



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

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## THURSDAY, 13 MAY 2021

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The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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

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

### SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

#### School Group Tours



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Capalaba State College in the electorate of Capalaba and St Bernard's School in the electorate of Mansfield.

### TABLED PAPERS

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

REPORT BY THE CLERK

The following report was tabled by the Clerk—

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

#### **Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020**

Amendments made to Bill

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

*Omit—*

'Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020'

*Insert—*

'Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021'

MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (Hon. Fentiman)—

[630](#) Electoral Commission Queensland: 2020 State general election—Report on the election

[631](#) Queensland Family and Child Commission: Counting lives, changing patterns: Findings from the Queensland Child Death Register 2004-2019

### MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS


#### Coronavirus, Update



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.32 am): In terms of our daily COVID update, I can confirm that we have had zero new cases overnight. We have only 15 active cases at the moment. We have had 6,306 tests in the past 24 hours, which is excellent. The total number of vaccines administered to date is 164,695.


It is now 44 days since an infectious case was in our community. As of 1 am, people travelling from certain venues in Melbourne are required to go into hotel quarantine. A full list is on the Queensland Health website.

### Coronavirus, India

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.32 am): On Tuesday, I mentioned to the House that I would be meeting with leaders of Queensland's Indian community to pledge Queensland's support in the wake of the deadly second wave of COVID in their country. At that meeting I announced that our government would donate \$2 million to the Australian Red Cross on behalf of Queenslanders to aid the response to the COVID crisis. This \$2 million donation on behalf of Queensland will be used for a range of measures to fight the pandemic in India, including providing much needed, vital oxygen supplies for COVID-19 patients, including oxygen cylinders and oxygen concentrates. It will also help provide personal protective equipment which is in high demand, especially in health centres. We know India Red Cross has increased the number of COVID-equipped ambulances, blood donation centres and around-the-clock COVID hotlines. My government's donation will support these activities and will help save lives.

More than 74,000 Queenslanders were born in India or have Indian heritage. These people make a huge contribution to every aspect of our community. My heart goes out to them and their families affected by this global pandemic and we stand in solidarity with our Indian community in expressing our heartfelt condolences to those who have lost their lives. Especially to people living here in Queensland who have family who are now deeply impacted, we extend our best wishes.

### Domestic and Family Violence

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.34 am): Like many others, I have been deeply saddened and upset by the recent tragic and senseless deaths of Queensland women at the hands of their partners or former partners.

Last month, along with many others, I attended the launch of Small Steps 4 Hannah. The charity was set up in honour of Hannah Clarke and her beautiful children. It was a strong and united show of support for Hannah's brave parents, Sue and Lloyd, and Hannah's brother, Nat, who are dedicated and determined to raise awareness and money to assist victims of domestic and family violence and effect change. I want to place on record my thanks to Lady Mayoress Nina Schrinner who had a lot to do with organising this event.


The message from that emotional yet powerful lunch was clear: it is the small steps that everyone can take to eliminate domestic and family violence which can make the world a better place. We can all play a part in preventing domestic and family violence.

As a government, our work continues. We brought the issue out from behind closed doors through our 10-year reform agenda and have implemented all 140 recommendations from the landmark *Not now, not ever* report. We undertook work to change attitudes, integrate service responses and strengthen justice responses including: establishing specialist domestic and family violence courts; implementing respectful relationship programs in schools; and funding new shelters for people escaping violence and abuse. We established the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Council. We have invested more to prevent it than any other government in Queensland's history, allocating a record half a billion dollars. Last year in recognition of the global pandemic and the problems that were associated with people not being able to see others, we provided another \$7.5 million to help manage increased demand for domestic and family violence services.

While the demand continues, our support continues. That is why today I am pleased, along with the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, to announce \$30 million in funding for domestic and family violence services over the next four years. This support includes immediate emergency assistance, as well as longer term measures that provide women and children with stability, security and a safer future.

We all know that there is still a long way to go. We have established the independent Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce to examine how best to legislate against coercive control in Queensland and to examine more broadly women's experiences in the criminal justice system as victims, survivors and the accused. Public submissions are now open for women to confidentially come forward to share their experiences, and I encourage them to do so. To bring about enduring and long-term change to end domestic and family violence, we all need to play a part, to take a stand and say not now, not ever, together.

### NRL Magic Round

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.36 am): There is only one thing better than a game of footy at Suncorp Stadium and that is eight. That is right, it is every footy fan's dream—eight games over three days right here at the home of rugby league. COVID-19 prevented


us from hosting the Magic Round last year. Today I am proud to confirm that the Magic Round is back, bigger and better than before. Over the weekend, we expect more than 90,000 fans to descend on Suncorp Stadium. This will inject around \$20 million into our economy. I am advised that many inner city accommodation providers are nearing full capacity for this weekend.

By the end of today, all 16 teams will have arrived in Queensland. Head groundskeeper Mal Caddies is putting the finishing touches on the ground, and crowds are on their way to Brisbane. We developed the Magic Round concept in partnership with the NRL because we know that to grow our tourism industry we must host large-scale sporting events here in Queensland.

I encourage all footy fans to make the most of the weekend. Get out and explore everything we have to offer here in the south-east. Good luck to the Broncos.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Go, the Cowboys!

### Moreton Bay Leaders Forum

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumbidgee—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) (9.38 am): There is no greater place to live, work and raise a family than Queensland. One of the best places in Queensland is the Moreton Bay region, although I admit I might be biased.

As someone who grew up in Petrie and now raising my family in Mango Hill, I can tell you the area has changed a lot and continues to grow rapidly. That is why last week's Moreton Bay leaders forum was so important. For the first time in the Moreton Bay region's history, elected members from all three levels of government joined together and put party politics aside to address the issues the region is facing. The federal member for Dickson and I even put our very substantial differences aside to talk about the region.


On behalf of the government members, the health minister, the police minister, the Assistant Minister for Local Government, the member for Kurwongbah and the member for Pumicestone, I would like to thank Mayor Peter Flannery for organising the summit.

We championed fast-tracking the \$68.5 million Youngs Crossing Road upgrade, and the Moreton Connector and Western Arterial Road. We discussed establishing a \$125 million knowledge and innovation centre at The Mill and the future of the USC campus there, the new growth areas of Caboolture West and North Harbour, and backing the Dolphins' NRL licence bid for the Moreton Bay region—all projects focused on future proofing the region. As representatives of Moreton Bay we might disagree sometimes, but I know we all love the region and want to see it develop.

The Palaszczuk government is investing funds to progress planning for an intersection upgrade at Youngs Crossing Road and Dayboro Road. All leaders remain committed to progressing the region's key arterial road networks and integrated upgrades to the Bruce Highway and Gateway Motorway, including the Moreton Connector. We agreed that a \$125 million knowledge and innovation centre was crucial to the region's long-term education, jobs, innovation and investment. Finally, we put on our Dolphins caps to support the Dolphins bid to become our very own Moreton Bay based NRL team. With a great team behind them at the Redcliffe Dolphins and their own fantastic boutique stadium, I know everyone in the region is looking forward to barracking for the Dolphins.

Almost half a million Queenslanders call Moreton Bay home, and it continues to grow rapidly. It is critical that all three levels of government work together to make sure locals have the jobs, homes and infrastructure they need.

### Australian Biotherapeutics

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (9.40 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government is committed to growing small businesses right across our state and supporting the creation of secure, well-paid, sustainable jobs for Queensland's future. Australian Biotherapeutics at Coolumb Beach on the Sunshine Coast ticks all the boxes for the kind of Queensland innovation we want to foster and support.

This local company is a joint venture operation, with expertise provided by its Queensland based partner, Servatus Biopharmaceuticals, to produce unique live biotherapeutics for overseas markets, primarily the United States and Asia. The international biotherapeutics market is a fast-growing industry and is currently worth \$50 billion a year. Construction of the recently completed Australian Biotherapeutics manufacturing facility was supported by the Palaszczuk government's signature Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund.

This business, which I was proud to visit recently with the member for Nicklin, would by now have been established in the United States, if not for the support of the Palaszczuk government. This world-leading facility is fitted out with technology that allows production of made-to-order raw materials in quantities of tonnes, not kilograms. The Coolum Beach facility is a \$10.4 million capital investment, and Australian Biotherapeutics will create up to 25 new jobs over the next five years. These are the highly skilled positions we are committed to creating for Queenslanders. Research scientists, biochemists, bioprocess engineers as well as quality assurance and business development experts will be employed.

This year Australian Biotherapeutics will manufacture more than \$1 million worth of medical grade biotherapeutic products for export to the United States. The company expects this will increase to more than \$5 million worth of product—a fivefold increase—as early as 2022-23. Servatus, as the manufacturing and research and development partner of Australian Biotherapeutics, is actively building research partnerships with the University of the Sunshine Coast and other leading local research institutions. Internship opportunities will provide valuable work experience to higher degree university students in a commercial environment.

The Palaszczuk Labor government will never take the Sunshine Coast for granted. Thanks to Labor government's, past and present, Queensland is home to clusters of agile, innovative and entrepreneurial biomedical businesses which together can grow our state's reputation as a global leader in this industry. Our government is committed to this sector as we continue to implement our Queensland Biomedical 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan.

### After-School Homework Centres



**Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.43 am): Homework is an important part of every child's education, although I know many students may not agree. Any parent will tell you how much of a challenge it can be to find the time to help their children get their homework done. During the state election, we committed to establish free after-school homework centres at 120 state primary and secondary schools across Queensland. Our new homework centres will provide a supervised, supportive setting for students to complete their homework before they go home at the end of the day.

I am pleased to announce that from today schools can apply to have one of these centres, with the first to be operating for term 3 beginning in July this year. Applications will be assessed by regional panels against criteria including services already available, capacity at the school and local needs. The realisation of our election commitment sees us investing \$8 million over four years to establish these centres. Centres will be funded to operate for up to three hours per week, 30 weeks a year during term time and individual schools will be able to design the model that best suits their community.

The free homework centres will be able to support up to 24 students per session and will be supervised by onsite wonderful teacher aides. These centres will provide a supportive, supervised learning environment and will support good study habits for students and additional learning time for students with their peers, boost student engagement and achievement and provide the help that parents may not have the time or skills to give.

The centres will also assist parents who may need more flexible working arrangements as our economy recovers from the COVID-19 health pandemic. This initiative builds upon our strong record of backing our students with all the support they need to reach their full potential. The new homework centres will make a simple but real difference in children's education and the everyday lives of Queensland families. I encourage parents to talk to their schools and P&Cs about putting in an application for their own homework centre. This is another addition to the Palaszczuk government's proud record of investing in the education of Queensland students because they deserve no less.

### Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence



**Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (9.46 am): Queensland's domestic, family and sexual violence service providers have been stretched to the limit over the past year. During the pandemic, violence against women started or became worse for many. The national conversation on women's safety and sexual assault and recent tragic events have seen more women reach out for help.

I thank the Premier for taking action on ending violence against women with today's announcement of \$30 million for domestic, family and sexual violence services over the next four years. The Queensland Sexual Assault Network welcomed this announcement this morning saying, 'This



commitment is a first step towards adequately funding specialist Queensland sexual violence services. I thank the Queensland Sexual Assault Network and the Queensland Domestic Violence Service Network for their strong advocacy.


This funding could not come soon enough to services that have seen a dramatic increase. It allows providers to have certainty and stability over the next four years to better support Queensland women and children. An increase in calls and long wait times have been reported across Queensland. Over the past 12 months to two years, most organisations have reported increases in the number of clients—up to 157 per cent for some services. For January and March of this year, when compared with the same period last year, one organisation reported a 90 per cent increase in the number of young women receiving specialist sexual assault counselling.

The Palaszczuk government is providing this record investment because we know how important it is for women to be able to access support and help across Queensland. I welcome the federal government's investment, but I cannot help but notice that it is short-term spending. Whereas, the Palaszczuk Labor government has made sure that certainty of funding over the next four years is there to support the services when they need it.

Respect for women starts at the top—it starts with our leaders—because we know violence against women is inextricably linked to gender inequality. As important and critical as this funding is, we also need cultural change in the way we view and treat our women and girls. That is why our government has established the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce to examine the whole system and the barriers that women face—from the training of first responders to attitudinal change in the community.

My deepest condolences go out to all of the families who have lost a loved one due to domestic and family violence. With May being Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month it is a time to reflect, to raise awareness and to say, 'What can I do to protect women and girls?' We all have a part to play in ending violence against women.

### Tourism Industry


 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism Industry Development and Innovation and Minister for Sport) (9.49 am): The global pandemic's tail continues to cast a shadow over Queensland tourism. More than \$800 million has been invested by the Palaszczuk government in supporting tourism, jobs and our economic recovery plan. We are getting results.

Research by Skyscanner shows Cairns is now Australia's hottest holiday destination. The Gold Coast, the Whitsundays and Townsville round out the top five. Accor, the Pacific's largest hotel chain, reports Queensland has the fastest and most sustained rate of tourism recovery of any Australian state. However, every year the international border is closed it knocks a \$6 billion-a-year dent in Queensland's visitor economy. We are working closely with the regions most exposed to the international border closure with the Holiday Dollars program.

Cairns was the first to launch, as you would appreciate, Mr Speaker. Then this time last week we released 30,000 Holiday Dollars vouchers for the Brisbane region. Applications were almost 3½ times oversubscribed by Queenslanders ready to explore world-class visitor experiences in their own backyard. Captain Kerry Lopez from Brisbane Whale Watching took the first of 808 bookings so far and says, 'We're over moon.' With a high percentage of customers being overseas visitors, Captain Kerry insists Holiday Dollars are a 'lifesaver'. In the Whitsundays, accommodation bookings are strong, but visitors need encouragement to leave the pool deck. There are 6,000 Holiday Dollars vouchers worth up to \$200 each going to visitors already in the region—1,641 bookings have been made to date.

Red Cat Adventures had their biggest day since the pandemic started. Ocean Rafting is closing the office late—the bookings just keep rolling in. There are seven boats on the water now, instead of two. According to owner Jan Claxton, the Holiday Dollars program 'has made a massive difference'. Holiday Dollars are delivering new customers for Queensland tourism industry operators while the international border stays closed.

### Water Prices

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (9.51 am): The Palaszczuk government knows that Queensland's agriculture industry is critical to delivering Queensland's plan for economic recovery from the global COVID-19

pandemic. We know access to cheaper water is key to growing this critical industry in Queensland. Reduced irrigation costs mean more crops, more jobs and more value. That is why we are delivering on our election commitment to Queensland irrigators to reduce their costs, helping them to grow their business and create jobs.

From 1 July, all irrigators in schemes where the Queensland government sets prices will have their 15 per cent discount automatically applied to their bills. That is all there is to it—15 per cent straight off their bills. The irrigation prices in the Queensland sugarcane regions report commissioned by the Australian Sugar Milling Council shows just how significant the discount could be. The report suggests earnings for canefarmers across the six water supply schemes could boost production by 782,390 tonnes, lifting earnings by 2.25 per cent per annum for the three years of the discount.

I have also written to Minister Furner to seek the appointment of the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority, or QRIDA as most people know it, to manage the balance of the 50 per cent discount for horticultural growers. The extra discount—an additional 35 per cent of water costs on top of the 15 per cent for all irrigators—will take the form of a rebate to growers of fruit, vegetables, nuts and turf.

Our objective by using QRIDA is to ensure that it is simple and straightforward for horticultural growers to claim their discount. I can also assure horticulture growers that QRIDA's program will be delivered without needing additional measurement equipment to be installed. As I have said before, this extra discount for horticulture growers is in recognition of the high value of their industry and the jobs it creates for Queenslanders. This is just one more example of how the government is delivering for irrigators and helping them, and the rest of the Queensland economy, contribute to the state's economic recovery.

### Containers for Change



**Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (9.53 am): There is a recycling revolution happening right now in Queensland. I am pleased to update the House that since the Palaszczuk government introduced the Containers for Change scheme two years ago four billion containers have been diverted from landfill. With 10 cents for every container, that is \$400 million right back into the pockets of community groups, charities and individuals. That is 700 jobs at facilities right across Queensland—from the south-east to the central west, the far north to Toowoomba—being supported as part of our economic recovery plan.


This includes at Coorparoo in the electorate of Greenslopes, where I joined the member last week to open a new drive-through facility for families to drop their bottles and cans. There, six new jobs will be created, including jobs for members of local community group Stepping Stone. As a community group focused on helping people with a mental illness rebuild their lives, two members will now have meaningful employment, helping make a positive change for their community and for themselves. Speaking with one of their members—Leslie—she said an opportunity like this would give members a purpose for living.

Thanks to this new facility and the advocacy of the member for Greenslopes, bottles will no longer end up in Norman Creek and, instead, we are already seeing 10,000 bottles recycled at the facility each day. That is just one of three new facilities opened up in just the last fortnight. In Springfield, the member for Jordan opened a new location at the local shopping centre so shoppers can swap their containers while they head to the supermarket. While in Mackay, the member for Mackay opened up a brand new facility after locals received \$6.3 million in refunds, returning more than 63 million containers just last year.

It is clear to see that Queenslanders back a government that backs the environment and jobs. Even in Longreach, where I had the pleasure of meeting the Outwest Container Exchange team, local residents like Scotty have helped to collect five million containers through their depot. Thanks to the efforts of all Queenslanders, there has been a 54 per cent decrease in beverage litter—but we will not stop there. Later this year Queenslanders will embark on an ambitious ban of single-use plastics. We have just launched our Plastic Free Places in Central Queensland, where I joined the member for Rockhampton. Having recently visited Cedar Park Fish & Chips in Keppel with the member for Keppel, I know that cafes and restaurants are already gearing up. There is plenty of work happening and plenty more to be done.

The Palaszczuk government will continue to invest in protecting our environment and creating jobs, with almost \$1 billion invested just this year. We will help build renewable energy hubs including Australia's largest solar farm. We have set a 50 per cent renewables target by 2030 and a net zero emissions target by 2050. It is this government that has a plan for economic recovery through investment in jobs while protecting our environment.

### Training and Skills

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (9.56 am): The Palaszczuk government has made it crystal clear that investment in skills and training is front and centre of our Queensland economic recovery plan. This year alone our budget for skills and training is almost \$1 billion. That is on the back of six years of solid investment in skills and training, including to address the damage done to our TAFE system in the three years of the Newman government.

Our proud track record of action has borne fruit. We have supported nearly 25,000 jobs through Back to Work, we have seen more than 32,000 young people access free TAFE and apprenticeships and we have taken over 58,000 Queenslanders through Skilling Queenslanders for Work. Investment in skills and training is just vital which is why it was good to see in the federal budget announced this week that the Morrison government is taking our lead in this very important area—and it is welcome.


Now we need to see the detail, and I do have a few concerns first up. We know that the federal government projected that the \$4 billion JobMaker hiring credit scheme they announced last year would support 450 000 jobs, but that 450 000 jobs ended up being only 1,100, so I hope their projections for other significant programs are better informed. I note that the federal Treasurer said that younger Australians will need to take up training programs or risk losing income support through payments like Youth Allowance. If only life were so simple for every young person. Whether they are homeless, have a disability, are living in a remote community or struggling with life in a myriad of other ways—if only life was so simple that they could just easily go for that training opportunity. Under the federal government's approach, they get a big stick if they do not and will be possibly mired even more deeply in disadvantage, rather than supported to bring them out of unemployment.

Out of Tuesday night's announcement, my deepest concern is the ongoing lack of clarity around the national skills reform process, which is to have a fundamental impact on the way skills and training is funded in this country. We need to know that the federal government understands Queensland. The Palaszczuk government believes that no matter who you are or where you are in Queensland, you deserve to have access to good quality skills and training to help you get a job—and that is challenging in a state like ours.

If you live in a rural and remote community, if you live in an Indigenous community or any other place where the delivery of training is challenging and/or expensive, you should have the same access to high-quality training as any other Queenslanders. It is why we are so passionate about the role of our public providers. Whether you are in Mount Isa or Mooloolaba, from the Gold Coast to the Torres Strait, TAFE is there for Queenslanders.

Unfortunately the federal budget failed to address the uncertainty about what national skills reform means for TAFE. For instance, this budget promises to create 15 industry owned skills enterprises. TAFE maintains the strongest connection to industries in Queensland and leads nearly 87 per cent of students to further study or work. This is higher than the national average across all VET providers. Does the federal government's announcement that it is setting up brand new private providers mean that it is turning its back on TAFE? We call on the federal government to show that it understands Queensland and will back us in when it comes to skills reform.

### Townsville, Crime

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.00 am): I am advised that a number of vehicles were allegedly stolen in Townsville overnight, and I join all Queenslanders in condemning those responsible. Any incident of criminal offending is unacceptable and disappointing. The police will use all their resolve and resources to arrest those responsible. What is more, police in Townsville will continue actively targeting areas of Townsville with high-visibility patrols.

There are already operations in place like Operation Swordfish, which involves more than 100 officers on active paroles. Operation Tango Pheasant has led to the arrest of 331 offenders charged with more than 1,000 offences, and 445 offenders have been charged with more than 1,000 offences

under Operation Frostbite, which targets recidivist offenders and conducts bail and curfew checks. In addition, our tough new laws will further crack down on hardcore serious offenders with tough bail laws that mean serious recidivist offenders will stay in custody until they can convince a court they are not a risk to community safety. Police in Townsville and right across Queensland will continue to use all of their resources and resolve to enhance community safety and proactively target those who are responsible for committing crime.

### Police Service, Recruitment



**Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.02 am): In relation to yesterday's release of a report by the CCC, I am advised that this is about past practices that the Queensland Police Service identified, self-reported and are now taking appropriate action to address. Further, I am advised by the chair of the CCC and the Police Commissioner that they are both confident that the actions that have already been taken by the Queensland Police Service will ensure this never happens again.

This government has also been assured that all sworn officers who went through the academy at that time successfully completed their training to the highest standards expected of a police officer. The chair of the CCC has stated that the Police Commissioner and the government were deceived and misled by this past practice. With regard to the Public Safety Business Agency through which this practice occurred, it is expected that on 30 June this year the agency will no longer exist.

### Seniors



**Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (10.03 am): In Queensland our seniors currently represent more than 15 per cent of our state's population, and this is expected to double to 1.7 million—or one in five people—by the year 2049. The Palaszczuk government is committed to supporting our most vulnerable in every way we can. The Premier regularly acknowledges the strong response from our seniors during the COVID lockdowns and their contribution to keeping all Queenslanders safe. That is why it was good to see the \$17.7 billion committed in the federal budget for an aged care reform package that responds to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety and provides the potential to deliver important initiatives to seniors.

However, given Queensland's growing population of seniors, it is critical that Queensland receives its fair share of this allocation. Our seniors are some of our community's most vulnerable. This money must deliver the support needed on the ground for our seniors. While it is great to see funding to support the recruitment and training of 33,800 additional aged care workers, the poor wages regime in the aged care industry needs urgent adjustment if we are to successfully attract jobseekers to these important community care roles, particularly in a workforce shortage period such as we are beginning to see.

While aged care is primarily a federal government responsibility, the Palaszczuk government values the contribution that seniors have made to the development of our state, and we are committed to supporting them in every way we can. Our government's commitment includes almost \$450 million in support for electricity, rates, water, gas, car and boat registration concessions via Queensland Seniors Cards and more than \$10 million for the Elder Abuse Prevention Unit, the Seniors Enquiry Line and other support services.


