PTSD who make a compensation claim are presumed to have a work related injury. The onus of proof is reversed, meaning that first responders will no longer have to prove that their work is the cause of their PTSD. They will no longer have to go through a lengthy claims determination and investigation process as it will be presumed their PTSD is caused by their work.

This bill recognises the enormous contribution first responders make in our community and it helps them to access support when they need it most. It also acknowledges first responders' higher risk of developing PTSD by virtue of the work they do.

I recall watching the reports of the tragic and horrific Christchurch massacre on TV just over two years ago as it was unfolding—51 people were killed in that massacre and 40 injured. I can still remember—and I will never forget—the looks on the faces of the first responders at that site. The expressions on their faces said it all. The reality is that this is what our first responders are dealing with every day. There have been several reports that supported the need for law reform in regard to workers compensation claims for these heroes.

In 2018 our government engaged Phoenix Australia, Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health, to independently review and benchmark workers compensation claims practices for first responders claiming for psychological injuries. It suggested improvements to communication, education, health literacy, claims management, and rehabilitation and return to work. Many of these recommendations have now been implemented.

Beyond Blue in 2018 also put out a report titled *Answering the call*, which surveyed police and emergency services workers. They found significantly higher rates of psychological distress and reported that psychological injuries in first responders were 10 times higher than in the general population. Beyond Blue's report also found that police and emergency services personnel who are exposed to the workers compensation system overall find it unhelpful or even detrimental to their recovery. Sixty-one per cent of workers said that the system had a negative impact on their recovery and 69 per cent reported receiving limited to no support during their claims process.

A Commonwealth Senate inquiry into first responders in 2019 also reported the need for improved mental health supports. The Beyond Blue report and the Commonwealth Senate inquiry made the suggestion that presumptive laws, like the bill we are debating today, would improve a first responder's claim experience.

The Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations also established a stakeholder reference group to consider Phoenix Australia's findings, as well as the national reviews, to develop an action plan for improving the workers compensation experience and mental health outcomes of Queensland's first responders. The group recognised that the difficulties in proving the legislative test for injury were a barrier to accessing compensation and that this could be overcome by putting into place presumptive workers compensation laws.


Our government is ahead of the curve on this issue, and it builds on our achievements supporting workers with psychological injuries. In 2019 we passed amendments to Queensland's workers compensation laws that require insurers to take all reasonable steps to provide claimants with psychological injuries reasonable treatment and support services while their claim is being determined.

Presumptive workers compensation laws build on our support for first responders by improving their access to workers compensation, ensuring their long-term mental health, rehabilitation and recovery. Our first responders are the people who put their lives on the line every day to protect Queenslanders. They are the first to arrive on the scene of medical emergencies and natural disasters, and they are the first to arrive on the scene defusing life-threatening situations.

When I was assistant minister for veterans' affairs, I learned quite a lot about PTSD in veterans. It was really quite alarming to see the broad spectrum of people that PTSD affects in our community. I want to give a shout-out to an organisation I had the privilege of working with during that period called 4 Aussie Heroes. They were running retreats for veterans but they quickly realised that their model was really well suited to first responders as well.

As they say on their website, their emphasis is on things such as 'early intervention, professional care, meaningful support, camaraderie, improving self-esteem, affordability, rehabilitation, and quality of life, coupled with short-term accommodation in a relaxed rural environment'. I am pleased to say that our government was able to give them a grant to help them kickstart their equine therapy facility, which is getting great results for PTSD sufferers. I also want to make mention of the Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation based at Greenslopes hospital. They have been carrying out groundbreaking research into PTSD.

In conclusion, this bill recognises the enormous challenges our first responders face every day and will ensure that more of them come forward and, importantly, seek treatment early when they need it. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (12.15 pm): 'Ring triple 0.' Those are the words that are used each and every time there is an emergency. At the end of that line is a highly trained professional ready to listen, triage and organise appropriate first responders. These are the men and women whom we go to whenever we need help. We know that we can rely on them to do whatever they can and wherever they can. They regularly see the worst of life, yet they are the first to get up each and every day to do it over again.

First responders play such an important and incredible role in protecting and serving our Queensland community, and we have a role to protect those who protect us. This bill provides Queensland first responders with an important safeguard under the workers compensation scheme if they are diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, as a result of the important work that they do for us.

We have all seen in recent times the unbelievable work that first responders face in some of Australia's biggest challenges from catastrophic bushfires to floods, horrific and tragic deaths by domestic violence incidents and the ongoing battle against the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet each and every day they go out.

First responders are exposed to traumatic incidents that most of us could never imagine attending, let alone undertaking lifesaving practices. We often witness them at arms-length through a television screen or images in the paper. However, first responders are participants in these incidents. Whether it be one catastrophic event or a gradual build-up over many years, it can take its toll on the mental health of our first responders.

This bill follows extensive work started in 2018 to improve the workers compensation experience for our first responders. The review found that many commendable practices were in place. However, it also suggested improvements in the areas of communication, education, health literacy, client management, and rehabilitation and return to work. I understand that much of this work has already taken place.

The minister in her second reading speech shared a quote from the Senate Education and Employment References Committee report titled *The people behind 000: mental health of our first responders*, which was finalised in 2019. This quote from an Australian police officer who submitted to the inquiry really resonated with me, so I will repeat it. It reads—

What other job requires you to be in a constant state of hyper vigilance and alertness yet at the same time be a counsellor, a social worker, a lawyer, or a prison warden. What other profession authorizes you to take a person's liberty, or potentially use deadly force, but then mandates that you attempt to save the person's life that has just tried to kill you? What job causes you to wonder whether you will come home to your loved ones after you bid them farewell each and every day as you head off to work?

This statement highlights the important work that first responders choose to do in our community to keep us safe. Yet they also choose to do this knowing they are putting their own lives on the line. What an amazing group of people they are, prepared to do this not just one day but each and every day. These brave Queenslanders put their own lives at risk to provide assistance in time critical and often life-threatening situations in, might I add, a highly professional manner.

Sadly, they are at a very high risk of developing PTSD due to the very nature of their job. First responders often find the workers compensation process daunting and adversarial. PTSD is already compensatable under Queensland's workers compensation scheme, but when a first responder


sustains trauma related to a psychological injury they can find the legislative test for injury a significant barrier to making a workers compensation claim. That is why it is really important that we support our first responders.

Many first responders are unable to identify one particular event that has led to their trauma. Many claims can be delayed due to investigations regarding the cause of the injury, and we know that this does not meet with community expectations to take care of those who care for us. This bill ensures that we will do more to protect and support those who protect Queenslanders in their time of need. This bill will overcome this barrier. It will further eradicate the stigma associated with psychological injuries and send a clear message to first responders that they are supported by Queensland's workers compensation scheme.

By introducing presumptive workers compensation laws for our first responders and eligible employees, we will ensure that these people who serve Queenslanders are protected. These laws do not create or change any existing workers compensation entitlements but provide a different pathway for certain claims to be detected. Under presumptive laws, first responders and eligible employees who are struggling to cope with PTSD will not have to go through a lengthy claims determination and investigation process. It will be presumed that their PTSD is caused by their work.

The impressive state-of-the-art Queensland Combined Emergency Service Academy is on White Island in the Port of Brisbane, which is in my electorate. This training facility provides best practice training to our finest Queensland emergency services firefighters, paramedics and communications operators. I have had the opportunity on many occasions to go out to QCESA and meet and talk to these impressive men and women during their training. On one occasion at a ceremony for communications operators I met the comms operator who took the first call for the terrible incident at Dreamworld. The support that her fellow officers gave this comms operator was amazing. Comms officers do incredible work keeping a clear head and directing calls appropriately, all whilst taking important information from those on the scene. It is impossible for me to imagine the impact that such a call would have on these operators. Their training kicks in and they do their job. The same would be said for the first responders at the scene.

Last week I attended the graduation of 12 new QFES firefighters from recruit course 114. This group will be located across Queensland, supporting communities each and every day. Their trainers watched with pride as the group marched into the ceremony and cheered loudly as they threw their hats skyward in celebration. All of the new officers and families were beaming with pride, as was I, because I know that these firefighters will represent and serve our communities. I know that they will put themselves above others to preserve life and property, and I know how well they have been trained. The staff at QCESA are exceptional, and I believe there is no better place to be trained in the important work of emergency services, whether it be QFES or QAS. Importantly, I am proud that I now know they will be protected in the future if they develop PTSD. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (12.23 pm), in reply: I thank all members for their contribution to the debate on the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020. During this debate we have heard some heartfelt speeches about the graphic and challenging situations our first responders face daily in the course of their work in helping and supporting others and the impact this has on their lives. The overwhelming appreciation and admiration that we all on both sides of the House have for those on the front line is clear.

I acknowledge the personal stories shared by members of the House, particularly those who have direct experience as first responders. We were all moved by those personal stories and I thank you sincerely for sharing them. I know this would not have been easy. I am not going to pick out particular members who spoke so passionately because I am sure to forget one of you, but all of the members who heard your speeches know that PTSD can be with you for the rest of your life and that this legislation is certainly needed to assist those first responders. I again thank you all sincerely for sharing your stories.

I am proud that this bill will improve the lives of first responders and their families through providing a smoother pathway to compensation and support for those suffering from PTSD. The Palaszczuk Labor government has a proud record when it comes to providing support and care for injured workers and ensuring we have a nation-leading workers compensation system. We have a very proud record. We have restored all of those rights and entitlements stripped away by the previous LNP government, including restoring the rights of injured workers to access common-law compensation.

If they could not meet the threshold put in by those opposite, many first responders diagnosed with PTSD would have been denied their common-law rights because they stripped out a large percentage of workers who would have had that right. We proudly restored that in the workers compensation system. We reversed legislation that allowed a person's workers compensation history to be used against them in relation to future career prospects. If someone could do another job—maybe not the job they were doing—they allowed the use of a PTSD sufferer's workers compensation history to be used by employers when hiring those people. I am proud to say that this side of the House removed that requirement, which was put in by the LNP.

Mr Power: Discrimination against heroes!

Ms GRACE: I take that interjection. Discrimination against heroes, that is exactly right, and they legalised that discrimination. We passed new laws to provide improved compensation and support for coal worker's pneumoconiosis and other work related lung diseases, leading the country. We passed presumptive workers compensation laws for firefighters with a specific form of cancer.

Isn't it interesting how those opposite rewrite history? I understand they lost in 2015. They did not get over that. They knew we were going to bring in presumptive legislation for firefighters, so they quickly introduced a private member's bill before the government introduced their bill so they could show they were still in government. But guess what? They are not in government. We were the new government. Our cognate bill was passed in this House with the support of the crossbenchers. Their bill was discharged because it was inadequate and did not address the issues we needed to address in workers compensation, yet they come into this House and claim they were the ones who moved presumptive legislation for firefighters! It is extraordinary that they misled the House in that way, but today I will put the record straight.

We made further changes to workers compensation laws in 2019, including providing better support for workers suffering from psychological injuries. We also have a proud record of ensuring our workers compensation system is financially viable, sustainable and affordable for Queensland employers. I will speak more about our lowest premiums later and I will go to the history of the LNP when it comes to premiums. We have apprentice wages that are exempt from workers compensation. We have an early premium discount on top of the \$1.20, and since we have been in government that has saved employers \$314 million in premiums—a total of \$209 million for the premium discount—and employers who take on apprentices have saved over \$105 million through the apprenticeship initiative.

I now turn to address specific matters raised in the debate. In his speech the member for Kawana once again made a lot of noise without a great deal of substance, rewriting history and misleading the House with statements that bear no resemblance to reality. It is concerning that a former minister in the Campbell Newman government would get up and mislead the House to that extent. He spent a lot of time extolling the virtues of the LNP's record in relation to workers compensation premiums. All I can say is, 'Give me a break!' The member for Kawana did not even know that government departments pay premiums. I looked at *Hansard* this morning, wherein the member states—

... what will happen is that the premiums will increase, and who does that affect? Not the government, because it does not pay the premiums.

That is absolute rubbish. I can actually inform the House that the act was amended in 1995—that was 25 years ago. The member for Kawana was a minister for industrial relations in a government which made all of those savage cuts to the workers compensation system. He stood in the House and did not know that government departments pay premiums. What a mistake. What an embarrassment that an ex IR minister, who brought legislation in this House, did not even know how the workers compensation system worked. No wonder they got turfed out in 2015. It was a big faux pas by the member for Kawana, but then we get used to the faux pas by the member for Kawana.

The workers compensation system in Queensland is a system balanced between no-fault benefits and a common-law right. We are the only state which has this, which is why we are where we are today compared to all the other states. You have got to know workers compensation to understand this. We have unlimited common-law rights for injured workers. Other states have got rid of this, so their long-tail claims now are out of control. Our common law gives injured workers the right to claim common law, they get their lump sum and they are compensated fairly based upon it.

I see the member for Moggill nodding. As a doctor, he would understand that an injury sustained by a concert pianist who loses their finger might be different to an injury sustained by, say, a tradie who loses a finger. It has a big impact on their income and often the common law compensates them taking that into account. What did the LNP do? They nearly destroyed the cornerstone of our state workers

compensation system by taking away common-law rights. That is a disgraceful thing for them to have done. We are very proud that we were able to reinstall that. Like I said, it is the cornerstone of our system.

When it comes to premiums, it was a Beattie government that did the heavy lifting. It was a global financial crisis that caused premium increases at the time because of the lack of returns. That was another situation in the world that happened—like the world health pandemic that they deny over there. The global financial crisis had a significant impact on the earnings of workers compensation with negative returns. The Beattie government did the heavy lifting because they went from 1.85 per cent down to 1.15 per cent. It was a global financial crisis that brought it up to 1.24 per cent. What do we have? In 2012 the Newman government came in and increased it to 1.45 per cent.

Mr Ryan: It went up.

Ms GRACE: Yes, it went up. In the second year, it stayed at 1.45 per cent. In the third year, they knew they were losing because of what they did with workers compensation. The workers compensation common-law change that they made went against even their own committee's recommendation. They had the majority on the committee that looked at that legislation and they recommended that that not occur, but they went against their own committee's recommendations when they had a large majority on that committee. It is actually quite amazing when you really tell the story truthfully as it happened.

The second year it was at 1.45 per cent. In the third year, on the back of injured workers, on the back of denying injury claims, on the back of taking away common-law rights, they went down to 1.2 per cent because they knew they were going to lose the 2015 election and it was only in for six months. Since that time, there have been pressures on insurance premiums, and I think it was the member for Maryborough who mentioned that insurance premiums have gone through the roof in every other category that you look at. In Queensland, under a Palaszczuk Labor government, we have improved benefits, we have kept the premium rate at 1.2 per cent, we have increased discounts and we have given no premiums for apprentices employed in this state. That is an absolutely remarkable and unbelievable achievement. I am proud to be the IR minister who has delivered that for the state of Queensland, yet those opposite talk like they were the ones who did the heavy lifting.

Workers compensation is not just about premiums. It is about balancing the rights of the employer to a fair and decent premium rate. It is also the amount of compensation that injured workers get when they are injured at work, when they do not come home to their children because of the injury, when they are in hospital and need support. In this legislation we are giving those benefits to PTSD sufferers and deeming that happen. It is balancing all of those things. It is not just about reducing premiums on the back of denying the claims of injured workers, which is the history and legacy of those opposite and they should hang their heads in shame.

The issue of the regulation-making powers was raised by the members for Kawana, Surfers Paradise, Currumbin and Maiwar. They raised concerns. It is important to note that the bill provides a limited and defined regulation-making power to prescribe further occupations or employers where a need is identified. Any new occupations or employers in the regulation must first meet the criteria that the bill includes in the act. This includes clear criteria of the types of duties or roles a worker or volunteer must perform to qualify as a first responder. I do agree with the member for Kawana when he said that we do not want to have just anybody—we want first responders to be acknowledged for the work they do in our community and those tragic events that they go to. The bill states a person can only be considered a first responder if their duties require them to respond to time critical, often life-threatening traumatic incidents, like we heard from some of the members on this side of the House. This approach is not unusual. It happens in many other areas. We have done it in child protection regulations and labour hire regulations, but the important part to note is that it has to meet that criteria. We tabled them in the House and they can be discussed if needed.

I note the member for Warrego raised concerns about coverage of local government workers and consultation on the amendment to the bill. I can confirm that we did extend an invitation to meet with all impacted local government self-insurers on the proposal. This included Local Government Workcare within the Local Government Association of Queensland which provides workers compensation insurance to the local government sector. While there were reservations raised during consultation in relation to the inclusion of local government workers, there was also acknowledgement that claims of this type are generally accepted by the scheme already. A very high percentage are accepted; very few are not.

It is also important to note the application to approximately 40,000 local government workers referred to by the member is simply incorrect. There are not 40,000 workers who do the work that is time critical and often life threatening and is similar to fire services or ambulance officers. To suggest that 40,000 local government workers all do that work is simply laughable and incorrect.

The member for Moggill raised the issue of coverage for doctors. The presumption applies to any doctor or nurse who is a 'worker', irrespective of whether they work in a private or public capacity. That is the issue. Workers compensation is defined as a 'worker'. Doctors and nurses working in those areas—critical care, emergency, whatever—will be covered. However, it is important to note they are still not disadvantaged. They can still make a claim for compensation if they have sustained it through their work, but it is a different pathway. This bill provides an easier pathway for those particular members.

The member for Whitsunday raised Volunteer Marine Rescue workers. Volunteer Marine Rescue workers are required to be registered with the State Emergency Service which means they would be covered by the schedule. The member for Theodore raised the issue of costs associated with the new pathway. I want to assure members that these costs are very hard to determine. We are well aware that a majority of claims are already accepted by the workers compensation system. Very few claims do not make it, and it is where there is a difficulty in establishing the work relatedness generally in relation to the claims. Importantly, the bill ensures the scheme is safeguarded by: having limited and unambiguous definitions about who the presumption applies to; the diagnostic rigour required to be eligible for the pathway; and the ability to rebut the presumption where there is evidence the worker's PTSD is not work related. The bill does not amend or affect any existing review rights in the act. I have been through this before. There are appeal rights through the QIRC and through the Industrial Court.

I also note the member for Theodore raised concerns in relation to increased claims similar to that experienced by the British Columbia scheme. It is important to note that a direct comparison is not possible. There are different laws and there is different coverage. It is a completely different set of circumstances. Our legislation is far better.

Further, there are differences in other social supports where people may seek assistance. I note the member for Hinchinbrook made comment on the support for those in the regions. Of course, under our workers compensation scheme anyone needing assistance who has a compensable injury is provided with all their medical expenses and travel expenses so they can get the best care possible. We will ensure that continues. I think it is an important thing. WorkCover actively promotes and supports the use of telehealth services across medical and allied health providers. This was particularly evident during the pandemic where in the regions we made sure no-one missed out on their workers compensation entitlements. We see this valuable service playing an important role in supporting our regional first responders in the new pathway.

In relation to costs, I think there is an estimation that about 28 possible additional claims may come up. It is a very conservative estimation. Should they all come to fruition, the conservative nature would say that there may be an additional cost of \$9 million to the workers compensation fund, which I think is more than affordable. In light of what we are doing for PTSD sufferers I think that is definitely a step in the right direction. They are the most conservative estimates that could be put together by the department.

In conclusion, I thank the Education, Employment and Training Committee for their detailed consideration of the bill. I thank, once again, all those who shared their experiences, made submissions and attended the public hearing. I am very pleased that, overall, the feedback was supportive.

Finally, I am proud this bill provides a smoother and quicker pathway to workers compensation and support for our hardworking first responders suffering from PTSD, just like we did for the firefighters and emergency services workers. I encourage all members to support the bill. I know that this is a bill that tugs at the heart of a lot of us in this place. This is a bill on which I have worked closely with the Minister for Police and other ministers in this House. I thank the cabinet for the support. We started off looking into this. What became evident is that we needed to do more. We spoke to WorkCover and we put together a group. We have done this methodically. We had the committee look at it. They made some very good recommendations.

I join with the member for Kawana in saying let's review it in 12 months and see if we need to go further. However, I think we have landed at an excellent place at the moment which covers all of the bases. There are a couple of amendments I need to make in relation to clarifying the mineworkers and the other recommendations. Those amendments have already been tabled in the House and I will move them during the consideration in detail.

Can I say one further thing? Personally, I thank all of those first responders who are out there day in, day out. They do remarkable work. I just cannot imagine attending not only the incidents that have been described in this place but also the other incidents they have to go to every single day. I think about the latest family of victims of domestic violence who were set alight, and attending those types of incidents would be horrific. I can do political work. I just do not know whether I could do first responders' work. I thank them wholeheartedly for their job. We are here to look after them. I know this bill has been supported by all sides. We all thank them for their efforts. It is an honour and a privilege to support them. I am so proud to be able to introduce workers compensation amendments that support injured workers and their families and that we are able to restore the benefits taken away by those opposite. I proudly commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 8, as read, agreed to.

Clause 9—



Ms GRACE (12.43 pm): I move the following amendment—

1 Clause 9 (Insertion of new schs 6A and 6B)

Page 11, after line 25—

insert—

- | | |
|----|--|
| 12 | an occupation or profession performed by a local government employee within the meaning of the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i> that corresponds to an occupation or profession mentioned in item 1 or 4 |
| 13 | a coal mine worker within the meaning of the <i>Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999</i> who is appropriately qualified to perform a rescue function at a coal mine |
| 14 | a worker within the meaning of the <i>Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999</i> who is appropriately qualified to perform a rescue function at a mine |

I table the explanatory notes to my amendment and the statement of compatibility with human rights.

Tabled paper: Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020, explanatory notes to Hon. Grace Grace's amendment [\[625\]](#).

Tabled paper: Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Grace Grace's amendment [\[626\]](#).

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 9, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 10, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading



Hon. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (12.45 pm): I move—

That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Question put—That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title



Hon. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (12.45 pm): I move—

That the long title of the bill be agreed to.


Question put—That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

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

Resumed from 3 December 2020 (see p. 322).

Second Reading

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (12.46 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

May I start by acknowledging the traditional owners, the Quandamooka people, of the land to which this bill relates, Gheebulum Coonungai, and pay my respect to elders past, present and emerging. I particularly acknowledge the presence in the gallery today of Uncle Bob and his partner, Cathy Boyle, and I know Auntie Val will also be joining us today.

I would like to thank the State Development and Regional Industries Committee for its inquiry into the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Indigenous Joint Management—Moreton Island) Amendment Bill 2020 and for its report on the bill, which was tabled in parliament on 8 March 2021.

This bill was previously introduced during the last term of government by the then minister for employment and small business and minister for training and skills development, the Hon. Shannon Fentiman, and I would like to acknowledge the work undertaken by the former State Development, Tourism, Innovation and Manufacturing Committee prior to the bill lapsing upon the dissolution of the last parliament. I would also like to thank those individuals, businesses and organisations that made submissions to the committee about the bill.

The committee's report makes three recommendations, and I am pleased to table the government's response to the committee's report.

Tabled paper: State Development and Regional Industries Committee: Report No. 5, 57th Parliament—Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Indigenous Joint Management—Moreton Island) Amendment Bill 2020, government response [\[627\]](#).

Almost 30 years ago, the High Court of Australia rejected the notion that Australia was terra nullius, or land belonging to no-one, at the time of European settlement. The court also determined that the common law of Australia recognises a form of native title that reflects the connection to land and sea country of the first inhabitants of Australia in accordance with their laws and customs. In recognition of the High Court's decision and, to its great credit under the leadership of then prime minister Paul Keating, the Australian parliament enacted the Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993 to, among other things, provide a process for native title claims over land and sea to be made and for the formal resolution of these claims to be determined by the Federal Court of Australia.

The claims process under the Commonwealth Native Title Act recognises that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of Australia were the original inhabitants of this land of which they were subsequently dispossessed. These claims are determined by the Federal Court following a thorough legal process and determinations are either imposed by the court or determined by consent between the parties. This government's preference is to negotiate a consent determination.

On 27 November 2019, the Federal Court made a consent determination recognising the native title rights of Quandamooka people over Moreton Island, or Mulgumpin as it is known to the Quandamooka people. Mulgumpin is the second largest sand island on the earth and is an amazing place right on Brisbane's doorstep. It has natural and cultural significance and is enjoyed by many thousands of people a year, and now these visitors will have the opportunity to better connect with the oldest continuous living culture on earth.

I want to thank the Quandamooka people for their patience, goodwill and commitment as we worked through the lengthy and complex processes to get to where we are now where we formalise in law the outcome of all of that hard work. I am proud to be part of this government that keeps its word and to be the minister to deliver this outcome.

The primary purpose of this bill is to enable the Palaszczuk government to deliver commitments made during the native title determination process and enshrined in the Indigenous land use agreement regarding the joint management of prescribed protected areas on Mulgumpin. The commitment to jointly manage the prescribed protected areas on Mulgumpin is aimed at delivering land justice and facilitating a recognition and awareness in the broader community of the significant connection that the Quandamooka people have to their country and the important role they have in the management of protected areas on Mulgumpin.

The bill delivers the legal framework necessary to support the joint management of prescribed protected areas on Mulgumpin. This management will occur between the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and QYAC. This organisation is the registered native title body corporate under the Commonwealth Native Title Act for representing the Quandamooka people's native title rights and interests.

The prescribed protected areas included in the joint management arrangements are the recently renamed Gheebulum Coonungai National Park and the Cape Moreton Conservation Park, apart from some small areas that support Maritime Safety Queensland and Australian Maritime Safety Authority facilities for navigation safety purposes. The new name of the national park connects to a Quandamooka creation of life story and, when spoken in the traditional language of the Quandamooka people, it means the 'lightning's playground'. We have so much to learn from these creation stories and the knowledge built up over many generations of our First Nations people. This initiative is one step of that partnership.

To facilitate joint management of the prescribed protected areas on Mulgumpin, the bill will amend the Aboriginal Land Act 1991, the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and the Recreation Areas Management Act 2006. Amendments to the Aboriginal Land Act will give prescribed protected areas on Mulgumpin the status of transferable land and formally recognise an Indigenous management agreement that has been prepared for the joint management of prescribed protected areas between QYAC and QPWS.

Once land survey work has been completed, the amendments in this bill will allow further steps to be taken to prepare deeds of grant and seek Governor in Council approval to have the prescribed protected areas granted to QYAC as Aboriginal freehold land under the Aboriginal Land Act. Once granted, the land will be held in trust by QYAC for the Quandamooka people and is required to be managed as part of Queensland's protected area estate.

Once the land is granted to the Quandamooka people, the amendments to the Nature Conservation Act in this bill will provide for Governor in Council approval to be sought to declare an Indigenous joint management area over these protected areas. Following such approval, the formal joint management of prescribed protected areas on Mulgumpin between QYAC and the QPWS will commence. Joint management of Mulgumpin will allow the traditional knowledge of the Quandamooka people to be incorporated into management activities to enhance the natural and cultural values of the area for the benefit of all Queenslanders and anyone who visits the island.

I now move on to the amendments to the Recreation Areas Management Act. These will require the Department of Environment and Science to meet requirements in an Indigenous management agreement before issuing certain permits in recreation areas that form part of an Indigenous joint management area. This can include a requirement to consult with or obtain consent from the Indigenous landholder before it grants permits to carry out certain activities on land within a recreation area that is also an Indigenous joint management area. These amendments to the Recreation Areas Management Act will also ensure consistency with the Nature Conservation Act, which already contains provisions requiring consultation with an Indigenous landholder in relation to the grant of certain permits and authorities over jointly managed protected areas. QYAC is committed to working closely and respectfully with permit holders on Mulgumpin and looks forward to meeting with commercial tourism operators in the near future to move forward together under joint management arrangements.

In relation to funding to support joint management arrangements on Mulgumpin, the Palaszczuk government has allocated funds to support six new QYAC positions as well as a number of community rangers on a project basis. These employment opportunities will provide benefits to the Quandamooka people and the people of Queensland through an expanded capacity to manage Mulgumpin. The government's funding is also providing investment in capital works for a new ranger base, workshops and ranger accommodation on Mulgumpin to increase the presence of rangers on the island and provide improved facilities to assist with management of the island, including improved presentation of the Quandamooka people's culture, conservation, visitor and fire management outcomes.

Importantly, as we continue to rebuild our tourism industry after the impacts of COVID-19, it is anticipated that visitor experiences will be enhanced through new projects and activities that seek to increase awareness and appreciation of Indigenous cultural heritage and through development of new ecotourism products that engage with the Quandamooka community. With the investment underway by the Palaszczuk government to attract more visitors to Brisbane and the Gold Coast and support our tourism industry, this enhanced visitor experience will be very well received. Mulgumpin's protected areas will continue to offer the unrivalled camping, fishing and four-wheel driving adventures that so many families currently enjoy.

Secondary purposes of this bill are to make amendments, unrelated to joint management, to clarify the operation of existing provisions and provide consistency across related legislation. Amendments to the Nature Conservation Act will clarify the independent relationship between a number of sections that provide for the grant of a lease, agreement, licence, permit or other authority over state land protected areas, Indigenous joint management areas, national parks, Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal land and special wildlife reserves. Amendments to the Aboriginal Land Act and the Torres Strait Islander Land Act 1991 will clarify the preservation of existing interests on land granted under these acts and will provide consistency across the related legislation.

The State Development and Regional Industries Committee made three recommendations in its report on the bill. The first recommendation made by the committee is that the bill be passed, and the government welcomes this recommendation. The second recommendation made by the committee is that the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships consider developing training, education and professional development mechanisms on native title processes for a range of stakeholders. The government supports this recommendation in principle. While the recommendation identifies the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships as the delivery agency, the lead agency for native title in Queensland is the Department of Resources.