The Palaszczuk government launched the Age Friendly Strategy in 2016, but given the challenges of the pandemic it is timely that we revisit and review the strategy. It is our intention to hold a series of seniors' events across the state over this term of government to give older Queenslanders the opportunity to tell us what is now important to them and to inform the development of a renewed Age Friendly Strategy. It will give government a chance to ensure that seniors are aware of the supports available to them to handle the cost-of-living pressures that affect people on fixed incomes. Advice presented by agencies such as the Queensland Police Service on home security and Queensland Health on the COVID vaccine rollout will be useful in keeping seniors connected, safe and well informed.

Our first seniors' event was held on Bribie Island on 28 April this year, and I thank the member for Pumicestone for her work in helping us put that together. We held another smaller event in Longreach during last week's community cabinet. I also met with Yarrabah elders during a community visit there last Thursday. At Bribie Island it was great to meet 94-year-old Ellie Neilsen, an internationally recognised printmaker and art teacher, and present her with flowers to acknowledge her starring role

in one of our B.OLD feature films. In Longreach I got to meet members of the CWA and the men's shed to hear what matters to them; for example, simple things like levelling footpaths and making shopfronts seniors and disability accessible. Yarrabah elders highlighted key issues relating to the NDIS, staying connected to community and country, reducing isolation and maintaining relationships with young people.

Over the coming months we propose to hold a series of events in regions including Hervey Bay, Redcliffe, Toowoomba, Rockhampton, Gold Coast, Maroochydore, Cairns and potentially more. As previously announced, we are expanding Seniors Week this year to Seniors Month across the entire month of October. Bookended by the International Day of Older Persons on 1 October and National Grandparents Day on 31 October, it will support around 300 events promoting social connection. Partnering with the Council on Ageing Queensland, we have committed grant funding of \$100,000 that will provide up to \$1,000 for individual events. Applications are now open until 31 May. I look forward to meeting many more inspiring seniors across our state, and I will continue to update the House on these events throughout the term.

### Cross River Rail

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.07 am): It is the year of tunnelling for Queensland's largest infrastructure project, Cross River Rail. It is powering ahead and those tunnels are arcing down through the hard Brisbane tuff rock. We have more than 2,400 workers busy across 12 active worksites creating Brisbane's new underground. Elsie, the first tunnel-boring machine, has now done more than one kilometre of tunnelling underground from Woolloongabba and is working her way underneath the Brisbane River to Albert Street. Merle, tunnel-boring machine No. 2, has dug around 600 metres and is following close behind Elsie. They are the 'dynamic duo'! The project team has made fantastic progress on the excavation of new stations underground at Albert Street, Boggo Road and Roma Street. These highly skilled men and women are working 24 hours a day to get the job done and have already notched up more than seven million work hours.

Cross River Rail is supporting Queensland's economic recovery plan right now. When it opens in 2025 it will transform how we travel. Isn't that a wonderful thing! Isn't that fantastic! It is awesome! Cross River Rail will also be critical to support the Gabba as the main stadium for the 2032 Olympics should Queensland's bid be successful. The Palaszczuk Labor government has always backed Cross River Rail as a priority for Queensland, unlike those opposite. It is a project that will be 100 per cent paid for by this Palaszczuk Labor government to the great shame of those down in comfortable Canberra.

Successive LNP federal governments led by Tony Abbott, Malcolm Turnbull and now Scott Morrison have all stubbornly refused to contribute to Cross River Rail. In this week's budget, we saw billions of dollars of federal money splashed on road projects in New South Wales and South Australia. Meanwhile, only \$800 million—a measly \$800 million—of the \$1.6 billion in federal funding for Queensland is projected to be spent over the next four years in our Sunshine State. That is despite the federal budget papers revealing Scott Morrison has kept \$3.8 billion in his back pocket in unannounced funding to buy the election either later this year or next year.

Some of that \$3.8 billion could be released right now for the Sunshine Coast Stadium, it could be released for the Bundaberg flood levee or it could be released for Bruce Highway upgrades or the inland freight route. But, no, they have kept it secret as a secret election slush fund. It is unacceptable that billions of dollars can sit unallocated on the federal government's balance sheet while communities in the fastest-growing state miss out yet again. It is unacceptable for Queenslanders to be told by the federal government that they must wait at least two elections to see most of the funding—two elections!

**Honourable members** interjected.


**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members.

**Mr BAILEY:** If Scott Morrison truly wants to know how good Queensland is and how good we can be, he should stop taking this great state for granted—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Apologies, Minister. I am having difficulty hearing the minister. The interjections on both sides will cease.

**Mr BAILEY:** If the Prime Minister truly wants to know how good Queensland is and how good we can be, he should stop taking this great state for granted and stump up a fair share of infrastructure funding for our state.

## Renewable Energy

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement) (10.11 am): The Palaszczuk government's plan to deliver cleaner, cheaper energy is powering our economic recovery. With renewable generation now accounting for more than 20 per cent of our energy mix, I can advise the House that we are on track. Queensland is well on its way to our 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030.


The federal budget this week showed that only Labor is serious about creating jobs in renewable energy. Since 2015, there have been 7,000 jobs created across 44 large-scale renewable projects, delivered by the Palaszczuk government. Today I can announce to the House even more clean energy jobs will be created in Queensland's north west. I am advised there are up to 300 new jobs for Queensland. Queensland's publicly owned energy company, Stanwell, will partner with Vast Solar to construct a first of its kind at this scale 50-megawatt hybrid power project in Mount Isa. That is 50 times the size of the other generator of this type.

We know the north west is a key supplier of the minerals needed to meet the world's constantly growing demand for new technology. This hybrid project will help to power the expansion of the high-value resources sector by delivering lower costs and security of supply. It is a unique project, one that combines solar thermal, solar PV, battery storage and gas to provide a consistent and dispatchable output of high-voltage power—100 per cent reliable power. Because of this diverse technology mix, it has the added benefit of further skilling our energy workforce for future projects of this style.

I am pleased to report an expression of interest will be published today to identify potential local suppliers. I can confirm that the project will align to the Palaszczuk government's Buy Queensland procurement policy. That means it will meet the highest standards around local content, local workforce and good wages and conditions. Local workers will come first wherever possible. Building the plant will require strong collaboration between local, regional and national experts from a range of fields, with construction occurring over two years, commencing in 2022. Every member on this side of the House understands that cheaper, cleaner energy will deliver more jobs for Queensland. I look forward to updating the House further on new renewable energy projects as we continue to drive towards our renewable energy target.

Finally, can I say this. Labor equals cheaper, cleaner energy and that equals jobs. From new mineral extraction to outback tourism, this government is backing regional Queensland jobs and building back better.

## SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

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


That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 25 May 2021.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### Comments by Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (10.14 am): Yesterday the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing stood in question time and accused the opposition of playing politics on the issue of failures in Queensland Health. Minister Grace stated in question time—

The member for Buderim raised an issue about one of his constituents but he did not raise it directly to get that immediate help to that member. 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.

Minister Grace's statement was factually incorrect. On 29 March my office received a website inquiry from my constituent, Abby's mother, regarding the extended wait for her daughter's treatment. On the same day my office responded to Abby's mother and sent an email to the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service. A response was received on 14 April stating that Abby was 'regrettably outside of the clinically recommended timeframe for treatment' but providing no date for an initial appointment. Miraculously, after question time yesterday, Abby's mother received a phone call advising

her daughter now had an appointment booked for Friday, 21 May. The fact that we have to raise these issues in question time just to get action from Queensland Health shows that the government views this issue as a political problem rather than an issue that needs to be fixed.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Buderim, I believe that you have gone beyond what a personal explanation to the House should be so I will ask that you be no further heard on this matter. There are appropriate channels if you believe that a member has aggrieved you in some way. Those remedies may include rising to take personal offence or alternatively writing to me as Speaker about the matter. I hope that provides some guidance for members in future regarding the use of personal explanations.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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

### Health System



**Mr CRISAFULLI** (10.16 am): My question is to the Premier. The government refuses to listen to whistleblowers about the effects of Labor losing control of Queensland Health. One minister says the stories are made up and another says they were not correct. Will the Premier concede these stories were not made up and demand her ministers apologise to Catherine and Patricia, who are here today, for the suggestion they were making up stories?

**Ms GRACE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I refer to the standing orders in relation to rules of questions. Standing order 115(b)(vi) states that questions shall not contain—

... names of persons, unless they are strictly necessary to render the question intelligible and can be authenticated.

I ask for your ruling on that standing order in relation to the question just asked.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The minister is correct with the standing order. The opposition can authenticate it because Patricia and Catherine were standing out the front and those are their stories. They were doing a press conference this morning—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will hear the point of order please.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** We can authenticate the identity of the individuals who stood with the opposition leader and the shadow health minister this morning.

**Mr SPEAKER:** To the minister's point of order, the way I interpret your point of order is that the standing order as you have read it is correct. It is about providing the context as well. The way I hear the question it specifically relates to the context of a previous question asked, so in this case I will rule the question in order and I will ask that the question be answered.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. As the health minister has outlined in the House numerous times this week, we are putting in \$100 million to address some of the issues around ramping and the unprecedented demand on our hospitals. As the health minister and I have also articulated very clearly to the House this week, the issue surrounding the number of presentations to our emergency is not unique to Queensland. It is actually being felt in other jurisdictions around the country and to that extent I have actually placed it on the national cabinet agenda for next month.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The Premier is being responsive to the question asked. I ask that you hear the answer.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Further, in relation to individual issues that members of the public may have, I will take the clinicians' advice when it comes to how people should be dealt with in our health system. It is not for politicians to make those decisions; it is up to the clinicians.

Finally, I thank the Minister for Health. Today the Minister for Health also met with one of the ladies mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition. She has taken the time to meet with her and the director-general to discuss her particular issues.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Mr Speaker—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am sorry, Leader of the Opposition, I cannot hear you. There are interjections coming from your own side.

### Health System

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** My question is to the Premier. Dr Kim Hansen of the Australian Medical Association says Queensland needs a five-year action plan, not just more cash, to fix the health system. Yesterday a minister dismissed a whistleblower paramedic as a 'fake insider', saying that they were making up stories. Will the Premier reprimand her minister for dismissing experts as 'fake insiders who are making up stories'—

**Ms GRACE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:**—and listen to the medical experts and fix the system?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, I ask that if you are going to raise a point of order that we actually hear the full question.

**Ms GRACE:** I think the Leader of the Opposition is misleading the House. I take offence and I ask that the comment be withdrawn.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I do not need guidance from the House. Minister, as I understand, the question was related to statements made by the health minister. There is also a limit in terms of the amount of time in which you can take personal offence. However, as the question has just been asked—I will seek some guidance.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members will sit in silence while I take advice from the table. It is not a time for interjection and discussion or debate. There are a few points here I think. The question was asked without making a reference to the minister which in itself was not explicit. However, there may be an inference. I do not believe the question can be asked, though, without making that particular point. I will allow the question but I will also allow latitude in terms of how it is responded to.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. As everyone knows, at the moment the world is currently going through a global COVID pandemic. When we are addressing—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Do honourable members opposite think that is funny? I do not think it is funny. I do not think it is funny at all.

**Mr Dick:** Talk to the Indian community.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! We will have no finger pointing. We will have no direct personal attacks. I will start warning members and/or removing members. I believe the Premier is actually being responsive to the question as asked. She has not had much time to answer the question. I would like to hear where the answer to the question goes.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I take the interjection. We met with members of the Indian community the other day who told us their stories firsthand about how their relatives are dying from COVID. What is happening around the rest of the world is a very grim reality. Those opposite should be aware that the other day the Prime Minister said that the international borders will remain closed until the middle of next year. Why is that? Because we actually have a global pandemic. It is not made up; it is real. It is absolutely real. During the COVID pandemic we had shutdown orders and directions where people stayed at home. People did not go to the hospitals.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 118(b). Mr Speaker, I know you have given the Premier latitude to answer the question in broad terms. However, surely when we are talking about the Queensland health system and the commentary from a minister yesterday, the Premier has to be relevant to that.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana, I think you are now debating the point. I have given latitude. I will listen to the Premier's answer and, if necessary, I will ask the Premier to come back to the question as directly asked. The Premier is providing context as I hear it.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The opposition wants to talk about the plan for Health, and I am explaining the situation we are in at this point in time. It is because we have been dealing with a global pandemic. Our No. 1 priority has been to keep Queenslanders safe to stop them from dying from COVID. The initial projections were that more than 30,000 Queenslanders could actually lose their lives from COVID.



What I do not want to see happen in Australia is the collapse of the health system like we have seen around the world. Perhaps the Leader of the Opposition and those opposite could open their eyes and have a look at what is happening around the world. People in other countries, our major trading partners, are actually losing their lives and families are being deeply affected every single day of this global pandemic because COVID has taken hold in those countries. I do not want that for Queensland. I do not want that for Australia.

We know what would have happened to our hospitals in Queensland if the LNP had gotten their way and opened the borders. We would have seen the complete and utter collapse of our health system as we know it in this state. We also saw those opposite cut the doctors, cut the nurses and cut the health professionals. It has taken this Labor government to restore those health services and rebuild the hospital system in this state after the damage that the Newman government did, and the Leader of the Opposition was a part of that. They all sat around the cabinet table making those decisions.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will issue a warning to the member for Lytton. I will also start warning in more general and direct opportunities. The volume of interjections in the chamber is too high.

### Sheep Industry

**Mr MADDEN:** My question is of the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier update the House on the Palaszczuk government's commitment to the sheep industry and regional Queensland, and is the Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Ipswich West for his keen interest in what happens in different agricultural industries across Queensland. On this side of the House we proudly back the agricultural industry in this state. We showed our strong commitment in our attendance at Beef Australia 2021. We are also showing our very firm commitment—

**Mr Millar** interjected.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I did not see the member for Gregory at the community cabinet we held in his electorate. Where was he?

**Mr Millar** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** There we go, the member went to the office and the office was shut.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. The member for Gregory can leave the chamber for one hour under standing order 253A. I had just warned you. You continued to interject. You know the rules.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Gregory withdrew from the chamber at 10.28 am.*

**Mr SPEAKER:** For those members who may feel that it is harsh, I will explain this very clearly. I have said on numerous occasions there are to be no interjections if you are issued with a warning. The message is do not interject in the first place.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Six years ago I sat down with graziers when I went to Charleville and Longreach and we talked about what more we could do to bring back the sheep industry in this state. The No. 1 thing they said was to prevent wild dog attacks by putting in cluster fencing. Again, I went to *Queensland Country Life*, a very fine paper. I opened it up and saw a great opinion piece. I would like to read it for the House. It is so important. I would like to read it into *Hansard*. It is from AgForce Sheep & Wool President Michael Pratt. I hope those opposite listen very carefully to what I am about to read into *Hansard*. It states—

Last week, while visiting Barcaldine and Longreach, Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk delivered on a \$5 million promise ... by announcing that five western regional councils and the Remote Area Planning and Development Board (RAPAD) would share in the funding to build more cluster fencing to keep out wild dogs.

Since 2015, the state government has contributed almost \$25 million—

**Ms Bates:** That's because she believes her own press.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** This is from AgForce, member for Mudgeeraba.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Members to my left.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** It continues—

... \$25 million through the Queensland Feral Pest Initiative to assist regional communities across Queensland to construct cluster fences in key sheep growing areas.

Nothing 'fair-weather' about that.

In fact, the first stages of that funding became available for fencing at a time when the sheep and wool industries were well and truly on their knees.

Between 1991 and 2018, sheep numbers in western Queensland had declined more than 75 per cent from two million to less than 400,000 head.

But the introduction of cluster fencing, in my opinion one of the smartest things I've seen happen in any form of agriculture, has led to the construction of more than 21,000 kilometres of fencing, enclosing roughly 10 million hectares, which when fully stocked will carry up to 8 million sheep.

Such is the industry's and AgForce's confidence that, given favourable seasonal conditions, our aim is to increase sheep numbers—

**Mr JANETZKI:** Mr Speaker—

**Mrs D'ATH:** Mr Speaker—

**Mr SPEAKER:** The Premier's time has expired.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:**—'to 4 million by 2025.'

**Mr SPEAKER:** The Premier's time has expired.

**Mrs D'ATH:** Mr Speaker—

**Mr SPEAKER:** The call is going to this member—

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am still finishing, Mr Speaker.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Time has expired.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** But Mr Speaker—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am giving the call to the member because he sought the call first. If you have a point of order, I am happy to hear a point of order.

**Mrs D'ATH:** Mr Speaker, I believe that the member was on his feet before the Premier had been told to finish.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members to my left. Please resume your seat, member. I will hear the point of order. I was watching the clock and I do not believe that was the case. If it was, it was a very marginal opportunity.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I move—

That the Premier be further heard.

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Buderim, I do not need your assistance. Because I have allowed the point of order, regardless of whether it was procedural in nature, as elements of it were, the Leader of the House has moved a motion in the House.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The article continues—

Such is the industry's and AgForce's confidence that, given favourable seasonal conditions, our aim is to increase sheep numbers to 4 million by 2025.

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** It goes on—

The benefits of this to regional Queensland will be enormous, including creating additional regional jobs—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Pause the clock. I cannot hear the Premier's response. The House has agreed to allow the member to be further heard and the element I would like to emphasise is 'heard'.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** It continues—

The benefits of this to regional Queensland will be enormous, including creating additional rural jobs for contract mustering teams, wool shed staff for shearing and crutching, and opportunities to help with on-property sheep husbandry processing and general property maintenance.

It shouldn't go unmentioned that the federal government has also contributed \$14 million towards cluster fencing to keep wild dogs out of sheep growing areas of Queensland.

But it has been the state government's improved commitment to agriculture since the 2020 election, along with its increased willingness to sit down with AgForce and listen to the views of our membership, that has me and many others in industry hopeful that when it comes to working together the sky's the limit.

I know that those opposite do not like hearing the good news.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The Leader of the Opposition will cease his interjections.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** In terms of the sheep industry, an industry that was failing and being decimated, our hardworking Labor government has been able to work with the graziers to bring back the sheep industry in our great state of Queensland. With the rapid decline of the National Party in this state, where is the National Party? It has gone.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The Leader of the Opposition is warned under the standing orders.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We will stand up for the industry—the beef industry and the sheep industry in this state. Shame on each and every one of you.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Through the chair, Premier.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We have seen the end of the National Party in this state. We will continue to back the industry.

*(Time expired)*

## Health System

**Mr JANETZKI:** My question is to the Treasurer. Queensland Health staff are working even harder to meet the Treasurer's efficiency dividend cut of a billion dollars out of the health budget. Does the Treasurer accept that this billion dollar cut is worsening the health crisis, or will the Treasurer also dismiss overstretched staff concerns as just made-up stories?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Toowoomba South for his question. I am very happy to talk about LNP health cuts. Before I get to that, can I just say—even in plain terms that the member for Toowoomba South might understand: our efficiency dividend will not cut jobs and it will not cut services. In fact, it has been part of the funding arrangement for Queensland Health for many years. It is how large organisations work smarter and better. Why? It is because it delivers better health services to the people who need surgeries, operations and diagnostic testing across Queensland. That is how the system delivers for Queensland. That has been the case for a long while.

This was a matter of contest during the last election. When the member for Nanango and the member for Everton—oh, the halcyon days of leadership—were going on endlessly about it and carried on across the length and breadth of Queensland, our government was re-elected with an increased majority. The reason we were re-elected with an increased majority is that the people of Queensland had not forgotten what the LNP did to the health system.

**Mr Nicholls** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** Well may the member for Clayfield interject! I will talk about the member for Clayfield's efficiency dividend. I will talk about the efficiency dividend delivered by the member for Clayfield, supported by the member for Broadwater when he was the member for Mundingburra and the minister for local government, sitting around the table with his mentor, Campbell Newman, supporting every single cut that rained down on Queensland Health—4,400 health workers, including 1,800 nurses and midwives. He was happy to sign off on that cut. What about the cuts to community health organisations—organisations that helped families suffering from the bereavement of stillbirth? The member for Broadwater was happy to support that cut. What about the closure of the Barrett Adolescent Centre without a replacement? That had tragic consequences and he has never apologised.

**Mr Powell** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Glass House will cease his interjections.

**Mr DICK:** Not one member of that cabinet has apologised for that efficiency dividend.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 118(b) on relevance. The question was about this Treasurer's \$1 billion efficiency dividend, which he has not mentioned.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The Treasurer has referenced that. I have listened to the answer. The question also mentioned alternatives in terms of ways of achieving efficiencies, if I heard the question correctly, which I believe the minister may be seizing on.

**Mr DICK:** The only minister in the previous Newman government who ever said anything about the closure of the Barrett Adolescent Centre was the member for Surfers Paradise, who said it was a witch-hunt. It was a disgraceful shame and they should apologise to everyone affected by that efficiency dividend cut.

### Federal Budget, Townsville

**Mr HARPER:** 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 budget means for Townsville?

**Dr MILES:** I could answer this question really briefly for the member for Thuringowa, because when it comes to what was in the budget for Townsville it was pretty much nothing. It was a very disappointing budget for all of Queensland but particularly for Townsville. There was no new funding for infrastructure projects in the Townsville region and, critically, no plan to allocate the \$195 million that the Morrison government owes the Townsville community for the Townsville City Deal. It continues to refuse to quarantine those funds from GST calculations, effectively blocking its allocation to really important projects in the region.

This week we have all heard the Treasurer outline how this budget is a rip-off for Queensland. It is a rip-off for Townsville as well. In the four years that the Queensland government will spend \$56 billion on infrastructure, this budget allocated just \$800 million for all of Queensland. In fact, in the current financial year, the Palaszczuk government will spend \$737 million on infrastructure projects in Townsville, so we are spending almost as much in one year in one region as the Morrison government has committed to the whole of Queensland for four years.

I read today that the budget included \$1.2 billion for two roads in WA that WA does not even want—billions of dollars for roads not supported by the WA community or the WA government. One project that should have been funded in this budget is the Landsdown Eco-Industrial Precinct supported by the Townsville City Council, the Palaszczuk government and by TEL, but no funding has been committed from the federal government. It is a process that will allow us to create the jobs of the future in Townsville in minerals processing, in battery manufacturing, in hydrogen production and in ammonia production. Strategically located with access to rail and to the Townsville port, it is the kind of economic-enabling project that will allow us to create jobs now and the jobs of the future in Townsville. I call on the Morrison government to commit to quarantine those funds from GST recalculations so we can get them out and deliver to the Townsville community the projects, the jobs, the infrastructure that it needs and that it deserves.

Finally, Mr Speaker, while I am on my feet please allow me to apologise to the member for Bancroft. He was of course one of the hardworking MPs who was at the Moreton Bay leaders summit and I omitted his name from that list. To make up for it, I will give him my Moreton Bay tie. I think he has the kind of flair to pull it off that maybe I do not have.

### Health System

**Ms BATES:** My question is to the Minister for Health. On 5 March the health minister said that Queensland public hospitals have performed exceptionally well. Since then the minister held crisis talks. Then the minister said that Queensland Health needed a cultural change, and then the minister threw \$100 million at the health crisis. Can the minister explain how in the space of two months Queensland Health went from 'exceptional performance' to needing a \$100 million lifeline?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for Mudgeeraba for her question. I know that those opposite will cherry-pick what I have said in the past, but I will continue to say that the staff in our hospitals are doing an exceptional job. What they are doing across this state in meeting the demand that is coming in the door is extraordinary. It is extraordinary in January and February and March and April and what they are doing today.

That does not mean that there are not pressures in the system, and every time I have stood up in this House I have acknowledged and talked about those pressures, the complexity around those pressures and some of the factors that are leading to those issues. However, that does not mean that they are not doing an exceptional job and the fact is that we have set targeted achievements to try to fast-track elective surgery in that we have put \$250 million in as part of the COVID plan to deal with that backlog—a backlog that every jurisdiction is facing because it was a national cabinet decision to suspend surgeries across the country.

To say that we should not talk up the work that our health professionals are doing—that that somehow is inconsistent with acknowledging pressures in the system—is not acknowledging the amazing work that our health workers are doing each and every day to meet those demands.

While I am on my feet, in responding to the member for Mudgeeraba, we all know that she and the Leader of the Opposition did a press conference this morning. I want to point out that the Leader of the Opposition also said that this is not because of COVID and it not because of the Commonwealth.

**An opposition member:** It's not.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I take that interjection: 'It's not.' What an extraordinary statement. If it does not have anything to do with the Commonwealth, why is it the Commonwealth has agreed to put this on the national agenda? Did it turn around and say, 'Not our problem. I don't know what you're talking about'? No. It actually acknowledged that it is a problem that we all need to deal with nationally. Saying it is not related to COVID is putting your head in the sand and ignoring the pressures that even the World Health Organization has recognised in 132 countries in that we continue to have disruption in our health system.

**An opposition member:** More time please.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I am happy to have more time. Are you moving a motion? Mr Speaker, I think there is a motion for extended time. I am happy for that motion to be put and will support that motion.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I move—

That the minister be further heard.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I call the Minister for Health.

**Mr Janetzki** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I have just called the House to order. You are warned under the standing orders. You do not wait for a gap.

**Mrs D'ATH:** Those opposite think that health in this state is a joke. They think that COVID is a joke. They think that the national pressures are a joke. On the issue of the Leader of the Opposition saying that this is not a Commonwealth problem, I point out that there are almost—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mrs D'ATH:** Those on the opposite side might want to listen this, because a number of them have put questions on notice about how many beds in their hospitals are being taken up by long-stay patients, so have a listen.

**Mr Dick:** How many?

**Mrs D'ATH:** Almost 600 patients who should have a disability package or an aged-care package. Remember the aged-care package announcement yesterday—80,000 in the budget, except there are over 100,000 on the waiting list, so I will not even go anywhere near the hospitals. Not only does that equate to more than \$1 million a day—\$7 million a week—being spent on long-stay beds where we could be creating that capacity; that is the equivalent of building another Sunshine Coast University Hospital. These are beds that the Commonwealth could immediately put money into and free up to ensure that every single person who is contacting the LNP can get a bed when they need it, that we can deal with people through emergency surgery and elective surgery. I hope that when those opposite are contacted by people in the community—

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member's time has expired.

**Mrs D'ATH:**—they are telling them the Commonwealth could free up the equivalent of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will generally advise ministers that when time has expired it means the time has expired.

### Tourism Industry

**Mr TANTARI:** My question is of the Treasurer and Minister for Investment. Will the Treasurer update the House on the Palaszczuk government's support for Queensland's tourism industry and is the Treasurer aware of any alternative approaches?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Hervey Bay for his question and his forceful advocacy for the tourism industry. He has a great local tourism industry in Hervey Bay and he is working very hard to support them. The tourism sector was one of the first sectors of our state's economy to be impacted by COVID-19 and it will probably be one of the last sectors that will recover from the impacts of COVID. It was the first sector to receive targeted support from our Premier and our government as COVID started to do damage to the Queensland economy last year.

We put over \$800 million into backing tourism and events in Queensland through the pandemic and our Good to Go campaign that saw visitor numbers rise in key regions throughout 2020. In mid last year accommodation bookings in Hervey Bay were up 12 per cent on what they were before COVID. In the Capricorn region they were up 17 per cent.

The evidence of how well Rockhampton is doing was on show for all the world to see last week during Beef Week. Not, it would seem, that the Leader of the Opposition is aware of that. I saw a photo in *Country Life* today—what a great publication. The headline was 'LNP agriculture spokesman'—and I will conform with standing orders: the member for Gympie—'and the opposition leader caught up with primary producers at Beef Australia 2021 in Rockhampton'. I had a bit of a closer look at the photo and there is not one other human being in the photo. I do not know who they were catching up with, but those people were catching up with somebody else. I table that.

*Tabled paper:* Photograph depicting the Leader of the Opposition, Mr David Crisafulli MP, and the member for Gympie, Mr Tony Perrett MP, at Beef Australia 2021 in Rockhampton [632].

**Mr DICK:** There is not even one beast. All one can say is all hat and no cattle. In fact, there is no hat either. When I walked through those same gates last week with the Premier and the minister for beef—I apologise, the Minister for Agriculture Industry Development—there were thousands of people. What a warm reception the Premier got. What a warm reception we got. What a great event it was.

One starts to wonder: who the heck is the Leader of the Opposition talking to? He is not talking to real people. He is not talking to anybody. He certainly does not know anything about the tourism industry. Remember last year he was fulminating, 'I'll stand up to Canberra. I'll get out there.' He did nothing. He could not even ring Scott Morrison to get funding for the tourism industry that was absolutely abandoned by Scott Morrison and his colleagues in the federal budget.

The lack of support for the tourism industry in this state when the national borders had been slammed shut by Scott Morrison is appalling. That is the difference: a government that was the first to fund tourism when it was going into a tough spot and has continued to support tourism; and a federal government that has abandoned the industry and an opposition leader who cannot stand up for Queensland, who does not have the internal fortitude and strength to speak up for Queensland, to speak up to Scott Morrison and to get us our fair share.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

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

**Mr DICK:** That is the difference: a Premier who leads and a Leader of the Opposition who does nothing.

### Health System

**Mr PURDIE:** My question is to the Minister for Health. Queensland Nurses and Midwives Union head Beth Mohle says Queensland Health needs reform not just extra funding. Will Labor listen to Beth Mohle or will the minister dismiss her as just making up stories?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for his question. Not surprisingly they have not quoted the full statement of the state secretary of the QNMU. I believe in the same interview the state secretary of the QNMU called on the Commonwealth to fund extra care for people who are taking up long-stay beds equivalent to the cost of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital.

The opposition has a bit of form in not putting the full context around conversations. Previously I was asked a question by the member for Mudgeeraba about my statement back in March saying that the health system was performing exceptionally well but I have since acknowledged that there are pressures in the system and how things could change so quickly. I will read in full what is quoted in the statement that went out on 5 March 2021 about Queensland public hospitals—

Queensland public hospitals have performed exceptionally well given the disruptions they faced in 2020.

The member conveniently left out the second part of the sentence. Those on the other side just want to play politics with health and with COVID. It is appalling that they do this. I point out to those opposite that we have had a 16 per cent growth in walk-in presentations since July last year; we have had over 1.8 million ED attendances; we have had 11.8 per cent year-on-year growth; 575 beds are currently occupied by long-stay older and younger patients; and over 51,000 emergency surgeries have been performed. There has been a 70 per cent reduction in long-wait elective surgery this year as at 1 April 2021—4.7 per cent more elective surgery patients in our public hospitals have come off the elective surgery waitlist compared to the same period last year to the end of March 2021. That is why I say that our health workers and our public hospitals are doing an exceptional job despite the disruptions that have happened throughout 2020 and despite the incredible surges that continue. I thank them for the work they do each and every day.

### Job Security

**Mr HUNT:** My question is to the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Will the minister update the House on the government's latest steps to improve job security for Queensland workers?

**Ms GRACE:** I thank the member for Caloundra for the question. As an ex-public servant he knows how important it is to have a secure job. It enables you to do your job without fear of being stood down or made redundant, which is what those opposite did when they were in government. We have a proud record on this side of the House of ensuring that our public servants have permanent jobs. Since 2017 nearly 6,000 employees across my department have converted to permanent employment.

We are committed to continuing this important work. That is why next week my department will be contacting more than 800 temporary and casual employees with continuous service of more than four years to give them the opportunity to convert to permanent employment. That is in line with the legislation brought before this House by the Premier to amend the Public Service Act to make work permanency a default and to provide a conversion area in that act. That bill was passed in the last parliament and we are getting on with the job of carrying out those amendments.

We know that when it comes to public servants, having a cloud over their head that they may be dismissed or made redundant, or sacked as they were by the LNP, does not provide the best work environment. The opposition is asking questions on health in this House when they left the system a basket case. There were health workers concerned about their security of employment. They were insecure in their job while providing vital health services during a world health pandemic. They were given assurances by those opposite before they were elected that everyone was safe and they had nothing to fear. Those opposite ask questions in this House, such as the question just asked by the member for Ninderry, where they exaggerate or do not give the full story or turn the story around.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Buderim, you are on a warning already. You are interjecting. You know what that means. You will leave the chamber for one hour under standing order 253A—sadly, for the second day in a row.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Buderim withdrew from the chamber at 10.58 am.*

**Ms GRACE:** He is hurting.

**Mr SPEAKER:** No, Minister. Please continue with your statement.

**Ms GRACE:** When those opposite were in government they made promises and twisted the truth. How can any Queenslanders trust them to run a health system with a stable and secure workforce after what they did when they were elected? How can they trust them when they cannot even run their own party? Campbell Newman is back!

## Health System

**Dr ROWAN:** My question is to the Minister for Health. Has the government undertaken any modelling or projected hospital bed requirements over the past half a decade? If so, will the minister table the reports to be open and transparent and let Queenslanders see how Labor is losing control of Queensland Health?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for his question. As far as transparency goes, this government has been extremely transparent about our data. In fact, we are publishing data that the national cabinet agreed to suspend as they knew that the data would be skewed because of the suspension of surgeries. However, we have recommenced publishing our quarterly data to show people what is happening in the hospital system. We are committed to further transparency including with the nurse-to-patient ratios that we are so proud of and that we have extended to aged care. In fact, new data backs this up by showing that it is not only saving money but also saving lives, which is what is important. We are very proud of that.

In terms of the reporting that we do, our annual reports are there. They are publicly available for everyone to see. We will continue to work with the health profession in relation to future planning for bed capacity. We are always looking at future demand needs across the HHS system, which is why we have capital works plans for new hospitals for many years ahead. It is why this financial year we are spending millions of dollars to develop business cases for major hospital expansions. You do not do that without doing modelling and estimating: what is the growth in the regions; where do we need new hospitals; where do we need extra beds? That is why we have made a commitment in Caboolture. It is why we are doing a business case in Redcliffe. It is why we are building seven satellite hospitals. It is why we are expanding Logan and Ipswich hospitals. It is because the modelling shows that there is growth and demand in those areas that require that expansion.

We are not just expanding hospitals. We are also looking at innovation and new ways to do things. We are looking at how we take pressure off our hospitals and emergency departments, such as through the mental health co-responder model that will see over 60 per cent of patients diverted from our EDs. We are building purpose-built mental health facilities to support people with mental health needs. We are taking those patients out of the mainstream hospital system because it is not in their best interests to be cared for in that way. They need dedicated support and services.

The evidence of our planning is there. Every year it is in our budget, which outlines our commitment to future development. We are very proud of that commitment to capital infrastructure and, importantly, our continued commitment to operationalise that capital.

*(Time expired)*

## Coronavirus, Vaccine

**Mr WALKER:** My question is of the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Will the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government has adjusted its vaccine rollout since the TGA advice relating to the AstraZeneca vaccine?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for Mundingburra for his question. I know he is interested in what we are doing with the vaccination rollout in Queensland. I do not believe I have had many questions from the LNP about the vaccination. One would think that the LNP would be interested in the vaccination rollout. One would think they would be interested in how we take pressure off the hospital system and deal with both the health and the economic impacts of COVID across our state. You do that by making sure that people are getting vaccinated.

In relation to the administration of AstraZeneca, the TGA has now recommended that only those who are 50 years and older should get it. Of course, anyone under 50 can still get it, but there has to be informed consent to show that they understand the risks and they are choosing to proceed. That has meant that we have to change our planning for the rollout. As members will remember, initially we stood up six main hubs to deliver the Pfizer vaccination and everywhere else across the state we were rolling out the AstraZeneca vaccine. Now we need to change that model to have the Pfizer vaccine available across the state. Under phase 1b the state's commitment is to vaccinate all frontline workers, that is, not just all of our health workers but also all of our police, paramedics, emergency services workers and corrective services staff. Many of those workers are aged under 50, which means that we have to get Pfizer to them.

I know there have been some calls for—and I believe that the opposition has commented—the setting up of mass vaccination centres but we are a decentralised state. We are not going to set up mass vaccination centres predominantly in major capital areas and forget about the rest of the state.



Earlier those opposite were asking me to guarantee people in the regions will have equal access to vaccinations. The answer is yes, because we are taking the vaccines to the people; we are not saying, 'You have to come to us.'

We know that this model is working. I want to acknowledge the amazing work that has been done. For example, the Townsville HHS is rolling out the Pfizer vaccine by facilitating outreach clinics in Ayr, Ingham and Palm Island. Central West HHS staff have been telling me how the Royal Flying Doctor Service has partnered with us and is flying into communities to administer the vaccine. In Central West, one out of every two adults aged 18 and older has already had one vaccination. That is incredible and it is happening because we are taking that service to the communities.

We will consider mass vaccination when we have mass vaccines. When we have the 20 million Pfizer doses that will come in the last quarter of this year we can vaccinate big numbers of people, but with smaller amounts of the vaccines available there is no point in setting up and closing down clinics—the vaccine numbers are not there. That is what we are doing to—

*(Time expired)*

### Sunshine Coast University Hospital

**Mr BLEIJIE:** My question is to the Premier. The Sunshine Coast University Hospital opened with 450 beds and was meant to have 738 beds by 2021. The Labor government, which has been in power for the past six years, has changed the timeline, stating that delivery will occur not 'by 2021' but 'from 2021'. Why hasn't the Labor government delivered the 288 extra beds as promised?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am happy to get the health minister to find more information about that. They were very proud that the Sunshine Coast University Hospital has been built by a Labor government. We know that the Sunshine Coast is a growing area of our state with new housing being built around the Caloundra South area and out to Palmwoods. We know that we need to cater for that huge growth. We are going to build a satellite hospital around Bribie Island to ease pressures at Caboolture.

The member for Kawana was a member of the previous government and sat around their cabinet table when they sacked nurses. The old gang is getting back together. The former health minister is coming back as the president of the party. You cannot trust them on health. They cannot even run their own party, as the Minister for Education has said. No-one in Queensland trusts the opposition when it comes to health. Everybody remembers the savage cuts that decimated regional communities across our state. They absolutely decimated our communities. The No. 1 thing that those opposite could be doing is picking up the phone to call Scott Morrison and ask for aged-care residents currently in our hospitals to be moved to aged-care facilities.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is the No. 1 thing that they can do. The second thing, which we have done very well, is to put it on the national agenda.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Premier has indicated that the health minister will answer that. I ask the Premier to take that on notice pursuant to the standing orders so that the health minister can come back within 24 hours.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The Premier has not indicated that she is taking that on notice under the standing orders. I assume that she will provide a response at some stage via the health minister.

### Gold Coast Light Rail

**Ms PEASE:** My question is of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister please update the House on how the Gold Coast community can be involved in consultation for future stages of light rail?

**Mr BAILEY:** I thank the member for Lytton, who is a strong supporter of public transport in South-East Queensland. Who gets light rail done? This Labor government! We do not call it an affliction like the member for Mermaid Beach. We do not predict traffic mayhem like the member for Surfers Paradise. We get it done.

**Mr O'Connor** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Bonney, you are warned under the standing orders. Correct titles will be used in this chamber.

**Mr BAILEY:** We get it done. It was critical for the Commonwealth Games success story, integrating with the heavy rail system. It is loved by Gold Coasters. The planning needs to continue now down the coast. I am happy to report to the House that we will start community consultation in coming months on the next stage past Burleigh. We will be conducting community information sessions and letterbox drops along the whole corridor—Burleigh Heads, Palm Beach, Currumbin, Currumbin Waters, Tugun and Elanora—and we will also have an online forum so people can give us their feedback and ideas. We want it to be as good as possible, because light rail will play a big role for decades.

The member for Burleigh says that public transport will be obsolete within 10 years. The guy who is dictating policy to those opposite thinks public transport will be obsolete within 10 years, yet the Leader of the Opposition does not call him to heel and does not call him to account. The member for Chatsworth is not allowed to go down to the Gold Coast because the LNP position on the Gold Coast is a dog's breakfast. The member for Burleigh said that not only should the light rail go inland past his brewery—personal interest, not public interest—

**Mr Hart** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Burleigh, you are warned under the standing orders. I appreciate that you are the subject of some commentary; however, you are not putting your comments through the chair.

**Mr BAILEY:** It was the member for Burleigh who said in that incredible interview we will never forget that we should take planes, not trains. They will replace them, apparently. There should be more of those interviews; we want to see all his views. He has also said there will be no heavy rail connection to the airport. Honourable members should think about that. The Gold Coast Airport is a huge airport with a massive workforce and the university campus is growing, yet under the LNP there would be no heavy rail connection to Gold Coast Airport for local residents. The Leader of the Opposition says nothing. He is actually on the Gold Coast these days after deserting Townsville, but he will not bring the LNP to heel. Because the member for Burleigh dictates transport policy on the Gold Coast, it is a dog's breakfast—no heavy rail to the airport and light rail on an obscure route that nobody would use, past his brewery. Showing his weakness, the Leader of the Opposition says nothing.

The member for Chatsworth is not allowed to effectively go down there because the member for Burleigh dictates policy. It is a sham and a joke. We will get light rail done.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Chatsworth, you will use correct titles. You are warned under the standing orders.

### **Port Hinchinbrook, Development**

**Mr DAMETTO:** My question is to the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning. The Port Hinchinbrook development has many complex problems. In the absence of a developer, all can be attributed to the failings of the current conformed deed. Despite a generous \$6.3 million state government commitment to partially fund the Cassowary Coast Regional Council to take responsibility for sewerage and roads, residents believe that the council has demonstrated it lacks the ability to solve this problem legally, practically and economically. Will the minister intervene and appoint an adviser to help council navigate this problem?

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will allow the question, member, but the preamble was quite lengthy and I came close to ruling the question out of order. I give you guidance for the next opportunity you have to ask a question.

**Dr MILES:** I thank the member for Hinchinbrook for his question. It is a really important issue and I acknowledge his advocacy on it. It has been going for a long time now. I have to say that I share the member's concerns. At the end of the day, these residents are entitled to have access to services. Whether those services should be delivered by the liquidator or by the council, they are entitled to have them. I think we should do what we can to ensure that happens.

Even though the Palaszczuk government did not have a responsibility to do so, we did step in and offered to provide the council with a significant amount of funds—more than \$6 million, as the member noted in his question. I understand that just today the council has again met and again rejected that offer, leaving those residents without the services they need and deserve. I place on the record how disappointing I think that is. We made that offer in good faith and in the interests of those residents, to get them those services. At the end of the day, those services are the council's responsibility, but we will continue to try our best to work with them and continue to engage with the member for Hinchinbrook.

With regard to the specific suggestion of appointing an adviser, I will need to get some advice about my powers in that regard but I am certainly happy to consider it. Anything we can do to demonstrate to the council that they have both a responsibility and a capacity to deliver those services, particularly with our \$6.2 million on the table and available to assist with that, is worth considering.

I think the suggestion for an adviser is a good one. I will get my director-general to look into how we might do that, who might be best suited to do that and what other supports they might need, and also explore with the council how willing they would be to take that on or whether we would have to require that and what powers we would use to do so. I thank the member for his question. I pledge to keep working with him to make sure these residents get the services that the council really should be providing to them.


### **Community Safety, Grants**

**Ms LAUGA:** My question is to the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services. Will the minister update the House on the federal government's community safety grant scheme that funds initiatives like Project Booyah, which is turning young lives around in Central Queensland?

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

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Further Answer to Question, Sunshine Coast University Hospital**


 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (11.16 am): I seek to make a brief ministerial statement in response to the question asked by the member for Kawana to the Premier in relation to the Sunshine Coast. I have been advised that stage 3 of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital will be completed on 30 June this year, at which time it will have built capacity of 738 beds. I advise and update the House on that.

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

### **Second Reading**

Resumed from 12 May (see p. 1380), on motion of Ms Scanlon—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (11.17 am), continuing: I will continue from where I finished last night. The bill did not progress to a second reading and lapsed on 6 October 2020 with the disillusion of the 56th Parliament. On 3 December 2020, the bill was introduced to the Legislative Assembly and referred to the committee for examination. This bill is identical to the one previously considered by the former committee.

In November 2019, the Federal Court of Australia made a native title consent determination recognising the Quandamooka people's native title right on Moreton Island—Mulgumpin, as it is known to the Quandamooka people. As part of the native title claim process, the state of Queensland and the Quandamooka people negotiated a number of settlement outcomes. This included an agreement to work towards joint management of protected areas on Mulgumpin.

The primary objective of the bill is to provide the legislative framework for the implementation of the joint management arrangements. Specifically, the bill amends the Aboriginal Land Act 1991 to give prescribed protected areas on Mulgumpin the status of transferrable land so that they may be granted as Aboriginal land; inserts references to Moreton Island in relevant sections of the ALA to recognise the Indigenous management agreement between the state and QYAC and facilitate the declaration of an Indigenous joint management area; amends the NCA to provide for the declaration of an Indigenous joint management area over the national park and conservation park on Mulgumpin; and amends the Recreation Areas Management Plan 2006 to ensure consultation with QYAC and other requirements as specified in the IMA are met before certain permits and authorities are granted within the jointly managed area.

As parts of the Mulgumpin claim process, an Indigenous land use agreement and an IMA were negotiated between the Queensland government and representatives of QYAC. These documents included an agreement to work towards joint management of the protected areas on Mulgumpin. ILUAs, by their nature, are controversial given the secrecy which surrounds them. This one is no different. This was raised during the committee hearings. The adequacy of consultation was raised by several inquiry participants, who indicated the confidential nature of the ILUA and the IMA made it difficult to understand the possible future impacts of the joint management arrangements and the bill. Business, tourism operators and residents expressed their concerns stating—

The secretive nature of the ILUA, the IJMA, the decision making and the future decision making between QYAC and Queensland Government for the use of the island has been and remains very concerning to many.

Not being granted access to the ILUA was of some concern to the committee and this was expressed in the statement of reservation. The question was asked as to the need for so much secrecy with regard to the agreement. Julie Brogan, the director of Land and Native Title Services, Department of Resources, also added that the Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993 required ILUAs registered with the Native Title Tribunal to be kept confidential in instances where parties do not wish details to be made public. The ILUA and the IMA in this case were registered on 29 May 2020. Ms Brogan further advised that the Native Title Act did not place any constraints on the publication of ILUAs and IMAs; however, the registered ILUA contained a confidentiality clause agreed to by all parties.

I listened with interest to the comments of the member for Bundaberg, who said that it would be in breach of the federal act to release the details of an ILUA. The advice I referred to was contained in the committee report. Either the member for Bundaberg did not read the submissions or he has not read the report of the committee of which he is a member. They directly contradict the contribution he and several others on the other side made.