The Department of Resources has advised that both the Australian government and the Department of Resources have a wide range of information available on native title processes to assist a range of stakeholders. The Queensland Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships also provides information to the community about cultural heritage management and legislation. If members of the community are interested in learning more about land ownership, native title and cultural heritage in Queensland, they are able to readily access the wide range of information provided by either of these two state government departments through their websites.

Native title determinations will continue to be a common occurrence in Australia, as they should be, and I would encourage anyone who is seeking to better understand these processes to further investigate the information provided on the websites provided by the Queensland government in addition to material provided on the website of the Attorney-General's department in the Australian government.

The third recommendation made by the committee is that the Department of Environment and Science and QYAC give consideration to establishing consultative activities with businesses, residents and other stakeholders. The committee also recommended that the department complement statutory consultation requirements for the preparation of the draft management plan for protected areas on Mulgumpin with additional accessible consultation activities. The government supports this recommendation, which will address requests from residents and business operators for more information regarding future management arrangements for the protected areas on Mulgumpin.


The Department of Environment and Science will be working in partnership with QYAC on a new draft management plan for the protected areas and recreation area on Mulgumpin. Once the draft management plan has been prepared, community consultation will occur in accordance with existing statutory requirements under the Nature Conservation Act. A notice will be published on the Department of Environment and Science's website to advise that a copy of the draft management plan is available and invite written submissions about the draft management plan. Consistent with the recommendation from the committee, the Department of Environment and Science is committed to working in partnership with QYAC to incorporate further consultation activities into the planning process for the new management plan to provide the community with the opportunity to better understand and have input into the future management of the island.

I would now like to take this opportunity to address some matters raised by stakeholders during the committee process. Firstly, some submissions made during the committee's consideration of the bill highlighted the confidential nature of the Indigenous land use agreement and the Indigenous management agreement that were negotiated as part of the native title consent determination through the Federal Court. The confidentiality of Indigenous land use agreements is not unusual. Much like commercial contracts entered into between parties, Indigenous land use agreements often contain sensitive information, and to protect this information the documents include confidentiality clauses which all parties to the agreement must respect. This is standard practice for such agreements and the Queensland government applies this process during resolution of native title claims.

A summary of the Indigenous land use agreement has been published on the National Native Title Tribunal website, which is available to be viewed by the community. The government has entered into these agreements with QYAC as the registered native title body corporate under the

Commonwealth Native Title Act responsible for matters relating to the Quandamooka people's native title rights and interests. Native title is not about giving land back; it is about the Federal Court of Australia's recognition of what was always Quandamooka land and waters. We should be honoured, having utilised those lands and waters for as long as we have, sometimes to the detriment of Quandamooka peoples' rights and interests.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

 **Ms SCANLON:** Despite this historical fact, the Quandamooka people are prepared to work with everyone respectfully. Can we say the same? The state and QYAC are working together in partnership to deliver the Indigenous land use agreement and this is occurring within an appropriate framework of corporate governance, internal control mechanisms and specific reporting protocols to ensure that outcomes are delivered consistent with expected standards. The committee indicated that it was satisfied that the Department of Environment and Science's governance arrangements are relevant and appropriate.

With regard to ongoing arrangements for existing commercial activity permit holders on Mulgumpin, I can advise that these businesses have recently had their permits reissued consistent with the Indigenous land use agreement. Before granting future permits of this nature on Mulgumpin the department will consult with QYAC, which is entirely appropriate, to ensure the proposed activities are consistent with the native title rights and interests of the Quandamooka people and consistent with the management intent of the protected area.

I am very pleased to advise the House that a new tourism operator has also recently been approved by the department and QYAC to provide glamping based overnight accommodation on Mulgumpin. This new operator adds further to the diversity of experience available to visitors. The consultation requirement between the state and QYAC ensures a genuine partnership and reflects existing arrangements for other Indigenous joint management areas and jointly managed national parks in the Cape York Peninsula region and Minjerribah. This bill will provide consistency across the legislation and is particularly relevant to Mulgumpin because the protected areas are also a declared recreation area under the Recreation Areas Management Act.

It will be no surprise to many members that Mulgumpin is well known and loved by Queenslanders as a popular family-friendly tourism destination. Over the last three years in excess of 23,000 camping and vehicle permits have been issued each year to visitors accessing Mulgumpin. Joint management will not change permitting arrangements for visitors other than the permits are now being issued by a new QYAC business called Mulgumpin Camping. The visitor experiences are diverse and include opportunities for self-reliant visitors to camp, explore, fish and enjoy other forms of recreation. Other visitors may access private accommodation or holiday homes or choose to book with well-run tourism businesses providing day tours or integrated accommodation and tours. Visitors using the private accommodation and townships will be unaffected by the bill and will continue to have access to diverse tourism offerings.

It is well known that tourists have a strong desire to learn about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and this will be more and more important for the tourism sector, particularly when international visitors return. That is why the Palaszczuk government has supported this year being the Year of Indigenous Tourism. The joint management arrangement provides the basis for tourism experiences to be enriched as the Quandamooka people develop new cultural tourism offerings and support existing operators to provide their customers with access to the unique Quandamooka cultural history.

The joint management model has been operating effectively across Cape York Peninsula in 28 jointly managed national parks and, as the member for Cook can attest, Cape York has continued to grow as a tourism destination with many people including a trip to the cape as a must-do travel experience, so much so that the Cook Shire Council is hosting a tourism focused Cooktown and Cape York Peninsula Expo next month. By way of example, the Olkola people have established partnerships with tourism entities that provide visitors with a genuine First Nations people's led tourism experience. I am confident that tourism opportunities on Mulgumpin will continue to grow and diversify with the new opportunities provided by working in partnership with the Quandamooka people.

I now turn to the amendments that the member for Bonney has circulated with respect to this bill. Those opposite have frankly failed to consult with the traditional owners in circulating the amendments they have. The very object of this bill is to deliver commitments made during the native title determination process to be enshrined in the Indigenous land use agreement regarding joint management of prescribed protected areas on Mulgumpin. How can those opposite be taken seriously

on matters of native title when they failed to consult with the very community and appointed native title prescribed body corporate that this bill relates to? There are also some very genuine constitutional concerns with the amendments circulated by the member for Bonney on matters pertaining to native title in federal law. Ultimately, the amendments proposed by those opposite fail to meet the standards we expect of government in consulting with the very people these amendments will impact and fundamental legislative and contractual principles and may indeed be in conflict with the Commonwealth Native Title Act.

In summary, this bill provides the framework for the rightful return of land on Mulgumpin to the Quandamooka people. As a minister for the state of Queensland, I am extremely proud to stand here today and present this legislation, which is about providing land justice to the Quandamooka people following their native title claim being filed in the Federal Court. The Palaszczuk government delivers on its commitments, and this bill's primary objective is to deliver those commitments made during the native title consent determination process. It will facilitate the implementation of the joint management of protected areas on Mulgumpin with the Quandamooka people. This government is meeting those commitments and will continue to ensure consultation activities occur in relation to the future management of Mulgumpin.

I again thank the Quandamooka people for their commitment to this partnership. I look forward to continuing to work with all members of the community to deliver arrangements that continue to ensure the protection of the natural and cultural values of the island and the opportunities available to the community to enjoy it. Lastly, I want to read a passage from the poem *A Song of Hope* by Oodgeroo Noonuccal for this occasion—

To our fathers' fathers

The pain, the sorrow;

To our children's children

The glad tomorrow.

I commend the bill to the House.



Mr O'CONNOR (Bonney—LNP) (2.06 pm): It is an honour to lead the opposition's contribution to the second reading debate of the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Indigenous Joint Management—Moreton Island) Amendment Bill. From the outset I would like to acknowledge the Quandamooka people and their continued care and custodianship of the islands we are discussing today and their surroundings. I pay my respects to their elders past, present and emerging.

The LNP will be supporting this legislation, but I will raise some concerns we have and put forward a minor, sensible amendment to address them. For over 20,000 years the Quandamooka people have held a continuous connection to the land and waters of Moreton Island. In their Jandai language it is called Mulgumpin, and that is how I will predominantly refer to it today. I do apologise in advance for my pronunciations in this language during the course of my contribution. I will do my best.

Mulgumpin means place of sandhills, an apt name for one of the three largest sand islands in the world at 37 kilometres long and 10 kilometres wide. The Indigenous people of Mulgumpin are known as the Ngugi and the island lies within the Quandamooka coast. Fish, shellfish, dugong, turtle and crustaceans formed a major part of their diet as well as bungwall fern, midyim berries, pandanus and honey. The Moreton Island National Park was recently renamed Gheebulum Coonungai, which means lightning's playground, and it is an incredible environmental asset with sand dunes, incredible beaches, creeks and lagoons, wild flowers and wildlife.

This is why the Federal Court decision in November 2019 to recognise the native title rights of the Quandamooka people is worth celebrating. It was a long time in the making. As Cameron Costello, the then CEO of the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation, or QYAC as I will refer to it, said when describing the meaning of that day—

This is a jubilant occasion for the Quandamooka people. On 27 November, and after many, many years, the Federal Court recognised the Quandamooka people's—more importantly the Ngugi people's—connection to country on Mulgumpin and their native title rights and interests. Significantly, the 4 July determination on Minjerribah was not a grant of anything to the Quandamooka people; it merely recognised what they always had, which was a continuous connection to country and a continuous right to manage their lands.

This native title determination gives the Quandamooka people the right to live and be present on the determination area, conduct traditional ceremonies, take, use, share and exchange traditional natural resources for traditional practices, conduct burial rights, teach about the physical and spiritual aspects of the area and to maintain places of importance and areas of significance.

The majority of Moreton Island is classified as protected area and will remain so. There will be a joint decision-making role between the Quandamooka people and the government about how the area is managed, with more opportunities to become involved in overall planning and operations in a way that is consistent with their traditional customs. The main objective of the bill is to provide for this joint management of those protected areas on Mulgumpin. This is a specific model of protected area management. In Queensland, the joint management occurs between Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service within the Department of Environment and Science and the Indigenous landholder who is the trustee of the land. The Quandamooka people voted at authorisation meetings of the Mulgumpin native title claim for QYAC to have the authority to negotiate outcomes for Mulgumpin.

It will also facilitate the creation of the Indigenous joint management area by making amendments to the Aboriginal Land Act, the Nature Conservation Act and the Recreation Areas Management Act. These amendments will: include provisions to give prescribed protected areas on Moreton Island the status of transferable land under the ALA so they may be granted to QYAC as Aboriginal land provided that the IMA prepared for the management of prescribed protected areas on Moreton Island is recognised under the ALA to facilitate the declaration of an IJMA under the NCA; provide for the declaration of the IJMA over prescribed protected areas to deliver joint management arrangements with QYAC on Moreton Island consistent with commitments in the ILUA; and ensure consultation and other requirements as specified in the IMA are met before certain permits and authorities are granted under the RAMA.

This will happen through amending or mirroring existing sections of the NCA and ALA that currently apply in the Cape York Peninsula region and the North Stradbroke Island region. Around 98 per cent of Mulgumpin is dedicated as protected area as national park, conservation area under the Nature Conservation Act and as recreation area under the Recreation Areas Management Act. It is one of our most precious environments in South-East Queensland.

As part of the Mulgumpin claim process, an Indigenous land use agreement and Indigenous management agreement were negotiated between the Queensland government and QYAC. We are told in the committee report that these agreements include interim management arrangements, ministerial and trustee responsibilities, details on how a management plan will be developed, areas where public access may be restricted, infrastructure management and how existing and future interests in the land will be created and managed.

It is important to note that the Aboriginal Land Act, section 172, states that an IMA or an IJMA must not result in a decrease, in the aggregate, in the public rights of access that existed in relation to the national park immediately before it becomes a national park or an Indigenous joint management area. I want to reiterate that, as part of the resolution of this native title claim, Moreton Island will continue to be managed as a protected area. This land is not granted to QYAC for exclusive use. This gives some piece of mind that locals and tourists will not be cut off from large sections of Moreton Island, although it does allow there to be some change in access.

Around 200,000 people visit this island each year and it holds a special place for many Queenslanders. To raise just one example of this from my local electorate, a couple of weeks ago I ran into Paul and Tracey who live across the road from me in Parkwood. On our tram trip into Southport we got talking about their wonderful holiday experiences over on Moreton, having gone there for the last 27 years. Tourists like them visit the amazing sand dunes, the Blue Lagoon and Champagne Pools and see the dolphins and the abundant wildlife, with over 1,200 species on the island. It is a precious asset that we should all be very proud of.

The questions regarding access to the island and what the changes will mean have caused much stress and concerns for residents, visitors and business operators, especially given the lack of communication from the government. I will speak more to this later, but I will start by running through some of the benefits that this new arrangement will hope to achieve. Firstly, environmentally: with a managerial interest in the land the Quandamooka can care for their country as the cultural and wildlife sanctuary that it is. They are already working on having Mulgumpin recognised as a World Heritage site for its outstanding natural and cultural values. As part of the agreement, the residents of Mulgumpin will receive a dedicated budget for their national park. If properly managed, this has the potential to provide significant benefits for biodiversity conservation. They already have plans in place to increase fire trails and have better fire management. The amendment I will move seeks to provide more transparency about how this funding is spent and the outcomes it is achieving. More openness is not something the government should be afraid of. I wrote to the minister to clarify the reporting requirements and about several other issues in the bill. While I thank her for her clarification on these

matters, I believe there is an opportunity to ensure the best environmental outcomes are achieved and further accountability would help with this. This is vital to properly managing our environment and is an openness the government should not be afraid of.

Beyond the environmental benefits, the IMA marks an important step in the continual recognition and integration of Indigenous culture in our state. The joint management arrangement not only allows for what has the potential to be a higher standard of conservation but also is an important tool for community development. It advances the interests of the Quandamooka people by integrating QYAC in the management of the area and protecting the land that is the basis of their cultural identity. Providing more control of the land to the Quandamooka people will help protect the immense cultural significance of the area. As the committee report states, Mulgumpin 'contains the undisturbed and diverse range of archaeological evidence for the relationship Aboriginal people have with a coastal wallum environment in South-East Queensland'. There is also the ancient stone quarry and extensive coastal middens of archaeological importance, and it has been acknowledged these require improved management so that they can be preserved for future generations. I sincerely hope the government and QYAC also look at how to ensure the Second World War era bunkers on the island can be protected as well, knowing the importance they have for our history, our veterans and their families. The framework provided by the agreement ensures these areas with cultural significance receive the special management they need and are preserved for future generations. The joint management arrangement is so important to helping avoid the potential for a dual tragedy of ecosystem and cultural loss.

In terms of the economic benefits, the joint management arrangement facilitated by the bill also has the opportunity to boost Indigenous employment on Mulgumpin and provide broader economic impacts through tourism. Minjerribah, or North Stradbroke Island, is helpful to inform our expectations for the rollout of this management in Mulgumpin, having gone through a similar process. Over eight years QYAC and Minjerribah Camping have added an additional 35 Aboriginal staff, all living locally. They have reported this adds \$1.35 million in additional economic income to the Dunwich and Redlands shire each year. For Minjerribah Camping, 59 per cent of the employees were Indigenous, with 87 per cent of these being Quandamooka people. These additional jobs added almost \$7 million to that local economy.

Providing stable employment and developing transferable workplace skills was a key strategy in reducing Indigenous poverty in the Redlands region, where the Indigenous unemployment rate was three times higher than the rest of the population. There are promising signs that similar results will be experienced on Mulgumpin. There is already a commitment for 50 per cent of the rangers to be Quandamooka people and QYAC's vision to develop the area into a global eco, cultural and tourism hub brings the prospect of future job growth. With such great aspirations it is crucial that operators in the area have a stable operating environment as well as as much openness and transparency as possible. Again from the example of Minjerribah, we have seen some of the further benefits of this arrangement. This is not only in economic, environmental and culture benefits but also in the increased respect and recognition they have seen from private operators, government agencies and commercial companies.

Just as we learn from the positives of Minjerribah we need to recognise and learn from some of the issues it has faced since its own joint management arrangement came into effect. In February the ABC reported that locals have found that the \$36 million tourism fund, Minjerribah Futures Program, has completely missed the mark. This was meant to transition the island from an economic reliance on resources from its sandmining days to cultural and ecotourism revenue. Millions are being spent on an art museum and the Whale on the Hill project, but essentials such as disability access, footpaths and showers have been overlooked.

Whilst the minister stated that small-scale public infrastructure was the responsibility of local government, the council has stated that the strategy was not collaborative. The Whale on the Hill project, having been given a ministerial infrastructure designation, thereby streamlining planning processes and taking away appeal options for residents, continues to cause concern for Indigenous and non-Indigenous locals. Quandamooka elder Maureen Myers stated that had she did not believe QYAC's plans were representative of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous residents. She said—

You've got all young people and people who don't live here deciding on this. It hurts so much—QYAC are descendants, yes, but they don't understand because they've never lived here.

Over 40,000 people have signed the petition against that project and on broader local issues. A major part of the issue is that many feel they were not part of the decision-making process.

Associated land clearing is another concern raised by Quandamooka locals. Again all these issues need to be considered as this joint management is realised. We cannot overlook the complexities that can arise as we implement this on Mulgumpin. The government should not just pass this legislation and put funding behind it, and then not assess the actions of the department and QYAC as it is rolled out. Tracking the KPIs and publicly reporting them is important to ensuring Mulgumpin is managed as best as it possibly can be.

At Minjerribah the project has pitted Indigenous communities against one another, with some blaming the government for that. The government is responsible for putting in place structures to ensure the right processes and accountability are in place so that all Quandamooka people to whom native title was granted are appropriately represented by their trustee, QYAC. The government needs to ensure that something similar does not happen on Mulgumpin. They need to support QYAC by adequately working with them to represent the entire community. We need to make sure this is a positive step forward for all Indigenous people on the island and not just those actively involved in QYAC. Again this is why I believe the amendment I will move is a worthwhile addition to the bill.

I move on to another major discussion point on the bill, the renewal or granting of new permit applications. The bill amends the RAMA to require the department to issue a permit to carry out certain activities in the IJMA only if all requirements relating to issuing the permits are satisfied. That includes consulting with the Indigenous landowners and obtaining prior written consent. I support this as an important amendment to recognise the Quandamooka people's rights over Mulgumpin. However, as QYAC has its own commercial operations it will be signing off on its competitors' permits, which creates a very complex situation for existing or potential operators. It is difficult to assure businesses there will be fairness and transparency in those decisions.

Operators have sought clarity on the new conditions around the renewal of permits, including cultural training, land access and the involvement of Indigenous guides on the island. They have also asked that the term be extended to enable more business investment, acknowledging that the department confirmed with QYAC that existing permits were to be extended for a period of two years from the registration of the ILUA and the IMA in May 2020. In her response to my letter the minister clarified that these permits were renewed on 31 March 2021. This will give an initial grace period as the agreement and management plans come into place, but operators rightly want more assurances for their future. There has been very little detail released to them.

In terms of how the assessment process on commercial activity permits would be fair, the department said that there were established assessment processes in place. The Deputy Director-General of Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships said—

There is a process there. We have, through the Indigenous management agreement, some parameters we and QYAC will deal with which we cannot be specifically public about.

It is unclear why there is a need for secrecy at this point. If there are parameters to ensure fairness—great. I urge the government to work with QYAC to publicise those parameters to give certainty to local operators.

Mr Fergus from Sunrover summed up the frustration—

There has been no correspondence. There has been no conversation. There has been nothing. We are just a side thought. It is very frustrating. Sitting here, I am getting more and more frustrated because nobody knows anything and nobody is telling anybody anything so then the rumour mill starts. Then there is innuendo, hearsay and Chinese whispers. It has all got out of hand. Could we just be consulted? All we are trying to do is run a business and trying to survive and this is just making it infinitely harder. Do the ferry fees go up? Do the commercial activity agreements go up? Do we even get them anymore? Who knows? Let us know what is going on. We are happy to work with anybody and we will. We will follow any guidelines you give us, but please let us know what these guidelines are.

You can hear his uncertainty and he is not alone.

Other submitters raised the issue of conflict of interest and the uncertainty over the lengths of their permits. Mr Wilson, of Moreton Island Tourist Services, said—

We just want some certainty in the length of our permit. Our permit is due for renewal in May, and we just do not know what will happen in the near future. Since February we have been unwilling to invest any money in our business. I am not going to go and get a \$100,000 loan to continue our business when I do not know what is going to happen in March or May of next year, when our permit potentially renews. QYAC is the overarching body that has several businesses that sit underneath it, like Mulgumpin Camping. How are QYAC able to make an unbiased decision to provide consent about permits when in the near future they will potentially be our competition in business and tourism? We see this as a conflict of interest.

The department has said that when a business is unhappy with a decision there is an internal review process and then they can go the QCAT if they are still not satisfied. That was confirmed in the minister's response to my letter. However, in the case of QYAC refusing a permit it was not clear

whether the specific reasons why it was refused would be required to be communicated to the applicant. There needs to be an enshrined process around this matter to bring more certainty, fairness and transparency.

Requiring the reasons for the refusal of consent by an Indigenous landholder to be included in the information notice is covered by the second part of the amendment I will move. There is a strong chance that these information notices will be vague and bureaucratic, which does not help with transparency or accountability. For argument's sake, you could have a permit refused for environmental reasons only for QYAC to start a similar venture. I am not saying that is going to happen, but it is a fear some operators have that could be easily alleviated by more transparency, leading to a better outcome for all. It is good for everyone if we can eliminate those fears and if an applicant is refused by QYAC they can be given the direct reason for that refusal of consent. That means, if possible, they will be able to rectify the concerns of the Indigenous landholder for future applications. It is important to acknowledge that none of these submitters, any members on this side or, indeed, I think anyone in this House is against the bill or the right of the Quandamooka people to be given custodianship of what is rightfully theirs. What many do want is better communication and more openness about the changes.

The confidentiality of the agreement is one of the major concerns raised in the assessment of the bill, which again comes back to a seemingly unnecessary lack of communication and transparency. The ILUA and IMA have been kept confidential. The Deputy Director-General of Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships explained that in Australia it is common practice for the contents of ILUAs to remain confidential. That is important while negotiations are underway and allows the native title discussions to occur on a confidential and without-prejudice basis. However, once they are confirmed other states do allow their publication on a regular basis. In New South Wales, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia you can view the ILUAs for various areas and in some cases the full ILUA is not published but individual sections are. It is only when you search for Queensland ILUAs that confidentiality is more commonplace. Therefore, releasing more of this agreement, even just parts of it, would not be out of the question.

I understand that ILUAs registered with the National Native Title Tribunal must be kept confidential when the parties do not wish their details to be made public, as is of course the case with similar agreements struck between two parties on many other matters. When we see the general subject matter of those agreements, it seems to make no sense for them to be kept confidential. It was disappointing that even the committee assessing the bill was denied the opportunity to see the agreement confidentially. I wrote to the chair stating the case for committee members to be allowed access to it. That lack of access made their task more difficult.

Confidentiality aside, what matters is the lack of communication with the community on the impacts the agreement will have and the ensuing mistrust and negativity about this process. This is disappointing because it has caused unnecessary fear and uncertainty about something that should be an overwhelmingly positive thing. Instead of celebrating the decision and this enactment with the Indigenous community, many residents have gone into panic mode about what it all means. We heard that again and again in the committee's hearings. Ms Paula Gill, the President of the Koorinal Land Owners Association, stated—

There is a big portion of elderly residents who live in Koorinal. Some have had houses there for 80 years and so forth ... in fairness to our elderly community particularly but all of our residents, some transparency is required. The secrecy behind these scenarios has really bred fear and anxiety amongst our community to the point where I have had older people ringing me crying saying they cannot sleep at night. They have obviously made it into something bigger than it probably is, but if we could just get communication around the scenarios it would put them at ease.

She went on to say—

As you say, there are some scenarios where we cannot have an opinion and that is okay, but to be able to go back to them and say, 'Look, the ranger station is being built there'—whatever the scenario is—that would really help, because at the moment we have nothing and nothing breeds fear.

Mr Bill Golan, President of the Moreton Island Community Association Bulwer, echoed Ms Gill's words. He said—

... there has been no information given to us. The lack of information breeds fear and then after that it breeds distrust. That is what we need to pull back on. We need to bring it back to having an honest and open discussion.

Even if the government felt that the agreement needed to be confidential or if QYAC requested that it remain so, communicating regularly to the community or even giving some of the summary points from the agreement could have prevented much of this uncertainty. I commend QYAC for suggesting native title workshops to help locals understand what the process means and how they can be helpful in respecting it whilst being part of the conversation. This is the kind of positive action we need to see going forward, so I support this second recommendation from the committee's report.

It is clear that the government has recognised this oversight and given the third recommendation to go beyond the usual legislated level of consultation when formulating the management plan. Even the committee noted—


... it appears more can be done to support clarity and certainty, particularly around conditions associated with the renewal of commercial activity permits.

I support the recommendation by the committee that the Queensland government, in partnership with QYAC, complement the statutory consultation requirements for the preparation of the draft management plan.

There has been much said about QYAC's finances in the report and through the media, and I welcome QYAC's clarification on these matters and the minister's response to the member for Oodgeroo's question without notice in this regard in February, I believe. I understand that there will be a number of governing instruments over the finances, that these funds are also subject to the usual corporate governance and internal control mechanisms and that the department is including a Queensland Audit Office review as part of the annual financial audits.

In terms of other measures to protect funds in this joint management arrangement, there will be a service agreement between the department and QYAC for camping, vehicle access permits and facilities. However, with around \$30 million going to QYAC as part of the Mulgumpin agreement, more transparency will be a helpful tool to assess how the agreement is working and where there is room for improvement, particularly when it comes to environmental management. Again, this is why I believe my amendment will be helpful as it creates more clarity around reporting requirements, particularly to make them public.

To conclude, I would like to thank the two committees for their excellent inquiries and reports into this bill and to thank all of the people who contributed to those inquiries. This is another day of celebration for the Quandamooka people. I support this bill and ask the House to support the opposition's amendment to improve it.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (2.32 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the bill in front of us. Before I do, I will address a couple of issues raised by the member for Bonney. I know that some members of the LNP have been critical of the state government not providing infrastructure especially to Minjerribah. Can I say that Redland City Council may have wanted to do a better job in maintaining and providing infrastructure on Minjerribah. I know the members for Redlands and Capalaba would even say that they have perhaps neglected their custodianship of infrastructure on the island. If the LNP want to criticise a lack of infrastructure on the island, perhaps they should talk to their erstwhile candidate or future candidate for the seat of Bowman in the upcoming by-election there.

Ms Richards: She might be able to bring some value.

Mr WHITING: Thank you, member for Redlands. I will touch on the issues of clarity and communication later, but I want to say at this point that in order to get clarity and certainty you need trust and communication. I think we are getting a glimpse today of why there might be a lack of trust, certainly amongst Quandamooka people, with regard to the LNP if the behaviour we have seen over the last couple of years is consistent. Trust works both ways and communication works both ways, and I emphasise to the LNP that they perhaps need to take more care of that.

We have heard the reasons we have the bill here in front of us. In November 2019, the Federal Court made a native title consent determination recognising the claim to Mulgumpin. As part of that agreement, the state government and the Quandamooka people are working towards joint management of areas on Mulgumpin. As we have heard, 98 per cent of the island is protected under the Nature Conservation Act or Recreation Areas Management Act 2006. This is quite unique. We really do have a gem on Brisbane's doorstep. That is what the bill is about. The bill is not about examining the system of native title or passing judgement on those who can best manage the land. Those decisions have been made, and it is our role to make sure that that cooperation and those arrangements can go ahead and start.

As chair of the committee examining the bill, I felt it was very important to go out to Mulgumpin for a couple of days and have a good look at what we are dealing with. On our site visit we travelled literally the length of the island—the oceanside and the bayside—in four-wheel drives. We met QYAC at Cape Moreton. Standing near the lighthouse, they pointed out the cultural features of the landscape around us and we heard about the connection of that landscape to creation stories and the process of getting native title recognised. We heard about the work the rangers are doing in conjunction with QPWS rangers in managing weeds and feral animals and the early stages of the reintroduction of controlled burning, especially taking care of some highly significant tree species.

We also met residents and tourism operators in the rural fire brigade building at Bulwer. We found the residents and especially the tourism operators to be very respectful. They had some concerns but they wanted to know more about what was happening. At the end of the day—and this is what we have not heard so far—they are very positive about the future of the island. They know that changes are coming, but I heard them saying, 'We want to work with the First Nations people and build up a better tourism experience for the industry in the area.' We met the owner and operators of Tangalooma, which is an incredible tourism resource in our region—another very special place on a very special place.

In talking about the report, I want to recognise the role of the member for Stretton in getting to this point. He chaired the committee that produced the report in the last parliament. I read his report very carefully and I commend him on his approach. I was especially guided by his approach to some of the more challenging aspects of the inquiry that arose. I urge everyone to read the foreword to his report. I think it will stand as a testament to his hard work over the years and will be a guide for chairs in this parliament for some years to come.

From conducting our examination of the bill and our site visit, I can talk about the beauty of Mulgumpin—of Moreton. On the site visit it became very clear what an absolute gem it is. Driving along the beaches, especially on the bayside—the blue water, the white sand, the towering dunes and the coastal forest—was breathtaking and beautiful.