Given that QYAC will be the entity which will either approve or not approve both existing and future commercial activities on the island, some of which may be in direct competition to QYAC businesses, this is causing great concern to established stakeholders. I made comment on that last night. A confidentiality agreement between two parties is a common process; that is true. In this case, there is a confidentiality agreement between the state and the management of the island.

Other entities will operate businesses on the island under a contract and be subject to an agreement that sits under their contract—an agreement that they have no access to. There may be nothing in that agreement that would affect their businesses, but one would surely think that they should be allowed access to that agreement, even if they had to sign a confidential agreement. At least they would know what is in that agreement. To not have access to that agreement is the issue that the member for Bonney and others on this side have.

It was inferred last night that people on this side of the House were making racist statements and that is what I took offence to last night. Nobody is going to call me that in any manner, fashion or form. My concern is that if someone is signing an agreement they should have access to all parts of that agreement. The lack of detail made available to residents is concerning. There is very little information provided as to the time and conditions of the permits granted.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Walker): Pause the clock. There is a lot of side chatter. I ask the member for Hinchinbrook to go back to his seat. There are clear directions on where members should sit. COVID rules apply in the House.

**Mr WEIR:** Some residents are concerned that this legislation would override the rights they have as freehold owners. I am staggered that that has not been explained to them because that is not the case. This legislation does not override their freehold title rights. That should be explained to them. The fact that there are still concerns about that out there goes to the consultation process. We are not opposing this bill, but those are the issues that we have concerns about. I ask the government to take them on board.



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (11.25 am): I rise to make a contribution on the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Indigenous Joint Management—Moreton Island) Amendment Bill 2020 which was introduced into this parliament on 3 December 2020 by the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs. This bill is an important step towards reconciliation in my electorate through the facilitation of joint management of Mulgumpin by the Queensland government and the Quandamooka Yoolooburabee Aboriginal Corporation.

There have been many speakers before me who have outlined the intention of the bill and how it has come about, but, primarily, the legislation before us today will formally recognise the Quandamooka people's native title rights on Mulgumpin, also known as Moreton Island. With this recognition, the Queensland government will work with the Quandamooka people to conserve the rich history and cultural value of Mulgumpin.

This legislation will enable the Quandamooka people to facilitate greater self-determination and bring awareness to visitors of the significant role the Quandamooka people have in the management of the island. Joint management of Mulgumpin will also create jobs for the Quandamooka people, some of whom reside within my electorate. The legislation will create opportunities for Indigenous cultural heritage information to be presented to visitors to the island by traditional owners from the Quandamooka community.


Constituents of my electorate understand the important place Mulgumpin holds for our Redcliffe community, our region and our state. I am sure many of my constituents have spent a lot of time on the island visiting with family, camping and experiencing the beauty that Mulgumpin has to offer, just as I have. It is not just people from Redcliffe who go over and enjoy the island, it is residents of the island and property owners who live elsewhere across the state who enjoy the island.

The memories so many of us have created on the island should be enough to want to save and protect it for future generations of Queenslanders to enjoy and appreciate. We should be able to appreciate it while also understanding the history and connection that the Quandamooka people have with Mulgumpin. As the minister for tourism outlined, while we acknowledge that there may be some challenges with the bill, there is a great opportunity for collaboration between our tourism operators and the Quandamooka people moving forward to enhance cultural tourism opportunities.

I am advised that permits have been reissued to tourist operators, with some new conditions, until 20 May 22. This will allow them the time they need to negotiate permits into the future. I know there are ongoing discussions and issues being worked through. I have met with some of the tourism operators who operate out of my local area of Redcliffe and go over to the island. I can say that they have a genuine commitment to working with the Quandamooka people and ensuring that we can continue to grow our important tourism industry, support jobs and respect and acknowledge the cultural history and ongoing connection and rights of the Quandamooka people with the lands.

As the local member, I look forward to continuing to work with our First Nations people and our broader community as we move forward on this important journey. This bill will strengthen the importance of Mulgumpin within my electorate and I ask that everyone support this bill.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Before we proceed, I will clarify the warnings that stand until 1 pm today. The members warned are the members for Lytton, Broadwater, Toowoomba South, Nanango, Kawana, Bonney, Burleigh and Chatsworth. There are also two members who are currently out of the chamber.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (11.28 am): I rise to speak on the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Indigenous Joint Management—Moreton Island) Amendment Bill 2020. At the outset I say that if I make mistakes in the pronunciation of Indigenous names then I apologise in advance. In November 2019, the Federal Court of Australia, as we have heard from other speakers, made a native title consent determination formally recognising the Quandamooka people as the traditional owners of Moreton Island. During the consent determination process the state and the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation, QYAC—the representatives of the Quandamooka people—agreed to aspire to the joint management of Moreton Island.

This bill provides the legislative mandate for the joint management of the protected areas on Moreton Island. The LNP is supportive of the policy intent of this bill and the granting of native title over Moreton Island for the Quandamooka people. I want to acknowledge the contribution of the shadow minister, the member for Bonney, who is in the House now.

It is a big positive that the proposed changes will increase Indigenous employment, ensure management of cultural views and empower the Indigenous people of this state to manage their own affairs. It is important that these changes contribute to self-determination for Indigenous communities and their increased economic participation. The LNP advocates increased economic development opportunities for Indigenous Queenslanders, for this sits at the heart of the Closing the Gap agenda, building on the strength and resilience of Indigenous Australians.

The LNP does, however, highlight—and other members have mentioned—that the Labor government's management of the process has been substandard. It is necessary for the Palaszczuk Labor government to restore confidence in the joint management of protected areas. There are a

number of areas that deserve discussion. The first relates to the secrecy and lack of transparency surrounding the Indigenous land use agreements, or ILUAs. This is forging a distrust between the government and QYAC on one side and local Moreton Island residents and businesses on the other.

There are significant levels of angst among the local Mulgumpin community. Mrs Paula Gill, President of Koorringal Landholders Association, who made a submission on this bill, commented—

There is a big portion of elderly residents who live in Koorringal. 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.

Indeed, these agreements were not even released for the benefit of the committee members of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee on a confidential basis to assist in their provision of recommendations to this bill.

Upwards of \$30 million of Queensland taxpayer dollars may be moved into the hands of QYAC. It is therefore important for all Queenslanders that a more open and transparent approach is taken by the Labor government in relation to the agreements made in the course of the joint management of Moreton Island, not least because a number of submissions made on this bill raised concerns as to the lack of visibility of the terms within the agreements already established between the government and QYAC.

The second round of issues relates to the potential risk of conflict of interest, concerns surrounding permit applications and business uncertainty and affordability. It is clear that a conflict of interest might arise if the QYAC is afforded the right to accept or deny commercial activity permits, despite their assessments being unbiased, if they are soon to be in direct competition with businesses seeking permit approval. Moreover, QYAC would be additionally afforded considerable power in relation to the granting of permits for more significant activities such as leases, agreements, licenses and authorities. It beggars belief that the government could not have foreseen the potential for such conflict to arise.

Moreton Island business permits have now expired. The uncertainty regarding the consent for commercial activity to proceed is harrowing for businesses who cannot forward plan in their operations. Moreton Island Adventures CEO Elizabeth Hemmens stated—

If we cannot renew our commercial activity permit to land on the island, our business ceases to exist, so there would be no way for the general public or various businesses operating on Moreton Island to actually access the island.

I table the *Courier-Mail* article citing her words.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 22 March 2021, titled 'Moreton Island set to be jointly managed by QYAC, state' [633].

Indeed, business uncertainty and affordability issues can be seen in the discouraging joint management agreements already in place on Cape York and Stradbroke island. I note that the minister referred to this in her second reading speech in *Hansard* on page 1330 yesterday.

Last month, Cape York traditional owners restricted general access to the public to the tip of Australia because of a lack of adequate facilities causing disrespectful behaviour, including littering. Traditional owner and Aboriginal corporation chairman Michael Solomon said—and I quote from Peter Carruthers' *Cairns Post* article—that 'the shut-down had forced authorities to take notice of a situation traditional owners had been fighting to improve for years'. I table that article.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Cairns Post*, dated 19 March 2021, titled 'Pledge to enforce Tip of Cape lockdown' [634].

At the same time, during this shutdown, tourism operators in Cape York were left in the dark as to whether they would be able to continue their operations. Whilst the tip has now reopened, it has come at a cost. Tourists will be required to pay an additional amount to cross the Jardine River on Australia's most expensive ferry to cover the costs of the amenity upgrades needed at the tip. I table Paul Carruthers' *Cairns Post* article detailing this.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Cairns Post*, dated 25 March 2021, titled 'Anger at new Cape York fee following backflip on lockdown' [635].

Additionally, the lack of clarity in respect of how this fee will be charged or collected and by whom is frustrating Cape York tour companies who want to set the ball rolling on operations and return to business and ultimately highlights Labor's poor management in Cape York—

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. As fascinating as the member's contribution is about Cape York, this bill is actually about Mulgumpin in South-East Queensland. I ask that he come back to the bill.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Walker): I will take some advice. I take the point of order. I ask the member for Surfers Paradise to come back to long title of the bill.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** Thanks, Mr Deputy Speaker. It is about joint management areas. As I said already in my contribution, the minister referred to the success, in her words, of what has been happening in Cape York. I am actually responding to what the minister had to say and I believe it is within the long title, but I will take your guidance. I table Jack Lawrie and Grace Mason's article in the *Cairns Post* that details this issue about the cape fee for the tip.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Cairns Post*, dated 15 April 2021, titled 'Owners work on Cape fee' [636].

There are 15 national parks which are yet to be converted to Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land, with Aboriginal freehold land as the underlying tenure. I table a printed copy of that webpage.

*Tabled paper:* Department of Environment and Science (Parks and forest) webpage titled 'Aboriginal freehold land and jointly managed parks on Cape York Peninsula: Cape York Peninsula Tenure Resolution Program' [637].

If the tip of Cape York is failing to be properly managed by this Labor government, how can any Queenslander have confidence in the joint management of the World Heritage listed Daintree? There is already evidence of unexplained tree clearing at Point Lookout on North Stradbroke Island and a lack of accountability by the Labor government in response to this. I table an article which provides a visual of this.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 8 December 2020, titled 'Stradbroke Island land set to be revegetated after controversial clearing' [638].


The state has a responsibility to investigate and hold people accountable for their actions, especially when land clearing is occurring in protected areas. That can happen whether it is on Moreton Island or Stradbroke island. If the state fails to fulfil this responsibility then the practice of land clearing will continue to occur because of the perception that there will be no reprimand for such behaviour. This could be devastating for the environment if this occurs in the Daintree and other heritage-listed areas.

On Stradbroke island, the owners of Stradbroke Island Organic Honey—one of the island's most renowned exports—sought a lease extension from QYAC to continue their hives. They allege their request was passed over by QYAC and the state government's response to their calls for help did nothing to provide any certainty to their situation.

The consequences related to the issues I have just spoken about will have a potentially damaging effect on the future of tourism in Queensland and, accordingly, on the state of our economy. The Labor government is encouraging domestic tourism and travel throughout our state, particularly to the north. However, any Australian or Queenslander intending to visit Cape York will now need potentially to cancel those plans, all because the government has failed to provide adequate infrastructure as requested by the traditional owners. Had the government entertained those requests, Cape York's doors would still be open to the public.

Tourism operators in our state are now dependent on domestic tourism because of COVID restricting overseas tourism. It is unfortunate that these operators will likely experience a further reduction in visitors because of the uncertainty that permeates the joint management processes on Cape York and Stradbroke island—and we do not need that to happen on Moreton.

The proposed changes to this bill are valuable and will contribute to increased economic participation for Indigenous Australians whilst maintaining connection to their culture and heritage. It will importantly allow for the self-management by Indigenous Queenslanders of their own affairs. The LNP is supporting the bill for these very reasons; however, it cannot be that the state continues its mismanagement of protected areas. If there is going to be a successful joint management of Moreton Island which has the confidence of all Queenslanders then these issues must be addressed.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (11.39 am): I proudly rise to support the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Indigenous Joint Management—Moreton Island) Amendment Bill. Equal opportunity, a fair go for all, working collaboratively with First Nations people and acting to protect our environment are core values of mine and this government and what drive us each and every day. I am proud to be part of a progressive Palaszczuk Labor government that has such a strong and consistent record of progressive social reform since being elected.

It was our government that implemented tough new tree-clearing laws after the previous government oversaw unsustainable levels—almost 400,000 hectares—of clearing. We are well on the way to delivering on our promise to meet the renewable energy target of 50 per cent by 2030, with 39 large-scale projects across the state. We have regulations to protect the Great Barrier Reef. We introduced special wildlife reserves and increased funding to expand and protect our national parks. It was our government that banned sand mining on Minjerribah despite the vehement opposition of those opposite, who continued to support mining there.

We established Queensland's first ever Human Rights Bill to enshrine in law fundamental human rights. We established a Path to Treaty with Queensland's First Nations people in consultation with the Palaszczuk Labor government's three First Nations MPs, the members for Algeester, Bundamba and Cook, whom we are proud to have as part of our team and with whom we consult and work closely. While MPs in this House and some parties pretend to stand up and work for First Nations people and traditional owners, this government actually does. We will always stand up for what is right.

This bill is part of the Palaszczuk Labor government's continuing commitment to work with First Nations people to facilitate greater and practical self-determination and provide opportunities for the economic, social and cultural aspirations of cultural custodians to be achieved over their traditional country. I would like to take the opportunity in this debate to acknowledge all of the Quandamooka people who have advocated tirelessly for this reform, in particular one of my constituents, Uncle Bob Anderson, who is in the gallery. It is always fantastic to have you here, Uncle Bob. Thank you for a lifetime of activism.

This bill will establish joint management arrangements between the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service to protect Mulgumpin for generations to come. In November 2019 the Federal Court of Australia recognised the Quandamooka people's native title rights on Mulgumpin. As part of that consent determination the Palaszczuk Labor government and QYAC agreed to work towards the joint management of protected areas on Mulgumpin similar to existing joint management arrangements with QYAC on Minjerribah.

Joint management is a model of protected area management that provides for management of the land to occur jointly between the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service within the Department of Environment and Science and Indigenous landholders. Joint management works. This can be seen on Minjerribah, where we see Quandamooka practices, knowledge and expertise in land and sea management effectively in place. Joint management contributes to reconciliation and increasing community awareness of the significant connection First Nations people have to their country, especially the important role they have in the management of country.

The importance of the legislation we are debating today cannot be underestimated. It is another crucial step forward in recognising over 1,000 generations of Quandamooka custodianship on Mulgumpin. This will benefit all Queenslanders by ensuring that the high conservation and cultural values of Mulgumpin will become an intrinsic part of visiting the island and will allow First Nations people's knowledge to be incorporated into joint management activities to enhance the natural and cultural values of the area for the benefit of all Queenslanders and Indigenous owners. We know this will enhance visitor experiences.

It is important to acknowledge that Mulgumpin is of considerable environmental and cultural significance and an important recreational area for many visitors each year. At 37 kilometres long and 10 kilometres wide, it is one of the largest sand islands in the world. Around 98 per cent of Mulgumpin is dedicated protected area, either as national park or conservation parks. The island has a small resident population of between 200 and 300 people and is an important recreation area, receiving more than 170,000 visitors each year.


The Quandamooka people include the Ngugi clan on Mulgumpin and the Goenpul and Noonuccal clans on Minjerribah. Mulgumpin has a rich and significant cultural history. The Quandamooka people have a strong spiritual connection to the island with over 60,000 years of association. According to the existing Moreton Bay Management Plan, Mulgumpin contains the most undisturbed and diverse range of archaeological evidence of the relationship that First Nations people have with a coastal wallum environment in South-East Queensland. The changes we are making will bring significant economic benefits to the local community through the creation of jobs and visitor experiences and the enhanced conservation and protection of national park and recreation areas. This will stem from increased cultural tourism and education on the island which is a very positive thing, particularly after the COVID-19 global pandemic which has impacted on many lives, closed borders and fundamentally changed the tourism industry.

Mulgumpin offers an amazing national park sand island experience that is right on our doorstep, including recreational activities such as camping and walking. That is why it is more important than ever that we all work together to ensure these benefits can be realised and that more people get to experience the natural wonder that sits in our own backyard. Queensland is the only place in the world where you can experience firsthand the world's oldest continuing living culture through First Nations people's Aboriginal history and culture on Mulgumpin.



I oppose the amendments put forward by the opposition. They would put extra impositions on QYAC that would contradict the ILUA. I see a gap between rhetoric and reality on the other side. It is easy to say that you support something, but when you impose things that are unreasonable you wonder about the contradictions and double standards being put forward. There is quite a history of conflict. The member for Oodgeroo has constantly undermined and attacked QYAC as the representative body of First Nations people on Minjerribah. That has been very unfortunate. I say that these amendments should be voted down. They are not reasonable. They are not supported by this government, they are not supported by QYAC and they are not fair. That is what this bill is about.

I am very pleased and very proud to be part of a progressive government that values our relationship with First Nation traditional owners, and this bill is another manifestation of us acting on those values. I am very proud to be part of a government that does that, and I look forward to the passing of this bill which will another historic day for Quandamooka people under this government.

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (11.46 am): The complexities with regard to the transference of land ownership and management between two entities have never been as apparent as they are in this bill. The primary objective of the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Indigenous Joint Management—Moreton Island) Amendment Bill is to provide for the joint management of protected areas on Moreton Island, or Mulgumpin, by the state and Quandamooka people. In 2019 the Federal Court of Australia made a native title consent determination recognising Quandamooka native title rights on Mulgumpin. As part of this process the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation, the trustee under the Aboriginal Land Act 1991, and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service agreed to work towards joint management of Mulgumpin through an Indigenous management agreement. This is a confidential agreement that was agreed as part of the native title determination process.

It is complex, yes, with a number of key actions to occur in sequence before the joint management of protected areas with QYAC on Moreton Island is delivered. Firstly, the land must be made transferrable for it to be granted as freehold for the benefit of Aboriginal people. Then through a deed of grant QYAC can be appointed a grantee of the land. Complexities have been furthered—and we have heard about a lot of those in the chamber today and yesterday—via issues raised at the hearings and the adequacy of consultation in relation to the confidential nature of the IMA, which made it difficult for some participants to understand possible future impacts of the joint management arrangements and this bill. For example, a fifth-generation family-run business operating tourism and recreational services was concerned about the terms of the agreement already reached between QYAC and the state and how the land is proposed to be managed; in particular, those areas where general public access may be restricted. With no understanding of the terms of this agreement, businesses are left with uncertainty and confusion during what has already been an incredibly difficult time throughout the COVID pandemic.

Other concerns included confusion over access to land by residents, given the blurred demarcation lines with Brisbane City Council control of townships and properties. These details need to be clarified as confusion will only escalate if not addressed while matters are relatively straightforward. The Koorinal Landholders Association raised that once the legislation is passed the chief executive of QYAC may be entitled to grant certain leases, agreements, licences and permits which may threaten their ownership and businesses. Again, clarity and reassurance around these is needed.

When this bill came to my committee back in the 56th Parliament, confidential submissions outlined the depth of the concerns, with reports of activities that were not the role of the committee to investigate. I trust since then these have been resolved through the appropriate channels provided. With every complex bill, ultimately it is through simplification of the end outcome sought that determines how this can be achieved without detriment to others. Fear of uncertainty can be ameliorated by answering the questions and undertaking processes that are inclusive of all peoples who live on Moreton Island. Given the significance of this bill, consultation amongst and with stakeholders and landowners about requirements for the preparation of the draft management plan, with additional accessible consultation activities, must be prioritised and continue into the future.

This bill is a really positive step forward, bringing all people together; however, the journey has been a bit rocky and can continue to be. While I fully support the intent and the wonderful vision that is seen, the lack of consultation and the outstanding questions need to be resolved. In my community we refer affectionately and with great respect to each other as being 'one mob'. Coming together united is not hindered by our backgrounds, culture or gender; rather, our disagreements come through our own unique viewpoints. These are to be celebrated. We need to keep working through these. I encourage all who live on and love Moreton to work on how any differences can be resolved and come together on common ground.

To the State Development and Regional Industries Committee, as well as my fellow members of the former State Development, Tourism, Innovation and Manufacturing Committee who examined this bill previously in the 56th Parliament, thank you. To the ministers, departments, all submitters and attendees to hearings, virtually and otherwise, again, thank you. This bill has travelled a very long journey. May all who are blessed to share this magical space care for it and celebrate it and each other well into the future.



**Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (11.52 am): I rise to support the bill. As we know, in 2019 the Federal Court of Australia made a native title consent determination that recognises the Quandamooka people's ongoing native title rights and interests on Moreton Island, or Mulgumpin as it is known to the Quandamooka people. It is important to understand that, while native title has not delivered all that First Nations people had hoped for, it does formally recognise their status as the first peoples in Australia. It does recognise their more than 60,000 years of connection to country and the contribution they have made to caring for this country that we enjoy today. And it does ensure that their rights and interests are recognised formally in the legal fabric of our now shared nation.

The Mulgumpin native title determination included an Indigenous land use agreement and an Indigenous management agreement that supports the return of Quandamooka lands to Quandamooka people as Aboriginal land held in trust by the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation, or QYAC. Both the state and QYAC are parties to these agreements and have a range of responsibilities under them. QYAC is the community nominated, legally recognised body that holds the determined native title rights and interests on behalf of the Quandamooka peoples. The determination also includes protected areas that will be jointly managed by Quandamooka people and the state.

In order to support the delivery of our native title determination obligations, a number of legislative amendments are required. Before these lands can be granted as Aboriginal land to QYAC, they must first be identified as transferable land under the Aboriginal Land Act 1991. This bill makes the necessary amendments to the Aboriginal Land Act to ensure prescribed protected areas on Mulgumpin are transferable land and able to be formally returned back to the Quandamooka people. There are also amendments to the Nature Conservation Act and the Recreation Areas Management Act to support consistency across the legislation around joint management of the protected areas.

The bill will ensure that consultation requirements are met with QYAC and with other stakeholders who have an interest in Moreton Island. We all understand the opportunities that Moreton Island brings through tourism, and the amendments in this bill ensure that the island's tourism industry will continue to be an important industry on Mulgumpin. It responds to the scaremongering delivered by the media and those opposite who encourage division and conflict.

Questions have been raised about the confidential nature of Indigenous land use agreements. These agreements are the business of the Quandamooka people. Just like others are afforded commercial-in-confidence status, the Quandamooka people have that right under native title. Governments have controlled every aspect of Indigenous people's lives since colonisation. We are committed to a future that no longer does this.

I wish to recognise one of the oldest remaining elders of Mulgumpin. Mr Bob Anderson is 91 years of age. He is in the chamber today and he was in the chamber yesterday to observe the second reading debate on this bill. I want to recognise his contribution, his leadership and his passion for sitting here for two days listening to us debate this bill—and his attendance is certainly worth that recognition. This reform is not just about legislation and amendments and policies and process. It is about the lives, the legacy and the future of the Quandamooka people. Having Mr Anderson here demonstrates the importance of these types of legislative reforms to Aboriginal people. His presence here demonstrates the ongoing role he plays as an elder of his people to ensure the generations coming through have a future worth looking forward to. It demonstrates that the responsibility to land, country and culture is still very much alive and well and taken very seriously by the Aboriginal people and Aboriginal elders.

As we progress along the path towards treaty, it is these types of reforms that help to undo the impacts of colonisation, that create the space for those impacted so heavily to begin to heal and for Aboriginal people to take back their rightful place on their lands and waters. Mr Anderson explains this in his book documenting his life journey called *History, Life and Times of Robert Anderson*. He says—

The vision of my country, the way I view or see my country, the way I talk or sing up my country, the way I talk of the stories of my country and talk about my Elders and Ancestors, this is my cultural heritage.


To be with my family and community people walking the country together, making that strong spiritual connection with the land is my cultural heritage.

...

If we do not have access to our land, we are denied the right to maintain our practices that protect, preserve and nurture our land and our cultural heritage.

The changes in this bill mean that Quandamooka people are no longer denied that right to maintain practices that protect, preserve and nurture their land and their cultural heritage. It means we no longer repeat Queensland's history of imposing government policy that further inflicts trauma and grief on families and a breakdown of spiritual and cultural links to traditional land. This bill does more than just change the title of land; it is about establishing a new path for healing, recognition and opportunity that is deserved by the descendants of families subjected to historical injustice over many generations. This bill is a demonstration to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people that this is a government that is serious about facing our shared past and reconciling for a better future.

We know that the creeks, lagoons, rocky headlands, abundant wildflowers, tall sand dunes and miles of sandy beaches that make up Mulgumpin offer Queenslanders a special place to take their families. Joint management between Queensland parks and wildlife and QYAC will mean greater self-determination and protection of its natural habitat. Through restoring and protecting the cultural and environmental values of Quandamooka people, the spirit of Mulgumpin can be preserved for the enjoyment of future generations—not just of the Quandamooka peoples but for all Queenslanders. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—ALP) (12.00 pm): I rise to support the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Indigenous Joint Management—Moreton Island) Amendment Bill 2020. As the minister outlined, this legislation effectively implements federal agreements on the ground, giving substance to the commitments made to representatives from the Quandamooka people as part of the Federal Court native title consent determination over Moreton Island, or Mulgumpin as it is known to Quandamooka people. It delivers a real partnership between traditional owners through QYAC and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

I want to thank the minister for delivering this reform, and I thank the chair and members of the committee for progressing this legislation through to the debate in the House today. The chair provided a very comprehensive outline of the engagement and involvement of stakeholders throughout this process. I do not want to single members out, but I do want to thank Minister Enoch for her very personal contribution to this debate. I also recognise elders past, present and emerging, and of course Uncle Bob Anderson, who is here today.

I also thank those members who have contributed from their local perspective, particularly those MPs whose electorates border the beautiful Moreton Bay such as the members for Sandgate, Lytton and Redcliffe. While as the poor landlocked member for Stafford I cannot claim that same proximity, I should point out that the mighty Kedron Brook that flows through the heart of my electorate does snake its way through to the northern half of the beautiful Moreton Bay. More importantly, as a long-term north sider, I am old enough to remember enjoying beautiful visits to the island as far back as when the *Combie Trader II* was the method of choice. Of course, as a member of parliament and a proud member of this Labor government, I am absolutely proud of the meaningful reforms that implement real partnerships with First Nations people.


In a former life as a young law graduate I did have the opportunity to volunteer in regional Australia—on the other side of the country, in fact, in regional WA. I was placed with the Yamatji Land and Sea Council. It was a fantastic experience to make my humble contribution to the ongoing work, on both numerous ILUAs that they were negotiating and of course the underlying native title claim. That experience continues to inspire me today and I am so pleased to be able to make a small contribution to today's debate on this important legislation.

As we know with this bill, as an outcome of the native title determination, existing protected state land will be returned to the Quandamooka people as Aboriginal land and, subsequently, become jointly managed protected areas. This bill provides the legal framework for the implementation of that partnership. It is a model of land management that has worked well in other areas of the state and I am confident it can provide a good outcome on Mulgumpin.

Many MPs have spoken about the great opportunities this arrangement can bring. Going forward, the future is bright for tourism development and environmental management alike. There are opportunities to celebrate both the long cultural heritage for traditional owners and the chance to share those stories and enhance that knowledge for visitors and new Australians. I am excited to see what comes next.

It is a beautiful part of the state: clear blue waters with amazing whales, sea life, glorious coastal greenery and wildlife, and the starkness of those beautiful sand dunes. Whether it is getting out in a boat, camping on the island or visiting the island and whale watching off the coast, the people of Brisbane enjoy and value the island and surrounding waters. Similar to how the member for Sandgate explained it, for me and many others on the north side, Moreton Island—Mulgumpin—provided the backdrop for our understanding of the bay: as a kid enjoying fish and chips on the Shorncliffe foreshore or taking our children there now, visiting Redcliffe on a weekend or even just looking out at the island from some of the high points in my electorate in the northern suburbs. The northern suburbs are flanked by the beautiful Mulgumpin.

In expressing my wonder at the nature of Mulgumpin and being someone who has enjoyed that land and water in modern times, importantly I do so in this House recognising that it has been a wonder to generation after generation of First Nations people. I thank the Quandamooka people for their custodianship and protection of that beautiful place. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (12.03 pm): I am pleased to be able to make a contribution to the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Indigenous Joint Management—Moreton Island) Amendment Bill 2020. I was very fortunate to be on the former State Development, Tourism, Innovation and Manufacturing Committee that originally considered this legislation and provided a report. Whilst COVID-19 impacted our inquiry at the time, we were able to hold a public hearing at the Redlands Performing Arts Centre where we heard from a number of key stakeholders. The member for Oodgeroo and I along with secretariat staff also visited Moreton Island, or Mulgumpin as it is known to the Quandamooka people. Despite its proximity to Brisbane, I must confess that this was only the second time that I had visited the island and it is truly a most beautiful island. The Federal Court's consent determination in 2019 rightly recognises the native title rights of the Quandamooka people over Mulgumpin.

It is important to appreciate the natural and cultural significance of this wonderful island, its outstanding natural features and unique archaeological importance but also what an important and valuable recreation area it is for many visitors. The bill before us seeks to provide the legal framework that recognises the native title determination which is enshrined in the ILUA, the Indigenous land use agreement, and how this will be delivered practically through the joint management of the protected areas on Mulgumpin. This includes amendments to a number of acts, including the Aboriginal Land Act 1991, the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and the Recreation Areas Management Act 2006.

During the public hearing that the former committee conducted there were a number of concerns raised regarding the confidential nature of both the ILUA and the Indigenous management agreement. Appreciating the complex and sensitive nature of negotiations that have occurred, the minister, I believe, has provided a level of confidence that the ILUA has been delivered within an appropriate framework of corporate governance, internal control mechanisms and suitable reporting. Many of the concerns raised were from existing commercial activity permit holders on the island. Whilst it was acknowledged that there is a lot of opportunity for collaboration for enhanced cultural tourism on the island with the Quandamooka people through QYAC, there were calls at the time for more information around the joint management arrangements. This is something which the former committee acknowledged through a specific recommendation to provide further consultation opportunities. This was also confirmed by the State Development and Regional Industries Committee through a number of recommendations in its final report, which the government has considered.

Firstly, there was a recommendation that provides consideration for training, education and professional development mechanisms for stakeholders on native title processes. As the minister outlined in her speech, the Department of Resources and the Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships do provide a range of resources and information about cultural heritage management, native title processes and legislation requirements. Secondly, the committee recommended that the Department of Environment and Science support the statutory consultation requirements with some additional consultation on the draft management plan. I am pleased that the government has confirmed its support for this recommendation and acknowledged that greater transparency and input into the new management plan will be positive for the Quandamooka people, the local residents and businesses on the island.

During my visit to Mulgumpin I had the wonderful opportunity to meet with representatives of QYAC and some of the local Indigenous rangers who work for QYAC, and I was very grateful for this opportunity. It was important to better understand the work they are currently undertaking but also their future roles under the new joint management arrangements. I certainly sensed a real pride in how they were looking after their land in a culturally appropriate way.

I am also pleased that our government has provided funds that will support six new QYAC positions as well as a number of community rangers who will work on a project basis. Whilst on the island, we also visited the existing ranger facilities and spoke with our QPWS rangers, who provided us with their insights on Mulgumpin. I wish to thank them for the work they do on the island.

I was again pleased to see that our government is also investing in a new ranger base, workshops and ranger accommodations which will better support those who are working diligently to manage this beautiful island. I do also wish to thank the QPWS rangers who looked after us as we trekked across the island. It was certainly a very bumpy ride at times, but we saw many of the existing camping grounds and had a spectacular stop and lunch break under the impressive Cape Moreton Lighthouse, which is a memory I will always cherish.

Another issue raised by the tourism operators related to the commercial activity permits and whether they would be reissued. As the minister has advised the House, existing commercial activity permit holders have had their permits reissued. It is good to hear that a new tourism operator has been approved by the department and QYAC to provide glamping accommodation, which I must say is the only camping I like these days. This of course will increase the offering on the island for those who wish to experience the incredible natural environment on Mulgumpin, albeit more comfortably. The diversity of offering, whether it is camping, glamping, staying in private accommodation or at the famous Tangalooma resort or just day tripping, will really make Mulgumpin an even more popular destination for domestic tourists and for international tourists when they hopefully return in the future.

I also thank Jeff Osborne, from Tangalooma resort, who met with me and the secretariat on the island. As expected, at the time of our meeting it was a difficult time for the resort, with COVID-19 heavily impacting its operations. Jeff offered us a ride back to the mainland on one of their boats. I really appreciated the frank discussion but also the willingness to look at the opportunities that can arise from the new joint management arrangements on Mulgumpin. I hope there are employment and training opportunities and collaboration with QYAC on cultural experiences. I think this would be of great benefit to all parties.

We are at an important point of Mulgumpin's history and future. The island is well known and much loved, and the rightful return of land on Mulgumpin to the Quandamooka people is important and has the potential to provide even more tourism, cultural and nature based activities whilst also providing more economic opportunities for the Quandamooka people. With the additional commitments to consultation and the investment being made by the Palaszczuk government, I am very hopeful that the future of Mulgumpin is bright. I commend the bill to the House.



**Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (12.10 pm): I wish to speak to the bill because our nation is a great one but faces a conundrum; that is, how can a nation so advanced and so fair so badly fail the First People, who have lived for so long in this nation? How can this nation be a place that takes so many unwanted from the rest of the world who come here and find success? Former prime minister Keating in his Redfern speech raised this conundrum by asking—

Didn't Australia provide opportunity and care for the dispossessed Irish? The poor of Britain? The refugees from war and famine and persecution in the countries of Europe and Asia?

**Mr Stevens:** He was an Irishman.

**Mr POWER:** He was an Irishman, true. Why then do those for whom this nation delivered so much—my family escaped dispossession, bigotry and famine in Ireland—not reach out in partnership? Why does our nation not deliver the same result for Aboriginal Australians? In his speech, Keating felt that we first needed to recognise that—

... it was we who did the dispossessing. We took the traditional lands and smashed the traditional way of life. We brought the diseases. The alcohol. We committed the murders. We took the children from their mothers. We practised discrimination and exclusion. It was our ignorance and our prejudice. And our failure to imagine these things being done to us.

The toughest message for families like mine—in our old land we had lost language, had law and culture taken away, had our faith banned by bigotry and saw lives taken by violence, famine and disease—is: how did we, with names like Keating, Power or O'Connor, fail to imagine these things being done to us when not that long before similar things had been done to us? During my lifetime we have done so much to recognise and try to imagine this being done to us, to restore the place of First Australians to an equal partnership in our national life.

Every morning in this place we recognise the First People of Queensland and recognise that this place has a story that comes from long before Britain and long before the Queen for whom Queensland is named. An important part of this recognition and restoration is the federal laws of native title. We recognise in this act that this process comes from the Federal Court of Australia, which made a native title consent determination recognising the Quandamooka people's native title rights on Moreton Island.

We should go back to first principles to recognise what native title means and where it comes from. When Eddie Mabo went to the High Court in Canberra, he was not asking for his land to be recognised under his law, ancient though it was, but for his land to be recognised under the common law on which Australian law is based. Again, the people whose ancestors lived on these islands that shelter our city from the ocean were only asking for their continued connection to land, their ownership of the land, to be duly recognised. This occurred not under the ancient laws and practices that date from long before any European had set foot on this place but under the law established by those who did the dispossessing. This is not me saying this; the High Court said it in the Mabo case and the Wik case. On 4 July 2011 Judge Dowsett said it absolutely clearly when handing down the decision on the island to the south known as Stradbroke or, traditionally, Minjerribah. Judge Dowsett said—

I have not come here today to give anything to the Quandamooka people. These orders give them nothing. Rather, I come on behalf of all Australian people to recognise their existing rights and interests, which rights and interests have their roots in times before 1788, only some of which have survived European settlement. Those surviving rights and interests I now acknowledge.

The old Liberal Party used to have an interest in preserving the law of property and did not want to see anyone dispossessed of property rights; however, it seems that in this debate they take every opportunity to diminish the rights of those who have been recognised as having had property rights undiminished since before 1788.

We should recognise that these rights are limited. The owners pre 1788 still suffer a tremendous loss of some rights to property that others who own land nearby hold. Those who sometimes acquired the land far later than 1788 have far more rights. One example, as the *Courier-Mail* tells us, is that on Bulwer itself there are those who now legally own the land after squatting on the land and making a claim for the land around 2011—ironically, the same time that traditional owners were asserting their own rights. Those 10 applicants—I think none of them traditional owners—were successful in their claim of having a 20-year or so association with an abandoned block. Apparently, that is British law, common law, Australian law. These people can gain property rights in this time period, while some in this House would try to undermine the people who had had a connection for thousands of years. I hear nothing from those opposite about those blocks on Bulwer. Those people were given a fuller right of ownership of land on Moreton/Mulgumpin than the Quandamooka people. All I hear about is the undermining of the limited rights of ownership by those who have a connection to this land unbroken for thousands of years.

We should also recognise that many Aboriginal people have lands where there are limited or no rights under native title laws. For them, the dispossession is complete. I am tired of hearing members of the LNP claim that they support native title in theory or in principle but, whenever possible, in reality they undermine it. It seems that they support native title—except where it is an island. They support native title—except if there is a barge. They accept native title—except where a family dispute is involved, where there are four-wheel drives, where there is an agreement or whatever other circumstances they can find.

The truth is that in accepting native title we recognise that they are owners. I think that in every speech of those opposite they seek to undermine this agreement. They undermine the very process of recognition, respect and restoration. I ask those opposite to reflect on whether this strategy of undermining this form of ownership truly does respect Aboriginal people.

I have spoken before of my family association with Stradbroke in terms of an ancestor buried in the soil of that island over a century ago. I love Mulgumpin—or, as my brother and I knew it in the 1980s and 1990s, Moreton Island. Together we travelled there as young adults, perhaps the first time we had travelled for holidays as adults. We truly loved the experience of this magnificent place. When we visited the island, we certainly appreciated the beauty of its natural environment, on both the bay and the ocean sides. We hiked all over this the third largest sand island in the world, including the highest sand dune hill. When hiking it through the sand, it certainly feels like a mountain. At that time we recognised its maritime history, the whaling history and even the 1960s tourism history of which the member for Clayfield spoke so fondly; however, we probably did not take the time to consider the ancient and continuing human history. This partnership will make this ancient and continuing history a true part of the national park. It is an extraordinary part of Queensland that this bill will enhance. We will value it and, of course, recognise and restore its rightful place of ownership and connection with the Aboriginal people.

As he finished his Redfern speech, Keating asked us to imagine if this had happened to us. He also challenged us to imagine a better future for our nation, a better relationship with the Aboriginal people; in this case to imagine that the traditional owners—owners in tradition and in our law—have a productive role in managing the environment, culture and heritage of Mulgumpin. I can imagine that and those on this side imagine it. Only those opposite refuse to imagine that future.



**Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (12.19 pm): I support the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Indigenous Joint Management—Moreton Island) Amendment Bill. Many years ago I used to be a frequent passenger on the 175 bus and I often found myself sitting next to a gentleman. As was the case at that time, and still is today to be honest, I would often find myself wearing a union shirt and it prompted a number of conversations with that gentleman, whom I got to know as Bob. I learnt a lot about his involvement in the union movement. I did not really know who he was. He would get off at the same stop as me and often our conversations would continue. At some point later I was wandering through the State Museum with the kids and was in the fantastic Indigenous section, and there was Bob on the screen talking about the Quandamooka people—a people I had never heard of, to be honest—and it was then that I started to make some inquiries and learnt that Bob was an elder of the Quandamooka people.

From then on, those bus rides became much more meaningful and interesting than they had already been and Bob became Uncle Bob. He taught me a lot about a range of things, not by sitting me down and lecturing or pulling out grass or setting homework; his approach is an approach of just having a yarn to you and challenging you to think and think differently and testing your assumptions and pointing out your assumptions. The very clear message for me from those chats was that unions for Uncle Bob personally and for his family and for other Indigenous people were very much a vehicle of empowerment. I see this bill as an extension of that journey of empowerment. I think it is a really important step in the healing process that our society and our nation should undergo.

I note the concerns that have been raised by many speakers on the opposite side of the House around the ILUAs and confidentiality. To me a fairly important part of empowerment would seem to be that you get the right to determine what information you share about yourself or your agreements and how you share that information. That would seem to be a fundamentally important part of being empowered. I cannot say that I understand the legalities of this to any great extent not being a lawyer, but I had a smattering of experience with ILUAs when I was the chair of the agriculture committee.

From the reading that I have done, this process, as entered into by the state government and the Quandamooka people and QYAC, does not seem to differ in any significant respect from other ILUAs and no speaker in this parliament to this point has made a point of differentiation and I would challenge future speakers who want to raise this as an issue to come in here and demonstrate how this is significantly different to any other ILUA. I think what is happening here is what should be happening whenever the government enters into an ILUA—that is, respecting the desires of traditional owners.

I also want to pick up on the concerns that many members of this House have raised in relation to the uncertainty that has been caused by these changes. We all know that change brings uncertainty and it brings fear, but I want to take a moment to reflect on the Quandamooka people and the changes that they have been through. I doubt that there was any consultation entered into with the Quandamooka people about the changes visited upon them when our society decided to remove them from their lands.

This is just not a matter of moving people from one spot to another. We have to consider what this means for Indigenous people. Yes, it means removal from home, but the land is so much more for Indigenous people. It is a part of who they are. It means removal from places of work, which is what the land is, generating their food and all of the necessities they need for life. Removal from their hospitals, their pharmacies and their community health centres is effectively occurring. It means trampling on their versions of Lang Park and South Bank and the Botanic Gardens—the places of recreation for those people. It means destroying their temples, their places of worship and then wrecking their parliament or their places of law. That is what happens when we remove Quandamooka people with no right of appeal. There was no need for confidentiality because they were not involved in the decisions or the discussions anyway. That is what happened.


The indignities did not stop there. When we did remove people, we also then went on to remove their language or attempt to remove their language. When you remove people's language, you remove their connection to their places of worship, to their places of law, to their hospitals, to their homes and, in many cases, to their places of burial. And of course the indignities did not stop there. When a Quandamooka person—either by choice or on many occasions probably not by choice—had children with somebody who was not a Quandamooka person, our society then deemed that those children would be better off removed from those parents and we ended up with the tragedy that was the stolen generation. When we consider the context of the changes that are being proposed here and place them in the context of the changes that the Quandamooka people have faced, I think we should get a different perspective on what is being proposed here. I also think that we desperately—desperately—need to go through this process as a nation and a society. We need a process of healing.

The member for Algeester's speech yesterday is one that I would encourage all members to read and to consider quite deeply. There is so much about true empowerment in that speech that it is worth listening to and reading. One of the things that the member for Algeester has said many times in this House—and it is worth considering in the context of this debate—is that her people, the Quandamooka people, have connection to the lands of 3,000 generations.

If someone comes into the electorate of Greenslopes and threatens to tear down a church that is 100 years old, they are going to get a bit of a fight. If someone wants to knock over a couple of trees that people have become attached to, which they will call old growth but I will call 20 years old, they are going to get a bit of a fight. If someone tries to knock over a school or, as they did at Coorparoo Bowls Club, tries to build a retirement village on a bowling club or a sporting ground, they are going to get a bit of a fight.

We were not removing people and doing all those things to people who had just shown up three weeks ago. These were people who had been on this land for 3,000 generations. I cannot even conceive of that. When we consider this bill, we have to consider what we are doing in relation to that sort of history. I think it is important for the Quandamooka people and also important for all of the people of Queensland that we continue this process of healing that is going on.

It says a lot about the Quandamooka people that after all of that injustice that has been heaped upon them and upon them and upon them they are still willing to go through a process of healing, that they are prepared to accept a bill that, in my opinion, strikes a balance. It does not give them any greater power than non-Quandamooka people. It ensures they have self-determination, and I pick up on the sentiments of the Mabo decision. We are not giving them self-determination—that is something that they inherently have and have always maintained—but it ensures that that self-determination is respected in relation to Mulgumpin and it ensures that others can still access Mulgumpin and continue on. This is a good bill for all Queenslanders. I certainly support it because of the things that I have learnt from Uncle Bob Anderson. I support it because I think it will be good for the Quandamooka people. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (12.29 pm): I rise in support of the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Indigenous Joint Management—Moreton Island) Amendment Bill. The Quandamooka people are First Nations custodians of lands and waters within the Moreton Bay region. I acknowledge the Quandamooka people. I acknowledge the presence of Uncle Bob Anderson in the chamber today. I also acknowledge the member for Algeester and her connection to country as a member of the Quandamooka nation and her eloquent and learned contribution to this bill yesterday.

The Federal Court made a consent determination recognising the native title rights of Quandamooka people over Moreton Island, which is also more properly called Mulgumpin. Mulgumpin, meaning place of sandhills, is the First Nations name for Moreton Island. The Quandamooka people have thousands and thousands of years of unbroken association with their country and today we move to protect, enshrine and promote their rights.

I acknowledge the contribution of the member for Greenslopes. He put forward a number of analogies of connection to place and connection to community. Everybody who is a member of this place, whether it was for a short time or a long time, will feel an incredible sense of connection with and a sense of ownership of this place, its traditions and the privilege of being here. It is a connection to this place. Can you imagine what that strength of connection feels like for people who have been on their country living their culture for over 20,000 years? This bill is about recognising that connection and moving to reconcile and heal past injustices.

Mulgumpin is the second largest sand island on earth and an amazing and beautiful physical location that is on the doorstep of South-East Queensland. It has an amazing natural and deep cultural significance and prior to COVID was enjoyed by more than 170,000 people per year. Visitors will now have the opportunity to better connect with the oldest continuous living culture on earth.

The primary purpose of this bill is to give effect to the commitments made during the native title determination process and enshrined in the Indigenous land use agreement regarding the joint management of prescribed protected areas of Mulgumpin. This commitment will help deliver land justice and facilitate a recognition and awareness in the broader community of the significant connection that the Quandamooka people have to their country. It will also acknowledge the important role—the critical role—that they have in the management of the protected areas on Mulgumpin which features beautiful creeks, lagoons, coastal heath, rocky headlands, wildflowers and tall sand dunes.



All of this is only 40 kilometres north-east of Brisbane. These areas will continue to offer unrivalled camping, fishing, four-wheel driving adventures and the activities that so many visitors have in the past and currently enjoy. It was wonderful to hear the contribution from the member for Logan about his family holidays as a youngster. I think many of us have similar personal stories and personal connections.