We also learned about the cultural and archaeological heritage. We have not heard too much about this, but QYAC employ archaeologists. They talked about one investigation they did in a three-metre trench in a significant area. What they have found will make Mulgumpin the most important archaeological site in South-East Queensland, I have no doubt, and I look forward to seeing the papers that are published after they have been peer reviewed. I think they will show the depth of the culture and history of Mulgumpin and what an incredibly special place it is.

I have talked about the positive attitude of the tourism operators we met on the site visit. I will talk about the benefits of tourism as well. It is very clear that there is huge potential on Mulgumpin, on Moreton, especially with Queen's Wharf and international tourists eventually coming back.

Talking with the Quandamooka people, it is very clear that they have enormous capacity for managing their land. I acknowledge Uncle Bob Anderson who is in the gallery today and recognise his role as a claimant in this and a custodian of the stories that will be guiding the management of this land. There are an incredible number of highly skilled people amongst the Quandamooka people. There are a lot of PhDs amongst them. I acknowledge the member for Algester, a very important Quandamooka person. They have successfully jointly managed the national park for over eight years and they have won awards for that.

I will briefly touch on the issues raised by the LNP. They demanded that there be openness and they demanded to see the ILUA. I point out that this is a confidential agreement registered in the Federal Court—an agreement negotiated over many years. It is clear that one of the parties did not want that confidentiality breached. For us to muddle into a confidential agreement lessens trust in the native title system and the courts in Australia. All sides need to know that their confidential agreements will remain confidential. They do not need state politicians deciding what is or what will remain confidential. It is not our plaything. It is a confidential agreement. If it were another corporation doing this, there would be no question about us not getting involved.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr WHITING: See what I mean? It is a confidential agreement. For any other corporation it would be—

Mr Mander interjected.


Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Gerber): Pause the clock. Member for Everton, cease your interjections, please.

Mr WHITING: The member for Everton's interjections highlight the LNP's ambivalent attitude towards this corporation. They have millions in reserves. The corporation has been given a clean bill of health continually. They have a camping business as well.

We have seen certain elements of the LNP try to portray this corporation as financially irresponsible or incapable of managing a business. If we look at the transcript of the hearing, we see that one of the first questions we had of a witness was about a QYAC officer and accusing them of doing something that was potentially illegal. That was in a parliamentary hearing. We are not going to have good parliamentary hearings or trust if these are the kinds of questions that get asked when we are examining these kinds of issues.

No other agency managing or involved in a national park or natural area would be continually called to justify their decisions, but the LNP think they can make this corporation jump through higher hoops. What we are seeing here is a failure of the LNP to properly grasp what native title is all about. If members of the LNP want to talk about the angst being caused for the Quandamooka people then they need to talk about the angst that some members of the LNP are creating by the constant undermining of the Quandamooka people and their corporation. It is a disgrace.

I acknowledge the hospitality and the sharing of knowledge that occurred when our committee visited Mulgumpin. It was a wonderful experience to have that cultural landscape explained by the Quandamooka people and to see the pride of their rangers and cultural managers. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (2.42 pm): I rise to speak in the debate on the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Indigenous Joint Management—Moreton Island) Amendment Bill. Before I go on, I must say that there is universal acknowledgement and respect for the granting of native title. I recognise the Quandamooka people and their elders past, present and emerging. I recognise Bob Anderson who is in the gallery today. We had the pleasure of meeting many of the elders on the island. We enjoyed some great hospitality and the opportunity to understand firsthand some of their genuine concerns. I will talk to that a little later. I recognise the contribution of the member for Bancroft, but I can assure the House that LNP members are concerned about the management process. I do not want that to be confused with the acknowledgement and respect for the granting of native title.

The bill primarily intends to provide for the joint management of protected areas on Moreton Island or, as it is now known, Mulgumpin. Joint management is a specific model of area management which allows for native title land to be managed by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service alongside the Indigenous landholder. Land management decisions under this arrangement are made jointly in consideration of Indigenous management agreements. The second objective of the bill is to make minor legislative amendments to provide clarification for the operation of existing provisions and to ensure consistency is maintained across related legislation.

I thank the committee chair, the member for Bancroft, and the members for Ipswich West and Bundaberg for their work. I thank my colleague the member for Burleigh for assisting with our non-government members' statement of reservation. I also thank the member for Traeger for cosigning that statement which contained a lot of the truths that we uncovered through the inquiry process. Thank you also to the committee secretariat, particularly Stephanie Galbraith, for their assistance. Special mention goes to Marjorie Elworthy, the parliamentary Indigenous Liaison Officer, for her assistance with cultural sensitivities, coordination and appreciation of Mulgumpin and QYAC during our inquiry. Marjorie's advice and assistance improved the experience of us all throughout this inquiry. It was Marjorie's first inquiry. She did a great job.

It is our role as committee members to inquire into bills such as this. With some submitters and even members of QYAC itself making allegations of wrongdoing and financial inconsistencies, what might have been a simple inquiry became more complex. I asked the Quandamooka and Yoolooburrabee people and the QYAC organisation not to be offended by the role some committee members have played in trying to discover details of the Indigenous management agreement or the Indigenous land use agreement and the issues regarding commercial activity permits. These were genuine inquiries and had nothing to do with the issue of native title.

Opposition committee members believe the secretive actions of the Labor government—to say some committee members do not trust the government is correct—during this committee hearing and when negotiating with stakeholders is putting the opportunity for a world-class Indigenous tourism offering at risk. As deputy chair of the committee, I, together with our shadow minister, wrote to the committee about these matters. With more than \$30 million of honest, hardworking Queensland taxpayers' money at play, the government need to be open and accountable around agreements made as part of the joint management of Mulgumpin.

The committee has the power to seek documents related to the management of Moreton Island, including the ILUA and IMA. The committee is not limited in this power and yet we have not seen either of these documents. This is a major system failure and displays a clear lack of accountability. When a committee is tasked with reviewing a bill it should be able to do so in a sensible and informative way, with access to all relevant information. In this case that was not so.

These concerns were shared by many stakeholders throughout the committee process. Many operators expressed their concerns around the lack of transparency with the bill, stating that there is no visibility about the terms of agreement that have already been reached between QYAC and the state about how the land is proposed to be managed. They went on to say that Moreton Island Adventures

has no visibility over this process at all and that there has been no consultation about the proposed plans for the ongoing use. The Koorungal Residents Association also expressed its concerns about the secretive and unconfirmed details of the ILUA and the IMA. The use of the island has been of concern for 50 years and many feel that they could be shut out.

I strongly argue and have discussed with Dr Valerie Cooms, the chair of QYAC, considering the benefit for QYAC and the community of having open disclosure of these documents in the confidential forum that is a parliamentary committee. Parliamentary committees are bound by parliament's confidentiality and any breach is treated very seriously.

Concerns were also raised by stakeholders in relation to the commercial activity permits assessment process and the length of term for these permits. I note the minister has advised that the permits have been renewed, but renewing them for only a short period does not build trust with the existing operators, some of which have been in operation for 100 years. If passed, the bill would require the chief executive of the Department of Environment and Science to seek approval from QYAC before granting a permit. As a direct competitor to business activities on the island, QYAC should be consulted regarding commercial activity permits but should not have the right of veto due to the clear conflict of interest.

The Koorungal Landholders Association shared this view, stating—

The relevant provisions in the bill should be amended to make it clear that consent will not be unreasonably refused by QYAC. There again should be safeguards included in the bill to ensure there is a fair process including a right of appeal should QYAC refuse a permit.


To say that some members of the community do not trust QYAC—that is correct. Poor communication and consultation are at the heart of a growing distrust among residents, businesses and QYAC. On the island I spoke to landholders who are still of the belief that they may lose their freehold land to native title. That is not correct, but this is further evidence of the poor communication by the department—not QYAC. To say that the committee had the opportunity to look at these documents in a confidential setting and in line with the confidentiality agreement—that is correct.

Again, there is universal acknowledgement and respect for the granting of native title. I believe there are two very clear distractions that have resulted in both misunderstanding and clouding of this mismanagement. The first is in relation to QYAC's own legal advice regarding not having access to the ILUA in a confidential arrangement. Many of the residents of Mulgumpin spoke of their pride and the great work being done by the coordinator, Dan Crouch. He is well respected by everyone, but he and his staff just do not know what they can and cannot say.

This legal advice affected the certainty, in terms of the amount of activity the Department of Environment and Science and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships have, in renewing the commercial activity permits. It is very clear to me that there has been some mismanagement of this process. Current operators have been forced into signing ILUAs without certainty of conditions and some are using the issue of confidentiality as a mask of mismanagement by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

In our statement of reservation I have talked about a number of recommendations. I ask the Minister for Environment and also the Minister for Tourism to take those issues seriously. A number of submitters suggested that the tourism bodies should be represented around the decision-making process of the ILUA and the IMA. Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service is not a good tourism manager; it is a good environmental manager. I ask the minister to consider our recommendation to give the tourism operators a seat at the table so that their interests can be well protected.

As has happened on K'gari, 10-year permits have been put in place through the QuEST program—a very sensible program, a contemporary Indigenous management project that has been working really well with the Butchulla people of K'gari. I again ask the minister to consider giving the operators certainty—15-year permits with at least a 10-year renewal process.

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism Industry Development and Innovation and Minister for Sport) (2.52 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Indigenous Joint Management—Moreton Island) Amendment Bill 2020. This legislation will give our First Nations people more control over their lands and destiny. As we have heard, the vast majority of Mulgumpin—98 per cent in fact—is being dedicated as a national park and a conservation park under the Nature Conservation Act 1992. The area is also a recreation area declared under the Recreation Areas Management Act 2006.

In November 2019, the Federal Court of Australia made a native title consent determination recognising the Quandamooka people's native title rights on Mulgumpin. The determination included a series of land agreements. This included that protected areas on the island be jointly managed by the

state and the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation, or QYAC. I wish to acknowledge Aunty Val Cooms, who I think is in the gallery, and Uncle Bob Anderson and other traditional owners in the public gallery—and, indeed, in the chamber—in addressing these issues.

The bill provides the legal framework for those arrangements to be implemented and are similar to joint management arrangements implemented on Minjerribah following the Quandamooka people's native title determinations over that land in 2011 and those implemented on the Cape York Peninsula. Joint management is a specific model of protected area management that provides for land management to occur jointly between the state and an Indigenous landowner under the Aboriginal Land Act 1991. Under the Mulgumpin joint management arrangements, decisions about the protected areas are to be made jointly between the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships and QYAC.

From a tourism industry development perspective, while we acknowledge that there are challenges, there is much opportunity for collaboration with the Quandamooka people and the enhancement of the cultural tourism offering on Mulgumpin. Joint management can deliver benefits for both traditional owners and the broader community. Opportunities include economic development through the provision of jobs and quality visitor experiences, enhanced conservation and protection of national park and recreation areas, and the opportunity for increased cultural tourism and education on the island.

The Palaszczuk government believes joint management will benefit all residents and businesses, and we confidently predict a similar outcome to Minjerribah where Quandamooka people are empowered to play a critical role in progressing a sustainable and vibrant future. QYAC is keen to see Mulgumpin as a cultural and wildlife sanctuary, and the Palaszczuk government looks forward to working with Quandamooka people to drive that agenda.

The Palaszczuk government worked closely with QYAC to assist in the development of the Gudjundabu Marumba Gubiyiyanya: Tourism for a Glad Tomorrow. This is a five-year strategy, started in 2018, for tourism within Quandamooka country, including Mulgumpin. The strategy identifies opportunities for cultural tourism initiatives including the management of national park by Quandamooka rangers; a Great Walk; mainland to islands and interisland connectivity; and, more broadly, immersing of Quandamooka culture—language, art, dance, food and cultural protocol—in tourism products, and building strategic partnerships for tourism infrastructure and products. It is exciting that joint management is going to be extended and that the success will be extended to Mulgumpin.

In terms of social and cultural impacts, it is about providing a greater connection for people to the traditional history of Mulgumpin. While the island is in the member for Redcliffe's electorate, I do feel a close affinity with this very special place in South-East Queensland. I walk 10 metres from my home and look down Ninth Avenue in Sandgate and see the island across Moreton Bay. As the member for Sandgate, there are many traditional owners who live in my electorate due to its proximity to Mulgumpin. Indeed, they tell me that they live in this place as part of our city because they can see the islands across the bay.

There are also many tourism operators who live in my electorate and others who have a very close association and identity with the island. So I am aware of not only the challenges that this brings but also the great opportunities, as I say, that joint management can offer to both traditional owners and tourism operators and those who have a close association with the island.

The Quandamooka people are very keen to ensure that visitors get that traditional owner experience. They are working on projects to do that with tour operators and with visitors in general so they can understand the island's history and the traditional stories of the island.

The Palaszczuk government looks forward to collaborating with the Quandamooka people in undertaking cultural heritage—looking at particular sites, better signage, better information and sharing stories with people about Mulgumpin. People will get, through this joint management, more knowledge from the Quandamooka people and will understand more about their island.

The Year of Indigenous Tourism 2021, expanded from 2020, has the potential to transform the landscape of cultural and ecotourism in this state as we aim to become the nation's market leader in Indigenous tourism experiences. Targeted activities will position the sector to capture a greater share of domestic visitation, while we get ready for the resurgence of international travel once the COVID-19 pandemic is brought under appropriate control.


The Year of Indigenous Tourism is a celebration of our First Nations operators. Most importantly, it is an initiative to drive economic and social benefits for Indigenous businesses and communities, while enhancing cultural understanding and appreciation, indeed, for all business that operate in the

tourism sector in the state. There is the headline \$10 million investment by the Palaszczuk government as well as the collaboration between government and industry that will yield ongoing benefits. The Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport is working closely with Tourism and Events Queensland, the Queensland Tourism Industry Council, Tourism Tropical North Queensland and across government to deliver a suite of activities from marketing and media to training and mentorship, as well as improvements to sector representation and business development support.

The core activity of the Year of Indigenous Tourism is the delivery of the \$7 million Growing Indigenous Tourism in Queensland Fund. The fund has two categories: category 1, which offered grants up to \$25,000 to develop a new business concept; and category 2, which offered grants up to \$1 million to deliver new experiences and infrastructure. The initial round of the fund opened in February this year, attracting more than 130 expressions of interest for a total requested value of \$37 million. We were overwhelmed by the quantity and the quality of these expressions of interest and heartened by what it represented for the strength of the sector. In a highly competitive independent process, 24 applicants were successful in securing category 1 funding, with another 21 invited to submit a full application to category 2. Nine category 2 projects were successful in securing over \$6 million in funding to deliver projects worth an estimated \$11.8 million across Queensland. These projects are expected to deliver 75 jobs, attract 167,000 additional annual visitors and generate approximately \$8.2 million in additional overnight visitor expenditure.

A number of these projects will deliver experiences on jointly managed national park sites such as the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation's K'gari cultural tourism project. The Butchulla people are the traditional owners of K'gari, a World Heritage listed Queensland icon that attracts over 400,000 people each year. This project will establish K'gari Cultural Tours, an Indigenous owned and managed tourism business that will bring to market a variety of unique cultural tourism services and experiences for visitors to the island in order to share with them the rich cultural heritage of K'gari, which in the Butchulla language means 'paradise'. The Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport has committed \$877,000 towards this \$1.5 million infrastructure and capability development project, which is due for completion in June 2022. It is one example, amongst others, of great projects where we are working in joint management areas and supporting the development of economic opportunities that are represented by traditional owners and sharing their culture and knowledge of these special places, which are great assets of Queensland's tourism economy.

The Palaszczuk government has set a direction and is working within the Federal Court of Australia's decision. This government understands there will be challenges in the delivery of this process, and there is more work to be done by all parties to reach the potential outcomes on offer that will benefit not only our Indigenous peoples but also our great state. This bill represents an opportunity to share the capabilities, experience and understanding of traditional owners with the rest of the community while empowering the owners. I get a bit shocked that from time to time in this place people whom we would traditionally expect to defend property rights are the first critics of people who exercise their property rights. I endorse the bill before the House. The legislation is a critical step towards giving Indigenous people more control over their land and their destiny.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (3.02 pm) I too rise to contribute to the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Indigenous Joint Management—Moreton Island) Amendment Bill. I was a member of the committee that looked at this particular bill. As the shadow minister told the parliament, we will not be opposing this. I think the minister, the shadow minister, the chair and deputy chair have articulated pretty much how this bill works, so what I would like to talk about is the lack of consultation and the secrecy that is creeping into the committee process and not allowing members of parliament to do their job.

There is no doubt in my mind that the joint management of Moreton Island can work between QYAC and the department of natural parks. There will be no problem with this working if people work in good faith, they take care of each other's problems and issues, and they solve them equally. My main concern is how the committee system worked. We all know that we are a unicameral parliament in Queensland, meaning that we have no Senate. Members of this House sit on committees, we look at the bills, we tear them apart, we look to see what the best results are, and then we make recommendations to the House. In this case we made a recommendation that the bill be passed.

When we travelled to Moreton Island and talked to the residents, QYAC and people who have invested a lot of money over there, my feeling was there is quite a bit of concern about how the government has handled this particular bill. By way of explaining that, I would say that one of the most prominent issues raised by the stakeholders during the former committee's inquiry was the confidential

nature of the ILUA and the IMA, the Indigenous management agreement. Those participating in the inquiry argued that this made it difficult to understand the potential future impacts of the bill and what the future may hold. In their submission the Koorinal Landholders Association said—

The secretive nature of the ILUA, the IJMA, the decision making and the future decision making between QYAC and the Queensland Government for the use of the island has been and remains very concerning to many ... There was a genuine opportunity to facilitate a collaborative relationship between locals and the indigenous landowners, instead the secrecy breeds a level of fear and animosity ...

Moreton Island Adventures is a fifth-generation family owned business that operates the essential ferry service over to the island as well as the local store and local tourist accommodation. They said—

Moreton Island Adventures is concerned about the fact that there is no visibility about the terms of the agreement that has already been reached between QYAC and the State about how the land is proposed to be managed, and, in particular, those areas where general public access may be restricted.

Moreton Island Adventures have had no visibility over this process at all, and there has been no consultation about the proposed plans for the ongoing use and management of the island.

Moreton Island Adventures is particularly concerned that restrictions will be imposed on the location of its current operations including Cape Moreton and various other locations enjoyed by the general public on Moreton Island.

Moreton Island Adventures is also concerned about the terms of the IMA, and how existing interests in the land will be created and managed ...

This information is crucial, for businesses to determine whether their business will be commercially viable into the future.

These people are putting millions of dollars into their business and they want to know whether they have a future on the island going forward.

I asked the department if the IMA could be provided on a confidential basis and they advised—

No, the department cannot provide the document. The IMA is a confidential document because it is attached to the Indigenous Land Use Agreement that was prepared for the native title consent determination and the ILUA contains a confidentiality clause.

It does. There is a confidentiality clause, but I would point out to the members here that the confidentiality clause does allow for the government to release this for accountability purposes. Surely one of those accountability purposes must be to explain to a parliamentary committee why we should pass this bill. Isn't that why we are here to start with—to look into these things, to examine them and to work out whether there is anything wrong with them? The explanatory notes to this bill, and even the minister's speech today, said this bill delivers on parts of the agreement in the ILUA. In fact, the explanatory notes say—

The Bill will facilitate ... provide for the declaration of an IJMA over prescribed protected areas to deliver joint management arrangements with QYAC on Moreton Island consistent with commitments in the ILUA;

The bill enforces those things that are in the ILUA, yet we do not know what is in there. No-one will tell us what is in there. It was quite within the scope of the committee to demand that the department provide us with the ILUA. Members of this House would be fair in thinking that in fact that probably happened. I know that I wanted to see the ILUA. I will not put words in the member for Lockyer's mouth, but I know he wanted to see the ILUA. I know that the member for Traeger wanted to see the ILUA. In fact, I think that some of the Labor members wanted to see the ILUA, so of course we asked for it. What happened? We were denied access to it by a vote of the committee.


I will explain how the committee system works. There are three non-government members, there are three government members and the chair has the casting vote, and of course the government stopped us from having access to it. In fact, the government went even further than that; the government made that particular vote secret as well. It is completely secret. They are hiding everything. They are hiding things from the people of Queensland. That is not accountable, transparent and open, which is what this government consistently tells us they are. They are far from it. There is a great deal of risk—

Mr Power interjected.

Mr HART: I know what I am doing, member for Logan. There is a great deal of risk in the government using these sorts of secrecy agreements in the future to hide the facts from members of parliament. What are we doing here if we cannot look at all of the information that we require to do our job? Honestly, what is the point in being a member of parliament if you are denied access to information you need to do your job? That is exactly what this government does and I can see it as a worrying trend moving forward. This government is going to start using confidentiality agreements in every particular department to try to hide this information from members of parliament and people who have livelihoods

that are determined by these sorts of bills. I encourage the House and all committee members to keep that in mind for the future. Be aware that this government could expand doing this even further to hide this information from the public and members of parliament.

I reiterate again that joint management on Moreton Island can work, and the people who live and run businesses on Moreton Island and QYAC can work together. They want to work together. They just want to know how they are going to do that. Having no transparency whatsoever on the ILUAs, the Indigenous joint management agreements and the Indigenous management agreement is not helping anyone. At the very least, the parliament and members of the committee should have been able to see these documents on a confidential basis. We made that perfectly clear. If it was confidential, we would not be talking about it. We needed to know what was in there and we were denied that.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (3.12 pm): In November 2019 the Federal Court of Australia made a native title consent determination recognising the Quandamooka people's native title rights on Moreton Island. Out of respect to the Quandamooka people, I will refer to it as Mulgumpin, as it is known by the native title holders, in my speech to the Legislative Assembly in support of the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Indigenous Joint Management—Moreton Island) Amendment Bill 2020. I apologise to the native title holders in advance for any mispronunciations I make when I use the Indigenous names in my speech.

Mulgumpin is one of the largest sand islands in the world, with outstanding natural features and cultural significance. It has unique archaeological importance and is an important recreation area for the many visitors who visit it each year. As part of the Federal Court consent determination process, a number of settlement outcomes were negotiated between the state government and the Quandamooka people, including an agreement to work towards joint management of those protected areas on Mulgumpin. The primary objective of this bill is to provide the legal framework for the joint management of protected areas of Mulgumpin by the state and the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation, otherwise known as QYAC.

The bill was originally referred to the former State Development, Tourism, Innovation and Manufacturing Committee prior to the dissolution of this parliament for the 2020 election. The committee tabled its report on 28 August 2020 but the bill lapsed before it was debated by the parliament. The bill currently before the House is substantially the same as the previous bill. On 3 December 2020, after the Hon. Meaghan Scanlon, the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs, introduced the bill to the Legislative Assembly, the bill was referred to the State Development and Regional Industries Committee for consideration and to report to the Legislative Assembly. The committee was required to report by Monday, 8 March 2021.

The committee invited written submissions on the bill, particularly those which provided updated information or discussed the former committee's recommendations. The committee received 12 submissions. The committee conducted a public briefing with officials from the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships within the Department of Environment and Science and officials from Land and Native Title Services within the Department of Resources on 17 December 2020. Departmental officials also provided answers to questions on notice and responses to issues raised in submissions and addressed other matters during the course of the inquiry.

On 1 March 2021 the committee met with the Quandamooka elders and senior representatives of QYAC on country on Mulgumpin. Over the course of the visit, the group discussed native title, joint management and cultural heritage matters and visited Cape Moreton, the Eagers Cultural Camp and Koorngal. On 1 and 2 March 2021 the committee met with local business and community representatives at the Tangalooma resort and at the local fire station at Bulwer. I should say that I very much appreciate the contribution made by the elders and the representatives from QYAC, as well as the management from the Tangalooma resort and the local residents who met with us at the local fire station at Bulwer. We very much appreciate their contribution.

In its report, the State Development and Regional Industries Committee recommended that the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Indigenous Joint Management—Moreton Island) Amendment Bill 2020 be passed. The committee also recommended that the department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships consider developing training, education and professional development mechanisms on native title processes for a range of stakeholders. As well, the committee recommended that the Department of Environment and Science and QYAC, as joint managers of the protected area, consider the establishment of consultative activities at which timely and consistent information can be provided to businesses, residents and other stakeholders on the island, as well as complementary statutory consultation requirements for the preparation of the draft management plan

for protected areas on Mulgumpin with additional accessible consultation activities. What the committee wants is transparency. We appreciate there are people who are very much concerned about this bill and the management plan that may follow, but the ultimate aim of the report delivered to the parliament was transparency.


As the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs said when she reintroduced the bill on 3 December 2020—

This bill will deliver on commitments made by the Palaszczuk government to support the native title consent determination on 27 November 2019 that recognised the Quandamooka peoples' native title rights and interests over Moreton Island—or Mulgumpin, as it is known by the Quandamooka people.

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

QPWS will work with the traditional owners and incorporate their knowledge and skills into the management of Mulgumpin. They will record Aboriginal cultural sites and values to provide for the protection and conservation of significant cultural and natural values. This also means that the traditional owners will be able to drive and enhance visitor experiences for all Queenslanders on Mulgumpin to enjoy. Joint management practices have already been successfully implemented on Minjerribah, or North Stradbroke Island, where we see Quandamooka practices, knowledge and expertise in land and sea management in place.

In closing, I would like to thank the minister for reintroducing the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Indigenous Joint Management—Moreton Island) Amendment Bill. In many ways it is historic legislation that recognises the legal rights of the traditional custodians of Mulgumpin who have lived on this island and cared for this island for over 60,000 years. In closing I would also like to thank the members of the former State Development, Tourism and Manufacturing Committee, particularly its chair, the member for Stretton, Duncan Pegg, who considered the original bill. I would also like to thank my fellow members of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee chaired by the member for Bancroft, Chris Whiting, who considered the current bill. I also thank the submitters, the committee secretariat and also Marjorie Elworthy, who accompanied us to Moreton Island, who is the Queensland parliament Indigenous liaison officer. Of course, I would like to thank Hansard. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (3.21 pm): I rise to speak on the nature conservation bill as a member of the committee. This was a subject I did not know too much about, but I was able to be pretty well educated throughout the process as we went to Moreton Island. From the outset I would say it is probably good intent but bad legislation; it has been badly orchestrated. That is certainly the strong view I formed from my observations throughout that process. That really concerns me because I think some of the intents just expressed by the member for Ipswich West were very virtuous and true. I think everyone would like to see an outcome where the Quandamooka people could form cultural tours, enhance the cultural experience and play a role in improving the environmental conditions there. That would be a wonderful outcome on a number of levels.

However, it became strongly apparent to me from the information we were given that this is a bad way to do it. The reasons I say that have nothing to do with the Quandamooka people. The representatives we met were very engaging, very reasonable and seemed intent on working effectively and participating in those activities on the island. The big question I have relates to the tourism operators. We met locals including home owners, but I focus on the tourism operators because, as most people acknowledge, there are small parcels of freehold and leasehold tenure and outside of that it is all national park.

Most of the tourism businesses rely on the activities on the national park for their business to be viable. One of those businesses uses a \$20 million catamaran as an adjunct to their business of quad bikes and tours. If a business is seeking \$20 million from a bank they will want to know about the business's viability for at least a 10-year projection. The bank would ask, 'Where is the lease for the land that you make this money off to pay off this boat and these quad bikes? Where are the agreements? How are they formed and what is their reliability?' I have to say that if I was a bank I would never lend any of these people that money. From what I am told, there is a group coming in for a joint management agreement with the national parks—


Mr Nicholls: So you do agree with the banks sometimes, Robbie?

Mr KATTER: I say to the member for Clayfield on the record that this may be the one time I agree with the banks. I cannot get my head around the fact that, well-meaning or not, the government can bring a group of people onto national parks with the aspiration of creating tourism businesses on the island. I hope that is what they will do. If so, they are going to be involved in the judgement call of what happens with their lease on the national park which will impact on their business. If that is not a direct conflict of interest, I am not here. I do not see how they can get past that. Maybe there is more to be made clear to me about the process. At the time those of us on the committee were examining this, it was made patently clear that there was no more information or no better picture to be drawn. There is all this uncertainty going forward for the businesses on the lease, which creates tension and animosity. Then it becomes unmanageable and everybody loses out.

As I said at the start, there might be some good intent and we might share the same view of where this should land, but I cannot see that this is good legislation to take us from point A to point B. There cannot be a scenario where there is not a conflict unless the party is completely removed from that process, and those businesses critically rely on access to those areas.

It could be that for the near future they are provided full access, some access or restricted access. However, if a business is trying to loan \$20 million for a catamaran, the bank will want to know the viability of that business and their ability to repay it. I would say their chances of remaining viable are very, very low. That would indicate to me that those businesses will have a short future unless that is addressed, in which case there will be a diminution of those businesses and that does not benefit anyone. I do not think that benefits the Quandamooka people at all. In fact, I think they need thriving adjunct businesses there so they can leverage off them in the future and perhaps play a major ownership role in those businesses in the future. However, just rushing into it like this is fraught with danger for any organisation—for any entity. I would not like to be doing it myself.

On that basis, I think this is very bad legislation. It is drawing a bit of a long bow, but currently in the gulf there is an organisation that has been taking over Adels Grove. This is what happens when you move fast on these things. It has all but shut the doors. It is overgrown and people are not booking. Previously we had 40,000 tourists visit there a year but now it is completely dysfunctional. That is what happens if you move too fast from point A to point B. You want to get to point B, but do it properly, do it thoughtfully and do it with respect for the people you are trying to help. It is no good just throwing them in the deep end in an agreement. That is why I believe this legislation will create more problems than it sets out to fix. I do have very big problems with it. I think there is good intent behind this legislation, but it has been badly executed.