The joint management that is proposed under this bill will further support and strengthen these connections and the kinds of activities that all of us are able to enjoy on Mulgumpin. Most importantly, it will allow the traditional knowledge of the Quandamooka people to be incorporated into management activities that enhance the natural and cultural values of Mulgumpin for the benefit of all Queenslanders and visitors alike.

This bill delivers the necessary legal framework to support the joint management of the protected areas of Mulgumpin and this management will occur between the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation, or QYAC as most people know it. The prescribed areas included in the joint management agreements are the recently named 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 language of the Quandamooka people means 'the lightning's playground'.

Amendments contained in the bill 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 the protected areas between QYAC and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. Amendments to the Nature Conservation Act in this bill will provide for an Indigenous joint management area over protected areas. This will then allow the commencement of the formal joint management of prescribed protected areas on Mulgumpin between QYAC and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

In relation to funding support for joint management arrangements on Mulgumpin, the Palaszczuk government has committed to six new positions, along with a number of community rangers on a project basis. These employment opportunities will provide benefits to the Quandamooka people and the broader Queensland community through an expanded and improved capacity to manage Mulgumpin. The funding will also provide 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, including improved presentation of Quandamooka culture, conservation, visitor and fire management outcomes.

Joint management is one mechanism through which we can seek reconciliation with First Nations people here in Queensland, and in this case specifically the Quandamooka people. Not only does it provide a process for the return of ownership of the land to the original owners prior to their dispossession, it also delivers a framework so that we can work together to ensure the ongoing protection of the natural and cultural value of Mulgumpin. Joint management fundamentally will facilitate the enhanced presentation of cultural values on the island. People can still visit and enjoy the wonderful natural environment and also seek out experiences to learn more about the culture of the Quandamooka people and their future aspirations. I am incredibly proud and humbled to be one of three First Nations members in this place and part of a government that is committed to truth, treaty, reconciliation and healing going forward. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (12.39 pm): I am incredibly proud to be part of a team that has three First Nations people as members of our caucus. It is also wonderful to see the number of people who are speaking on the bill before us today. Of course, I rise to support the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Indigenous Joint Management—Moreton Island) Amendment Bill. We have heard from the member for Bundamba about some of the benefits of joint management. This bill amends the Nature Conservation Act to identify Moreton Island as a place where prescribed protected areas can be declared an Indigenous joint management area. Once the land has been granted to a trustee under the Aboriginal Land Act, Governor in Council approval can be sought to declare an Indigenous joint management area over the lands to formalise joint management between QYAC and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

The 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. However, there was no legal capacity to enter into formal joint management arrangements with the First Nations people of the land. Outcomes negotiated for the recent native title determination over Mulgumpin provide an opportunity

to formally partner with the Quandamooka people to enhance the island's natural and cultural resources and values through joint management. That joint management will facilitate greater self-determination and protect and promote the cultural rights of the Quandamooka people.

The cultural rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are outlined in section 28 of the Human Rights Act 2019. Cultural rights relevant to the amendments in this bill are: the right to enjoy, maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage; the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct spiritual, material and economic relationship with the land and other resources that they have a connection with under Aboriginal tradition; and the right to conserve and protect the environment and productive capacity of the land and other resources.

Amendments will allow an Indigenous joint management area to be declared over prescribed protected areas on Mulgumpin. This will allow the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and QYAC to work together to protect the significant cultural and environmental values of the island so they can be enjoyed today and continue to be preserved for generations to come for all of Queensland and, indeed, the world to enjoy.

Mulgumpin is a popular tourist destination enjoyed by many Queenslanders as well as interstate visitors and, I would argue, visitors from throughout the world. Before COVID-19 it was indeed a bit of a hotspot. On average, during each of the past three years over 23,000 camping and vehicle permits were issued to people visiting Mulgumpin. Other than the camping and vehicle access permits now being issued by a new QYAC business called Mulgumpin Camping, joint management will not change permitting arrangements for visitors. Self-reliant visitors will continue to enjoy camping, four-wheel driving, fishing and other opportunities for recreation on Mulgumpin. A range of commercial tours will continue to be offered by a number of different operators for people wishing to do a day trip to the island or for—hopefully—people staying for a longer holiday and wanting to experience the benefits of a commercial tour of Mulgumpin. Visitors will also continue to have access to private accommodation or holiday homes and will have opportunities to book integrated accommodation and tour packages with tourism businesses.

Joint management will allow traditional Aboriginal knowledge to be incorporated into joint management activities and decision-making related to the protected areas on Mulgumpin to enhance the natural and cultural values of the area for the benefit of all Queenslanders. The amendments in the bill are also expected to lead to increased opportunities for the economic, social and cultural aspirations of the Quandamooka people to be achieved. As I said earlier, joint management will benefit all Queenslanders. The high conservation values of Mulgumpin will continue to be protected and it is anticipated that for tourists an enhanced presentation of the cultural values of Mulgumpin will become an intrinsic part of visiting the island.

Joint management increases cultural awareness of the significant connection First Nations people have to their country and the important role they continue to play in the management of country. We know tourists are interested to learn about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture in the places that they visit. Joint management will provide opportunities to enhance visitor experiences through the showcasing of Aboriginal history and culture by First Nations people from the area. The Quandamooka people will have the capacity to enhance and provide new cultural tourism experiences. Joint management will also allow the Quandamooka people to support existing tourism operators by providing their customers with access to and an increased understanding of the unique Quandamooka cultural history.


Joint management has been operating effectively for 28 national parks in Cape York. The Cape York Peninsula region has continued to grow as a tourism destination. As an example, tourism entities and the Olkola people of Cape York have worked together to provide visitors with an authentic tourism experience guided by First Nations people. By working in partnership with the Quandamooka people, new tourism opportunities can be provided for people to enjoy and learn about the history and the culture of Quandamooka people on Mulgumpin.

When it comes to Mulgumpin, we know that most of the island has been included in the internationally recognised Moreton Bay Ramsar site in recognition of its beautiful and important wetlands sites that include salt marshes, tidal flats, sandy beaches and perched lakes. Although it is some distance from my electorate, I am often contacted about those wetland areas. I know that they are important to all of Queensland. Those protected areas are also part of the Moreton Island Recreation Area, which was declared under the Recreation Areas Management Act 2006. As I have said, the first national park was created on Mulgumpin in 1966 and has grown significantly in size as more areas have been progressively added to the national park over time in recognition of the outstanding natural and cultural values of the island.

The proposed joint management arrangements will be similar to the arrangements in place with QYAC within the Indigenous joint management area on Minjerribah. As I have said, joint management increases the Quandamooka people's opportunities to become involved in the overall planning of and operations for the prescribed protected areas on Mulgumpin. For example, QYAC has established a business called Mulgumpin Camping that will generate opportunities in tourism, leading to more local employment opportunities and a generation of revenue. It is a really exciting opportunity.

I have very fond memories of camping on nearby Minjerribah as a school student. A lot of people from the south-east corner would have gone through that camp over the years. It was absolutely fantastic. The camp was run in partnership with the First Nations people. We enjoyed some wonderful activities on grade 6 camp, if I am not mistaken, when I was at Bulimba State School.

It is wonderful to see this evolution because, as I have said, this part of the world is really treasured. It is a bit of a hidden secret. We are very lucky to have some of the best beaches right on our doorstep. We are incredibly lucky to have the opportunity to visit the island. It is an absolute treasure. Therefore, I finish my contribution by thanking the First Nations people for their continued custodianship of the lands on which we gather today and the lands of Mulgumpin which they have cared for so beautifully, making them the iconic destination that they are today. Every morning in this place we say how lucky we are to have 60,000-odd years of continued custodianship of the land and the oldest living culture in the world. That is an amazing thing and we are so lucky to be the beneficiaries of it. I wholeheartedly commend this bill to the House and I look forward to it receiving bipartisan support.

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (12.48 pm): I rise to speak on the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Indigenous Joint Management—Moreton Island) Amendment Bill with particular reference to the collaborative steps taken by the Palaszczuk Labor government and the Quandamooka people on Mulgumpin. In doing so, I applaud the process of engagement and understanding between the parties involved.

The approach to returning state land and jointly managing the protected areas on Mulgumpin follows a precedent set by the state's actions in earlier native title consent determinations. That such a number of settlement outcomes negotiated between the state of Queensland and representatives of the Quandamooka people was successful is a tribute to this model of joint management of protected areas between the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and the Indigenous traditional owners. It is laudable evidence of reconciliation that provides a blueprint for future partnerships.

I am proud that a similar form of collaboration between state and federal agencies in my electorate, between the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the department of environment and the Woppaburra people, the traditional owners of the Keppel islands and Keppel Bay in my electorate, was pivotal to the success of a venture of which I am very proud. In the spirit of reconciliation, the Woppaburra people and the environmental centre on North Keppel Island have been working in close partnership since 2011. In 2013, a statement of intent was signed, acknowledging the Woppaburra people's right to protect, preserve and revive their law, language and sites of cultural significance. It facilitates education and reconciliation practices through mutual respect and recognition of Woppaburra ancestors. While I acknowledge it does not have the same legislative controls as the joint management of protected areas on Mulgumpin, as detailed in this bill, the successful process is similar in terms of cooperation, education and understanding which facilitates reconciliation.

In the case of Mulgumpin, the formal partnership with the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation underlines the expectation that joint management of the island's natural and cultural resources can only enhance their value, particularly in terms of tourism. Joint management will facilitate greater self-determination and protect and promote the cultural rights of the Quandamooka people. This continues the underlying drive by the Palaszczuk government to work collaboratively with Indigenous traditional owners, tapping into their unique knowledge and understanding of land protection practices.


One significant change that has occurred through my own involvement in the partnership on North Keppel Island is the reconnection of Woppaburra elders to their country. This demonstrates the Woppaburra people's sovereign ancestral and traditional ownership over country and demonstrates the five dimensions of reconciliation: race relations, equality and equity, unity, institutional integrity and historical acceptance. Such is the success of the Woppaburra and North Keppel Island EEC partnership that their work was acknowledged by the awarding of an esteemed Queensland Reconciliation Award in the education category.

Another chapter in the Woppaburra history was the official celebration of the declaration of Balban Dara Guya—mangroves, creek and fish in Woppaburra language—as a fish habitat area on Great Keppel Island because of its important environmental and cultural significance. This is now

protected from the impacts of coastal development. In many ways, Balban Dara Guya is an iconic milestone for Queensland's declared fish habitat area network as it was the first fish habitat area declared on an offshore continental island. Like the successful partnership involving the state government and the Quandamooka people, collaboration between agencies was pivotal to the success of this venture.

There are economic opportunities that can come with joint land management. No doubt these opportunities on Mulgumpin will continue to grow and diversify with the partnership with the Quandamooka people.

In summary, this bill warms my heart because I share its values, see its potential and applaud the collaborative spirit from which it was derived. As for many Indigenous people before, this bill facilitates the rightful return of land on Mulgumpin to the Quandamooka people. It is something every member of this parliament can be very proud of. It is up to us to continue consultation in relation to the future management of not only Mulgumpin but also other native title regions as they qualify. I commend the bill to House.

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (12.53 pm): I rise to support the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Indigenous Joint Management—Moreton Island) Amendment Bill 2020. May I start by acknowledging the Quandamooka people, the traditional owners of the land to which this bill relates and also the traditional owners of my home in the Redlands on Quandamooka country, and pay my respects to elders both past and present and those whose wisdom guides us into the future.

I acknowledge Uncle Bob and Kath up in the gallery today. It is so fantastic that they have been able to join us for the two days we have been discussing this very important bill. I had the great pleasure of attending the launch of Uncle Bob's *History, Life and Times of Robert Anderson*. I want to share with the House the acknowledgement at the front of the book of Uncle Bob, who is 91 this year, because I think it is really worth reading and understanding his history and his experience. He says—

The vision of my country, the way I view or see my country, the way I talk or sing up my country, the way I talk of the stories of my country and talk about my Elders and Ancestors, this is my cultural heritage. The way I call their names as I walk the sacred places of my country and the way I remember their brave deeds on my land is my cultural heritage. My spiritual connection with the land is my cultural heritage. All these things are a part of my cultural heritage.

To walk my country, to gather the shell fish from the ocean beaches and the bay side beaches, is part of my cultural heritage. To see the changing nature of the flora with the seasons, to gather the wild flowers and to eat the berries and fruits of my country, reminds me of my mother and her connection to this my cultural heritage. To observe the birds, their migratory flight patterns, and nesting habitats, to understand how their presence fertilises, pollinates and regenerates the plant growth; how they herald the arrival of the deep-sea mullet, the whales and other sea inhabitants, for seasonal sustenance. This is the cultural heritage of my country.

To be with my family and community people walking the country together, making that strong spiritual connection with the land is my cultural heritage. To continue to walk the bora ground and practice my cultural rights and responsibilities, as well as acknowledge the importance of this continuation on my country, is my cultural heritage.

If we do not have access to our land, we are denied the right to maintain our practices that protect, preserve and nurture our land and our cultural heritage.

In my country, like all of you, there is a story of Creation of Life. Mine is as important to me as yours is to you. So let me tell you my story as handed down to me from my Uncle Paul Tripcony.

Uncle Bob has led an extraordinary life. Again, it is so wonderful to have him here.

I acknowledge Quandamooka woman Leeanne Enoch—what a strong and incredible lady she is. I also acknowledge the member for Cook, Cynthia Lui, and the member for Bundamba, Lance McCallum. It is incredible to have three First Nations people in this place representing our community.

On 27 November 2019, the Federal Court made a consent determination recognising the native title rights of Quandamooka people over Mulgumpin, on Quandamooka country. It is timely, given the contributions of some on the other side of this House, to remind the LNP that the state is required to work with the Quandamooka native title body and, to be very clear, that is the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation. QYAC is the prescribed body corporate set up to manage business with all three levels of government.

Mulgumpin, a place of sandhills, is the second largest sand island on the earth and, like Minjerribah on our Quandamooka coast, it is an incredible island right on our doorstep. Mulgumpin has natural and cultural significance and is enjoyed by so many thousands of people each year. Now these visitors will have the opportunity to better connect with one of the world's oldest living cultures. I acknowledge how important that connection to country is to the Quandamooka people.

Uncle Bob gave me this message, which I think everybody in this chamber needs to reflect on and remember: 'Wherever there is bipartisan support, goodwill and understanding will flourish for Quandamooka people, residents and visitors to Mulgumpin. The land will always embrace people of goodwill and spirit.'

It has been extraordinarily disappointing to listen to some of the contributions from members on the other side of the House. For me, it has been extraordinarily disappointing to witness some who wish to play the politics of division within their community. Our role in this place is to work to unite and to bring our communities together. As the member for Algeester and Quandamooka woman Leeanne Enoch said in her incredible contribution to this place yesterday—

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.

That is what we have seen in so many contributions from this side of the House.

The contribution from the member for Oodgeroo was, for me, particularly disappointing and highlighted the political division he has fostered over many years. I have been on Minjerribah at both Redland City Council run forums and Redlands Coast Chamber of Commerce forums. I have seen his work in action. In terms of his popularity on the island, I am sure the member for Capalaba will have more to say about that in his contribution.

In respect of the contribution from the member for Bonney, I agree that there should always be a continual path of learning from what has worked and what has not, but I will say that you are misguided if you have not been able to witness on Minjerribah the successful economic transition post sand mining. That was incorrect in that contribution. All levels of government have been working to support that island and to ensure it flourishes economically today and into the future. They will do exactly that for the Quandamooka people, the community, the residents and the visitors to Mulgumpin into the future. With the traditional owners, we are delivering on the opportunity to celebrate the history and the beauty of one of the world's oldest living cultures in Quandamooka people.


Another part of the member for Bonney's contribution related to footpaths, amenity blocks and car parking. It absolutely is a local council responsibility. I have been there to hear it for myself. Those are things the local council needs to be investing in. Our government is investing in state-of-the-art cultural facilities over there. It has to work hand in hand with and be supported by the local council.

Debate, on motion of Ms Richards, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### Beef 2021


 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (2.00 pm): Last week's Beef Week was an outstanding success. A record crowd of 150,000 people consumed 63 tonnes of beef. Its footprint was 20 per cent larger than ever, and 1,400 stud cattle and 350 trade cattle were housed in four stud sheds. The industry's depth was demonstrated with 4,980 cattle entered across three competitions and \$3.64 million worth of cattle sold, setting a record top price and sale total. As a grazier, I was proud to see my industry on show. It was disappointing that the Premier and the entourage of ministers and MPs were like a bunch of misfits. They are trying to cloak themselves in a mantle of reflective glory from Beef Week's success. They talk up and think a \$1 million commitment to Beef Week gazumps the contribution of everyone else there. Yet again, the federal government contributed much more.

Beef Week's success is due to the efforts of the organisers, workers, farmers, graziers, exhibitors, the industries and businesses that support them, the attendance of rural and regional people, the Queensland and interstate schoolchildren who enter competitions and the city of Rockhampton. It is telling that the Premier and government members think proceeding to the front row like royalty connected them with the people there. Three years ago they were fly-in fly-out attendees who arrived under the cover of darkness. It is arrogant, it is ignorant and it is pretentious. Rural people are naturally polite. They do not think much of that behaviour. They see you coming a mile off.

This week the Premier smirked as she tried to claim no-one from the LNP was there. I was there and I did not need to sit in the front row. I did not seek acknowledgement and I was more than happy to sit with the 99.9 per cent of the rest of crowd, to talk with them in the bars and at their stands, to catch up and to mix it with them. This gives one an appreciation of the scale of the beef supply chain—from on the farm, to the jobs it generates in the abattoirs, those who sell and cook it to the grateful consumers.

I watched the reaction of those around me to the Premier's speech. The speech of federal agriculture minister, David Littleproud, made much more sense and was more relevant to the industry. This week Queensland's agriculture minister embarrassingly thought that wearing a tie and tabling a newspaper with his own image on it is supporting the industry. It is embarrassing that it was tabled for no other reason than his photograph was on the front page. Producers still remember that the minister supported his Senate colleague, then minister Ludwig, in decimating the live cattle industry. Beef Week provides a valuable chance to talk and engage directly with the people connected with the industry.

### Health System

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (2.03 pm): Yesterday we celebrated the contribution of nurses and midwives on International Nurses Day. As the daughter of a nurse, I have a mighty appreciation of the contribution they make to our community, particularly in our time of need. Can I add my voice to the chorus of so many recognising, celebrating and thanking our local nurses and midwives.


While those opposite are making a pastime of talking down our health system in this place, I would like to recognise the health professionals I recently had experience with in our local hospital, the Prince Charles Hospital. A childhood disease, perthes, at age seven led to me having a malformed hip. Over the last 20 years my hip has restricted my abilities progressively, as it developed osteoarthritis, bone spurs and cysts. Pain and chronic pain became part of my everyday life until, thanks to a strong case of parental guilt, I finally found a fantastic local GP, Dr Daniel Row. Ultimately, on 4 March I underwent a total hip replacement in the capable hands of my amazing surgeon, Dr Craig Hughes, within the clinically recommended time frames, I might add, and using the Mako robotic arm.

I recall being wheeled into the ward postoperatively and, despite being heavily medicated, a nurse greeted me with the opening words, 'Oh you poor thing, you have the same name as a politician.' I am pretty sure I replied, 'It's worse, I am the politician.' The nursing staff at the Prince Charles Hospital were world-class. I place on record my thanks to them. Also, to the surgical staff, support staff, the anaesthetists, medical imaging staff, pharmacists goes my many thanks.

The physiotherapists at the hospital were critical in building my confidence and ability, and to them I say thank you. Integrate Physiotherapy at Warner Lakes is the location of my regular treatment. Saurabh Bhojwani, Sam, my local physio, has been a lifesaver with pain relief treatment and also with rebuilding my wasted muscles and capacity postoperatively. Sadly, my local GP, Dr Daniel, has been called back to Botany Bay as a naval doctor. He is a great loss to our community and I am sure without his intervention I would still probably be struggling without intervention today.

Our healthcare system in Queensland is second to none. Even with the challenges of COVID in 2020 and the pause to the elective surgery waiting list, we have seen the Palaszczuk government put in place a fantastic contribution to support and clear that waiting list. Ours is a health system to be proud of.

### Ninderry Electorate, Federal Budget

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (2.06 pm): I would like to reflect on the federal budget and what it means for residents living in my electorate and across the Sunshine Coast. Thanks to the federal Morrison government and our local federal MPs, it is good to see the Sunshine Coast benefit to the tune of more than \$170 million in this week's federal budget. It includes funding for major congestion-busting projects like the Mooloolah River interchange and the Beerburum to Nambour rail duplication. Both of these projects have significant implications for residents living in my electorate, getting them home sooner and safer.

This much needed injection of funds is in stark contrast to what the state Labor government has delivered for our region. Locally, we were promised investment in long overdue infrastructure in the lead-up to the last state election. The Labor candidate in my area was happy to spruik the government's intention to duplicate the Sunshine Motorway. In reality though, when the dust settled and the Treasurer delivered his long overdue budget in December, it became clear that the promised funding fell way short of the community's expectations. Of the initial \$1.3 million commitment, which will fund merely the initial planning, two-thirds will not be spent any time soon.

To reflect on the words of the Deputy Premier yesterday, it is the Queensland state budget that was disappointing—disappointing when the Sunshine Coast, like much of regional Queensland, is crying out for investment and infrastructure to help get our economy moving. Let us look at the irony of the Queensland Treasurer, who had the audacity to take aim at the Morrison government's significant investment in roads and transport infrastructure in our region, when it is abundantly clear that it is state

Labor that has failed to deliver. I can assure members that this irony is not lost on the thousands of motorists who every day are forced to run the gauntlet on the Sunshine Motorway which is no longer fit for purpose.

For years, my LNP colleagues and I have been lobbying for funding for the duplication of the motorway, along with other major congestion-busting projects in my electorate—projects such as upgrades to Yandina Coolum Road and the Coolum roundabout. These are long overdue projects that continue to be ignored by the state Labor government.

While our population swells, the state Labor government prefers to play the blame game with the federal government in an attempt to divert attention away from its own abject failures. Yet again, we are seeing the federal government do all the heavy lifting when it comes to investing in infrastructure in our region. We have had four terms of a tired state Labor government that has continued to fail the Sunshine Coast. It is abundantly clear it has no economic plan for the state, no plan to invest in rapidly growing regions like the Sunshine Coast and no economic plan to support the residents of my electorate of Ninderry.

### Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence



**Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (2.09 pm): I am pleased to be a part of a Palaszczuk government that today announced \$30 million for sexual, domestic and family violence services. I know this will be welcome news to many services in my community.

I have recently had the opportunity to attend a number of Speak Out events, as I know Deputy Speaker Bush has, in Brisbane, Far North Queensland and Central Queensland to talk to young people about the issues that are important to them. What stood out was their passion for speaking out about consent and their experiences, and the continued reports of sexual assault. That is borne out in the figures as well.

We heard just this morning that in January and March, when compared to the same period last year, one organisation reported a 98 per cent increase in the number of young women receiving specialist sexual assault counselling. We know how important it is that young people have a voice in the political process to advocate for these important issues.

It appears that those opposite do not share those same views. I refer to a recent retweet from the former LNP premier and the new member of the LNP executive, Campbell Newman. The tweet said that young people under the age of 30 should not be involved in politics at all. That is it—banned. I table that particular retweet.

*Tabled paper:* Extract, dated 30 March 2021, from the Twitter account of Mr Campbell Newman, in relation to employment of ministerial and parliamentary staff [\[639\]](#).

Shockingly, the tweets featured an image of Brittany Higgins, a 26-year-old former staffer on the Gold Coast who spoke out bravely about what happened to her in Canberra. Her efforts have driven a movement for women around the country to say enough is enough. What does this retweet say about the attitude of the LNP? Does the LNP think that the solution to the problem of sexual harassment is removing young women from politics—that I should not be in politics, that even the member for Bonney should not be in politics?

I was a staffer in federal politics at around the same age as Brittany Higgins when she was working in Canberra. I have young women who have worked in my office. We all know the member for Burleigh has young women—he has talked about how the pendulum has apparently swung too far the other way.


**Mr HART:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find the words of the member personally offensive and I ask her to withdraw.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Bush): Member for Gaven, the member for Burleigh has taken offence. Will you withdraw?

**Ms SCANLON:** I withdraw. The Leader of the Opposition said the LNP must create the environment within its party that provides women with the same opportunity to succeed. Now they have promoted a bloke who thinks kicking out young women is easier than dealing with the rotten culture within their own party. Does the Leader of the Opposition—a cabinet member of the Newman government who cut \$125,000 from the Gold Coast Domestic Violence Service and \$34,000 from the Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence—back those comments?

Campbell Newman is now the newest member of the LNP executive. While those opposite might think silencing young people is the way to get rid of a culture of alleged rape and sexual assault, I do not and I certainly know my colleagues do not. We will continue to support young people, listen to their voice and we will not shut them out of politics.

### Sunshine Coast, Light Rail

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (2.12 pm): Like many who live on the Sunshine Coast, my family and I choose to live on the Sunshine Coast because of the laid-back lifestyle and sense of community. My priority is ensuring that these things are preserved. We need the right kind of development on the Sunshine Coast. Poorly planned developments impact every single Sunshine Coast resident and we have seen too many examples of development for development's sake which puts the way of life of Sunshine Coast residents second to the relentless pursuit of population growth.

I want the Sunshine Coast that my kids grow up in to continue to have the great lifestyle and deep sense of community that attracted so many people to move to the Sunshine Coast in the first place. That is why I am concerned with the Sunshine Coast council's relentless push to build light rail along the coastal strip between Caloundra and Maroochydore. It is a push that is predicated on greater densification, which will see the houses and suburban blocks along the route replaced with medium- and high-density development towers. Labor's own national president, Wayne Swan, describes it as a desire for 'densification at any price'.


If we use Gold Coast Light Rail stage 3A as an example, much of the justification for the project relies on 'land use changes' and 'alignment to the urban consolidation aspirations of the South East Queensland Regional Plan'—that is, far greater population who live in high-density towers along the route. Ironically, for a project that aims to reduce congestion, Infrastructure Australia has stated that, if such densification occurs, congestion on the southern Gold Coast will increase after the project is completed.

To be clear, I want to see better public transport on the Sunshine Coast. Our current public bus network is hopelessly inadequate and, as a result, few Sunshine Coast residents use it. New suburbs like Harmony at Palmview have exploded in recent years, yet there are no public bus services that regularly service Harmony, and residents in places like Mountain Creek cannot even catch a bus to the beach.

Council's proposed solution has long been light rail. While Mayor Mark Jamieson may wish to dispute it, the current mass transit consultation process is nothing but an exercise in validating council's long-held position to build light rail. At \$150 million per kilometre it is a ridiculously costly and inflexible solution that is only designed to service those who live within 400 metres of a station. Light rail will do nothing for the people of my electorate. What we need to see is a commitment to heavy rail running from Beerwah to Maroochydore, coupled with improved bus services within suburbs across the coast.

As well-regarded local architect Ken Down recently stated, light rail will 'totally change' the look of the Sunshine Coast. I know that the last thing my constituents want is for the Sunshine Coast to become the Gold Coast. Along with my Sunshine Coast state and federal colleagues, I will continue to fight to ensure that the Sunshine Coast way of life is preserved.

### Maryborough Electorate, Fire Station

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (2.15 pm): I am here to announce more great news for the great city of Maryborough—one of the oldest electorates and cities in Queensland. The minister is in the House. We have just signed the contract and got everything ready for the brand new, state-of-the-art timber fire station in Maryborough city—a \$12.5 million investment.

This is fantastic because all of the jobs will be local. The timber will come from the Hyne glulam factory. By the way, who helped get that glulam factory in Maryborough? The Palaszczuk Labor government. Who is building the new fire station? The Palaszczuk Labor government. The minister and QFES have been absolutely amazing.

We are keeping the heritage-listed brick facade of the building and we are building on to it. This is a state-of-the-art fire station for the region. It is going to transform the city not only for the workers, the firemen, the rural fires and the SES but also for the city centre. This building is going to highlight the city centre.

This is what a Palaszczuk Labor government—and I repeat: Labor government—does. We reinvest in regional Queensland. We have worked very hard with QFES, the minister's office and the Maryborough community to get the best building we possibly could.




The local timber comes from Hyne—it is grown in the electorate, it is processed in the electorate and it will be used in the Maryborough electorate. It will be the first timber fire station ever—so it is another first for the great city of Maryborough. It has been all great news for the city of Maryborough since 2015 when the Palaszczuk government came to power.

I have some really sad news. The federal member for Wide Bay has been talking about four-lane roads around Tiaro. He has been banging on about it and getting people signing petitions. What the federal member does not understand is that the funding is 80-20, and he cannot get the funding out of his government. It is very sad when we have an LNP federal member who cannot get money out of his own government for road safety and then continues—which is the sad part—to blame the state government.

As I have tried to explain to him—as have so many other people—the funding is 80-20. They have to put the money up for the four lanes around Tiaro. He can get signatures on as many petitions and beat his chest as much as he likes. As I always say, he does half a job. That is all he ever does—half a job. 'Half-a-job Llew' I call him. He is a lion in the Wide Bay but when he gets to Canberra he is a mouse. He squeaks along all day and just takes what is handed to him. That is why I am glad to be in the Palaszczuk government because we deliver, unlike the LNP.

### Greenhouse Gas Emissions

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (2.18 pm): A couple of weeks ago the federal government released its latest state and territory greenhouse gas inventories, which covered 2019. As we are now in the seventh year of this government, I thought it was worth looking at their record.


Since 2014 Queensland carbon emissions have actually increased by three per cent, but in that time our emissions from energy generation have increased by 20 per cent. While Australia has dropped our per capita emissions by over 10 per cent in that period, Queensland has only dropped by just over four per cent. We have one-fifth of the population of Australia yet we are producing one-third of the emissions. Our state emits more greenhouse gases than any other jurisdiction in our nation, with over 164 million tonnes a year. Over the last 15 years since 2005 they have only decreased 13.7 per cent. That is not even half way towards the government's 2030 target. Comparatively, New South Wales has decreased 17.2 per cent; Victoria, 24.8 per cent; Western Australia, 20.8 per cent; South Australia, 32.9 per cent; and Tasmania, a massive 108.7 per cent.

We have some of the worst waste and recycling rates nationally too—and I talked before about FOGO—because we are the last state to get serious about organic waste. We are the last state to sign up to the Recycling Modernisation Fund, with other states already getting access to hundreds of millions of dollars to improve their waste infrastructure. The real area for action, however, is energy and our plan for a transition is clearly inadequate. Since 2005 emissions from our energy sector have actually risen by 27 per cent. We need a genuine, realistic and achievable plan for transition, because at the moment we are at around 20 per cent renewable generation. Again, that is not even half way to the government's 2030 target.

Outcomes are lacking, but plans to achieve outcomes certainly are not. In 2016 the government released the *Advancing climate action in Queensland: making the transition to a low carbon future* discussion paper and *Carbon pollution projections: Queensland's baseline greenhouse gas emissions to 2030*. The Queensland Climate Adaptation Direction Statements 2017 saw the Queensland Climate Transition Strategy and the Queensland Climate Adaptation Strategy. Last year, with the election approaching the government thought it needed to look like it was doing more, so they committed to a Climate Action Plan 2020-2030. There is no deadline for this to be completed, but it did come with a guarantee that, for once, no consultants would be involved in its production.

Despite all of these plans and strategies we are missing one: how we are going to transition and expand our energy generation. Other states like New South Wales are leaving us behind in this regard. The reality is that Queensland is not leading the pack when it comes to renewables or reducing our emissions. In fact, we are practically dead last.

### Beef 2021


 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (2.21 pm): Madam Deputy Speaker, you may not have heard, but we had Beef Week last week in Rockhampton and it was amazing! The place has been buzzing with people from all over Australia. All the hotels and motels were full; it was just wonderful! I

would like to thank the Premier, the Deputy Premier, the Treasurer and of course our farmers' friend, Minister Furner, and my other parliamentary colleagues for their visit to Rockhampton to experience Beef Week.

We saw over 30 million in stud cattle on display. Everything to do with the beef industry was there to see. I caught up with David Smith from Ceres Tag. Ceres Tag launched globally during Beef Week and received expressions of interest from the US, New Zealand, Canada and Africa, just to name a few. Ceres Tag is a Brisbane based Advance Queensland grant recipient that developed an electronic eartag for monitoring cattle. The research behind this technology received \$1.5 million in Advance Queensland funding in 2017, and the company has gone from strength to strength. It just opened a new office in Fortitude Valley and has tripled its employment size despite COVID-19. The technology is receiving international recognition. In very basic terms, it provides producers with biosecurity, animal welfare and stock tracing.

All of our pubs, clubs, restaurants, hotels and motels were booked out. It was such a great event for Rockhampton businesses, and I am so proud to be part of the Palaszczuk Labor government which contributed \$1 million towards this event. I am also pleased that the Premier indicated she will provide at least a million, if not more, for Beef 2024. Beef 2018 generated around \$80 million for the Rockhampton and Central Queensland communities, and I expect Beef 2021 will generate something similar or better. A new attendance record was set with 115,866 people through the gate; 4,980 head of cattle; 63 tonnes of beef consumed throughout the week; 800 contractors and staff delivered the event; and 150 volunteers supported the event with countless others working at the event from other organisations. The beef industry is worth over \$6 billion to the Queensland economy and supports thousands of jobs. This event is wonderful for Rockhampton and Central Queensland and it is great to support our beef industry.

### Regional Queensland, Infrastructure

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (2.25 pm): The Queensland Labor government has again failed the hardworking Queenslanders who live and work in the Bowen Basin, including places like Moranbah, Dysart, Middlemount, Clermont and Glendon. Despite the billions of dollars that are poured into the Queensland economy and the billions of dollars that this government earns in royalties from the region, the people of that area are being treated like second—no, fourth- or fifth-class citizens. To make it worse, their concerns are being ignored by this current government.


Let's start in Moranbah, where we have a hospital with a termite infestation. That is right; there is termite damage in a hospital. That is the type of damage that does not happen overnight, but it is damage that has occurred despite supposed regular inspections. Despite claims that the hospital has not been forgotten, it certainly has been overlooked.

As we head along the Peak Downs Highway we see several examples of the Labor government's failure to act on roads. Here we have a road that is used to transport equipment and, even more importantly, workers to and from some of Queensland's biggest mines, but it is a road that is simply not built for purpose. It is frequently subjected to rolling closures to move equipment and it is the scene of many accidents, including fatal accidents, along that section of the highway. It is not just the Peak Downs Highway. Throughout the Isaac Regional Council area there are vital roads that still remain unsealed. These are roads that are used by school buses—when the bus is not off the road due to the appalling state of the road, I might add—and emergency responders. Thanks to the state of those roads, we have recently seen ambulance vehicles damaged and rendered inoperable.

Down the overlooked road in Dysart—and I am glad the education minister is here in the parliament today—we have a fantastic high school. I often visit that school, but they have a chronic teacher shortage. I have written to the minister and she would have received that correspondence recently. When you are amalgamating classes 9 to 12 for subjects, you have a problem. When you have families in that community say to me that they are now considering pulling their kids out of that town and sending them to boarding school, we have a problem. I certainly hope that the education minister has taken that on board and is working to address that teacher shortage in the Dysart community.

It is time for this government to stop ignoring regional Queensland. It is time to stop turning a blind eye, and it is time that Queenslanders got their fair share of the pie no matter where they live. The people of Moranbah, Dysart and Clermont deserve better. The government needs to stop rhetoric and start the work. We talk about attracting families to the bush, but you will never get them there unless you have the services they deserve.

### Far North Queensland, Tourism Industry


 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (2.28 pm): I rise today to tell the story of the magnificent work being done by the tourism sector in remote Far North Queensland. On behalf of Minister Hinchliffe, last week I had the great privilege to open the new tourist accommodation homesteads at the Undara lava tubes some 300 kilometres west of Cairns on the Great Savannah Way. Spring Creek Station, where Undara is located, is steeped in history. The pioneering Collins family is still on the land to this day, having settled there after a search for the Burke and Wills expedition in the 1860s. This is a quintessentially Australian story that epitomises the hard work, tenacity and resilience of the 19th century settlers who forged a life and created a community in outback Queensland. I am proud to say that this story continues to this day with strong support from the Palaszczuk government, which recognises the value of investing in these regions and supporting new and existing tourism enterprises.

There have been 18 new homestead units built at Undara with the aid of the Palaszczuk government's \$25 million Growing Tourism Infrastructure Fund. These units will be a game changer for the Undara Experience, providing much needed accommodation during the peak tourist season and complementing the existing infrastructure for events on site. Additionally, this facility will enhance and feed into the tourism offerings on the Savannah Way—a booming drive destination which showcases the best of outback Queensland. With the Palaszczuk government's supported projects at Cobbold Gorge and Talaroo Hot Springs on the same route, visitors can plan a journey that takes in majestic natural wonders and genuine Aussie experiences.

Working with the Queensland tourism operators for the benefit of our economy is what this Palaszczuk government excels at. These partnerships have proven results, with regional areas experiencing strong growth in visitation. This helps create jobs and vibrant communities as we recover and adapt from COVID-19. I am also very proud to say that these partnerships extend to our First Nations people who are leading the way in providing authentic experiences for visitors within our state. Like never before, traditional owners are embracing opportunities to develop and run tourism enterprises, responding to the needs of the market and putting Queensland on the map as authentic traditional owner tourism destinations.

Again, the Palaszczuk government have been pivotal in supporting these initiatives through their commitments within the Year of Indigenous Tourism. It is also important to acknowledge the number of jobs it is creating within our Indigenous communities—real jobs and economic independence with a view to sustainability and, most importantly, self-empowerment. Last week was no better example of this, seeing the Ewamian people of the Gulf Savannah taking responsibility and ownership, with ranger and guide programs and huge opportunities as we move forward.

### Currumbin Electorate, Health System

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (2.31 pm): Broken promises and big fat porkies: that is what my electorate of Currumbin has received from this state Labor government. They were promised—

**Ms PEASE:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I draw your attention to the unparliamentary language used by the member for Currumbin.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Bush): I will take some advice on that. Member for Currumbin, that is unparliamentary language and I ask that you withdraw.

**Mrs GERBER:** I withdraw. My constituents in Currumbin were promised a satellite hospital in Tugun. That turns out to be an untruth. They were promised that first responders would always be there. That is another untruth. We deserve better from this government. Our overworked doctors, nurses and paramedics are doing their best in a broken system, but it is not sustainable and it is not our first responders' fault. They push and push to fix the health system; instead, they are told that it is all made up. This government has abandoned them.

Yesterday the health minister told this House that there is always a first responder ready to assist those in need and she used the example of Coolangatta. Well, this government has failed to provide first responders with enough resources to respond to my constituents in Coolangatta. On Sunday a 79-year-old elderly lady collapsed in the reception of a hotel in Coolangatta. She was suspected to have broken her shoulder. This elderly lady was forced to wait for two hours for an ambulance—forced to wait while lying in pain on the cold, hard tiled floor of a hotel. Help was not coming—at least not from Queensland.


The reception staff on site tried to help her. They called triple 0 three times in a desperate plea to get this woman the help she needed. The first responders on the other end of the phone tried to help her, but Queensland Labor has failed them. Our emergency services are so under-resourced that the

system is at breaking point. I know it, the minister knows it, and Queensland's first responders know it. In fact on the last call to triple 0, the operator told the reception staff that their best bet was to call back and ask for an ambulance from New South Wales. Do you know how long the ambulance from New South Wales took? 10 minutes. If all of this is because of COVID, how can the health system be working fine in New South Wales but be broken in Queensland? This is not COVID's fault. The blame for this broken health system lies squarely at the feet of this state Labor government.

Last year, my community was unequivocally promised by the Palaszczuk Labor government a satellite hospital for Tugun. Yesterday in question time the Premier let slip that those satellite hospital sites have been picked. Today I table a screenshot of the interactive map from the Queensland state budget that shows the satellite hospital promised from Tugun has landed in Burleigh—another broken promise.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Queensland Government Regional Action Plans Maps', depicting Southern Gold Coast Satellite Hospital locations [\[640\]](#).

### Bribie Island Road

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (2.34 pm): I will always work hard for the people of Pumicestone. They tell me that more dual lanes for Bribie Island Road is their top priority so I have worked hard to make it happen. The Palaszczuk government listened to my advocacy and committed \$11 million towards a \$20 million project to dual-lane Bribie Island Road between Hickey Road and King Johns Creek to be funded in 2022-23. I table that announcement.

*Tabled paper:* Extract, dated 15 October 2020, from the Facebook page of the member for Pumicestone, Ms Ali King MP, titled 'Facebook video with Ali King and Minister Stirling Hinchliffe announcing the funding for dual laning Bribie Island Road between Hickey Road and King Johns Creek' [\[641\]](#).

To make it happen, I needed Scott Morrison and his federal member for Longman to front up with another \$10 million, so I got to work. I spoke in parliament, I spoke in the media and I made it clear that the people of Pumicestone deserve more dual lanes so they can get home sooner and safer and that Scott Morrison and his local member should stump up the cash. I table those statements.

*Tabled paper:* Extract, dated 26 February 2021, from the Facebook page of the member for Pumicestone, Ms Ali King MP, titled 'Facebook video of Ali King MP in Queensland Parliament calling on the Federal government to match the \$10 million commitment to dual lane Bribie Island Road between Hickey Road and King Johns Creek' [\[642\]](#).

What did I hear from Scott Morrison's MP for Longman? Nothing, zero, zip, silence, not a word. I table evidence of that.


*Tabled paper:* Extract of Australian Parliament Hansard search webpage, dated 13 May 2021, titled 'Search of Australian Parliament Hansard for records of Terry Young MP mentioning 'Hickey Road' in Parliament' [\[643\]](#).

That was until this week, when Scott Morrison finally agreed to come to the party with \$10 million for my project to dual-lane more of Bribie Island Road. I am glad to see Scott Morrison's local MP back my Bribie Island Road action plan, after over a year of the silent treatment, but I was a bit surprised to have him turn around and claim that it was actually his idea all along—though having a member of Scott Morrison's government turn around and take credit for your own good idea and your hard work is the kind of thing that Australian women have just gotten used to.

Within only one day, this project turned out to be yet another example of Scott Morrison's trademark: all announcement, no delivery. It is big on promises; it is light on action. Hiding in the budget papers is the secret of when Scott Morrison is promising to pay out this funding. Our Palaszczuk government's whole \$11 million commitment is in the 2022-23 budget so we can get started sooner, but how much has Scott Morrison promised in 2022-23? Zero. How much is he paying the next year, in 2023-24? Just \$500,000. Surely he must be paying the rest in 2024-25? No, only \$3 million. In fact, Scott Morrison is holding back the bulk of the funds until 2025-26 onwards.

As usual, Scott Morrison and his local MP are all talk and no action. Scott Morrison is kicking the can down Bribie Island Road. He is not coughing up most of the funds until three years after we are. In fact, he expects the people of Pumicestone, who want more dual lanes, to wait not one but two more elections to get the work started. It may not be too little for Bribie Island Road but it is definitely too late.

### Bruce Highway, Goorganga Plains

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (2.37 pm): The member for Pumicestone spoke about waiting for federal funding, but that may be attributed to a lack of state government planning just like what has occurred in my electorate. Unlike the member for Pumicestone, I am pleased with the hard work of my local federal member and the \$1.6 billion that the Morrison government has allocated to the Bruce Highway, of which \$400 million is going towards flood-proofing Goorganga Plains. However, there is a


hold-up in flood-proofing Goorganga Plains and maintaining access to North Queensland during the cyclone season which affects our fruit and vegetable crops and tourism across the electorate. That hold-up is the \$12 million of funding that the state government has not yet fully expended in the planning study to flood-proof Goorganga Plains. Funding of \$12 million was approved back in 2018 to see that planning, and we are still yet to receive it from this current state government.

We cannot fast-track upgrades and infrastructure in this state because we have a state government and in particular a department of transport that does not have the resources behind them to fast-track planning and approvals. I appreciate that many on the other side of the House may not understand the challenges of regional and rural Queensland particularly when it comes to public transport.

I have been contacted by constituents in my electorate who have challenges in getting their kids to school and in accessing public transport to travel to health care from Dingo Beach, Cape Gloucester and Proserpine. This is because the same TransLink model that is utilised here in South-East Queensland is what is shaped and showcased in regional and rural Queensland. I can tell honourable members it does not work. It fails. It fails my constituents in the Whitsundays. We need a better model of public transport across regional and rural Queensland, particularly in the Whitsundays.

I look at the school buses in the northern beaches of Mackay that have no capacity left. Kids can no longer leave earlier because of the traffic challenges in the northern beaches. I have been calling on the transport minister to fast-track \$700,000 of planning money in this upcoming budget for the growing population in the northern beaches. We have seen over 500 houses approved and construction commenced in the northern beaches. This will bring over 2,000 new residents to the electorate of Whitsundays, and the northern beaches is the fastest growing part of Mackay. I call on the minister to allocate funding and fast-track that planning so that we can get on with the job.

### Hervey Bay Electorate

 **Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (2.41 pm): I rise to inform the House of some great news for the electorate of Hervey Bay with the recently awarded contracts to commence works on several schools across the Hervey Bay electorate. These building contracts include a new two-storey classroom block at Hervey Bay State High School, an upgrade to the administration block at Kawungan State School and the refurbishment of an existing teaching block at Pialba State School. This funding of over \$7 million will bring 20 extra jobs to Hervey Bay's hardworking tradies, meaning more dollars in our local economy. It is an example of the Palaszczuk Labor government's regional economic recovery plan in action, setting up Hervey Bay's future with new school infrastructure.

The electorate of Hervey Bay has a median age of around 49.2 years, meaning that the electorate is populated with many residents aged 65 years or over. Last weekend for Mother's Day, I had the pleasure of visiting several Hervey Bay aged-care facilities and meeting many wonderful mums for a chat. Unfortunately, the feedback I received from residents was a bit concerning and, quite frankly, alarming. They told me that the attention given by their carers was the best they could give, but there were just not enough of them to keep up with the needs of the residents. Residents were basically saying that the Morrison LNP federal government and the federal minister Keith Pitt, the member for Hinkler, were failing the needs of those who need them most in Hervey Bay. These are people, elderly people, who expect to be cared for in their later years.