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (3.27 pm): I rise to contribute to the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Indigenous Joint Management—Moreton Island) Amendment Bill 2020. I acknowledge the traditional owners of Mulgumpin, the Quandamooka people, and I pay respects to elders past, present and emerging.

At its core this bill is a series of technical changes, but it has raised a lot of social commentary and we will get to some of that in a moment. Firstly, let's discuss the core intention of this bill, which is to provide for a joint management agreement between Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, an entity of DES and the prescribed body corporate QYAC. This is a good thing. It is a collaborative arrangement between the state government body and the prescribed body corporate registered under the Native Title Act. This is, of course, as a result of a Federal Court of Australia ruling making native title consent determination recognising the Quandamooka people's native title claim to Mulgumpin, and this is what makes the passing of this bill so important.

Native title is one of the significant steps in this country towards true reconciliation. Native title is often misunderstood, and I welcome the committee's recommendation that greater awareness and training is put forward. Native title is not simply a measure of apology or an instrument used to try to separate the colonial guilt; it is legislation empowering an equality among First Nations people in this country. Native title is the law of the land saying, 'Yes, this is your land and its laws should recognise tens of thousands of years of culture, history and civilisation.'

In the federal ruling is a confidentiality clause. I will touch very quickly on the comments of the member for Burleigh, who I think might have breached some standing orders. I will not go into as much detail of the private meetings of the committee as he did. Hypothetically, if there was a confidentiality clause set by a Federal Court ruling and members of the committee did get to see what was in the ILUA, they would still be bound by confidentiality. They could not go out there and talk to the public, so every single business would suddenly go, 'We got a thumbs up from the member for Burleigh. We are right to go.'

The member is kidding himself. He says it is secretive; it is confidential. By saying that something is secretive, the member for Burleigh puts into people's minds that there is something wrong with native title. The member should be very careful about the words he uses. It is not secretive; it is confidential. It has been set by the Federal Court. He should be very careful about the language he uses when talking about native title. He should be trying to bring people together instead of tearing them apart. Let us be honest: that is the history of conservative governments in this country and this state. They wed themselves to the British bootstraps. Quite frankly, they will not speak out against native title but we know that deep down they do not want it there. That is the truth of the matter.

The committee went to the island and spoke with local residents and business owners there. They were not happy with the media reports that suddenly appeared just a couple of days before our tour. Local businesses spoke out against the fearmongering in the media at the time and said that they were disappointed, because those businesses want to bring in the cultural experience. They want to know more of the Quandamooka people's history and heritage, because they respect the island—it is their island—and they want to make sure that their businesses reflect the traditions and customs that have created this pristine, perfect island that so many of us want to visit. It was great to meet and to listen to businesses.

I will be honest: initially I was concerned about the commercial activity permits. At the time, they were set to expire on 31 March 2021. I think all members of the committee really took that on board, which is why we sought correspondence. The correspondence came back that the permits had been extended for all operators. The permits were extended to account for the phasing-in.

Mr Hart: Eighteen months.

Mr SMITH: I remind the member for Burleigh that, when we are trying to put trust back into a native title system, continually interjecting against native title really does not help and is quite disrespectful to the Quandamooka people.

These permits do come with conditions relating to cultural competencies. As I said, the businesses are very happy to have these conditions imposed. They were concerned about some of the logistics, but the logistics will not be put onto the businesses unless they are there. I heard and noted what the businesses were concerned about, but I am confident that the joint management arrangements will not impose on businesses conditions that are not logistically possible to meet. That would not make sense and there is no fear in that.

I really welcomed the chance to meet with local operators, because I come from a family of tourism operators. My family were small business tourism operators on the Gold Coast for 30 years. Never did my dad ever thank any Liberal members on the Gold Coast for helping small businesses, because they do not.

We have here an opportunity for this parliament to stand as one and pass this bill without jeopardising native title. When words such as 'secretive' are thrown around and when members continue to interject when someone is talking about the benefits to all businesses and to the Quandamooka people—to ensure that as we move forward there is a cultural significance, a cultural contribution and a collaborative approach—it is disappointing. The member for Lockyer's comments about people being afraid of native title are disappointing. There is a reason some people are still concerned about native title. That reason sits on the other side of the chamber.

It was great to meet with the people of QYAC. It was great to be at Cape Moreton to hear of the cultural significance of the lands and why it is so important that we pass this bill, recognise native title and ensure that businesses know that the joint management agreement involving the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and the Queensland government will provide them with the confidence and knowledge that they will not be left in the dark. This is a collaborative approach. This is a joint management agreement. QYAC is a responsible organisation. For members on the other side, from day dot, to question QYAC and throw out accusations against members of QYAC—they were proven to be wrong—does nothing to strength the joint management agreement and this bill moving forward.


Mr Hart: We should all toe the line, shouldn't we?

Mr SMITH: I take that interjection, because what the member for Burleigh is saying is that deep down he does not support native title. The member's use of the word 'secretive' proves that.

Mr HART: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. I take personal offence at the member's statement and I ask that he withdraw.

Mr SMITH: I withdraw. This is a fantastic bill because it does what native title intended it to do: it brings together the traditional owners of the land and businesses for the betterment of the experience that is a trip to Mulgumpin. I support this bill wholeheartedly. I support native title. I support the traditional

owners and businesses moving forward. I wish that members on the other side would stop trying to attack something that is so significant to our nation's future and history. They should recognise the past and recognise what their words do. Let's move forward together as a stronger Queensland—not divided by the LNP.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (3.37 pm): I congratulate the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation—like the member for Ipswich West, I apologise if I mispronounce any of the names—on having native title recognised. I wish them every success as they embark on the new era of management of Mulgumpin, also known as Moreton Island. In 2019 the Federal Court of Australia made a native title determination recognising the Quandamooka people's native rights on Mulgumpin. Underpinning this bill are the Indigenous management agreement and the Indigenous land use agreement which flowed from the native title ruling. As a part of the same native title process, the state of Queensland and the Quandamooka people agreed to work towards joint management of the protected areas of Moreton Island. The intention of this bill is to establish the legislative framework for the joint management of protected areas on Moreton Island—a joint management by QYAC and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service within the Queensland Department of Environment and Science.

Around 98 per cent of Moreton Island is dedicated as a protected area—as national park, conservation park or a declared conservation area. This bill will affect virtually all of the island and almost all activities on the island. Like many Queenslanders, I hope that the practical outcomes of this model of management become renowned for the benefits they bring to the island's environment, its inhabitants and the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee people. I hope that this Queensland model of joint management becomes renowned for its effectiveness and fairness.

There have been some concerns because of the lack of transparency and consultation the Queensland government has brought to the whole process of moving to a joint management status. This bill carries over from a lapsed bill introduced in the House during the previous parliament. I note the statement of reservation from non-government members contained in report No. 3 of the State Development, Tourism, Innovation and Manufacturing Committee of the 56th Parliament. In this 57th Parliament, the LNP members of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee found that their committee inquiry into the bill faced three key issues, all falling under the heading of transparency. This is because of issues over some actions during the committee process and communication with Moreton Island residents and business owners. These issues only serve to hamper the good outcomes in what should be celebrated as an historic achievement for the Quandamooka and all of Queensland.

Democratic governments must be open and accountable. Quite apart from moral considerations, the actions of a democratic government rest solely on public support for those actions. Democratic leadership relies, in the most down-to-earth way, on being able to carry public support in order to achieve solid administrative outcomes. Secrecy is the opposite of democracy, yet it appears that members of the parliamentary committee were unable to inquire into the Indigenous land use agreement or the Indigenous management agreement. Both of these documents are foundational to the joint management model propagated by this bill.

The parliamentary committee had been asked to investigate this bill. In undertaking such an examination, the committee has the power to seek documents, including the ILUA and the Indigenous management agreement. The committee's power in this regard is not limited. The ILUA and the Indigenous management agreement are foundational to the bill and its likely outcomes. Having documentary access to both agreements would seem to be not only valuable but also necessary for effective investigation. Despite all of this, the committee has not seen either the ILUA or the Indigenous management agreement. Committee members were asked to review and provide recommendations on a bill to provide the legislative framework for joint management without knowing the contents of either foundational agreement. Now the Queensland parliament is being asked to seriously debate the bill from the same status.

Concerns about the secrecy regarding the contents of the agreements were also raised by stakeholders and the media during the committee review process. Surely the government wants to start this new era with strong public sentiment in favour of the new model. By the secrecy of its actions, it has placed the intentions of the department and QYAC under suspicion. It has condemned the new model to commencing in a climate of fear and misunderstanding. Because of the government's secrecy, both the department and QYAC are standing on false grounds. This greatly concerns me as the bill provides for only very limited oversight of how \$30 million of Queensland taxpayers' money will be spent and there are no clear statements of access rights or restrictions in different parts of the island. There are no key performance indicators for such items as track maintenance, bushfire management, waste management and facilities maintenance.


If the purpose of this bill is to set out the framework for a world-class ecotourism and cultural tourism offering, which I am sure it is, then it does not seem to be in this bill. Heightening the anxiety for tourism business operators on the island is the fact that these secret deals were being done as their current permits for commercial activity were coming up for renewal. Moreton Island Adventures has a 100-year association with the island. It requires a landing permit for its very existence. In its submission to the committee, it highlighted that the bill will replace a permit application and renewal process that is subject to normal administrative and government scrutiny with an opaque and secret system that offers no scrutiny. It stated—

... QYAC is not subject to the scrutiny of government, does not have a process for objection and review of decisions, or other governing body ensuring the freedom of information.

Given the intention is for QYAC to operate ecotourism and Indigenous cultural tours itself, the bill places it in a direct conflict of interest from the get-go. In practical terms, it has been given the right to veto its competitors. The department has an obligation to consult with QYAC, as it should, but it does not have to justify any arbitrary decision to refuse to grant a permit or renew a commercial activity agreement. If it refuses its consent, then it is highly likely that the department will refuse to grant the permit or renew the agreement in question. As I said, this is essentially a right of veto which is chilling to competitors and which places all stakeholders on false ground from the start. The member for Traeger summed it up when he said that it is about having confidence between your lender—your bank—and your business. Queensland is a democracy under the rule of law. There should be safeguards in this bill to ensure due process and rights of appeal and to ensure full transparency.

The most regrettable aspect of the whole business has been the complete lack of communication and consultation from the government with key stakeholder groups and island residents and businesses. Groups like the Moreton Island Protection Committee have complained that there has been no information about what land may be subject to what new restrictions. Volunteer groups have invested considerable time and effort in rehabilitating Cape Moreton and caring for it. They fear they will now be excluded, but there is no way of finding out. Communication and consultation by their very definition must be timely. When it comes to this bill, the government has failed at that hurdle too.

With existing permits for tour operators due to expire on 31 March 2021—this year—and with a transitional arrangement in place that is already nearly two years old, the first consultation meeting held by Parks and Wildlife and QYAC with the business operators was on 10 February this year. Even then the presentation was lacking in detail and costings for key requirements like cultural training courses for ecotourism cultural competency. A very genuine opportunity has been lost here and I urge the minister to see that the department makes a much more concerted effort to help QYAC as it builds the capacity it will require to give effect to the full intent of this bill. The department must also fulfil its part in the joint management arrangement by ensuring that the state interests of Queensland are being upheld and that the interests of business owners and residents are also upheld. The department needs to understand that these differing rights are not mutually exclusive. All Queenslanders want to see this arrangement work and it is the minister's responsibility to ensure that it does.

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algera—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (3.46 pm): Under standing order 260 and on advice from the Clerk of the Parliament, I declare that I am a Quandamooka woman—a fact that I have already declared in my register of interests, and I declare again for the House. The Quandamooka people are traditional owners of the lands and waters of Mulgumpin, also known as Moreton Island. In the Jandai language of the Quandamooka people, 'Yura. Ngari goorijen tabbilban Quandamooka,' which means, 'Hello. I am a saltwater person from Quandamooka country.' I am a direct descendant of one of 12 apical ancestor groups recognised by the Federal Court of Australia who comprise the Quandamooka people. I am not a member of QYAC, the prescribed body corporate. I have removed myself from any decision-making processes that have led to this legislation being brought to this House.

Having said all of that, I rise to make a short contribution to the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Indigenous Joint Management—Moreton Island) Amendment Bill. This is an important piece of legislation that follows an historic native title consent determination in November 2019 which recognised the Quandamooka people's native title rights over Mulgumpin. This follows the tireless efforts of the Ngugi elders and Quandamooka people more broadly who have dedicated much of their lives to see Mulgumpin rightly returned to the Quandamooka people. I want to make mention of some of my family who are here in the gallery but also those who are no longer with us, in particular Aunty Joan Hendriks—a woman who had great love for her family and her country and, even in the face of incredible pressure, still remained strong on the collective vision of the Quandamooka people for greater control of our own lands. I also want to acknowledge the many Quandamooka people who have

contributed to the work of QYAC, the prescribed body corporate, the Minjerribah Mulgumpin elders and the many more who have been part of the deep and sometimes challenging conversations that have taken place over the years.

This has not always been an easy journey. I remember very clearly the day in July 2011 when native title for Minjerribah was recognised. There was incredible relief and elation, and after more than 15 years of effort families came together to celebrate the much welcomed win. For my father, who has now passed away, his brothers and sisters—my uncles and aunts—my children, cousins and other family members it was an enormously jubilant time, but that jubilation has at times been very much challenged. I love my family. We do not always agree on things, but that love for family and country and a hope for a future that builds on the past remains. It is unfortunate that many of the contributions from those opposite, not just in the chamber but in the community, have helped foster a great deal of division among our families.

I do not imagine many people know what it is like to see your family members in strong conflict with each other, sometimes in physical conflict with each other, over the issues that have been raised during the native title process and the divisions that some members in this House have contributed to in their efforts not only in their contributions today but also in their actions in their own electorates. I think there are some who would like to see Quandamooka people in dispute with ourselves so that they can distract the broader community from the big transformational opportunities that could be the reality. That kind of desire to see First Nations people in conflict with themselves is a well-used strategy of colonisers right across the world. We have seen some of that in terms of some of the contributions from those opposite.

I have been taught from a young age—and I am reminded of it every day in the conversations that I have with my family—that culture heals everything. There is the opportunity in this legislation to ensure that culture becomes part of how First Nations people, the Quandamooka people, interact with their own country and find that healing for their country and, of course, the families that are connected to it. This bill formalises the next step in recognising First Nations people and will allow Quandamooka traditional owners to care for and manage the protected area estate on Mulgumpin in partnership with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

The amendments to the Aboriginal Land Act 1991 will also ensure the land is identified as transferable land allowing it to be rightfully returned to the traditional owners. Protected areas on Mulgumpin have been managed by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service since the first national park was declared on the island in 1966. That was 55 years ago. For more than half a century there has been no legal capacity to enter into formal joint management arrangements with the Quandamooka people, the First Nations people of the land. Now this bill delivers land justice. It recognises Quandamooka people and it helps to facilitate greater self-determination. It protects and promotes the rights of the Quandamooka people, the first peoples of Mulgumpin. It also recognises the importance of connection to country.

Australia is often described as a young country, but we are, in fact, an ancient land and home to the world's longest continuous living cultures. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have been managing country for longer than anyone in the world and our stories tell of a rich history of land. Quandamooka people have thousands of generations of history and connection with our country. It is only right that traditional owners are at the forefront of caring for country. Joint management of Mulgumpin will also open up new opportunities to enhance visitor experiences through the showcasing of Aboriginal history and culture and this opens the door to vital truth telling about our shared past.

What we need in Queensland is an avenue for truth telling and partnerships as we continue our journey to reconciliation and we begin on the path to treaty and treaties and the sharing of our history—the sometimes uncomfortable, ugly history that is the history of this state. It is a history that we have seen in Mulgumpin in terms of past massacres—frontier wars that our ancestors have been part of. That should be recognised.

As we embark on a new frontier of challenge as Quandamooka people, as Mulgumpin people, as Ngugi people, the challenges will be there for us, but they are our challenges to face; they are not the plaything of political parties. As families we will work on that ourselves. That is the only way that culture will heal for us and our country. We do not need members of the opposition here interfering in family business. Family business is family business. As First Nations people we will heal ourselves through our own culture.

Dr Robinson interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Walker): Through the chair, thank you.

Honourable members interjected.

Ms ENOCH: The interjections from the member for Oodgeroo only prove what I have just been talking about. The member for Oodgeroo continues to get in the middle of families, continues to divide families, pitting brother against sister. This is absolutely an example.

Dr ROBINSON: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find those comments offensive and I ask them to be withdrawn. They are untrue.

Government members interjected.

Dr ROBINSON: I thought a point of order was okay. If I am being libelled and slandered I am happy to take a point of order any day.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Take a seat, member for Oodgeroo. I ask the minister, if she wishes, to withdraw.

Ms ENOCH: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I withdraw. The truth is that past partnerships have not always been positive, but this bill and joint management of Mulgumpin is a step in the right direction, not just for Quandamooka people but more broadly in our journey towards treaty and treaties. This state is on the precipice of ensuring that First Nations people are in the front seat in terms of our management and our ability to self-determine going forward. This bill represents that light on the hill in terms of ensuring that First Nations people can have that hope that we will have our lands returned to us, that we will be trusted and that our families will be able to manage that ourselves and remain connected to our country going forward. Of course, treaty and treaties will be part of that story. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Ms Enoch, adjourned.

LEAVE TO MOVE MOTION



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (3.56 pm): I seek leave to move a motion without notice.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

AYES, 51:

ALP, 49—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Lui, Madden, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 32:

LNP, 32—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Camm, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister (proxy), Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Weir.

Pairs: Linard, Crandon; Pegg, Watts.

Resolved in the affirmative.

MOTIONS

Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.02 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders, the Treasurer and Minister for Investment be permitted to immediately move a motion without notice, with the following time limits to apply—

- Treasurer and Minister for Investment—5 minutes;
- Leader of the Opposition (or nominee)—5 minutes;
- 3 minutes for each member; and
- Total debate time before question put—1 hour.

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

AYES, 51:

ALP, 49—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Lui, Madden, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 32:

LNP, 32—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Camm, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister (proxy), Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Weir.

Pairs: Linard, Crandon; Pegg, Watts.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Federal Budget



Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (4.07 pm): I move—

That this House—

1. notes the federal budget handed down on Tuesday, 11 May fails to deliver Queensland's fair share of funding as the fastest growing state in the nation; and
2. calls on the Prime Minister to provide Queensland with Queensland's fair share of Commonwealth funding.

Last night the federal Treasurer, Josh Frydenberg, handed down a budget that was disastrous for Queensland. It revealed that in 2023 the economy will be \$25 billion smaller than the RBA was predicting just five days ago. The best that Australian workers can look forward to is real wage cuts over the next four years and the botched vaccine rollout means that population growth forecasts have been cut in half relative to just five months ago. So badly has the Morrison government vandalised the vaccine rollout that their own budget papers concede that 'a population-wide vaccination program is likely to be in place by the end of this year'—not delivered, not completed; just 'in place'. Last October Scott Morrison was saying that four million Australians would have received their first vaccine jab by now. Now we are hearing that they might have the program set up for Christmas if the nation is lucky.

Mr Fumer: Which Christmas?

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the minister for agriculture: 'Which Christmas?' That is a good question. Will it be 2021? 2022? Who knows! Even then, according to the budget papers—

Delays in the vaccine rollout, the emergence of additional strains of the virus, or alternatively, a more rapid recovery, are possible significant events that could cause forecasting errors to be larger than normal.

The Morrison government has bungled every step of its COVID response. Admittedly, expectations of Scott Morrison were low but even his errors on this have been larger than normal.

The responsibility of keeping Australians safe has fallen to state governments, including the Queensland government led by our Premier. On this front Queenslanders have done our nation proud. We have emerged from the pandemic with the fastest economic growth, the largest number of jobs added and the largest number of migrants anticipated from interstate—not that you would know about that from the Morrison government's budget.

The budget revealed that new infrastructure spending in Queensland—already half of what was being directed to New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia—will be cut in half again over the next four years. To add insult to injury, it is likely that half of the new infrastructure funding announced for Queensland will be subject to full GST treatment by the Commonwealth. That means that without corresponding projects in other states Queensland could have to pay back 80 per cent of the funds for those projects via the GST process.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the member for Logan. Should Scott Morrison seek to claw back those funds, in particular the \$195 million that is owed to the people of Townsville, we will fight his government every step of the way.

The Palaszczuk government is funding Queensland infrastructure and fighting for our share from Canberra because we know the challenge that lies ahead. Queensland is anticipating nearly 85,000 new migrants from other states over the next four years and the population of New South Wales is

losing the same number of residents. Effectively, a city the size of Rockhampton will move across the border into Queensland over the next four years and the federal government is dribbling out our infrastructure, giving us short shrift and not our fair share. That is simply and fundamentally wrong.

The Morrison government's budget also short-changes Queensland's regions. There is no federal funding for the Bundaberg flood levee, which is in a federal Liberal seat. There is no funding in the budget for the Emu Swamp Dam, which is in a federal Liberal seat. There is no funding for the Wellcamp entertainment precinct, which is in a federal Liberal seat. There is no funding for the renovation of the Sunshine Coast Stadium, which is controlled by wall-to-wall federal LNP members of parliament. The phrase 'Sunshine Coast' appears not once in the Morrison government's budget papers.


Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the member for Kawana, who does not want to support a very vital and important project in his own community.

The four-letter word 'NAIF' appears nowhere in the budget papers as it celebrates its dubious six-year anniversary with only six per cent of the NAIF budget released. Details of the \$195 million in projects that our government secured for Townsville are nowhere to be found in the Morrison government's budget papers. In fact, fully two-thirds of our list of vital funding measures, which Canberra has known about for years, have received zero dollars in support from the Morrison government.

This is a truly disappointing budget for Queenslanders, who had high hopes for Scott Morrison. They have received a slap in the face in return. Our government only seeks Queensland's fair share from Canberra and asks the state LNP to stand up to Canberra and to stand up for Queensland.

(Time expired)

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (4.13 pm): What a hollow motion, lacking conviction, from a Treasurer so bereft of his brief that he could not even speak for five minutes without notes. He comes waltzing into this place, goading the member for Kawana, and has to read talking points about something that he believes in so deeply. It was as hollow as the promise before the election where the Treasurer said there would only be \$4 billion in borrowings and then whacked up \$28 billion after the election. It is a hollow motion lacking any form of substance.

I thought that, if the Treasurer was going to seek to condemn the federal government and use it as a political weapon, as he specialises in, surely he would not use Victoria as an example of a state that gets its fair share. Victoria is run by a Labor government, so what is the Victorian government doing that this bloke cannot? Why is it that the Victorian government can find a way to get cut-through when this Treasurer can only find ways to fight and bully and make political points? Maybe the reason is that Victoria has invested in infrastructure. Maybe it is because New South Wales has invested in infrastructure.

In the report from Infrastructure Partnerships Australia, where is Queensland ranked for infrastructure spending? We are at sixth. Our spend on infrastructure in this state is at 12 per cent compared to 20 per cent for our eastern seaboard neighbours. I do not need notes to tell me that; that figure is imbedded in my mind because it is an embarrassment. It is an absolute embarrassment.


It is amazing how only a week ago the Prime Minister had to rescue a blowout in light rail on the Gold Coast. Some \$126 million had to be put forward to cover a shortfall. There is still another couple of hundred million dollars that the government has to find on a project that has blown out by 30 per cent. They could not even ice the deal on a tender. There has been not a single mention of that funding contribution—not a single mention. I will tell members why. When a government is bereft of vision, when a government is bereft of an agenda, there is only one way that it can fight for political survival, and that is to find an enemy. What this government has specialised in doing is taking every opportunity to find an argument with Canberra. It does not matter what the issue is; it always has to come up with a way to fight Canberra.

A government member interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will take the childish interjection from a chap who will come in this place and wave a jersey around in a childish fashion. I will take the interjection. Why? When I was not happy with the funding contribution from the federal government when it comes to supporting tourism operators, I called it out; I was happy to, but I was also happy to call out the state government's failings, and there were many failings.

If we look at COVID spending, Queensland is again lagging behind our state neighbours. That is not Canberra's fault; that is the state government's fault. They will always seek to find someone to have an argument with. For six years they have drifted. For six years they have had no agenda. They always have to get into a scrap. Do members know who does not win when they are in mindless scraps? Queenslanders do not win.


This motion today will not change a thing. They have not said, 'This is what we are prepared to do'—not a thing. They have not said, 'We will bring forward our spending on the Mooloolah River interchange to get it going'—not a thing. They have not said, 'We will bring forward our money for the Coomera Connector because we are sick of seeing Gold Coast residents stuck in traffic'—not a thing. This is a government without vision. You do not need a script to tell you that.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) (4.18 pm): There you have it: five more minutes of the Leader of the Opposition on his feet and not once could he back Queensland. Not once could he say, 'Queensland should get its fair share.' Not once was he willing to criticise his bosses in Canberra and say, 'Queensland deserves better.' He never mentioned the fact that New South Wales and South Australia are not only getting a lot more money but also getting it sooner. He is unwilling to address that. All he wants to do is come in here and attack us, with no concern for Queensland and no concern for what the best outcome for Queenslanders would be.

All Queenslanders want is their fair share because they have done their fair share of the heavy lifting in the pandemic. They have made their share of sacrifices—they have endured the lockdowns, deferred their weddings and put off celebrations, their businesses have been impacted and they have missed their loved ones overseas. They have contributed their fair share. This is not Scott Morrison's money; this is Queensland taxpayers' money being withheld by the LNP, being delivered by the LNP particularly to their held states of New South Wales and South Australia.

As we turn to our economic recovery, we want Queenslanders to get back their fair share—their fair share of funding, their fair share of infrastructure, their fair share of the jobs and economic development that will come with that. Do any of those opposite back Queenslanders getting their fair share? The Leader of the Opposition certainly has not. I do not think any of the other speakers will either. They talk about infrastructure investment. We are spending \$56 billion over the next four years. Do members know what the Morrison government committed last night? It committed about \$800 million over the same four years. Our infrastructure spend will create 46,000 jobs for Queenslanders right across this state—58 per cent of those jobs in regional Queensland. We need more. We need the Morrison government to do more and to deliver our fair share.

Do members know how we know it is bad budget for Queensland? Those opposite do not want to talk about it. They divided twice on whether the motion could be moved. They did not want to debate the motion. They did not mention it in question time. The Leader of the Opposition could not even address the Morrison government's budget in his contribution on the motion. All Queenslanders want is their fair share and we want them to get it.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (4.21 pm): The job of Treasurer and the job of the Deputy Premier are serious ones. Having listened to the Treasurer's histrionics and melodrama over the last couple of days, it shows how off the mark this Treasurer and Deputy Premier are—the two people competing for the top job; although it seems that the Deputy Premier has been told to tone it down just a little bit. I see a bit of smile over there. I think the Deputy Premier knows that he has to tone it down.

Build a contrast with the Treasurer. If I was listening to the Treasurer correctly this morning he gave a bizarre contribution. In his MPI contribution yesterday I think he set the world record for a five-minute speech when it comes to mentioning the words 'Leader of the Opposition'. The former leader of the opposition, the member for Nanango, used to cop it a lot from the Treasurer, but yesterday we again heard his preoccupation with the personality and the individual and not with the fundamental issues facing Queensland.

Dr MILES: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The motion is very clearly about the federal budget and the speaker has not even mentioned it.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): The House will come to order. There has been some latitude granted in this debate. I will continue to listen carefully. There is no point of order.

Mr JANETZKI: In the Treasurer's media release on the weekend he talked about having to rework his forecasts. It is budgeting 101 that the Treasurer needs to focus on. He should be getting ready for his budget. It is next month. Is he suggesting that they have not run scenario testing in budgeting 101 to factor in good and bad variables?

Last night we saw another media release from the Treasurer where he talked about how bad federal Treasurer Josh Frydenberg's forecasts for growth were. I would take a conservative forecast for economic growth rather than the wildly optimistic forecasts from those opposite over the last generation of governing this state. Whether it be wild overstatements of revenue forecasts or whether it be wild understatements of expenditure forecasts, it has been unacceptable for a generation.


The Deputy Premier talks about a fair share. This side of the House will always fight for Queensland's fair share. How much of the budget is the Deputy Premier putting towards infrastructure? Twelve per cent—is that a fair share of the budget?

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have called the House to order several times. Deputy Premier, your interjections are not being taken.

Mr JANETZKI: Is 12 per cent of the Queensland state budget allocated to infrastructure a fair share when other states are allocating 20 per cent of their budgets to infrastructure? There is a horror budget coming. We can see it from the performance of these two ministers.

(Time expired)

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (4.24 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion moved by the Treasurer related to the federal budget. Queensland clearly is the place to be. In 2020 we grew by 30,000 people. Greater Melbourne lost 26,000 people over the same period and Sydney lost 30,000. Australians are voting with their feet and moving to Queensland and away from every other state. Why would they not? It is a fantastic place to live.


There is one group that is not rating Queenslanders highly. Sadly, that is the federal government and those opposite. While New South Wales gets billions of dollars for a new airport and Victoria gets federal funding for a rail project, which does not have a settled route, all Queensland gets is \$1.6 billion over 10 years—a pittance. This federal government does not even pretend anymore that a budget period is four years. They spread it over 10 years and put the bulk of it beyond the forward estimates. We will have to wait more than four years to start receiving nearly half of this funding—with just over \$800 million budgeted for the next four years.

Locally, this means that for projects like Linkfield Road, where in 2018 the Prime Minister and the federal member for Petrie promised to get it done, we are still waiting for the federal money to arrive. It is a smoke and mirrors infrastructure budget for Queensland. Let us not forget that when Labor was in power federally, Wayne Swan, the then federal treasurer, committed to fund Cross River Rail. The money was on the table. That is unlike the current federal government which cut it, leaving the Palaszczuk government to get it done on our own.

As the Premier mentioned this morning, it is beyond disappointing that this confirms that the federal government has completely washed its hands of its quarantine responsibilities. We have tried to be helpful. We have put forward proposals like the Wagners facility but the federal government continues to ignore what is actually their job. Everyone knows that the way out of this health pandemic, from a health as well as an economic perspective, is to make sure everyone gets vaccinated. The ever-changing time frames for the Morrison government's botched vaccine rollout are starting to hold back the economy. The budget forecasts and assumptions are all over the shop. They contradict each other. The budget papers assume that international travel can resume from mid-2022, yet the same budget papers assume that every Australian will be vaccinated by 31 December this year. Something does not add up.

Even more worryingly, the Prime Minister told journalists this morning, 'There are assumptions that go to the rollout. They are not policy settings.' There we go. The assumptions that go into the budget are not worth the paper they are written on. To add even further to the confusion, the budget does not extend the International Freight Assistance Mechanism—IFAM—beyond September this year. This program is a lifeline to Queensland exporters and will be cut off in four months time. These supply chains are crucial. Over 30,000 jobs directly and 120,000 jobs indirectly in Australia are dependent on the IFAM and the federal government have no plans to extend it beyond September.

Just like their lack of infrastructure funding for Queensland, this budget has holes all through it and it is not a good budget for Queensland. Daniel Gschwind of the Queensland Tourism Industry Council has called this a clanger of a budget.

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (4.27 pm): What a hollow motion from a hollow Treasurer. The reality is that you do not get your fair share if you do not do a fair amount of work. This Treasurer is not doing the work for it. This government is not doing the work for it. It does not have the plans. It does not have the gumption. It does not have the capacity.


Why would anyone give money to this government? Why would anyone give them a cent? They cannot spend it wisely. They hand it over to their mates in the unions—\$130 million extra for the Gold Coast Light Rail business best practice arrangements. We have a Treasurer who cannot stand up and carry an economic argument. We have a Treasurer whose expertise is having moody photographs of himself staring out the window and walking down the street with Pierre the French poodle. That is the extent of the work that this Treasurer does.

Then we had the member for Aspley refer to the former member for Lilley, Wayne Swan—a man who never ever delivered a budget surplus despite promising it four times. He never delivered a surplus on the operating account. He was too busy knifing the Prime Minister in the back. He was too busy getting the old spear out and giving it to Ruddy—not only once but twice did he do it.

Then we had the unbelievable arrogance of this Treasurer talking about forecasting figures. This from a Treasurer who could not remember their own level of state debt when he went on TV on the *Today* show. When asked how much it is, he said, 'Uh, um—let me have a look here. I'm not quite sure how much that one is.' It was a bit like when he was investing in Virgin. He did not know what he was getting for his money there and more than likely still doesn't.

This is a hollow motion by a hollow Treasurer leading a hollowed out government with no plan for the future. This is against a government down in Canberra that has delivered for Queenslanders and delivered in spades and continues to deliver. Remember the complaints about the GST? Here it is: in 2020-21, GST will be \$14.8 billion to the state of Queensland—\$2.1 billion more than was forecast in last year's budget—expanding out to \$15.6 billion. More than 51 per cent of the state government's income this year will be from the federal government. What else has happened? We have tax cuts, the HomeBuilder scheme, the first home owners' scheme, superannuation benefits—a good government delivering a good budget as opposed to a dud government with a hollow Treasurer who is going to deliver a hollow budget.

(Time expired)

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (4.31 pm): If last night's federal budget was intended to be an election budget, it reached the wrong destination with the Queensland tourism operators. Tourism in its hour of need has once again been failed by Josh Frydenberg and the Prime Minister—and this is a man who once headed up Tourism Australia. You would think he would have some understanding of the challenges that are being faced by the industry at the moment.


If they thought last night's budget would be a vote winner in Queensland's tourism regions, then, as the Premier has already said today, they are the biggest losers. There was no additional support from the federal government's March aviation package, which fell flat with everybody—with the exception of the airlines—and we still have no clear time line or plan for reopening the international borders to overseas visitors. The message out of the budget is maybe next year or maybe not. There was absolutely no indication whatsoever—appalling.

Margie Osmond from the Tourism and Transport Forum has proposed an \$854 million JobKeeper style scheme for tourism businesses exposed to the lack of international tourists. That is particularly the case on the Gold Coast and in the Whitsundays and Cairns. A similar plan is already in place for some 8,000 international airline employees, but any hope of extending the program to the wider tourism community has been grounded by the federal budget. Tourism has been 'left high and dry', says Margie Osmond. She predicts that many tourism businesses will send up the white flag.

The lukewarm response to the budget from the tourism industry is summed up by Daniel Gschwind, who has told the ABC, 'It's hard to find the highlights.' He also used the term 'underwhelming'—that this budget has been completely underwhelming for Queensland tourism. He adds, 'The tourism industry has certainly been the first into the crisis,' and there is no doubt that it will be the last out of it. Those of us working and living in tourism regions are very aware of that.

Tom Tate, the Gold Coast Mayor, is a little disappointed also. He had been 'anticipating more support for the industry'. The Australian Tourism Industry Council's Simon Westaway also joins the chorus of total disappointment and said, 'The federal budget outlook indicates no foreseeable international market recovery for Australia's visitor economy, and this sadly spells further tourism business and job losses.'


This short-sighted budget fails to offer any immediate relief for the other big challenge facing tourism, and that is the skills shortage. Not once was that mentioned. These are real issues. The federal government is absolutely absent when it comes to any policy response. This is an industry which employs tens of thousands across our state and hundreds of thousands across our nation. Many of them are small businesses and they have been abandoned by the Morrison government.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (4.34 pm): I rise to address the motion as moved by the Treasurer. This is just another cheap stunt that we see by this government each and every sitting week. They have no agenda. If we look at the *Notice Paper* for this week, there were two pieces of legislation. They have no vision and no plan. All the Labor Treasurer can do is seek to blame others rather than do the work that is required to deliver for Queensland's economy.

True to form, the Palaszczuk Labor government is once again using the federal budget to blame Canberra, to blame the federal Morrison coalition government, for Labor's own failings here in Queensland—their inability to manage Queensland's economy and to plan for the vital infrastructure that is needed here. In fact, this motion is nothing more than an admission of defeat—an admission that the Labor Premier and the Treasurer are simply not up to the task of delivering the infrastructure and services that Queensland desperately needs.

If we look at the federal Morrison coalition government's budget that was handed down, it is a jobs budget. It will create more than 250,000 jobs across Australia by the end of 2022-23. There are tax cuts—\$8 billion in new tax cuts for low- and middle-income workers. There is \$20 billion in further tax breaks for small businesses as part of a new stimulus support package. There is \$223 million to support the arts sector. There is \$1.6 billion over the next four years for preschool education. There is the significant aged-care package of \$17.7 billion to significantly improve aged care. All of these things are vitally important for Australians. That is on top of their women's safety package—an allocation of over \$1 billion—and also dollars for women's health and economic security for women. There is significant investment in hydrogen and carbon capture schemes to assist with climate adaptation. There is more money for drug and alcohol services. There is more money for proton beam therapy, as well as \$2.3 billion for mental health and suicide prevention.

What does this actually mean? When we think about the western suburbs of Brisbane, the federal Morrison coalition government is delivering for residents. It means that over 60,000 locals will receive more than \$2,000 in tax relief this year. The child-care measures will ensure that over 1,500 local families will benefit from increased childcare subsidies in the western suburbs of Brisbane. The aged-care measures will mean that 20,400 seniors in the western suburbs will benefit not only from additional home care places but also from the additional funding allocated to residential aged care. There is also the further investment in subsidising additional medicines on the PBS. This is a strong budget. It is a good budget. It is a good budget for the western suburbs of Brisbane and certainly for residents who live there.


 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (4.37 pm): I am very pleased to speak to the Treasurer's motion and to stand up for Queenslanders. Yesterday when I spoke in the parliament on the issue of the federal budget and what seemed to be an embarrassing lack of funding for our state, I did wonder whether the Morrison government would prove me wrong and maybe their strategic leaking of budget measures was just a taste of what Queensland would be getting—you know, a \$1.6 billion morsel and then we would be getting our main meal later in the night.

Clearly, it seems that Queensland is on an imposed and unwelcome diet. The Morrison government did not prove us wrong but in fact confirmed our greatest fears—that the LNP are taking Queensland for granted. Lacklustre, lukewarm and lacking in substance—and that is just a description of the federal LNP members here in Queensland. What an embarrassment this is for the members for Leichhardt, for Herbert, for Dawson, for Capricornia, for Flynn, for Groom, for Petrie, for Forde, for Longman and for Bowman—although, to be fair, that is probably the least embarrassing thing he has done recently!

We have already listed the range of measures and infrastructure that we had hoped to see in last night's federal budget including more support for housing, more support for struggling businesses in our tourism industry that have been so hard hit by international border closures, more resourcing for primary healthcare support for those NDIS participants and aged residents in our public hospitals to ease the very demand pressures that those opposite keep raising. The \$1.6 billion in infrastructure is particularly galling. We have the fastest growing state in Australia. The figures for net interstate migration could not be clearer—30,000 people moved to Queensland. There has been no consideration by the federal government—no sense that population growth will naturally create demand pressures on our roads, on our health system, on our housing and on our education facilities. We have been completely taken for granted.

It is not like they are relying on those opposite to even give them a heads up on how bad this looks. I am sure when the Leader of the Opposition rings the federal Treasurer there is a bit of 'who dis?' Instead, leading into the federal budget, all we have had from those opposite is the line, 'Don't blame the federal government.' Who do we blame for our lack of funding in the federal budget if not the federal government that is delivering said budget? It is absolute nonsense.

How about if those opposite stand up for hardworking Queenslanders, perhaps rise in this parliament to talk about what advocacy they are planning with their federal mates. If you want to talk about preoccupation, in the last sitting we got five minutes of one of the strangest—and, frankly, a little creepy—performances from the member for Kawana, who was firmly focused on the state Treasurer. I mean, 30 seconds about the state Treasurer is fine; when it hit the three-minute mark I was a little concerned; but after a whole five minutes it is time to consider the fixated persons register. I do not think that even the Treasurer's own family are on his Facebook page as much as the member for Kawana. He has earned his 'top fan' badge. I have a suggestion: perhaps members opposite could focus less on the state Treasurer and more on the federal Treasurer and demand our fair share for Queensland.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (4.40 pm): I have seen some stunts in this place over the last couple of terms, but the Treasurer coming in here today and dropping this motion on the parliament with no notice, turning tail and not even sticking around for the debate takes the cake. Have a look at the poor old member for Townsville! He is the only minister left in this place because none of his colleagues could be bothered to show up to debate the federal budget.

Ms PUGH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. It is convention not to reflect on the absence or otherwise of a member from this place. I seek your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I am just taking some advice in relation to that exact point. Member for Burdekin, it is the convention not to comment on the absence of a member from the chamber, and I would give you that guidance.

Mr LAST: I will focus on the member for Townsville, the Minister for Resources, because he has the ticker to show up and take it and contribute to this debate.

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


Mr LAST: Let's not forget for one minute what happened last December. The Treasurer came in here and told us that debt had blown out to \$28 billion, and here we go again. Here we go again softening this parliament up, softening up Queensland and getting everyone ready, because here we go again. I will back it in that when that budget comes down next month we will see what this mob has to say—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member. We will use correct parliamentary terms.

Mr LAST: We will see what those on the other side of the chamber have to say in a couple of weeks time when the budget comes down. We will see another massive blowout in debt levels in this state and more debt being lumped on to everyday Queenslanders from this incompetent Labor government. Have a look at the facts; they do not lie. Queensland is sixth for economic performance and last for economic growth. Private investment is collapsing, down from 4.6 per cent in December to three per cent. Only 12 per cent of Queensland's budget is being spent on infrastructure. I have hospitals that are falling down because of termites, and members on the other side of the chamber would have us believe that is the federal government's fault. It is everyone else's fault but this government.

They need to be held to account, and we will hold them to account in a couple of weeks time when the next budget comes down because Queenslanders deserve better than to have a government that blames everyone else. The Treasurer may be like a cornered rat looking for someone to blame, looking for any excuse as to why we are in this trouble, but the trouble lies firmly at the feet of this Labor government and we should never forget it.

(Time expired)


 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (4.44 pm): The harrowing stories uncovered by the royal commission into aged care are a national disgrace. Yet again the Morrison government falls short when it comes to addressing the real issues in relation to aged care. These are our much loved vulnerable Queenslanders, our family members. Canberra had the opportunity to accept all of the recommendations of the royal commission into aged care and fund them accordingly. Instead of backing our most vulnerable Queenslanders, yet again the LNP in Canberra choose to back themselves. What does the federal member for Dawson think is the most important thing in the budget? Mr Christensen

says, 'The most important thing'—in the budget—is the fact that \$270 billion is going to be spent on our nation's defence over the next decade.' We do not need him to start wars: we need Canberra to back health care, roads and infrastructure. I suppose when the media nicknames someone the 'Member for Manila' it shows that their priorities lie offshore.

I am the fifth generation of my family to live in regional Queensland, and I am really dismayed that those down south continue to pay lip-service to the regions. The Morrison government has chosen not to extend the National Partnership Agreement on Public Dental Services for Adults beyond March next year. This is a disgrace. Thousands of Queenslanders who cannot access private dental care, particularly those in the regions, will be much worse off. We know that poor dental care contributes to further health issues, which puts more stress on our public health system. Another way regional Queenslanders have been forgotten in Canberra's latest budget is the lack of foresight to address rising healthcare premiums. The member for Dawson went overseas and proudly said on Facebook that he went overseas because he wanted to jump the queue. That is okay when you have choices and money to burn, but they have forgotten those people who rely on the public health system.

Regional Queensland needs a budget that focusses on them. We need safe roads because that keeps people out of hospitals. What did we see from the federal government? At the election we committed \$100 million for Bruce Highway upgrades between Gladstone and Proserpine. We did not see the money that we asked for from the federal government.

(Time expired)

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (4.47 pm): We are here today debating the latest pathetic motion from the red army opposite decrying Canberra. The red army, as we just heard, wants to defund the Defence Force. The red army wants to see the hordes come over the hill to save a dollar. It is a disgrace, and the member for Mackay should reflect on her comments. Defence forces exist for the defence of Australia, not to create wars. They exist to finish wars.

Despite Queensland's ballooning debt, \$28 billion, what have Queenslanders seen for it? Infrastructure spending in Queensland is only 12 per cent of the state budget. In New South Wales and Victoria it is nearly 20 per cent. Two-thirds of Queensland's new debt goes towards funding recurrent operational expenditure. Not on infrastructure, but on recurrent expenditure. It is a disgrace. The Queensland economy is languishing. It is sixth in the country for economic performance and last for economic growth out of all of the states and territories. It is a disgrace and those opposite should be ashamed.


What did we see from the federal government in the budget last night? We saw funding for a state road at the Mooloolah River interchange which the state government cannot even finish a business case for. They have been dragging their heels on a critical road in the centre of my electorate for the better part of the time I have been in this parliament. A business case was started in the first budget when I entered this parliament in 2018 and it is still not finished. The federal government has come to the assistance of Sunshine Coast residents because if they do not, that road will not be built.

I look forward to seeing a commitment from the Treasurer in the state budget for at least 50 per cent of the funding for the Mooloolah River interchange. Without that commitment they are demonstrating that they are not serious about supporting Sunshine Coast residents and Queenslanders more generally.

We have heard those opposite cry that Queensland is being short-changed on health. Queensland has the highest per capita federal spend on health of any state—at \$1,087. No other state gets more than \$1,000, yet Queensland gets \$1,087. Is it little wonder that the federal government have no faith in the Queensland Labor government to deliver for Queenslanders?

We saw a childish press release on Sunday from the minister for skills that said, 'funding for the new national agreement on skills that provides the state full autonomy of its skills system'. The Queensland minister for skills and training wants to see the federal government write a blank cheque for training across the entirety of the nation. How can that be justified? How can the federal government or any Queenslander have faith in this failed Labor government delivering for Queensland?

(Time expired)

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (4.50 pm): This afternoon it is quite clear that those opposite have been completely caught by surprise. The LNP's front bench are madly typing away, bashing away at the keys: 'Quick, there's a motion about our federal mates' budget this afternoon. I know, I'll get onto Google.' I would love to see their search history: 'federal budget good things'. The computer says no to that, so plan B is to get on the blower to Canberra. I noticed the member for Buderim on the phone, in and out, talking to his mates in Canberra: 'Frydo, mate, we're under fire in parly. Can you flick me some material?'

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members!

Ms LAUGA: The speech writers on level 9 are in overdrive: 'Quick, we've got to get our response to the motion.'

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Mickelberg interjected.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Buderim, you have just made a contribution. You have been interjecting loudly and constantly. You are on a warning.

Ms LAUGA: Then the member for Clayfield came in here and defended this federal government's budget—defending the indefensible really. Maybe he is effectively trying to cosy up to the Prime Minister and this is part of a bigger plan. Knock off Trevor Evans or someone nearby, using the same tactics that the LNP used on him to try to get his own federal seat and maybe try a political career plan B, or is it C or D or E?

I rise to speak in support of this motion moved by the Treasurer because Queensland is the fastest growing state in the nation and our students, teachers and parents deserve their fair share from the federal government. The Morrison government has been dragged kicking and screaming to finally make a commitment to a four-year kindergarten agreement. We have been fighting for this agreement for eight years. I will be interested to see the details of this announcement, including Queensland's allocation of this funding.

I hope though that the LNP's bean counters in Canberra are not using the same wicked formula that has been used for infrastructure funding. I hope they do not use that same formula for kindergarten funding. Queensland is being punished by Scott Morrison and Josh Frydenberg. How can any of those opposite think it is okay for Queensland to get \$1.6 billion, when New South Wales is getting \$3.3 billion, South Australia is getting \$3.2 billion and Victoria is getting \$3 billion? Queensland has endured eight years of policy funding neglect from the federal LNP that has left the kindergarten sector and families in limbo. As a kindy mum, I know how incredibly important the early years development of our children is. All the literature is clear: kindergarten gives children confidence in learning and expands their knowledge and connection of themselves, family, culture, their environment and the broader community. I support the motion.


(Time expired)

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (4.53 pm): I love following the member for Keppel in these debates. There is nothing better. It just shows the clear incompetence of this Labor government. We have touched on the fact that there are not many ministers in the room. There are a couple who have just popped back in. I am really pleased that the Attorney-General did take that call and got in here to protect her team in the House, and I will tell members why. It was the Attorney-General who stood in this House this morning and praised the Morrison budget, as she should. She praised the budget because it is the Morrison budget that is delivering an extra \$1.1 billion for domestic violence and safety measures for women. It is the Morrison government that is delivering an extra \$2.3 billion for mental health services. These mental health services are being picked up by the federal government because the state is being let down by the incompetent Palaszczuk government.

This type of motion just shows how lazy and incompetent this current government is. It has been six years and their only excuse is to blame someone else. The Treasurer of Queensland is probably in there with the rest of his cabinet ministers having a little crisis meeting: 'Oh, my goodness me. What are we going to do with our budget because we've forgotten to actually look after Queensland for the last six years?' That is why they rely on the federal Morrison government to do the hard work. That is why the federal Morrison government has to step in where these people cannot.

It was the federal Morrison government that provided funds and support to the people of Queensland in the middle of COVID. There was \$27.9 billion from the federal Morrison government in support of Queenslanders. Where was the state government when it came to funding during that time? It was just \$8 billion. That was it over four years from the Palaszczuk government, and what about grants and being late to the party as well? That was an absolute shame.

The Morrison government had to step into Queensland because the Palaszczuk government had forgotten to do the books for the last six years. Talk about back to the bad old days of the Bligh years, which is why half of us are actually in this parliament. They could not run the health system and that is exactly what is happening again right now. That is why the federal Morrison government is giving the highest per capita spend of any state in health to Queensland. It is because these people would not know how to manage the health system even if they tried.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (4.56 pm): I still do not think the member for Nanango, through you, Mr Deputy Speaker, makes an attractive prospect for preselection in Flynn. Despite three minutes of going on about how fantastic the Morrison government is, I still do not think that is enough.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Nanango, you are on a warning. I was actually trying to hear the member's contribution because I thought she might have been straying away from the motion.


Ms BOYD: While the member for Nanango may claim that the Queensland Labor Party and the Palaszczuk government have forgotten to look after Queenslanders, I think she need only reflect on the election of 2020 and the diabolical result that she delivered as the opposition leader to see the mandate that the people of Queensland have given the Palaszczuk Labor government and the trust that they have placed in us. We know that Queensland is the best place to live. Every single day we see more Aussies moving here and calling it their home. With our COVID response being the envy of the world and with so much to offer in our way of life, it is little wonder.

Just last year 30,000 people donned the maroon jersey, threw back a XXXX, ate a mango and hopefully pledged their support to the supreme state in the country, Queensland. With more than 80 people choosing to call Queensland home each week in 2020, there can be no denying that this significant growth will require more infrastructure and investment. It is the ultimate endorsement of the economic recovery plan of the Palaszczuk government being implemented right now—a recovery plan that all would assume would be provided with federal government support. All Queenslanders ever ask for is our fair share.

What a letdown the federal budget was in this space last night. Queenslanders have been left holding the can as the Morrison government pour buckets of money into other states to further their political agendas while abandoning Queensland in this budget. But they have form. During the pandemic, we have seen the federal government walk away from more responsibilities—quarantining on the *Ruby Princess* cruise ships seeing six Queenslanders die in our state; abandoning aged care through the pandemic and certainly either end of it; fumbling the vaccine rollout; refusing to stand up quarantine facilities; and abandoning the tourism industry, which relies on international tourists. All the while, Australians are stranded overseas while the Morrison government sit on their hands.

It is not only the federal LNP which are sitting on their hands; the Queensland LNP are as quiet as mice during this federal budget. We do not hear so much as a squeak coming from that side of the House. They are not standing up for their communities and they are not advocating for Queensland's fair share. One is left to wonder if these mice are timid now that their top cat, Campbell Newman, is back.

(Time expired)


 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (4.59 pm): Those opposite wrote the book on playing the blame game. They absolve themselves from all responsibility and accountability when it suits them. This motion before the House today shines a stark light on that fact. You name it; they blame it.

What we are seeing today and what we have seen in recent media reports is those opposite softening up Queensland for a horror budget. Labor have clearly lost control of Queensland's finances just like they have lost control of Queensland Health. Those opposite have blamed anyone that they can point a finger at. In fact, we could say that the member for Woodridge has only one fiscal principle when it comes to his role as Treasurer and that is to blame the federal government. He is going to have to do a bit better.

I am delighted to see reports that the Commonwealth will invest heavily in mental health and women's health. These are two areas very close to my heart. Of course, that investment is on top of nation-building infrastructure projects across urban, regional and rural Queensland. We cannot question the Commonwealth's effort; they have put their hand in their pocket and done the heavy lifting when it comes to infrastructure investment and powering our economy throughout COVID.

It is now time for the Treasurer and his colleagues to put their money where their mouth is, particularly when it comes to the health portfolio. We know our health system here in Queensland is in big trouble. After years and years of mismanagement, the problems are coming home to roost and it is not a pretty picture. I will talk more on that tomorrow. I say to both the Treasurer and the health minister that now is the time to invest in our health sector but invest so there are meaningful outcomes.

In the last month those opposite have blamed the culture at Queensland Health; they have blamed COVID for their many and varied failings; they have blamed Campbell Newman, who has long been gone. Of course, finally, as we are seeing in this House here today, those opposite are blaming an old favourite; they are blaming Canberra for their shortcomings. They blame people for seeking medical treatment at a hospital. They blame the elderly, some of our most vulnerable Queenslanders, for taking up beds across our hospital network. It is time for those opposite to hold up a mirror. The blame rests at their feet. The Treasurer wants to talk about being ripped off. Queenslanders are being ripped off when it comes to being able to access timely care at our public hospitals. Soon there will be nobody left to blame.


 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (5.02 pm): I rise to support the Treasurer and his motion. These words sum up the federal budget for Townsville: nothing, crumbs, worthless, inept, untrustworthy, appalling. That is how I sum up the federal member for Herbert and the member for Burdekin, whose contribution to this debate did not mention the \$195 million that was promised for Townsville in 2019 for the Haughton pipeline stage 2. It is not there. It is not even in the budget papers. I do not even think that \$195 million exists.

There is a range of projects in the member's own electorate: Lansdown, hydrogen, Riverway Drive and the pipeline funding that is critical for our city. I do not know how the member can actually sit there and say that we got a fair share when it is not even in the budget papers. It lets down everyone in Townsville, just like the federal member for Herbert. There is critical infrastructure that is needed in my city. The water main from the Ross Dam down to the Douglas treatment plant can fail at any time. It failed in December and we did not have water. Members opposite are laughing thinking that critical infrastructure is not needed. Where was their fight with the federal government? They should be standing up for Townsville. They are all quiet now. They are saying not one word. Where is the money? Show me the money! Critical infrastructure is required in our city and there is not one cent.

Do honourable members know what I am really afraid of? I am afraid that if the \$195 million ever appears they will give it with one hand and do us again. They did us on the Haughton pipeline. They are going to pull the wool over our eyes. Guess what? The GST allocation will come back on the Queensland government. They will take another \$156 million out of it and never deliver. They will put it on to Queensland to pay for everyone when other states, like in the case of the Snowy Hydro scheme, did not have to pay from their GST allocation. I have grave concerns and I know the member for Townsville has grave concerns. That money should have been in the budget papers. Where was it?

Where is it in the federal budget and why are the opposition not standing up for North Queensland? Why do they not pick up the phone to their mates? I am glad I have ministers on this side who are working directly with the Deputy Prime Minister: Minister Bailey, Minister Butcher and the Deputy Premier. We do not need Phil Thompson; he can pack his bags and take off. He is hopeless, inept, useless. We will stand up for people in Townsville and North Queensland. The Labor government will deliver.

(Time expired)

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (5.06 pm): Someone get that man some water or a defibrillator or something. He needs it. He wants to talk about who to phone or phone a friend. Why does he not get on the phone and talk to his colleagues in Victoria—

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

Mr BLEIJIE:—or his comrades in Victoria, because they seem to be able to do deals with the federal Morrison government. They seem to get the funding. If he wants to pick up the phone—and he talks about his ministers—perhaps he could pick up the phone and talk to his health minister about his former colleagues who are paramedics and talk about the health crisis in the Queensland system.

Mr Harper: I already have.

Mr BLEIJIE: He has? Has he talked about the ambulance ramping issue gripping the state of Queensland at the moment? I bet he has not. He will not pick up the phone. He is all show. He can come in here and yell all he wants. The reality is we have a health crisis in Queensland and we have a former paramedic who has not even talked to the health minister about his former colleagues in the health department and all the associated issues.

Mr HARPER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and I ask him to withdraw.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members. While I am taking a point of order the House will remain silent. The member has taken personal offence. I ask that you withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. The Treasurer comes in here. We have known all week that this motion was going to be moved. It was just a matter of when.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I ask you to resume your seat. The time for the debate has expired.

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

AYES, 50:

ALP, 47—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Howard, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Lui, Madden, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

Grn, 2—Berkman, MacMahon.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 33:

LNP, 32—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Camm, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister (proxy), Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Weir.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Pairs: Linard, Crandon; Pegg, Watts.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance



Ms SIMPSON (Maroochydore—LNP) (5.13 pm): I move—

1. The House notes with concern:
 - (a) many Queenslanders have expressed serious concerns about the housing affordability crisis gripping Queensland;
 - (b) congestion on South-East Queensland roads is choking every day;
 - (c) there has been a chronic lack of infrastructure investment by the Labor government over the past six years;
 - (d) the Labor government is failing to meet its own targets for new social housing dwellings;
 - (e) the Labor government does not have an adequate plan for addressing demand pressures resulting from interstate migration growth, now or even before COVID;
 - (f) the Labor government does not have any plan for addressing housing affordability in the general housing and rental markets; and
2. The House calls on the Labor government to:
 - (a) build new infrastructure Queenslanders need and deserve;
 - (b) protect the lifestyles Queenslanders expect and deserve; and
 - (c) prioritise new infrastructure investment to support housing supply to ensure new homes and rental stock is affordable.

COVID has upended our world locally and globally, but the facts show that the housing crisis in Queensland started well before COVID hit. COVID has just thrown fuel on an already burning fire. On independent measures, Queensland has one of the worst performances compared to nearly every other state. The housing shortages extend beyond the most vulnerable, who are waiting desperately for social housing, to also include families who never thought they would be facing potential homelessness due to a lack of available houses to rent. It includes people who are employed in stable jobs and who have been stable renters for years but who now find that there are simply not enough homes for them to rent or, in some circumstances, buy. They are locked out of the rental market due to this lack of supply and lengthy delays in approvals and decision-making. The urgent action which is needed now to address housing shortages must not ignore the reasons, which have been brewing for years under the oversight of this government, this tight market has become a disastrous market.

There has to be an honest identification of the barriers—and I will outline some—so that they are overcome. If this government simply blames COVID, it will not fix the problems such as the lack of timely decision-making and approvals for housing in Queensland. Even that southern state of 'Chairman Dan' can have housing estates approved in two to three years, whereas in Queensland it can take eight to 10 years. We see a situation where, on independent measures once again, infrastructure that is needed to accompany housing and other services for an increasing population have lagged in terms of the state government's investment.

First I will address the social housing shortage in Queensland which is part of the current crisis. According to Productivity Commission reports on government services, there has been only a 0.6 per cent increase in social housing stock under the Queensland Labor government in the last five years. Five years, millions of dollars and only a 0.6 per cent increase in social housing dwellings? That is maladministration by Queensland Labor, which has refused to work with the community housing sector to unlock more housing stock while people are desperate for that housing. This mob could not run a chook raffle, but the people paying the price for their ineptitude are vulnerable people.


The issues affecting the housing market in general are bigger than just social housing. When I raise the rental crisis, the government talks about social housing but forgets about the broader market. In Queensland, while the population has been increasing, there has been a fall-off in the rate of approvals of new dwellings. I know of families on the Sunshine Coast who are living in tents in the forest and of others on the beach. In Cairns I spoke to a professional with a good job who is living in his car as he cannot get a house. What about the desperate families with kids living in a car? That is bad enough for one family, but this story has been repeated right throughout our communities. This was brewing well before COVID hit.

What else do we see in Queensland? Building approvals in Queensland are not keeping up with population growth. The figures once again show that this was happening before COVID hit. The ABS statistics reveal that in 2015 there were 22,851 dwelling approvals in Queensland, with a population of nearly five million; however, in 2020, with a population of 5,171,000, there were only 20,154 dwelling approvals. That shows the trajectory over the last number of years. The population was increasing before COVID but in real terms building approvals were plummeting.

People in the industry say that it takes too long to get a decision. I believe that we need good town planning and good decision-making but, in having plans that take eight to 10 years to come to fruition, once again, the people paying the price are ordinary Queenslanders. There has to be a fair dinkum build-to-rent program that is not about secrecy but about transparency and working with the private sector.

Infrastructure Partnerships Australia ranked Queensland No. 6 in terms of infrastructure spend throughout Australia. That is about this state's lack of timely investment, which is also impacting that market. Where is the pipeline for infrastructure? This government is no longer publishing it from Building Queensland.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (5.18 pm): There is only one time we ever hear members of the LNP talk about infrastructure or housing—that is, when they are in opposition. When they get into government, they cut, cut and cut. Whatever they say and whatever they promise, a leopard does not change its spots. That is what they do. Having the LNP talk about infrastructure or social housing is like the New Zealand Warriors saying they are going to win the premiership! It is like Boris Johnson saying he is going to get a buzz cut or Donald Trump saying he will tell the truth and behave in a discreet kind of way! It goes against their brand and type.

This motion is erroneous. If those opposite really cared about social housing, they would be addressing the fact that the money in terms of state-federal partnerships for social housing dried up on the election of the federal LNP. It has been the same since the end of the Rudd-Gillard government. Is this motion talking about that relationship? No. It is just the same old blame game from the opposition, which has very little to put forward.

When it comes to infrastructure, those opposite suggest that there has been a chronic lack of infrastructure investment in the last six years. We all remember them cutting train drivers, cutting RoadTek workers, cutting nurses, cutting just about everything except 1 William Street—building an infrastructure program for themselves. While they were telling everyone else to take their medicine, they built a nice big building which they never moved into. Why is there an increase in demand for housing in this state? It is because this government has managed the pandemic amongst the best in the world and that is why 88 per cent of net migration is coming to Queensland, and that is why we are investing in infrastructure. We do not have the cuts that those opposite had previously.


This government is spending 50 per cent more on road and rail infrastructure since it came to office. Let us look at the facts about where the infrastructure is going compared to not a single new dollar spent on the M1 by those opposite when they were in power. They did not do anything on the Ipswich Motorway. If we look at the record of infrastructure under this government, there is the M1, the

Ipswich Motorway, the Mackay Ring Road, Cairns southern access, the Cape York regional package, the Townsville Ring Road, Riverway Drive, ports. We have invested like no government has invested before.

I find it no coincidence that those opposite continually quote infrastructure partnerships when they are some of the greatest advocates for asset sales. Instead of members of the opposition being honest and saying, 'We believe in asset sales,' they have code and their new code is 'infrastructure partnerships this, infrastructure partnerships that'. That is their new code for asset sales. We know that to be the case. We have the Newman acolyte, the Leader of the Opposition, who sat around the cabinet table and cut, cut, cut—like others who are still there from the Newman days. We know he loves the Newman model because he said he was someone special. They are the words of the Leader of the Opposition himself, the member for Broadwater. That is what he said on the record. We know they do not change their spots.

This government has delivered five packages of infrastructure stimulus in the last 18 months—the inland rail package and four COVID stimulus packages, many of which are going out right now. In regional Queensland, the central west, the south-west—right across this state—they are hitting the ground right now and creating jobs. That is why the jobless rate has plunged nearly a whole per cent over the last few months, because we have invested in infrastructure. If we have not, where are the jobs coming from? Are those jobs in our imagination? I do not think so. They are real because we invest in infrastructure, unlike those opposite. We have built 11 new schools in the last couple of years, 39 large-scale renewable energy projects and record levels of investment in health. If people want investment, infrastructure and social housing, it is Labor. If they want cuts, it is—

(Time expired)

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (5.23 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the member for Maroochydore. Last week I sat down with Dominic Venditti and Tammy Leacy from Capriccios Italian Pizza Restaurant, Leesa Tilden from Flaunt Maleny, Rick Paget from the Maleny Neighbourhood Centre and David Lowden from the Maleny Showgrounds. Members may well ask: what would bring a pizza shop owner, a fashion shop owner, a showground volunteer, the coordinator of a neighbourhood centre and a member of parliament together, apart from food? The answer is housing. Access to affordable housing—or housing full stop—has been bubbling away as an issue in the electorate of Glass House for some time, but for the past 12 months it has become critical and, as our region is renowned for, in the absence of government intervention we look for local solutions.

But let us go back a step. How have we got to where we are? The government will point out, and rightly so, that COVID-19 has had an impact on the Queensland housing market. Yes, hundreds of thousands of Australians have returned home from overseas. Each one of them has either bought a new house or has had to terminate rental agreements on their original family home. With the rise of working from home, many southerners have worked out that home does not need to be in Sydney or Melbourne; it can be on the Sunshine Coast, and who would blame them? As a result, the housing market is hot, which in turn has encouraged other home owners to sell up and make the most of the higher values. Unfortunately, many of those properties were rentals and are now no longer available for long-term renters.

Those are the short-term causes of the current crisis, but underpinning them has been a series of failures on the part of the current state government. Much of the crisis stems from the last iteration of the SEQ Regional Plan. Under the leadership of the then deputy premier Jackie Trad, the government put all of its eggs in two baskets—higher density and master planned greenfield development. Higher density takes time to consolidate properties and get approvals, usually from a council that has a town plan which does not allow it, find finance and then construct the buildings. Greenfield master planned communities simply cannot keep up with the demand. Just take a look at Stockland's Aura or AVID's Harmony. They cannot make the blocks available fast enough for hungry homebuyers. Added to this, a number of greenfield sites simply do not have the transport and road infrastructure needed to make them livable. Where is the heavy rail through Aura to Caloundra and Maroochydore? How are the new residents of Caboolture West going to get to and from work or school?

When Queensland families cannot buy into the market or find a place to rent, they turn to our state's social housing program. But that system is broken. As the *Courier-Mail* reported in January this year under the headline 'Queensland social housing waitlist explodes as government fails to keep up'—

Despite talking up its efforts, the Queensland Labor Government has effectively spent less on a ballooning social problem.

The article continues—

The Queensland Labor Government spent less per capita on social housing and increased its property portfolio by just 73 as the state's waiting list exploded to nearly 21,000 people last year.


As the coronavirus pandemic bit for the state's most marginalised, the Government spent an extra \$47 million on the problem, but didn't keep up with population growth.

The expenditure per head was \$132, down from \$135 in 2018-19, and it was the second lowest spend rate in the country, according to the 2021 Report on Government Services.

The result is a growing homelessness crisis and that is what brought Dom, Tammy, Leesa, Rick, David and I together last week. Tragically, even in a community like Maleny we have not been able to find a home for everyone who needs one. Some individuals and families have resorted to sleeping rough at the showgrounds, but state and local laws do not permit stays of longer than three nights. This small group of concerned locals discussed some solutions that the government could use right now. Here are a few that I believe could deliver results now and in the short term.

The government must begin the review of the SEQ Regional Plan now. We know that that process takes at least 12 months. Let us get it started and let us put all the options on the table—higher density, greenfield and urban expansion. Let us get on and build the infrastructure South-East Queensland needs. The federal government has coughed up. It has put billions on the table, and more with the possibility of the Olympics coming our way. The state government needs to stop blaming others and just get on with it. Build the roads and the rail our regions need. Build social housing. If the government cannot, get organisations like Coast2Bay community and affordable housing to do it. If the government wants a real quick solution, it should make immediate legislative changes to allow tiny homes and granny flats to be used for emergency and short- to medium-term housing. Let us start delivering for the people of Queensland.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (5.28 pm): I rise to oppose the motion moved by the member for Maroochydore. Today the House has heard all the ways in which the Morrison government's federal budget has let Queenslanders down. For many years we have been calling on the Morrison government to shoulder its responsibility and invest in rental affordability initiatives, social housing and remote Indigenous housing. Disappointingly, last night's budget contained no new money for social housing, nothing for those experiencing rental stress and no new money for those at risk of homelessness. In response to the federal budget, National Shelter said—

In housing terms, Budget 21/22 dangerously adds pressure to markets while ignoring real needs in social and affordable housing.

In the context of this federal budget, the opposition has come into the House today completely oblivious to the shortcomings of its own federal colleagues. We have seen no effort from the federal LNP to fund new social housing or assist with rental affordability. They have walked away from those who are most in need of housing support. They have turned their back on vulnerable people who cannot afford to buy a house and are struggling to pay the rent right now.

Once again the Palaszczuk government is doing the heavy lifting when it comes to housing in this state. I am happy to spend some time tonight talking once again about the facts and the figures in regard to affordable housing. The member for Glass House made a few comments about this. Our Partnering for Growth initiative is a \$136.9 million investment, working in partnership with the community housing sector to deliver new affordable housing. Through this initiative 1,121 social and affordable homes have been approved and 124 are already complete. Our \$1.6 billion Housing Construction Jobs Program represents the biggest investment in social housing since World War II and will deliver 5,500 social housing and affordable homes. We have invested \$241 million in the 2020-21 budget alone to improve housing outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders, including those living in remote communities. Every day our housing service centres provide bond loans, RentConnect support and rental grants to support Queenslanders to enter the private rental market.

This motion makes the ridiculous claim that our government is somehow failing to meet our own targets for new social housing dwellings. This is simply incorrect. In fact, we are exceeding our targets. Under the Housing Construction Jobs Program we committed to a target of more than 1,700 commencements by 30 June 2020. Not only did we meet that target for new social housing homes; we exceeded it with contracts awarded for 1,949 new homes by June last year. We are now up to 2,238 contracts awarded for commencement and 1,423 of these homes have already been completed. We are on track to meet our five-year target.

In the Bundamba electorate we are investing \$6.2 million in a complex at Redbank. In the Mundingburra electorate we are investing \$3.6 million in new apartments in Aitkenvale, and we are building properties in Bonney, Kawana, Coomera, Whitsunday and the list goes on. There are a further 240 new social housing homes forecast for commencement across Queensland by the end of next month. Under the Works for Tradies program we are on track to see the commencement of 215 homes right across Queensland by the end of 2021. We have already awarded contracts for new social housing homes across South-East Queensland, Wide Bay, Mackay-Whitsunday, Townsville, Darling Downs, Central and Far North Queensland.

Having said all that, it is important to point out that under the Newman LNP government in 2012-13 and in 2013-14 construction did not commence on a single new social home on the Gold Coast, Ipswich, Logan or the Sunshine Coast. It was their stated goal, under the leadership of the member for Everton, to transfer 90 per cent of social housing away from government. That is his legacy.

Mr Mander: Yes, exactly!

Ms ENOCH: Those opposite have no credibility on this issue when their own record in government was so appalling. I hear the member for Everton continuing to spruik the idea of privatising social housing. See how that went last time. It did not do too well.

Mr MANDER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at that statement because it is untrue. I have already written to the Speaker about the minister misleading the House on that matter.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Minister, the member has taken personal offence and I ask you to withdraw.

Ms ENOCH: I withdraw. In last night's budget the federal LNP turned its back on the most vulnerable people who need support to keep a roof over their head. The Palaszczuk government is continuing to do the heavy lifting to increase the supply of social housing, but we need the federal government to step up. I oppose this motion.

Mr BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (5.33 pm): This minister for housing is misleading the parliament and the people of Queensland. It was not privatisation of social housing; it was the transfer of management of social housing because people know that the community sector manage it far better than the Labor government. The community and not-for-profit sector manage our state's public housing and housing far better than the Labor government. This minister just said that they have exceeded their target for social housing. What she did not tell people is how many houses they have sold. The net gain over five years is 0.6 per cent. That is this minister's legacy, not 1,000 houses. There are 26,000 Queenslanders on the social housing waiting list. You are shocked? Doesn't the minister care?

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Through the chair, member for Kawana.

Mr BLEIJIE: There are over 26,000 people on the waiting list. That is the minister's legacy and it is no legacy this minister should be proud of. In terms of infrastructure, the LNP government did the Cooroy to Curra Road—the Minister for Transport forgets that; the second range crossing—he forgets that; and the Sunshine Coast University Hospital—he forgets that. The Mooloolah River interchange is promised by the federal Morrison government.

My colleagues on the Sunshine Coast have been campaigning for and promising it in elections for years. Labor has not put a cent into construction—zero dollars. All it has done is a business case which was meant to be released by the end of last year. Where is it? The Treasurer puts out a press release wanting 80 per cent funding from the federal government. It is a state road. I am sick and tired of the Labor government, having been in power for six years, blaming people for their failures.


Where is the money the member for Thuringowa mentioned? Where is the money from the state government? The federal government is putting in the money for the Mooloolah River interchange and I look forward to the state Labor government committing 50 per cent of the funding. Where is the money? Where is the \$160 million for the Mooloolah River interchange? All we have out of the minister is squat, zero dollars, nothing but a business case that is not being published. The government is doing it in secret. I see the member for Caloundra shaking his head. Mate, you have not been around long enough to be campaigning for the Mooloolah River interchange.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Through the chair, please, member for Kawana.

Mr BLEIJIE: The member has not been around long enough to know what I am even talking about. The Mooloolah River interchange should be built and it should be built by the state government. The state government should take the money while the federal government is offering it.

If the Treasurer of Queensland for once stood in front of his big oversized mirror and instead of asking his mirror the question, 'Who is the fairest of them all?', asked, 'What could I do for Queensland?', the mirror would say, 'Give the money back to the state. Put the money into housing. Put the money into infrastructure. Put the money into roads.' We know this government is misleading Queenslanders. The minister says they have built over 1,000 homes. What she has not told the people, and it is not on the Open Data website, is how many they have sold. The net gain is 0.6. Whilst that is going on we have people living in their cars. Homelessness is increasing.

I take the interjection from 3½ minutes ago from my colleague the member for Everton when he said the statistic of 26,000 people on the waiting list is nine months old. The number of Queenslanders on the waiting list now is a lot more than that and the government, because of the secrecy we have seen develop in the Labor Party, has not released the figures. The LNP government invests in infrastructure. So too should this government. At the moment we have a huge housing crisis and the Labor government is not fixing it.

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (5.38 pm): I rise to oppose the motion. Queensland is accelerating rapidly towards our 50 per cent renewable energy target. We are already generating 20 per cent of our power from renewables. Since 2015 our policies have turned our state's energy investment on its head, transforming Queensland from the LNP's zero dollar, zero megawatt, zero jobs renewables vacuum to an \$8.5 billion and 7,000-job energy investment powerhouse. What that looks like today is clean electricity coming from around 33 operational large-scale wind and solar projects and already 11 other projects are either committed or under construction.

To power the next phase of our renewables boom we have committed \$145 million to unlock three renewable energy zones and to build the transmission infrastructure to support renewables development in north, central and southern Queensland. We have been flooded with expressions of interest to generate projects worth around 60,000 megawatts of clean energy and with the combined capacity to power the nation. Those projects would support more than \$93.7 billion in investment if all are developed. It would mean 192 projects that will charge up our state's economic recovery, creating up to 57,000 jobs in the process.

It is not just generation that is powering up. Since 2015 we have invested billions of dollars in transmission and distribution infrastructure that delivers cleaner and cheaper electricity. In this financial year alone our publicly owned electricity companies will invest more than \$1.76 billion in capital works in 2021, supporting up to 3,920 jobs. We have also invested \$500 million into the Queensland Renewable Energy Fund. That means our publicly owned energy corporations can increase public ownership of renewable energy projects and supporting infrastructure—

Mr MINNIKIN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to relevance. This is in relation to a housing motion and has nothing to do with renewables. I seek your guidance, please.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Item 1(c) refers to infrastructure. I find the member is being relevant to the motion.

Mr McCALLUM: This means our publicly owned energy corporations can increase public ownership of renewable energy projects and supporting infrastructure to the tune of half a billion dollars, ensuring that Queenslanders directly own a slice of our renewable energy future with an ongoing cheap clean reliable and public power supply while supporting essential jobs growth.


By 2030 we will have built a fully operational transport and export hub, exporting renewable hydrogen to our global trading partners. One of our key strengths and competitive advantages is our publicly owned ports from which to export hydrogen. In the last financial year alone our publicly owned ports shipped 305 million tonnes of commodities and last year Gladstone overtook Qatar as the largest exporter of LNG in the world. We have recently entered into MOUs with key trading partners in Japan to export renewable hydrogen from Gladstone and Townsville. In Townsville alone we have invested \$193 million to upgrade the port channel, \$40 million for a berth upgrade and \$48 million for an intermodal facility to ensure that the port remains a premier gateway for Queensland.

Our publicly owned infrastructure, which would have been sold off by those opposite when they were in government—if we want to talk about infrastructure, they would have sold it all—will be at the forefront of Queensland's future prosperity, delivering jobs and economic growth by being a critical part of our future hydrogen industry supply chain.

In last night's budget the Morrison government duded Queensland out of its fair share of federally funded infrastructure to deliver sustainable low-emissions energy, support industry, attract more investment and develop new industries such as renewable hydrogen and manufacturing. In fact, the federal member for Hinkler has actively worked to kill renewable infrastructure investment and jobs

in Queensland. The federal member for Hinkler intervened to veto a loan from the North Australia Infrastructure Facility for a wind and battery storage hub in North Queensland. That is what the LNP stands for: actively killing renewables and killing regional jobs in Queensland.

Under Labor we have led the country with our renewables revolution and we also continue to do the heavy lifting for Queensland communities. All in all, it is clear: the Morrison government and the LNP Queensland opposition have failed Queensland and failed the Queensland energy sector. I oppose the motion.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (5.44 pm): I rise to support the housing motion brought into the House by the member for Maroochydore, Fiona Simpson. There is a chronic shortage of land and housing to support the growing population in many parts of Queensland, including social housing. This shortage has not occurred overnight and it is not a new phenomenon in Queensland. The Palaszczuk government has a track record of inadequate investment in infrastructure in this state—despite what we have just heard—and that has been happening for over six years. The Palaszczuk government's legacy will be a failure to deliver.

This government are even failing dismally to reach their own targets for new social housing, although they continue to blame the federal government for that blunder and everything else from the performance of the Broncos to the Deputy Premier's stutter. In 2019-20 in Queensland the social housing spend was at \$132 per head, down from \$135 in 2018-19. That was the second lowest spend across any Australian state or territory and still they blame the Prime Minister for their housing woes. They should take some responsibility for once rather than blaming all and sundry. This issue lies firmly in their court. The Labor government had no plan whatsoever, even before the COVID pandemic hit, to address the large increase in relocations from interstate to Queensland, which has been happening for over five years and not just the past 12 months.

The Condamine electorate lies within the Toowoomba Regional Council boundary. That area has been experiencing a high demand for land and houses to purchase, a rental crisis and a significant social housing shortage. The pressure on housing and land has been evident for over five years, with analysts in the property market sector highlighting it time and time again. In the 12 months ending September 2020 in Toowoomba there was a 29 per cent decline in lot approvals. Currently, a stock of 3,200 residential lots is on hand but of those only 858 have approval for operational works. In reality, that means the area has two years worth of supply.

Available suitable land does exist in the Condamine electorate. However, the infrastructure and planning department of the Toowoomba Regional Council has not had the foresight to look at the future housing needs of the region. The solution lies in investigating the Toowoomba regional priority infrastructure area zones and making amendments where needed to ensure suitable areas of land are available for development to meet the housing shortage. Recently developers in the region met with the Toowoomba Regional Council to put forward their proposals for the development of suitable land, but there are two stumbling blocks. One is that if the land is not in a priority infrastructure area zone developers will be charged exorbitant fees in headwork charges, into the millions of dollars, which is obviously a huge deterrent. Secondly, some of the land in the priority infrastructure area zones is not suitable for housing. Even a mountain goat would struggle to survive on it.


Queenslanders deserve a lot better from our state government. Their lack of investment, poor planning and lack of foresight has caused a massive decrease in the approval of new dwellings. Since 2015 across the state residential dwelling approvals have decreased by close to 40 per cent. We would like to see this Palaszczuk government start prioritising new infrastructure investment to provide an assurance that the housing supply will be solid into the future and that rental properties will be affordable. In the Toowoomba Regional Council area a number of huge projects are in the wings and ready to go, including the inland rail project and the medical cannabis facility. Those projects promise over 1,000 jobs but we have nowhere to house the workers. That problem affects not just Toowoomba.

Along with about 15 of my colleagues, I was in Rockhampton last week where we saw some of the major infrastructure that the federal government is building, such as its big spend at the Shoalwater Bay—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr WEIR: Over and over again we heard that there is nowhere to house the workers for all of the projects that the federal government is delivering in Rockhampton. In all my meetings in Rockhampton I did not hear the local state member get a mention. We have heard from the member for Glass House about the south-east regional plan, which needs to be overhauled as a matter of priority.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (5.49 pm): It might be 2021, but when it comes to infrastructure in the Mount Ommaney electorate our government has perfect 20/20 vision. In fact, so much has already happened this term in local infrastructure, I barely know where to start. Wait, yes I do! It is the long-awaited Len Waters Sumners Road overpass, an \$80 million project delivered by the Palaszczuk government. The Sumners Road overpass had been on the cards for 10 years. Before the 2017 commitment from the Palaszczuk government, Mount Ommaney locals were getting really frustrated there had been no progress on this long-awaited bridge. Let us be really clear: before the Palaszczuk government, no-one had put money on the table. It had been promised by the LNP in the 2012, 2015 and 2017 elections, but no money was ever put on the table to build it. The Premier put a stop to that. She funded the project in full, and I was proud as punch to stand with her and Minister Bailey at the opening last month.

It was standing room only at the opening, because my community had waited so long to have this project completed after it was cut by the Newman government. The RSL was there, along with the Jamboree Residents Association and, of course, the family of Len Waters, the local Indigenous war hero after whom the bridge is named. The bridge, once two lanes, is now a majestic six lanes and traffic flows freely all day long. It has had the mother of all glow-ups and it looks great.

But wait, there is more! Not two weeks after the opening of the Sumners Road overpass, the Premier was back again to open the Oxley-Rocklea stretch of the Ipswich Motorway. This \$400 million project flood-proofed a key stretch of road, adding additional lanes and keeping traffic going during peak hours. It was only a few weeks ago that the Premier, the member for Toohey, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, as well as Milton Dick, the federal member for Oxley, opened that project for the benefit of Ipswich and the western suburbs. I have called it the 'Tradie Express'. It will keep Queenslanders moving. It is a 50-50 project with the feds. We need to see more of these projects for Queensland.

Prior to the opening earlier this year, the road was prone to flooding in wet weather events like the one we have seen today, and people were left stranded and unable to get home due to the rain. We know that in rain and storms roads are chaotic and scary enough without being completely unusable, so I know that commuters in my electorate and further down in Ipswich will really benefit from this improved path.


We are not stopping there. I have also secured \$112 million from the state government to work with the federal government to upgrade the Jindalee Bridge of the Centenary Motorway. Over 90,000 vehicles a day use this busy stretch of road, and the south-west locals know that the Centenary needs an upgrade. We call it 'Centenary Car Park'. It is not just a key route into the city but also an opening to the Airportlink and the quick route to the north side, the airport and the Sunshine Coast. I have often been known to say that it might be called the Centenary Motorway but if we did put a boom gate at the end of the Centenary suburbs on the motorway we would not have any traffic issues. The Centenary Motorway services a very large population base right through Ipswich, Springfield and beyond.

I thank my colleagues—the members for Jordan, Ipswich, Ipswich West and Bundamba, along with the Premier—for their strong support of this project. They backed the call to get this done and I am proud to say that construction starts next year. I would not trade my colleagues for anything, member for Gregory.

As I said, this is a state-federal partnership. What is interesting is that I do not have two federal LNP members; I have two Labor federal members in Graham Perrett and Milton Dick. These two hardworking federal members fight every day for their electorates, even in opposition, and that is why we have been able to secure the funds for these vital projects. It is a shame that not every electorate in Queensland has a Graham or a Milton fighting for them, because we need more of them.

I finish by expressing my disappointment about the lack of funds in the federal budget for the Sunshine Coast Stadium in Bokarina. A few weeks ago, my baby Elyse and I were so fortunate to head up for the launch of the Women's State of Origin where we met the captain of the women's Queensland team, Ali Briggishaw. The stadium is quickly becoming known as the spiritual home of women's Origin in Queensland. As I understand it, the game sold out last time. I reckon it will sell out again. I am doing my part: I have my tickets and I am taking my whole family, my in-laws and my dad. It will be an epic game. Get your tickets! It is going to be great.

The member for Caloundra has secured \$20 million in committed funding from the Palaszczuk government for the stadium, but we need the federal government to come to the table and stump up. The federal government has short-changed Queensland on this in this budget. They are taking us for granted. We need to see better.

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (5.54 pm): As a new member, with my six-month anniversary of coming to the House this month, I thought I would familiarise myself with the Housing Act and in particular the state's provision of and responsibility for housing services. Perhaps the minister needs to familiarise herself with that, as does the cabinet. It is to provide leadership and promote best practice housing provision and residential development. One thing that my community, as well as all of us in the opposition, would say is that the government is not living up to what the legislation outlines.

I draw the attention of the House—I thank the minister—to the letter that I received some two months after writing about the housing crisis in my electorate across Mackay and the Whitsundays. We see vacancy rates across Central Queensland and North Queensland of 0.2 per cent in Rockhampton, the home of Beef Week; 0.7 per cent in Mackay; 0.4 per cent in Bundaberg; and 0.7 per cent in Townsville. As at today, there are 26 properties to rent in the Airlie Beach-Cannonvale-Bowen area. Rental costs range from \$385 per week through to \$750 per week across the electorate.

When we consider the crisis at hand, it was not reassuring to hear from the minister that there will be 60 new social homes built in Central Queensland, of which 20 will be in Mackay and the Whitsundays, but I will take the minister's advice and 'in the spirit of bipartisanship' direct support of my constituents and advocate. The minister proposed that I advocate to the federal government. Well, I will take this time to advocate to the state government and advocate to the minister to reach out to the community housing sector in Mackay and the Whitsundays. The community housing company in Mackay has been waiting over 10 years for a transfer of housing stock—10 years for someone to sign on the dotted line. This is not an asset sale. If those opposite believe that transferring social housing stock for renewal, for redevelopment or for infill development to grassroots community housing organisations that understand our local communities and want to see co-investment by the private sector to deliver efficient solutions is appropriate, then I advocate to the Minister for Housing to go and speak to the department and make that transfer happen.


The member for Mackay has been absent on this. The member for Mackay would rather stand in this parliament and criticise the member for Dawson, who has done nothing but fight for the people of the Whitsundays, the Mackay electorate and North Queensland, and delivered infrastructure where the member for Mackay has consistently failed.

I draw the attention of the House to a great budget announcement by Scott Morrison's government in relation to women escaping domestic and family violence. Almost \$165 million in cash payments will be delivered to women for rental bonds so they can flee domestic violence situations. When there are no houses for those women to rent, where will they go?

I reflect on the time that our great local member, George Christensen, the member for Dawson, was able to secure funding for a women's shelter.

Government members interjected.

Ms CAMM: What is his margin? It is nearly 14 per cent—all those safe Labor booths that we took at the last election! When we had an opportunity for safe places emergency accommodation, we called an emergency meeting and we found local community providers willing to take that up, the member for Mackay was absent. The member for Mackay did not turn up and did not advocate for another women's shelter in the community of Mackay, but George Christensen sure did. I certainly hope that the Minister for Housing takes swift action across Mackay and the Whitsundays and engages the community housing sector, which can do it better.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (5.59 pm): When I first saw this motion I thought that perhaps the member for Capalaba had done something clever and slipped a dummy motion in front of the member for Maroochydore and she read the wrong motion. I then realised that this is the strategy of those opposite. It is a Trumpesque strategy—take their biggest weakness and tell a complete mistruth to the House to ensure they are doing as Trump does. We saw that before when the member for Whitsunday made comments about George Christensen. We know exactly what type of member he is. When more comes out about him, we will remind the member exactly what she said about him.

When I looked at the motion I saw it mentioned infrastructure investment to support housing supply. I note the motion refers to the past six years. By way of comparison, I thought it would be invaluable for members on both sides of the House to hear what happened in Logan during the LNP's time in government.

When it comes to Logan Hospital, we built a new ward in record time, a new car park was constructed and the extension planning is well underway. Logan is a growing area so we would think that surely the LNP would have put new beds into Logan Hospital. I ask the House: how many beds did the LNP build in Logan?

A government member: How many beds?

Mr POWER: The answer is zero. When it comes to new classrooms, we have built new classrooms at Logan Village. We have built the new Yarrabilba State School and the new Yarrabilba State High School. We are building the new performing arts centre as well. We are building the new administration building and classrooms at Park Ridge State School now. We have backed St Philomenas, Kings, Parklands Christian and St Clare's. Right now we are constructing the new school opposite Pub Lane. I know what members are thinking. That is a lot of classrooms and fantastic educational infrastructure, but it is in a growing area. That was true before too. Surely the LNP built lots of new classrooms for this growing area during their three years in government. I ask the House: how many classrooms did the LNP build in their time in government? Zero.

We have built a new ambulance station for the fast-growing area—

Mr Boothman interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member for Theodore, you are on a warning.

Mr POWER: We have built a new ambulance station for the fast-growing area of Yarrabilba and another one for the Mount Lindesay corridor at Munruben. We have heard a lot about ambulances from the LNP this week. I ask the House: how many ambulance stations did the LNP build in Logan?

A government member: How many?

Mr POWER: Zero. A growing area needs roads expansion. That is why we are currently building four lanes from North Street to Anzac Avenue and building on the previous investment from Hotz Road—

Mr Krause interjected.

Mr POWER: It has nothing to do with it. We are building on the previous investment from Hotz Road to Anzac Avenue on Tamborine Road. On the Mount Lindesay Highway we have built four-lane intersections at Green Road and Camp Cable Road and we are four laning from Camp Cable Road through to Jimboomba. Now we are going all the way through Jimboomba. We built four lanes through to Stoney Camp Road and now we are building four lanes through to Chambers Flat Road.

Members would be thinking that Mount Lindesay Highway is a vital road servicing a growing area so surely the LNP must have done some four-laning on the Mount Lindesay Highway when they were in government. I ask members of the House: how many single metres of four-laning did they do on the Mount Lindesay Highway?


A government member: How many?

Mr POWER: The answer is zero. We have provided new public transport services like the new bus service to Flagstone—the 587—and the new bus service through to Yarrabilba. That is two new bus services. On top of that we have provided demand-responsive transport to service the area in between. I know members are thinking that surely the LNP would have delivered new public transport services to a growing area. I ask the House—and this one is a trick: how many new services did the LNP deliver?

A government member: How many?

Mr POWER: The answer is not zero. They actually cut services to that growing area. They cut, sack and sell. If the question is about delivering the services people in growing areas need then the answer is not the LNP.

The Palaszczuk government is all about backing families to get into the houses they need, creating the jobs they need and providing the services and infrastructure we depend on. The people of Logan know they can depend on Labor to build our roads, create our schools and support growing families into new housing.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (6.04 pm): My contribution tonight is brought to members by the letter 'C'. Why is that? That is because this state Labor government has a fascination with words that begin with 'C'. When it comes to looking at their failures, they have a fixation with words beginning with 'C'. We saw the Deputy Premier last week at the Labour Day march disgracefully use a word beginning with 'C', which was totally inappropriate and an embarrassment to the government.

When it comes to defending their failures, they will often use words beginning with the letter 'C'. They are looking for fault. If it is not Campbell's fault, it is COVID's fault. If it is not COVID's fault, it is Canberra's fault. When it came to the health crisis it was culture that was at fault.

When it comes to the infrastructure and housing crisis, they also use a word beginning with 'C'—that is, culture. It is not just with health but with housing infrastructure as well. What culture is it? It is a culture that will not unleash—another word beginning with 'C'—the community housing sector. They will not unleash the community housing sector. Why will they not? Their culture philosophically says that they will not let the community housing sector manage social housing.


The community housing sector also has words starting with 'C' to describe it. They are caring. They are compassionate. They are capable. One of the problems we have at the moment is that, because of this philosophical culture against community housing, this state cannot get access to funding from NHFIC, the National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation. That is a Commonwealth government backed loan facility. Every other state—even Labor Party states—are getting hundreds of millions of dollars to invest in affordable and community housing. Queensland is basically getting zip because this government will not allow the community housing sector to have the asset base they need to get access to that funding. The only way they get that is if we allow them to manage social housing. That is not happening.

The National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation offers another 'C' word—cash; cash that we desperately need. It is not the piddly \$131 million that this government has used in partnership with the community housing sector but hundreds of millions of dollars that we desperately need to meet the housing crisis we have at the moment. There is an affordability issue. There is a rental crisis. There is a social housing crisis, as mentioned by others, with 26,000 people on the social housing waiting list.

What we have seen this week, in the words of the great Rugby League philosopher Benny Elias, is *deja vu* all over again. Who can remember before the last federal election when minister after minister got up and bagged the Morrison government and endorsed Bill Shorten as Prime Minister? The week before the election every one of them got up to endorse Bill Shorten. We are seeing the same thing happening with this budget. Every minister is getting up to bag the federal government in preparation for the election that will happen in 12 months time—

Mrs Frecklington: Not mentioning Albanese though.

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection from the member for Nanango. There is no mention of 'Albo' whatsoever. Within 12 months the Morrison government will have a thumping victory because the budget they delivered this week is a budget that this Labor government is envious of. They are jealous of the results and outcomes that this government will produce. I cannot wait for 12 months time when we once again remind those opposite of their criticism of this budget, minister by minister. There is one final 'C' when it comes to describing this government with regard to infrastructure and housing solutions—that is, clueless.

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (6.09 pm): It is always wonderful to follow the member for Everton, particularly to talk about housing. Of course the member for Everton was the minister for housing under the Newman government. When it comes to the Gold Coast particularly, I was interested to have a look at the figures because there were in fact no new public housing homes that started construction not only in 2012-13 but in 2013-14. It is interesting that they come into this House and lecture our government on the need for social housing given their track record.

Instead of lecturing the federal government, which just handed down a budget that delivers no new funding for increased social public housing, they come into this chamber and lecture us while we are delivering record investment—in fact, \$1.6 billion for our Housing Construction Jobs Program. On the Gold Coast we have commenced 308 social housing properties—many are in LNP electorates—and we have more on the way. This is the largest investment in social housing since World War II.

On the Gold Coast we are also delivering a Gold Coast Youth Foyer, which will provide up to 40 units for vulnerable young people aged between 16 and 25. We have had some unlikely supporters. I note that the member for Southport recently visited the Gold Coast Youth Foyer, funded and delivered by the Palaszczuk government. I table a copy of a post he put up recently saying, 'Excited to see the Gold Coast Youth Foyer approaching its completion in the next couple of months ... #HousingFirst'. It is wonderful to see LNP members supporting Labor government achievements.

Tabled paper: Bundle of extracts from the Facebook page of the member for Southport, Mr Rob Molhoek MP, in relation to youth week, TAFE and young people [\[628\]](#).

He has also been quite supportive of a number of other infrastructure investments in TAFE facilities. We know that those opposite sacked a number of TAFE teachers, so it was surprising to see the member for Southport at TAFE facilities given their track record. I have another post here from the member for Southport at the Southport facility, where we delivered a \$10 million upgrade, saying, '... newly refurbished 64 x bed allied health training at TAFE Queensland,' with a clapping emoji.

I also have another post from the member for Southport at the Ashmore Trade Training Centre, saying, 'So pleased to be at the opening of the Trade training Centre at TAFE Queensland today ... Exciting that there is more investment coming in Allied Health at TAFE in the Southport CBD and also a new \$5.7 million Plumbing Tower due for completion at Ashmore in 2022.' It is interesting that those opposite talk about the need for infrastructure when they are claiming credit for our government's achievements to date.

I was also interested to see the motion talking about infrastructure. Under the Newman government we saw no new money for the M1 upgrades. It was under this government that we were able to deliver not only upgrades to the Gateway merge but also upgrades from Mudgeeraba to Varsity Lakes, which we have delivered. Now we are working on those next upgrades further down on the southern Gold Coast and at Eight Mile Plains to Daisy Hill. We are also delivering exit upgrades. We have funded the second M1—a project that those opposite took out of the SEQ regional plan and stopped it from progressing.

We are also investing significantly in our Transport and Roads Investment Program—\$26.9 billion, which is creating over 23,000 jobs. That represents nearly 150 per cent of the last QTRIP that was delivered by those opposite. We are seeing increased investment from this government in comparison to the Newman government.

If those opposite were truly concerned about investment here in Queensland, they would be lobbying their federal counterparts for increased funding in infrastructure and transport. We have seen this morning, as the Treasurer said, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia get approximately \$3 billion from the federal government. We have received only \$1.6 billion. We are the fastest growing state. The Gold Coast is growing and growing. There are a lot of LNP MPs on the Gold Coast. They are very quiet when it comes to lobbying their federal mates. If they are really that concerned, they should be talking to their federal counterparts—Stuart Robert, Karen Andrews, Bert van Manen and Angie Bell—for increased funding.

When it comes to public transport on the Gold Coast particularly, again the light rail is being delivered by Labor, whether it is stage 1, 2—

Mr Minnikin: Thanks, ScoMo.

Ms SCANLON: The majority was funded by the state Labor government. We are delivering stage 3. It was the member for Burleigh who said, 'Not interested in the heavy rail down to the airport.' We also have three new train stations that we are delivering that would not have happened under those opposite because they did not support Cross River Rail. We are only able to deliver these pieces of infrastructure because it is a Labor government that has the foresight to invest in the growth of our city.

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

AYES, 37:

LNP, 32—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Camm, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister (proxy), Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Weir.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 47:

ALP, 47—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Howard, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Lui, Madden, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

Pairs: Linard, Crandon; Pegg, Watts.


Resolved in the negative.

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

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 1349, on motion of Ms Scanlon—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (6.20 pm): I thank the member for Lytton for her graciousness in allowing me to stand up. I think she was ready to jump.

To my mind, there are three immutable facts we must acknowledge in this debate about this bill: firstly, in Australia native title under traditional Aboriginal laws and customs is part of the law of the land, and this was made clear in the decision in the Mabo case in the High Court in 1992; secondly, Mulgumpin—or Moreton Island—is a magnificent natural gem abundant in wildlife, native fauna and flora and surrounded by seas rich in marine life; thirdly, Moreton Island is much loved and treasured by all Queenslanders, Indigenous and non-Indigenous alike. From these three facts all other questions about land use, land management, access and enjoyment arise.

In this respect Moreton island is much like its larger siblings Minjerribah—also known as North Stradbroke Island—and K'gari, also known as Fraser Island. Like those other islands and surrounding waters, Moreton Island is part of a native title claim—in this case by Quandamooka—and that claim has been resolved via consent orders made in the Federal Circuit Court in November 2019. I welcome the proper and due recognition of the traditional owners' entitlements and rights. This is the law of our land, and we must as a parliament and as Queenslanders support the proper—and in some cases overdue—application of our laws and the recognition of native title.

Ties to country, heritage and history are important to us all but are especially so for Indigenous Australia as custodians, inhabitants and original peoples whose history and traditions span the years. It is also important that this determination and recognition of native title provides the opportunity for empowerment and economic security of the traditional owners. Like all of us, having a say in the use of the land and enjoying the responsibility of its upkeep and management, as well as taking advantage of opportunities, both economically and socially, are significant obligations. This bill attempts to put a framework in place around those opportunities, responsibilities and obligations.

I want to see Moreton Island and its management as a beacon of success in that regard. It needs to be the standout, the example from which others can learn. Like thousands of Queenslanders, I love Moreton Island. Along with North Stradbroke Island, it holds a long and enduring place in not only my heart but that of my family. Stories abound at our place of lengthy camping trips taken by my father-in-law and his friends in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s when you had to hire your own barge to get a vehicle over to the island, often on the return journey grounding on sandbars and having to wait for the tide to turn to come back; having to take all of your food and water and carry it enormous distances. In the days before modern camping gear, once the ice melted the diet became one of fresh fish caught off the cape, tinned food, toast and fruit. If you did not get a good catch it was short rations indeed. As my son keeps telling me, 'Dad, that's why they call it fishing, not catching.'

Stories of surviving huge storms that flattened tents on the cape, when shelter was found with the lighthouse keepers who still manned the lighthouse at that time until the weather improved and you could get out and re-establish your base; of the goats that used to roam freely along the northern part of the island, now thankfully removed—

Mr Healy interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: I am not sure who the member for Cairns is referring to when he refers to goats, but I will let that one go. Goats used to roam freely along the northern part of the island, one of which my sister-in-law actually brought home and shipped back to Taringa, which proceeded to do enormous damage to their garden. It did not last long. Who knew what was in the stew? Thankfully, now they have been removed and the cliff faces around the cape and the lighthouse are now far better than they were and are being revegetated.

Stories—and I was there at this time—of watching the then few remaining humpback whales as they ever so slowly recovered in numbers after whaling finished in 1962. Stories of camping trips with my own kids where fishing, collecting pipis, swimming and exploring took up days and nights, and even up to today where a camping trip to Moreton is still high on the list of great weekends away. For anyone who is thinking of going over and getting to Yellow Patch this weekend, I can tell you that it was booked out three weeks ago. I looked and I checked.

Moreton Island holds a place in many people's hearts, but there is a huge amount of uncertainty about how joint management will operate in practice because of the lack of visibility on the ILUA and the IMA. For many people vitally interested in the future of Moreton Island that uncertainty is causing concern. Visitors, campers, tour and business operators, and freehold landowners alike have all voiced their concerns. Any reading of the committee reports, both the first and the second, highlights these concerns and considerable doubt about the department's response. Much of the response refers to outcomes on North Stradbroke Island under similar arrangements.

The story about North Stradbroke, Minjerribah, is still being written. There is an enormous amount of community disquiet from residents, nonresidents and the traditional owner community. Questions about allegations of land clearing, closure of parts of the island, restrictions on access and approvals, disquiet about the Whale on the Hill project at Point Lookout and, importantly, accountability to traditional owners and transparency about the expenditure of taxpayer funds. On Minjerribah success about joint management is still a hotly contested question.


This is the great fear for many with this bill: secrecy, a lack of transparency, an absence of candour and incomplete and insufficient reassurances are all leading to resistance to, and questions about, the government's management of this process, and that is a shame. All of this is unnecessary. All the government and QYAC have to do is release the terms of the ILUA and the IMA and their proposed actions under those documents. Until this occurs the natural reaction of everyone is, 'What's the big secret?' It is not as if there are any other commercial competitors for this agreement. There is only the state and QYAC. In each case both are—or are supposed to be—elected representatives for their constituencies, yet both refuse to tell those constituencies what is in the documents.

If the benefits are so good, if the outcomes will lead to all the positives we are told, then why hide them behind the wall of confidentiality? It is a complete whitewash to simply claim the information cannot be disclosed because that is what the ILUA and the IMA say. There is no statutory requirement for secrecy, as the committee report points out. It is a term of an agreement between parties. They can decide to apply it or not. They could have left it out entirely if they wanted to.

What is the big secret? Do not tell me it is confidential just because it says it is confidential. Why? What is being protected? Why is it so important that taxpayers spending \$30 million, businesses looking for certainty and clarity and Indigenous owners seeking an understanding of their own rights cannot view these documents? If permit holders or business operators on the island have nothing to fear, why not show that to be the case? The member for Bundaberg was completely wrong. It is not an order of the Federal Circuit Court that requires confidentiality; it is a term of the agreement itself. It is nothing to do with the court's decision in relation to it.

In particular, clause 23 of the bill causes enormous concern. In effect it appears to give a right of veto to an application to QYAC. We are asked to take on trust the assurance of Mr Klaassen, the deputy director-general of parks and wildlife, that there is a process of equity and fairness. That is like saying to a taxpayer, 'You just take the word of the tax commissioner on how much you have to pay.' Who is going to accept that? No-one. We have no oversight of it. There is no clarity. There is no fair process. We have to take the word of Mr Klaassen. I do not know whether he will be there next week, next month or next year. As for an appeal to QCAT, what small business can do that because of the delay, the time and the money? It is farcical that this government expects a small business operator to go down that path.

These are serious concerns that have not been adequately addressed by the government, nor have they been adequately addressed in the committee report. Quite frankly, more needs to be done. While this is a start—and, as our shadow minister has said, we will be supporting this bill—there are very real questions about how this management agreement will work and what it will deliver. We hope it does. Moreton Island, Mulgumpin, Quandamooka deserve the best that they can out of this arrangement.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (6.30 pm): I rise to speak to the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Indigenous Joint Management—Moreton Island) Amendment Bill 2020. The Quandamooka people are First Nations custodians of lands and waters within parts of the Moreton Bay region, and I acknowledge their elders past and present and thank them for their custodianship of the lands and waters that I really enjoy, as I am truly fortunate to be a resident of Quandamooka country at Wynnum. Mulgumpin, meaning 'place of sandhills', is the name for Moreton Island in the Quandamooka people's language. Like the member for Sandgate, each day I look out across Quandamooka to see these very sandhills of Mulgumpin. I too, like the member for Clayfield, have enjoyed this magnificent place on regular holidays.

The Quandamooka people collectively include the Ngugi clan from Mulgumpin and the Goenpul and Nunukal clans from Minjerribah. The Quandamooka people have more than 20,000 years association with their country. Extensive site surveys have established that the Ngugi people lived on Mulgumpin on a permanent basis maintaining a marine based lifestyle for over 2,000 years. As part of the outcomes negotiated for the native title consent determination, state land will be returned to the wonderful Quandamooka people. The lands will be held in trust by QYAC and continue to be managed as part of Queensland's protected area estate.

Mulgumpin features creeks and lagoons, coastal heath, rocky headlands, abundant wildflowers, tall sand dunes, an historic lighthouse, ruins of coastal forts and miles and miles of sandy beaches. Mulgumpin is unique in its offering of self-reliant and nature based recreational opportunities in a relatively undeveloped island environment so very close to Brisbane. Many people go to Mulgumpin to seek isolation and seclusion from city life and to enjoy beachside activities and camping. Camping and vehicle access permits for Mulgumpin are now booked and managed through Mulgumpin Camping which is owned and operated by QYAC. Camping and vehicle access permit fees in Queensland recreational areas help support the ongoing management of the recreation area, which includes maintaining and improving the camping areas, vehicle and walking tracks, toilets, signs and more.

The approach to returning state land and jointly managing the protected areas of Mulgumpin is consistent with the action taken by the state following the Quandamooka people's previous native title consent determinations over Minjerribah in 2011. On 27 November 2019 the Federal Court of Australia made a native title consent determination under the Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993 recognising the Quandamooka people's native title rights to Mulgumpin. Protected areas on Mulgumpin include the recently renamed Gheebulum Coonungai (Moreton Island) National Park and Cape Moreton Conservation Park, which are currently state land. As an outcome of the native title determination, these lands will be returned to Quandamooka people as Aboriginal land and subsequently become jointly managed protected areas.

Before these lands can be granted as Aboriginal land to the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation, the land must be first identified as transferrable land in the Aboriginal Land Act 1991. The Aboriginal Land Act is therefore being amended to provide that prescribed protected areas on Mulgumpin are transferable land. This land will include most of the existing Gheebulum Coonungai (Moreton Island) National Park, Cape Moreton Conservation Park and some unallocated state land that is proposed to be added to the protected area estate in the near future. Some small areas of existing protected area that support Maritime Safety Queensland and Australian Maritime Safety Authority facilities for navigation safety purposes are excluded following agreements reached between QYAC and the relevant state and federal government agencies.


Once the land becomes transferable under the Aboriginal Land Act, steps can be taken to prepare deeds of grants and seek Governor in Council approval to appoint QYAC as the grantee of the land. When the land is granted, it will mark the formal return of the traditional lands of the Quandamooka people to their ownership. QYAC will take responsibility for holding the lands in trust for the Quandamooka people and, through joint management arrangements, work in partnership with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service to manage these parts of Mulgumpin as part of Queensland's protected area estate. This outcome reflects similar processes undertaken to transfer prescribed protected areas on Minjerribah to QYAC following the Quandamooka people's native title determination in 2011.

As I have already said, these changes were as a result of a 2019 Federal Court of Australia native title consent determination under the Commonwealth Native Title Act. As part of the consent determination, a number of settlement outcomes were negotiated between the state and representatives of the Quandamooka people. A key outcome was to work towards joint management of protected areas on Mulgumpin, similar to existing joint management agreements on Minjerribah, as I have spoken about already.

However, before the Indigenous joint management area can be declared, the prescribed protected areas on Mulgumpin need to be granted as Aboriginal land to QYAC, which are the trustees of the land for the Quandamooka people. Once the land is granted as Aboriginal land, a separate process to establish the Indigenous joint management area can commence and, once completed, formal joint management agreements can commence. This will allow subsequent processes to occur to prepare deeds of grant and seek Governor in Council approval to grant the land to QYAC as Aboriginal freehold land. As I have said, once granted the land will be held in trust by QYAC for the Quandamooka people and the land will continue to be managed as part of Queensland's protected area.

Returning land to the Quandamooka people in the form of Aboriginal freehold land will facilitate greater self-determination and protect and promote the rights of the Quandamooka people. This action will deliver land justice and increase cultural awareness of the significant connection First Nations people have to their country and the important role they have in the management of country. Joint management of Mulgumpin will be facilitated by this bill and will provide opportunities to enhance visitor experiences through the showcasing of Aboriginal history and culture by First Nations people from the area. The high conservation and cultural value of Mulgumpin will become an intrinsic part of visiting the

island, building a greater appreciation of the history and culture and the future aspirations of the Quandamooka people for this very special place. I commend the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Indigenous Joint Management—Moreton Island) Amendment Bill 2020 to the House.

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (6.37 pm): I rise as the local member of parliament for the Quandamooka people of North Stradbroke Island, as part of the electorate of Oodgeroo, to address the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Indigenous Joint Management—Moreton Island) Amendment Bill 2020. I note the stated policy objectives of the bill and support them. I also thank the Quandamooka people for their support yet again at the 2020 state election. At the Dunwich booth—where most of the Quandamooka people vote—there was a great result of 60 per cent two-party preferred to me as the LNP candidate, with a 43 per cent primary vote, while Labor had an 18 per cent primary vote.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Member, I ask you to return to the long title of the bill.

Dr ROBINSON: In terms of where the bill goes in terms of native title and the Quandamooka people, I am very glad to have the Quandamooka people's support continuing from election to election. Labor's view is that they have a mandate on North Stradbroke Island generally, but I would say that 13 per cent of the primary vote on the island and six per cent at Point Lookout is an absolute wipe-out. What it says is the way that the Labor government have gone about a whole range of things that they have done on North Stradbroke Island—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): I remind you to come back to the long title of the bill.

Dr ROBINSON: Thank you for your ruling, Madam Deputy Speaker. I certainly am attempting to address issues to do with the Quandamooka people who are mentioned in the bill. I do respect your judgement.

It has been a privilege over the years to have that strong support. It has also been a privilege for me to work with Aboriginal people in terms of Aboriginal education when I worked as a tutor in schools with Aboriginal students and in their homes and families over a long period of time prior to coming into parliament. That has been very helpful to me in my current role in terms of working with Aboriginal people and their endeavours.

Today we are passing laws that enable the joint management of protected areas on Moreton Island similar to existing joint management arrangements between the state and QYAC on North Stradbroke Island. The Straddie native title will be 10 years old on 4 July this year. What I have seen and learnt as the local MP over these 10 years on North Stradbroke Island is important as I consider this piece of legislation on Moreton Island.

In terms of the LNP position, the LNP opposition is supportive of the policy intent of the bill. I again congratulate the Quandamooka people on having their native title extended from Stradbroke island, also known as Minjerribah, to Moreton Island, also known as Mulgumpin. The LNP supports land justice for all Aboriginal people wherever determinations are made by the courts. While the LNP has clearly supported the native title in principle—and I commend the shadow minister for his contribution here today—we have concerns in the way that the Bligh and Palaszczuk Labor governments at times have implemented or rolled out native title on North Stradbroke Island, and I have similar questions now for Moreton Island. We must learn from these mistakes and listen to the whole community, all of the Indigenous groups—not just the ones that government prefers to work with—and all of the residents and businesses to avoid repeating these mistakes.

Our areas of concern are mainly about the government's approach and these are concerns that have been expressed to me personally and privately by Quandamooka leaders and elders over a number of years—elders who are esteemed in the community like Uncle Norm Enoch and many others. These are the concerns that I am happy to represent in this House and I continue to do so.

First is the issue of the transparency of the state government ILUAs that underpin the native title. The state secrecy has caused many problems on Straddie, and the lack of transparency on Moreton would likely have the same outcome. We can learn and do better.

Secrecy surrounding the ILUA has meant that locals have not known what was being planned around them. This has caused problems. I have seen over the years that private investors have held back while this uncertainty in planning existed. Over the last 10 years many job-creating investment opportunities have gone begging because of this uncertainty. More transparency is needed so that the wider community, including all Indigenous people, all Quandamooka people, are aware of the changes and can embrace them.

Sadly, many Quandamooka leaders and elders were unaware of what was in their own ILUA. That is what they have expressed to me. In fact, some Quandamooka on Straddie feel the Bligh government's original ILUA did not provide the opportunities they thought it would. Some argued that having 80 per cent national park restricted some opportunities they may have had with their own land, knowing that the left Labor approach to national parks is you can conduct very little commercial activity in them.

Secondly, the orderly and timely rollout of these plans locally and joint governance needs to be better coordinated than it has been on Straddie. Thirdly, there needs to be clear communication of the plan so that those with interests like tourism operators, small businesses, residents et cetera can themselves make plans. We saw this in the disturbing case around Easter time with the camping and the confusion between what the government and QYAC were saying; they were not on the same page. It meant people had to cancel their plans or had their plans cancelled. Some were able to get plans back on track; others were not. Many were angry about missing out including schoolchildren who were meant to be there on a surfing program.

Fourthly, local stakeholders should be involved in decisions and implementation. Various Quandamooka leaders were cut out of decision-making by QYAC. Again, that is what they expressed to me. Businesses and tourist operators, some of them Indigenous, were also cut out. Various Moreton stakeholders who made submissions to the committee and appeared at hearings expressed their views that to date they have been ignored.

The fifth area of concern is around the commercial activity permit assessment process and term. Much has been said about that in terms of the length of agreement being short. These problems have also occurred on North Stradbroke Island. Again, I hope we can learn from that and improve the situation in Moreton going forward as well as on North Stradbroke Island going forward. In terms of blocking of access, while government and QYAC say this will not happen on Moreton, it actually has happened on Straddie. Again, we need to learn from it and do better.

Then there is the issue of QYAC and its conduct. Under the legislation the prescribed body corporate is a joint manager. The conduct of the senior officials is crucial. They must be fit. That is a big question that has been raised and is being considered by ORIC and hopefully by the Auditor-General about whether the organisation is fit in terms of some of the performance audit issues and other potential issues raised, again mainly by Quandamooka leaders. These things have been raised by Quandamooka leaders on the record and in private. I would not go around accusing them of not portraying accurate information at this point, especially because it is before authorities at the moment.

Financial irregularities have been reported, including the situation of an AGM report stating it is \$1 million in the red. I have seen a copy of that. There is also an ASIC strike-out, which I have also seen a copy of. These were all presented to the hearings. There is millions of dollars being spent but very little being built—largely the government's fault. There are also issues of conduct, sackings from the ranger program, current rangers with violent criminal histories, illegal tree clearing on North Stradbroke Island without the government doing anything about it—not even really investigating it—and also violent threats and assaults, including towards myself if I was to support an inquiry in this House. I find that completely unacceptable. That is before the Queensland Police Service and is being investigated at this moment.


We have also seen things like when the ORIC investigation was announced filing cabinets were seen being removed from QYAC's offices and other boxes were also removed from the site. I hope that the independent Queensland Audit Office will have a look, particularly at the performance audit.

By and large, local Quandamooka leaders blame Jackie Trad and this Labor government for the division occurring on the island and some of the challenges being faced. We need to see what comes out of the various investigations, and I remain open-minded about that.

The Quandamooka Truth Embassy is a reaction, a protest, to the approach of the government in terms of the rolling-out of native title. The concerns of OSPREY and the concerns of the elders in council—all of these should be taken into council. It is a shame that this government is not listening to all of the Quandamooka leaders, because that is how we heal things from the past and how we move on together, and that is very important.

I support the legislation and I hope the government learns from the past.

(Time expired)

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (6.48 pm): I begin by acknowledging Quandamooka elders and thanking them for their care of country over so many generations. I am proud to speak in support of the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Indigenous Joint Management—Moreton Island) Amendment Bill 2020. Mulgumpin, as it is known to Quandamooka people, is a special place. It is one of the largest sand islands in the world with impressive environmental, historical and cultural values. Mulgumpin hosts thousands of Queensland, interstate and—outside of pandemic times—international visitors each year. My own family has certainly spent many happy times there and will again.

This bill delivers on the commitment of the Palaszczuk government to support the 2019 native title consent determination that recognised the Quandamooka people's native title rights and interests over Mulgumpin. Under joint management, the Quandamooka people will hold the land in trust; and Mulgumpin will continue to be managed as protected area and public access will be unaffected.

Joint management has been successfully implemented on Minjerribah. Over the past eight years we have seen Quandamooka knowledge and expertise in land and sea management in action. As the member for Algeester noted, though, Quandamooka people have been informally and formally involved in national park management on Quandamooka lands for many years—well over half a century.

The Moreton Bay region is magnificent, and I am so proud to see our government deliver on land justice for local First Nations people. That land justice means our whole region can stand proud of our iconic Moreton Bay islands, learn of their remarkable cultural significance and see best-practice land and sea management delivered.

The members for Sandgate and Lytton also talked about this bill as a matter of land rights. I agree with their comments that it is disturbing to see, in 2021, the double standards of the LNP in respect of this matter. In non-Indigenous business, members of the LNP would be the first to support commercial-in-confidence provisions. They would be the first to say that land owners should be able to make their own decisions about what happens on their land. They would be the first to call for cuts to red tape, green tape or whatever they want to call deregulation this week. That is not the case when it comes to the lands of our First Nations people in Queensland. For First Nations people, the LNP has vastly different standards.

I read with respect the August 2020 report of the State Development, Tourism, Innovation and Manufacturing Committee in the last parliament, in particular the comments of the then chair, the member for Stretton. In his foreword the member for Stretton noted the degree of consultation engaged in by the committee, and his comments stand in contrast with the claims of various LNP members in this House. He said—

During the inquiry, the committee welcomed the opportunity to speak with QYAC, local residents and tourism operators regarding the introduction of joint management arrangements. The committee heard that joint management can deliver benefits for both traditional owners and the broader community.

...

The pandemic situation that we find ourselves in, makes it more important than ever that all parties work collaboratively to ensure that these benefits can be realised.

During the public hearings in relation to this Bill, QYAC was subject to intensive and repetitive questions regarding their finances from Non-Government Members (excluding the Member for Noosa). In the nearly 6 years that I have served on Committees, I have not seen an organisation subjected to such a concerted line of questioning. Interestingly, these issues were hardly raised by submitters. Notwithstanding these attacks, QYAC answered all questions extensively and provided further documentary evidence to substantiate their position. As outlined in this Report, the Department also confirmed joint management funds are subject to corporate governance and internal control mechanisms. While this additional documentation and assurances from the Department may not satisfy the abovementioned Non-Government Members, I am confident that they would satisfy a reasonable person.

We have seen the unreasonable attitudes of LNP members played out on social media, in the media and in this House. The member for Bonney spoke with fulsome praise of the beauty and diversity of Mulgumpin and acknowledged the Quandamooka people. He stated—and here I can absolutely agree—that some of the benefits of this bill are: that it will empower Quandamooka people to care for their country; that it will allow them to continue working towards recognition of Mulgumpin as a World Heritage site, something that has long been an aspiration of the community—I remember working on that matter when I was an adviser in the parliament before last; and that it will allow for progress toward the commitment for 50 per cent of rangers to be Quandamooka people, which will assist in caring for country while growing the skills of the community and improving economic outcomes.

However, I note that the amendments moved by the member for Bonney have not been fully and appropriately consulted on with the very stakeholders they would most seriously impact. That is quite the irony from those opposite, given their comments. Those amendments may indeed be in conflict with

the Commonwealth Native Title Act. For the member for Bonney to quote Cameron Costello, a valued community leader who has been continually attacked, undermined and had his integrity brought into question by members of the LNP, was self-serving and distasteful.

There are already extensive and appropriate accountability mechanisms in place. QYAC reports regularly, thoroughly and in accordance with all legislative requirements. Seeking to impose further accountability on Quandamooka people shows a lack of respect, if not worse. I ask why the member for Bonney and the LNP seek to impose higher standards on First Nations people but call for red tape to be cut in other sectors.

QYAC and its governance have been an unhealthy preoccupation of LNP members of this House. The only inferences that can be drawn are that they are in fact mistrustful of the ability of Quandamooka people to determine their own affairs on their own land. Quandamooka people have had formal joint management rights over their national park country for over eight years. Their outcomes have been exceptional and, ultimately, of course, this is their country.

Dr Robinson: None of them vote Labor.

Ms KING: That is absolutely their prerogative. I take that interjection of the member for Oodgeroo.

On the one hand, the member for Bonney seeks to be seen as a champion of Quandamooka people—he calls today a day for celebration and talks up Quandamooka achievements—but on the other hand, he seems to want to insert himself and the LNP into the internal decision-making processes of traditional owners.

The member for Lockyer spoke about a perceived conflict of interest between QYAC as having a possible approval role for tourism permits and being a tourism provider itself. Again this raises the question about the genuineness for the LNP's respect for native title.

Dr Robinson interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Member for Oodgeroo, please cease your interjections.

Ms KING: If you accept that Mulgumpin is Quandamooka land, why suggest that Quandamooka people are not competent to make decisions about the use of that land?

The member for Burleigh attacked the process and native title itself as 'secretive'. He did not even try to hide his distaste for traditional owners and for the process. The member for Gregory went further and called the legislation 'undemocratic'.

Dr Robinson interjected.

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

Ms KING: He described a climate of fear and misunderstanding, seeking to sow division. When I drafted my speech, knowing that the member for Oodgeroo was speaking immediately ahead of me, I left a space because I knew that there would be something.

Mr Smith: It's full now!

Ms KING: It is very full! His distasteful piece of politicking was irrelevant and self-serving. It was of a piece with his general behaviour on this issue—irrelevant and self-serving. He sought to politicise a matter that is personal, that is to do with—

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, I have asked the House to come to order. I will not hesitate to give warnings.

Ms KING: The member for Oodgeroo sought to sow division, to politicise, to undermine confidence—

Dr ROBINSON: I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker. I find those comments misleading and offensive and I ask that they be withdrawn.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, I ask you to withdraw your comments.

Ms KING: I withdraw. LNP members who spoke prior to me spoke in a manner that sought to sow division. They have sought to politicise. Their comments have been offensive. They have sought to insert themselves in matters personal to Quandamooka people. They have sought to undermine confidence in the native title process.

Dr Robinson interjected.

Ms Bates interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Oodgeroo and member for Mudgeeraba!

Dr Robinson interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Oodgeroo, I ask you to leave the chamber for the remainder of the session.


Dr ROBINSON: Madam Deputy Speaker, you never warned me on any occasion.

An honourable member: Yes, she did.

Dr ROBINSON: You warned me under the standing orders? My apologies. I did not hear that, over the loudness from the other side. I apologise.

Whereupon the honourable member for Oodgeroo withdrew from the chamber at 6.58 pm.

Ms KING: The member for Oodgeroo's personal and ugly attacks are really no more than we have come to expect, but they are deeply disappointing and divisive. From start to finish, the LNP's contributions on this bill have ranged from disappointing in the case of the member for Bonney to disgraceful in the case of the member for Oodgeroo. At best, they virtue signal support for traditional owner groups while undermining native title itself and groups like QYAC. Members opposite have proposed amendments that have not been properly consulted on and may be in conflict with federal legislation. At worst, they deliberately sow community discord for their own low purposes. I am proud to support this important legislation today as the next step in recognising Quandamooka people and the next step toward true land justice here in Queensland.


 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (6.59 pm): At the outset I want to reject those comments by the member for Pumicestone. I find them insulting, offensive, misguided and scurrilous at best. As someone who has signed a confidentiality agreement, it was between myself and the other party. Nobody else was involved in that agreement. That is not what is being discussed here. There are many people who are going to have an impact on that agreement, so do not try to compare that.

I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Indigenous Joint Management—Moreton Island) Amendment Bill 2020. This bill was first introduced in July 2020 during the 56th Parliament. The former committee tabled its report in August 2020. The bill did not progress to a second reading and lapsed—

Debate, on motion of Mr Weir, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Lockyer Electorate, Inland Rail Freight Route


 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (7.00 pm): Tonight I rise to speak about the inland rail freight route. This \$15 billion piece of infrastructure is claimed by the proponents to be Australia's nation-building infrastructure project. Those who are against the project say that we and our grandchildren will be paying for it for many years to come. It will be noisy and it will create a lot of disturbance in our community. Whilst this project has been around for a long time, this project is coming to a very serious point with our community. The environmental impact statement has been released by the Coordinator-General and our community has an opportunity to have a say by 23 June. I thank the Coordinator-General, Ms Toni Power, for extending the consultation period from four weeks to 12 weeks, ending on 23 June. I am very appreciative of that. Work was undertaken—and I thank the consultative committee and the local council—and we were able to achieve that extension.

Unless our community has a say, we are not going to be able to produce the best community outcomes. This project is so important that the Lockyer Valley Regional Council, federal member Scotty Buchholz and I have put together a proposal to say that this may be a project of national significance but it cannot be at the expense of the Lockyer community. We do not want to see any loss of community connectivity. We want to ensure that our roads and pedestrian ways are kept open. We want to ensure that we see no future flooding impacts. In fact, when this project is built we need to ensure that we decrease the chances of flooding right across the Lockyer Valley. Importantly, we want to minimise the loss of strategic cropping land. That is the heart and soul of the Lockyer Valley. If we are to see this project come to fruition, we cannot see any more strategic cropping land lost than has already been lost. There also needs to be fair compensation to the landholders who are directly affected by this. This is a really important issue.

Finally, we need to ensure that intermodal transport opportunities occur. Right now there is a passenger rail corridor from Gowrie to Grandchester with freight opportunities. That is a community asset. When this inland rail project comes through, we do not want to see that community asset lost.

When the Coordinator-General and the ARTC deliver this project, we want to ensure that they maintain that passenger rail. I congratulate CommSec for its study into fast rail to Toowoomba as well as the opportunity for a freight hub in the Lockyer Valley under the auspices of the Deputy Prime Minister's office. The message is simple: the freight train is coming. Please help us fight for the best outcomes for our community and have a say.

Algerster Electorate

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algerster—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (7.03 pm): If the coronavirus pandemic has taught us anything, it is that we are stronger together. Across the state we have seen our communities face the challenges of this pandemic over the past year with the true Queensland spirit that makes this the best state to live in, and the same was evident in the Algerster electorate.


Last year in 2020 the Algerster & Districts Probus club celebrated its 40th anniversary. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions, members were unable to mark the significant milestone in the usual way. This year it has done just that with a celebration lunch attended by close to 90 people. I was fortunate to meet with members of the executive committee—Graham and Penelope Pilsworth, David Smith, Gary Adams and Laurel Munro—to congratulate them on the outstanding efforts of the Algerster & Districts Probus club and reflect on the club's last 40 years, including the growth it has experienced over those years.

Founded in 1980, this club is now the oldest Probus club in Queensland. This is a great achievement for the Algerster & Districts Probus club and a true testament to the Probus values of friendship, fellowship and fun. Probus clubs are among the largest organisations to support retired and semiretired people to remain connected and engaged—something that has been even more important with the onset of COVID-19 restrictions. These clubs offer activities, outings and meetings that nurture friendships, provide support and develop connections among members, which is particularly important for older Queenslanders. The Algerster & Districts Probus club is one of the many organisations in the Algerster electorate that continued to support the local community during the necessary restrictions that kept us all safe during the height of the pandemic.

Organisations like Souths Junior Rugby Club and belong in Acacia Ridge, the Lighthouse in Hillcrest, National Seniors and Rotary in Browns Plains and the Algerster Parkinson Lions Club, just to name a few, all found COVID-safe ways to connect and support people across the Algerster electorate. Volunteers across multiple Algerster community organisations, including in my office, made thousands of phone calls to seniors and vulnerable people to check in, have a chat and see whether they needed any information or services. Many others arranged food hampers, the delivery of essential medications or offered to mow lawns among other things. These volunteers joined more than 25,000 Queenslanders in our Care Army—an outstanding outpouring of support from Queenslanders for so many others who were vulnerable during the time of the restrictions.

It is during these times of great challenge that we truly see the importance of mateship and community, and the Algerster electorate is a shining example. Congratulations once again to the Algerster & Districts Probus club on its 40th anniversary. I wish President Beth Schmidt, Secretary Michelle Little and all members a happy anniversary and best wishes for many more years.

Callide Electorate, Heavy Vehicle Permits

 **Mr BOYCE** (Callide—LNP) (7.06 pm): I rise to point out some current issues that need addressing in relation to the Department of Transport and Main Roads, DTMR, and the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, NHVR, regarding the issuing of permits and fines that are affecting the heavy crane industry at Biloela and in particular Lee Crane Hire at Biloela. Lee Crane Hire is a local business that services the Central Queensland mining and resource industry and also the Queensland power generation industry, particularly Callide Power Station, and into the future the development of the renewable energy sector. It also services many other construction projects such as bridges and water infrastructure. The company has 55 machines, nine of which are special-purpose vehicles which operate under an Intelligent Access Program, IAP. These large cranes require single-trip permits issued by DTMR under NHVR compliance every time they travel to and from a job.


Given these oversize, overweight cranes are automatically tracked by DTMR through the Intelligent Access Program, DTMR can determine exactly where and when these cranes have travelled. DTMR has put into place geofencing, which is an electronic device on all bridge and road infrastructure

that has been deemed to be suspect in its ability to be able to carry large oversize, overweight machines. This electronic geofencing automatically registers IPA equipped cranes and determines whether or not a permit has been issued and automatically issues a fine if it has not.

Problems arise when we consider the length of time it takes to get a single-trip permit. This, in some cases, can take many weeks because of the bureaucratic incompetence of the department in issuing permits. It also raises questions as to the practicality of the permit system. If I have a permit today, why do I need one tomorrow given that no-one is ground proofing or checking the integrity of the bridge or road infrastructure? This has now become a revenue-raising exercise. A permit costs \$75. A fine is \$685. If people do not have a permit to go to work, they go to work anyway and pay the fine.

The Auditor-General has identified a projected \$9 billion shortfall to road maintenance funding and bridge and culvert refurbishment operates at 19 per cent of its budget need. The federal government has allocated \$150 million through to financial year 2024 for bridge replacement. Will the state government match the bridge replacement funding and bring up to standard the road infrastructure in rural and regional Queensland?

Waterford Electorate; Small Business Month

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (7.09 pm): I am very pleased to speak tonight about the wonderful small businesses in my electorate of Waterford because it is Small Business Month. We have a whole month to celebrate our businesses. At the start and during much of COVID-19 I saw firsthand how many businesses had to face new challenges. I spoke to many small businesses that struggled but persevered and fortunately many of them were able to weather the pandemic and the changes it brought.

On the weekend I joined innovative business Flowerhub at the opening of Logan's very own flower market, the Southside Flower Market. Nicki and Milly Christensen and the team at Flowerhub have been through tough times but they have turned those challenges into fantastic business opportunities. With a huge demand for online shopping, even more so for local flowers, it was good to see Flowerhub step up production and grow their business during what was a challenging year.


This year's theme for small business month is #bouncebackbetter and it is certainly fitting as our local economic recovery from the pandemic continues. Local brewers like Dean Forte from Monkey Tree was a strong advocate for our new artisan producer liquor licence. When we announced the licence Dean said that it would provide a framework for all microbrewers and microdistillers to work together which will help the sector flourish as COVID restrictions begin to ease.

Logan businesses are leading the way. Businesses like Munster Mechanical—Eric and Laura Guthrie are incredibly hardworking business leaders in our community—and Alex Milosevic and Heather Scott from Extraction Coffee. These two businesses do a lot to partner with our local high schools to provide training opportunities for the next generation. These partnerships are helping young people gain invaluable experience, skills, confidence and it allows them to discover new career options. The key to Logan's business success is this spirit of collaboration and supporting the community.

I could not end tonight without a shout-out to a local business owner and a very dear friend of mine, Pearl Tumata. Pearl's Cafe, or as it is really known, the Waterford coffee pot, is a local institution. Pearl embodies the spirit of the Logan business community. She is one of the leaders of our local Maori community and she has mentored other aspiring businesswomen to open their own businesses, including her niece, Kylie Lowery, who now has the successful How We Roll Cafe & Hangi in Loganlea. If anyone is after some hangi it is a fantastic cafe to visit.

Finally, I want to give a very special shout-out to Rebecca Cobbing, Leigh Mitchell and the team at the White House of Waterford who just celebrated their fifth birthday. Happy birthday to the White House of Waterford and thank you to all of our Waterford small businesses for their contribution to building back better in Waterford.

Nanango Electorate; Beef 2021

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (7.12 pm): There is a young couple in Kilcoy who are building their first home. This is a major achievement for these 21-year-olds who should be happy and looking forward to moving into their first home. They did not know how hard that journey was going to become after they applied for a simple water connection to their home. Some five months after first contacting my office in complete frustration, they still do not have water connected to their home.


Sadly, they are not alone. There are 14 other Kilcoy families who are trying to build in Kilcoy but cannot get their water connected. One would think that a water connection should be quite simple on a town block. It is something that we all have access to and should enjoy here in Queensland. It is not the case if your land is on a state controlled road and you need to deal with Queensland Urban Utilities and Transport and Main Roads. The hurdles that have been put in the way of these families are extraordinary. The stalling may also result in these families missing out on their much needed HomeBuilder grants. This is at a time when we know there is a housing affordability crisis and people are having trouble seeking rental accommodation in our country areas.

This is a case of red tape completely blocking the way of people who are trying to get ahead and make a new start. The basis of the problem is the application of the South-East Queensland Water Act 2009. It centres on a disagreement between TMR and Urban Utilities to enter into written consent for carrying out the water connection. As the distributor retailer, Urban Utilities must make an application to carry out works on a state controlled road and obtain TMR's approval. Despite TMR's in-principle support in February, the matter still remains unresolved.

On 5 May the Minister for Water wrote to the developer directly after my lobbying and admitted a breakdown in the process had led to the Kilcoy housing development and other developments being stalled. It is simply astonishing that the government could hold up this development project for this amount of time during the current affordability crisis, let alone any other time. It is no wonder we have this issue in our regional towns. In fact, it is all across Queensland. It is great to see one of the ministers in the chamber. Hopefully he will do something about it.

I want to give a massive thank you to Bryce Camm, Grant Cassidy and everyone up at Beef Week. What a fantastic week. My voice is still recovering. I also give a big shout-out to the Proston State School, one of my great local schools, that took out some ribbons. The smiles were all over their faces. To all the agtech producers, beef producers, manufacturers and everyone within regional Queensland who loves a good steak, eat more beef!

Macalister Electorate, School Bus Transport


 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (7.15 pm): Tonight I make special mention of Edens Landing State School. Recently I have been working on an issue with Principal Clint Curran and we have had a big win that I would like to share with the House. At the beginning of the year Mr Curran raised with me the lack of availability of bus travel for students. The Edens Landing State School catchment is my fastest growing catchment with thousands of residents in the catchment that were not there 10 to 15 years ago. Despite being mostly a suburban area, some students in the catchment are over an hour's walk from their local primary school. With some families without cars this has been causing accessibility issues.

I thank the offices of Minister Bailey and Minister Grace for working with the contracted school transport service provider in the area and arranging an urgent survey of parents to determine route availability. Within two months of raising this issue the bus company has commenced a new route servicing Bahrs Scrub and the Holmview area direct to Edens Landing State School. This is a win for families in my community to meet the current needs until such time as we build the new Bahrs Scrub primary school.

In the last sitting week students and teachers from Edens Landing visited the House. They were in awe of this place. For some of the students it was the first time they had ever come into the city. Unfortunately due to the timing of sitting weeks I did not get the opportunity to catch up with all the groups that came through, so I went out to the school last week and had a bit of a Q&A session with the seniors. They asked all sorts of wideranging and interesting questions, as we would expect from 11-year-olds. They actually asked a question that stumped me. When they were asking about how long members are allowed to talk on their feet they wanted to know: who was the person who had spoken the longest in this House? I handballed that question to the research team and I can advise all members, if they are asked that tricky question, and the year 6s at Edens Landing that the answer is that it was Sir Samuel Griffith, who spoke for seven hours over a period of two days. He spoke until about quarter past midnight one night. I believe it might have been an address-in-reply so I am pretty sure it was all about himself.

On Friday the Edens Landing student council is holding a fundraiser for children's brain cancer research, encouraging students to attend school dressed as a pirate for a gold coin donation. Since the year 6s challenged me last week I am going to challenge the year 6 students at Edens Landing State School. I issue the challenge, all ye Edens Landing seniors, that I will match the treasure that you raise on Friday, adding it to your booty, for it is such a great cause.

Animal Care and Protection Act 2001, Review


 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (7.18 pm): Regional and rural Queenslanders involved in feral pest management and live trade industries are gravely concerned about the announcement of the state government's review into the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001. It is extremely concerning to volunteer recreational and commercial pest controllers due to the lack of credible information being provided on their industry to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries by the RSPCA. This review and the potential legislative changes that may follow could devastate a \$2.4 billion national industry and disenfranchise over 640,000 voting age hunters across Australia.

This vocal anti-hunting organisation continues to publicly advocate for the banning of hunting in all forms in Australia. The RSPCA's Chief Inspector, Daniel Young, previously admitted the organisation has no hunting experience whatsoever and instead relies heavily on internet based research on platforms such as YouTube and Facebook for gathering their information. Townsville small business owners Anthony and Tanya Pagan invited Mr Young and RSPCA Queensland to visit North Queensland so that they could witness feral pest management methods firsthand. The Pagans were willing to discuss productive measures that could eliminate potential animal cruelty and protect volunteer pest managers. Unfortunately, their offer has never been accepted.

I urge the minister to continue to meet with industry representatives for meaningful consultation regarding the implementation of the legislation and the impact these legislative changes, if they go through, may have on feral pest management and remove the RSPCA from advising on the topic due to their conflict of interest. Over the past 10 years we have seen the RSPCA become increasingly more focused on promoting animal rights rather than animal welfare. Under its new modus operandi the organisation has been accused by those affected by their wrath of bullying, using their powers to steal animals, wiping out competition to the animal trading arm of their organisation, extortion and, even worse, seizing and even killing healthy animals.

The agricultural, veterinary, animal husbandry, conservation, hunting, breeding and racing industries have all been systematically targeted. The organisation probably kicked off with the best intentions but it has transformed into big business. It is a multimillion dollar charity that operates like a corporate and has the luxury of paying no tax. In the 2019-20 financial year, their profits were \$243 million nationally and in Queensland the RSPCA raised \$58 million. I ask all those who have been affected by this organisation to push back.

Mansfield Electorate, Federal Budget

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (7.21 pm): The Liberal federal government have again robbed Queensland of vital infrastructure funding for our rapidly growing population. While around 30,000 fellow Australians have migrated to our Sunshine State over the past 12 months to access jobs and a better lifestyle, Queensland received a dismal \$1.6 billion for infrastructure in last night's federal budget. That is less than half of the \$3.3 billion that New South Wales is receiving, well under the \$3 billion that Victoria is receiving and an astounding half of South Australia's \$3.2 billion infrastructure budget.


In a further affront by the federal government, Queenslanders will receive only \$800 million in this current budget and will have to wait another 10 years for it to trickle down into Queensland communities. However, we should not be too surprised. That is extremely consistent with this federal government's track record of election promises that are never delivered. I can give two examples of the Liberal federal government's overpromising and never delivering in my electorate of Mansfield.

During the 2019 federal election, the federal LNP member for Bonner promised the upgrade of the Newnham Road and Wecker Road intersection. During the campaign millions of dollars were flaunted to make that intersection safer. There was a lot of pomp. There were big signs. There were lots of photos and lots of fuss. However, it is nearly two years on and there have been zero upgrades to that intersection. The only whisper of pretending to do something is the Liberal council's wasteful funding of a flyer to say that they are doing something. If the council want to do something, I encourage them to immediately settle a fair and equitable price for the residents who will have their properties resumed when or if the upgrade occurs.

The second election commitment undelivered by this Liberal federal government is the Rochedale roundabout upgrade. During the 2019 federal election the federal member for Bonner committed \$14 million to the upgrade of the Rochedale Road and Priestdale Road intersection. Again there has been nothing. There has been zero—zilch—development or progress. What we do know is that their poor Liberal council cousins, keen to impress their big brother in Canberra in the hope that they might get their own turn at a federal seat one day, have come to the rescue and held an information session attempting to assure the community that something might happen.

It is nearly the middle of 2021. We are approaching the next federal election but the promises of the last election have still not be fulfilled. I understand and hope that this federal Liberal government, for many reasons, is in their last days of governing our nation.

Kawana Electorate, Youth Crime; Mass Transit Proposal

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (7.24 pm): I want to raise two issues of great importance to the Kawana community at the moment—that is, crime and the mass transit proposal put forward by the Sunshine Coast Regional Council. I will deal with crime first.

There has been a huge youth crime spree across the Sunshine Coast community, particularly in my electorate, affecting Little Mountain, Aruna, Meridan Plains, Buddina and, of course, Wurtulla. The Wurtulla issues are separate and I will come to that. There is a Meridian Plains community group on Facebook and every few days people post stories about their homes being broken into. Last weekend a lady posted a story about having gone to the local shopping centre. She was away for 20 minutes and her home was broken into. Criminals are targeting houses in the Aruna, Little Mountain and Meridan Plains area. It is a disgrace that those young thug criminals come into my electorate and take advantage of people. This is not happening just at night time; it is happening in broad daylight and on the weekends.

I call on the government to give us more police, more resources in the Kawana community, more action on youth crime and better laws to properly reflect youth crime and hold young offenders accountable because community members have absolutely had enough. I have talked to the local sergeants at Kawana. We are going to hold a forum at Meridan Plains to talk to people about crime and how we can effect law change in the state.

We have had a huge crime spree in Wurtulla, which I have spoken about. Unfortunately, a lot of crime is also happening in Buddina, at the public housing unit complex in Boorook Street. This is a huge issue. Only two weeks ago unfortunately a fellow set himself on fire and later died in hospital. He was one of the tenants of that public housing unit complex. What is happening is an absolute disgrace. We keep referring these matters to the housing minister but to no avail. We get no response on these serious issues. The other day another tenant of a public housing complex was throwing furniture off the balcony while kids were downstairs. Someone will die. In fact, someone has died. Years ago there was a murder in a Boorook Street public house.

This Minister for Housing is not taking her responsibilities seriously. The government ought to transfer the management of the Boorook Street public housing unit complex to the community sector, which will do a far better job. They will provide the wraparound services, particularly in mental health, that those people need. Their neighbours can then live in peace and harmony in their community.


I will finish by talking about the mass transit proposal and the phoney consultation campaign. I know that Minister Bailey has engaged himself in this. Two weeks he wrote a letter to my constituents saying, 'I'm not getting involved in it.' Two days ago he said, 'I support light rail.' That is only because the council supports it. There are huge issues with light rail. It is a glorified tram and we will not have it running down Nicklin Way on the Sunshine Coast.

Mr BAILEY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I claim to be misrepresented and I am personally offended. I ask for that to be withdrawn.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Member for Kawana, the member for Miller takes offence. Do you withdraw?

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw.

Lovell, Ms S; International Nurses Day

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (7.28 pm): I start by acknowledging Sarah Lovell, who is in the gallery tonight. She is here for the small business function. Sarah runs a fantastic small business in my electorate, making sure that all women, no matter their circumstances, have access to high-quality hairdressing services. Thank you, Sarah.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr KELLY: We will go into that later. I will not give away my hair secrets. I want to talk about something important, which is that today is International Nurses Day. It is a very happy day indeed. I start by acknowledging the growing number of First Nations nurses and midwives. I also give a shout-out to all midwives for last week's International Day of the Midwives. My grandmother was a nurse. My mother trained to be a nurse but unfortunately did not finish because at that time the rules

meant that when women married they had to leave their occupation. My sister, Chris, is a nurse; my cousin, Leonie, is a nurse; my wife, Susan, is a nurse; and my niece, Bridget Kelly, will soon be joining the profession. You could say that I am very much surrounded by nursing and nurses. Today is a happy day for me and it was great to have so many nurses in the chamber. Unfortunately, it is not a happy day for many nurses and other health workers around the world.

We have the latest figures reported by Amnesty International via Al Jazeera. As at the beginning of March, the number now stands at 17,000. That is right: 17,000 health workers have died as a result of caring for people with COVID-19. We know that those numbers are under-reported, because many governments are simply not reporting that. We know that the majority of those health workers will be nurses. Those nurses and their families sadly will not be celebrating International Nurses Day this year or again, and that is such a tragedy.

When this pandemic is done—and it will be done—I will certainly be trying to work with people in my community, the government and the mighty Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union to make sure that we have an appropriate memorial for those people. They did not sign up to die; they went to work to care for other people and to make people healthy.

Five years ago today in this very chamber, we were the fourth place in the world to pass safe nurse-to-patient and midwife-to-patient ratios. There has been a study published in *The Lancet* released today that proves that safe ratios save lives. It is indeed a happy day. It is indeed a great day when we can now point to peer reviewed, credible research and say with great certainty that the legislation that we passed in this House is saving lives. Ratios save lives. Happy International Nurses Day.

The House adjourned at 7.31 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Camm, 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, Lui, MacMahon, Madden, Mander, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, 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, Weir, Whiting