Unfortunately, on federal budget night the LNP federal government, whilst finally doing something towards cleaning up their aged-care mess, did nothing to deliver better carer-to-patient outcomes for our most vulnerable seniors. By not having carer-to-patient ratios mandated in these non-government and private facilities, the hardworking carers in these aged-care facilities are being stretched to their limits. The solution is simple: mandate ratios. Ratios do work. They are achieving advanced outcomes in state run facilities because of the legislation implemented by this Palaszczuk Labor government.

What we saw from the Morrison LNP government budget on Tuesday was no immediate action taken towards the non-government and private aged-care sector. Most changes they announced are not coming until 2022-23, a year or more away. This is a direct contradiction of the recent royal commission into aged care that concluded that the Morrison federal LNP government's system was clearly broken and action must and should be taken immediately. The residents of private and non-government aged-care facilities in Hervey Bay need this care now.

The federal member for Hinkler, Keith Pitt's LNP government action on budget night is too little and way too late. We in the Hervey Bay electorate need action and we need it now. It is time the Morrison LNP federal government took responsibility and provided the same level of care that the Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering by putting people before profit.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Before I call the next speaker I would like to acknowledge the presence in the gallery of the student leaders from Aspley State High School and Craigslea State High School from the electorate of Aspley. Welcome to the gallery.

### Hill Electorate, Social Housing



**Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (2.44 pm): I rise to highlight the issue that is affecting every single electorate in the state, which is the severe shortage of social housing. I raised this issue in the previous month in this parliament and *ABC News* has outlined in detail the great depth of the problem, and I now table that article.

*Tabled paper:* Article from *ABC News*, dated 29 April 2021, titled 'Queensland's housing crisis requires \$4.1b, social services tell state government' [644].

In the article the Queensland Council of Social Service gathered together 12 organisations for the Town of Nowhere campaign in which they argue that there are at least 47,000 people seeking accommodation in the state—more than the combined population of towns like Atherton, Tully and Innisfail in my electorate. The state government will boast about spending \$1.6 billion over 10 years to build 5,500 homes, but that is a fraction of what is needed. Unless they get real about how desperate the situation is, they will have a mass humanitarian issue on their hands.

In my electorate of Hill alone, there are over 800 people waiting for public housing and more than 40 families seeking emergency accommodation. At present there is no crisis accommodation on the tablelands, limited social housing and an ever-increasing waiting list as there is simply not enough housing stock in existence or being constructed to meet demand. Our local organisations are past breaking point and very little is being done to turn this around.

With the prolonged effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the situation has worsened as people move away from larger towns and cities or return from overseas, putting upward pressure on the rental market. Availability of rental accommodation is rapidly decreasing. The prices of rental properties are soaring and becoming less available to those who desperately need affordable housing. The latest statistics show that domestic violence is increasing, but we have a desperate shortage of emergency accommodation to cater for those at risk of domestic violence.

The issue has been building for a number of years. The state government have oversold public housing properties and have not kept a surplus in hand for when it is needed. The government needs to immediately consult with organisations who are on the ground every day dealing with this issue about how to resolve the need for emergency, transitional and long-term affordable housing. If action is not taken immediately, more and more families will be living in cars and on the streets.

### Multiple Sclerosis; Segal, Ms M



**Mr WALKER** (Mundingburra—ALP) (2.46 pm): I rise today to talk about a true community champion. Ms Aimee Segal is a student at Townsville Grammar School and is 15 years of age. Aimee started fundraising for multiple sclerosis at the age of seven. She was asked to swim in a team at a multiple sclerosis swimathon in Townsville. At that very tender age, Aimee decided she wanted to learn more about MS and help raise money for the cause so she could help others.

Eight years later on Christmas Eve 2020 Aimee and her family were on Orpheus Island when Aimee woke up unable to speak and the right side of her body had shut down. Her parents, both in the medical profession, thought she had had a stroke. Aimee was evacuated by air from Orpheus Island to the Townsville University Hospital where doctors diagnosed her with multiple sclerosis. Aimee spent 10 days in hospital receiving treatment and now requires ongoing infusion treatment every 28 days.


MS is a chronic condition that attacks the central nervous system—the brain, spinal cord and optic nerves. The progress, severity and specific symptoms of MS cannot be predicted. MS is a lifelong disease for which a cure is yet to be found. In Australia there are more than 25,600 people living with MS. Those diagnosed with MS are mostly between the ages of 20 and 40 years. Three-quarters of all people with MS are women. In young adults MS is the most acquired disease of the central nervous system. There is a four per cent increase in the number of people diagnosed each year. The annual cost of MS to individuals and the Australian community is \$1.75 billion. Worldwide, 2.8 million people are living with MS.

Aimee has raised thousands of dollars for MS Queensland over the years. This year alone, she has raised more than \$21,000, a remarkable achievement for such a young lady. On 8 May in Townsville the Multiple Sclerosis Swimathon was held with seven teams competing, raising funds and

bringing awareness to this disease. The event was a great success, with Townsville raising over \$52,000 for MS. I thank all those involved for their brilliant effort to help others, done with true Aussie spirit.

Sunday, 30 May is World MS Day when communities throughout the world come together to raise awareness. Landmarks across Queensland will be lighting up in red to show support. Various events are being arranged across the state. I urge all honourable members to support an MS event if there is one in their area or make a donation to this very worthy cause. Yes, Aimee is a true community champion.

### Mooloolah River Interchange


 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (2.49 pm): A \$160 million boost from the federal budget and the LNP coalition to fix the Sunshine Coast's most dangerous and congested intersection, the Mooloolah River interchange, MRI, is great news. I welcome the federal funding to help fix this part of the state road network which is dangerous. There should be no more excuses for the delays from the state government in terms of delivering it. It is a state road; it is not national highway. The state government has taken longer to finish the business case than it will take to build the project! That is no exaggeration. The \$7.5 million funding for the business case has been spread across four financial years in QTRIP by the state Labor government. Still we have not seen the final business case. This is after the preliminary business case it did in the couple of years before that.

If this state government were fair dinkum about building infrastructure and about having a transparent, efficient pipeline of works, it would get its business cases done in a timely way and prioritise critical projects. Other states do it. Why not Queensland? Because members opposite are too used to whingeing, not doing the business cases and then blaming somebody else. If the Premier is fair dinkum about leading a government for all of Queensland, it is time she proved it by funding this important piece of infrastructure.

People have died. The road is dangerous. It is the worst on the Sunshine Coast. It is time work started on the Mooloolah River interchange. There should be no more excuses from this government and no more delays. Pick up a shovel and get it underway. When Minister Bailey was complaining about funding from the federal government, he did not mention this project. It is time he stopped delaying this project and started funding and delivering it. The Mooloolah River interchange has had a never-ending business case. It is time that it started. The state government is the gatekeeper of getting projects started. I appeal to this government to not be vindictive. People may or may not vote for the government, but they all face danger when they go through this intersection. It needs to be fixed.

This is a classic example of why this Labor government is now ranked sixth in Australia for investment in infrastructure as assessed by Infrastructure Partnerships, which also called this out. It is time the state government made a commitment to finish business cases and deliver projects. I have been fighting for this alongside my LNP colleagues because it is important for the safety of our constituents and anyone who travels through this area. It is time the work was started. Come on, Minister Bailey. Stump up the money, stop making excuses and get it started.

### Federal Member for Bowman

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (2.52 pm): Fortunately, in this House I cannot be gagged by Scott Morrison or Peter Dutton. In the last sitting I called on the LNP to do the right thing with regard to the federal member for Bowman, Andrew Laming; to turn into action their words that sought to condemn the harassment and assault of women; to support women across Queensland to feel safe in their homes, workplaces and communities. But they are silent, their words are hollow and they are missing in action. Given what transpired in Cairns this week, it is clear that the LNP's reservoir of respect is barren. It is devoid of empathy. Its tank is empty.

You cannot rewrite history. Shortly I will share with the House, through the very platform used to harass, my character assassination and just some of the abuse and harassment I have experienced from the federal member for Bowman. The audacity of the federal member for Bowman to stand up in the federal parliament this week and take offence at being called a taxpayer funded Facebook troll is simply unbelievable, when in his own comments he acknowledges that he is a troll. Not only does he state that he is a Facebook troll; he also freely admits to running over 37 Facebook pages. For the benefit of the House, I table a document where he acknowledges that.

*Tabled paper:* Extract, dated 28 February 2019, from the Facebook account of the federal member for Bowman, Mr Andrew Laming MP [\[645\]](#).



I will give some more examples. We have heard a lot about the photo in the park. For the benefit of members I will describe the post. It has a photo of a bush and me, and the caption reads—

Most awkward thing ever. Kim Richards with no reason to be in a kids' park ...

Honestly! Talk about being stalked and trolled on Facebook! He posted—

6pm Valentines Day. @KimRichardsMP left her office with FOUR people. Of course deliberations are confidential, but I am publicly asking Kim to identify who she met with and left with?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Member, I will ask you to table that. Read from it or table it.

**Ms RICHARDS:** I will table it. He offered a \$100 donation to a chosen charity for people to chase me down. He is forever trying to chase me and tag me down. I table more extracts from the member's Facebook pages.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of extracts from various social media accounts, regarding posts by the federal member for Bowman, Mr Andrew Laming MP [\[646\]](#).

Then the member decides that I am the 'most evasive and dishonest MP'. He posted—

So I'm offering a Coast holiday with rooftop champers, to the first person to get Kim Richards ...


Honestly! He implied that I am a liar. He posted the most misogynist piece of artwork you will ever see: 'Skimmy & the Shirty Shovel'. Taxpayer funds at work!

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Table it please, member.

**Ms RICHARDS:** The posts go on and on. It is absolutely disturbing. As I said, this is the tip of the iceberg. I have here the rest of them. Talk about character assassination! There it is. It has been a sustained attack. It is an unhealthy obsession. ADHD is no excuse. Sussan Ley stood up in the federal parliament and said that everyone is entitled to respect in the workplace—obviously except in her workplace or our workplace. To suggest that the Morrison government is committed to building a new culture of respect is an absolute farce. I say that the federal member for Bowman is unfit to represent my community and, again, the LNP should do the right thing.

*(Time expired)*

### Coronavirus, Quarantine Facilities

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (2.56 pm): In January 2021, we first heard of a proposed quarantine facility to be located at Wellcamp and constructed by the Wagner group. It has been used as a political football by the Palaszczuk government ever since. On 27 January 2021 I wrote to the Premier as the local member requesting information from the state government about the quarantine hub. Similarly, my state colleagues the members for Toowoomba North and Toowoomba South and the federal member for Groom also wrote asking for the state government's health plan for this proposed facility to house Australian citizens returning from overseas. It is now almost the middle of May and still the Palaszczuk government is unable to produce a health plan which, you would hope, the whole proposal hinges upon. After all, the Premier repeatedly says that she is keeping us safe. Therefore, any proposal should be putting Queenslanders' health first and foremost, before anything else.

No health plan has been sighted by the state members in the Toowoomba vicinity, no health plan has been sighted by the Prime Minister and, very importantly, no health plan has been sighted by the people who live and work in the Darling Downs area. The Premier constantly says that she has taken the Chief Health Officer's advice on all things COVID. Where is our copy of the health plan for this quarantine facility? We would like to think that our safety matters just as much as the safety of those in Brisbane. What does the government have to hide? The single biggest concern of those in the region is how the government will keep them safe. If the plan does exist, why has it not been released?


We all are aware that a significant number of returning overseas travellers are testing positive to COVID-19 whilst in hotel quarantine. Does the health plan include an extra stand of ambulances to transport these positive cases from Wellcamp to Brisbane hospitals? More importantly, are there enough ambulances and staff to do this task? It is almost two hours from Wellcamp to the Mater Hospital.

In all honesty, I think the Palaszczuk government is now pulling wool over the eyes of both the Wagner group and the Toowoomba community and has no intention of producing a health plan. The whole debate is serving another purpose; that is, to try to shift blame onto the Prime Minister and brand him as a COVID villain. Both the Queensland and Western Australian elections were COVID elections. This is now serving a political purpose—an attempt to win federal seats in Queensland at the upcoming



federal election. There is nothing else that makes sense. There must be a plan. If the Premier is serious about this facility, there must be a plan. It must be released. Otherwise, this is simply a hoax. The people of Toowoomba deserve better.

### Ipswich Electorate, RSL Clubs

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (2.58 pm): RSL clubs are the lifeblood of many communities across Australia. At a time when veterans' mental health and wellbeing has been highlighted as a major concern, we cannot forget the significant work they do to improve the welfare of their members.

Recently I had the great honour of attending the Ipswich Railway RSL Sub Branch's 85th anniversary. Since 1936, the Ipswich Railway RSL Sub Branch has proudly served the needs of its members, veterans and currently serving members of the Australian Defence Force. The subbranch was formed by returned World War I servicemen who were unhappy about the level of treatment that unemployed and injured diggers were getting. They are still fighting for better levels of treatment for their members today.

While the subbranch is well known for its Anzac Day service at the North Ipswich Railway Workshops, it also does other important social outreach work to ensure the wellbeing of its members. Volunteers are active visiting veterans in their homes and hospitals, organising over-80s lunches, providing bursaries to university and trade students, organising day trips and maintaining local memorials and war graves. The tireless dedication of current and former presidents, branch officials and members means that the Ipswich Railway RSL Sub Branch should be good for another 85 years.

The other major RSL in Ipswich is the Ipswich RSL Sub Branch formed in 1917, making it one of the first subbranches in Queensland. For over 100 years it has attended to the welfare of its members, preserved our wartime history in its museum at the Memorial Hall in Ipswich and played a major part in our city's commemoration of Anzac Day. That is why I was extremely pleased to see Anzac Day commemorative services and marches back on this year.

Anzac Day last year during the height of the COVID pandemic was like no other, but our RSL clubs and veteran groups rose to the occasion and actively promoted Light Up the Dawn Anzac Day ceremonies. Even the public got involved by getting up at dawn to pay their respects, which was fantastic to see. However, for many veterans, being able to commemorate Anzac Day the traditional way is important. Anzac Day is a special day to catch up with their mates and remember their fallen comrades. Observing the minute's silence and the *Last Post* with your comrades is a powerful experience.

Anzac Day ceremonies also allow our communities to come together and pay their respects to the fallen and to hear stories of courage and bravery. Importantly, it gives us a chance to pass down Anzac Day traditions to younger generations so that they are not lost over time. Our Anzac Day services in Ipswich this year were very well attended by the community. I was invited to several in my electorate, including services by the Ipswich RSL Sub Branch, the Eastern Suburbs Anzac Day Commemoration Committee, the Woodend Anzac Day service and a number of school Anzac Day services.


Ipswich's longstanding Anzac Day march was also back on this year and thousands came out to see it. A good crowd of young and old also turned out to the dawn service at the Ipswich Memorial Gardens. Ipswich's defence and veteran community is strong and plays a significant role in our community due to our ties with the RAAF base at Amberley, so a return to public commemorations is a welcome return to normalcy. It highlighted the need that we have to come together as a community.

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

### Second Reading

Resumed from p. 1427, on motion of Ms Scanlon—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (3.02 pm), continuing: These new arrangements the legislation affords will deliver many benefits, particularly for this pristine environment, through the joint management role in the land and care for country. QYAC for some time now has been 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 and it provides the opportunity for significant benefits in biodiversity conservation. Plans are in

place to increase fire trails and facilitate better fire management. Having had the opportunity firsthand to see the expertise of Quandamooka rangers on Minjerribah during the fires a few years ago, their knowledge is absolutely invaluable in how we mitigate against fire into the future and dealing with fires when they arise. We have so much to learn from the stories and from the knowledge built up over many generations of our First Nations people.

The primary purpose of this bill is to enable the Palaszczuk government to deliver on its commitments made during the native title determination process and enshrined in the Indigenous land use agreements 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 to facilitate a recognition and an awareness of the significant connection that the Quandamooka people have to their country and the important role they have in the management of the protected areas of Mulgumpin.

The government 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 to provide improved facilities to assist with management of the land, including improved presentation of the Quandamooka people's culture, conservation, visitor and fire management outcomes. Just like all of our islands on the Quandamooka coast—Minjerribah, Coochiemudlo, Kanaipa, Jercuruba, Ngudjuru and Karragarra—Mulgumpin's protected areas will continue to offer unrivalled adventures and enjoyment so that families can treasure Mulgumpin into the future.

The Palaszczuk government delivers on its commitments and this bill's primary objective is to deliver those commitments. It will enable the implementation of joint management and working together with our Quandamooka peoples. To conclude, like the minister I too want to repeat part of *A Song of Hope* by Quandamooka woman Oodgeroo Noonuccal—

To our fathers' fathers

The pain, the sorrow;

To our children's children

The glad tomorrow.

I commend this bill to the House.



**Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (3.05 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Indigenous Joint Management—Moreton Island) Amendment Bill 2020. As a lot of people in this chamber would be well aware, from 1788 until recently Australian law did not acknowledge that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people had rights to land that predated European settlement. It was thought that Indigenous people's rights were no different from those other citizens except where governments granted them special rights such as heritage protection or statutory land rights.

From the earliest days of European settlement, Indigenous Australians opposed to this view have been arguing for their legal recognition. However, it was not until 1992 in the Mabo judgement that the High Court of Australia determined that Indigenous people's rights over their lands did survive colonisation. The court based its decision on the principles of equality and non-discrimination. It ruled that Indigenous people's rights to land are not only recognised but also protected and enforceable under the common law of the Commonwealth. As a result of that and many other court cases, on 27 November 2019 the Federal Court of Australia made a native title consent determination under the Native Title Act 1993 recognising the Quandamooka people's native title rights on Moreton Island, or Mulgumpin as it is known to the Quandamooka people.

Protected areas on Mulgumpin include 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 the 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, also known as QYAC, the land must first be identified as transferable land in the Aboriginal Land Act 1991.

The Aboriginal Land Act is therefore being amended to provide that prescribed protected areas of Mulgumpin are identified as transferable land. This land will include most of the existing 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 very near future. Some small areas of existing protected area that support Marine Safety Queensland and Australian Maritime Safety Authority facilities for navigation safety purposes are excluded following the agreement reached between the Quandamooka representatives and the relevant state and federal government agencies.

Once that land becomes transferable under the Aboriginal Land Act, steps can be taken to prepare deeds of grant 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 the 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 North Stradbroke Island to the Quandamooka people and native title determinations in 2011 in relation to these lands. It is reassuring to see our First Nations people take back possession of what was and always will be their land.


I would like to register in the strongest possible way that I seek no counsel in the fears of those who harbour concerns about this process. It is merely a reflection of ignorance. I see this as nothing more than natural—albeit delayed—justice. I believe this is a vital and important part of the journey, enabling the economic foundations to be established for our First Nations people, a right that has been denied to many previous generations. For our First Nations people, legal ownership of their land and sea provides benefits that cannot ever be underestimated.

Recently I was privileged enough to join elders of the Ewamian people, along with tourism industry representatives, west of Mount Surprise and west of the Einasleigh River to inspect the developing product on Talaroo Station. This unique piece of land is home to the ancient Talaroo Springs. To stand there with the Ewamian elders, to see young Aboriginal men and women working on their land in the Queensland National Parks uniform was, for me, and I suspect for many others, not just a powerful moment highlighting where we have come from but, far more importantly, where we are going. We are all aware of the dignity associated with a job, the capacity to determine and develop our own future through economic development and the fundamental principle of on country. I know that will continue to happen with Mulgumpin.

This process and the amendment we make here today is essential to ensuring ongoing economic independence but, far greater, these are essential foundation platforms for our First Nations people. It is also reassuring to know that the Palaszczuk government will be investing in improved facilities which will enhance the visitor experience ensuring a positive and strong future. This is essential for ongoing development. It has always been accepted by many that a greater understanding of our Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander culture develops an enriched appreciation of Australia's cultural heritage. I believe that not only leads to a greater reconciliation process but also builds strong economic foundations and a growing interest from our domestic market in Indigenous culture. The Palaszczuk government acknowledges that.

This year being the Year of Indigenous Tourism 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 the Indigenous tourism experiences area. As Minister Hinchliffe mentioned in his contribution yesterday, the Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport is working closely with Tourism and Events Queensland, Queensland Tourism Industry Council, Tourism Tropical North Queensland and across government to deliver a suite of activities from marketing, media, training and mentorship as well as improvements to the sector's 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. In 2019 over 9.5 million Australians went travelling overseas, spending, even at conservative estimates, around about \$54 billion. With the international markets closed for the foreseeable time, the timing is opportune, the possibilities are many.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the State Development and Regional Industries Committee for their contribution. I would also like to make note of some of the contributions by my parliamentary colleagues on this side of the chamber. I have found them enormously empowering. I am enormously proud to be a member of a government that is not only contributing to this process but also driving this essential and much needed change. I commend the bill to the House with very strong support.

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (3.13 pm): I start by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land that I represent, the Quandamooka people, who this bill is directly related to, in particular the Nunukul, Goenpul and the Ngugi people who are the traditional owners of Mulgumpin. I pay my respects to elders past, present and emerging. I acknowledge that we have Uncle Bob Anderson in the gallery today. It is good to have you here, comrade, to oversee this bill.

In acknowledging emerging elders, this week I met the school captains of Alexandra Hills State High School. One of the school captains is Sharni Mellare, a direct descendant of Oodgeroo Noonuccal who we know as Auntie Cath Walker. It is a great pleasure to know that the Quandamooka people are in safe hands with emerging elders such as Sharni and that that lineage of over 20,000 years will continue strongly. She is a very impressive young woman who is doing a fantastic job leading her school community.

We should in this House acknowledge the past. In 1897 the Aboriginals Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Act moved Indigenous people to reservations, with the exception of those who were imprisoned and employed as servants. I use the word 'employed' very loosely in that statement. I am fortunate to be the member for Capalaba, the land of the sugar glider. We are talking about a bill in regard to Mulgumpin, the land of the sandhills.

I was born in Wynnum and grew up in Thorneside. I have grown up and lived most of my life on Quandamooka country. Just having that one generation of deep connection to it I can understand the deep connection that Quandamooka people have had to it for well over 20,000 years. My first memories were getting on boats with my father and going out to the Blue Hole at Moreton, looking over the sandhills, catching whiting, especially on winter days that are nice and glassy.

I had a fantastic childhood and it was fantastic country to grow up on. When we moved to Thorneside I remember the shell midden at Mooroodu Point. It was not until later that I fully understood how deep and how rich the history of Quandamooka people is on this country. For thousands upon thousands of years the Quandamooka people sat there, breaking shells, eating with their people, overseeing Lota, Manly, King Island and Moreton Bay. It is with great pleasure that I get to represent my people and ensure the wrongs that were done in this House well over 100 years ago are some way righted just a little bit and I am glad to be able to be in this House to do so.

I note the contribution of the member for Oodgeroo in this debate. I found it very self-indulgent that he would talk about his margin as the first part of his contribution to this debate. I do not expect anything more from the member for Oodgeroo. What is funny is that he talked about how popular he was. I went back and had a look at the election figures that he was quoting. Let us look at the swings that he had on Minjerribah. At Point Lookout there was a primary swing of 7.24 per cent. At Dunwich, about which he was waxing lyrical, there was an 8.6 per cent swing against the member for Oodgeroo. In Amity Point there was a 19.19 per cent primary swing against the member for Oodgeroo—close to 20 per cent. Is it any wonder that the Christian warriors were taken out of Springwood and Redlands during the campaign to save his bacon in the seat of Oodgeroo? It is normally a blue ribbon seat that they cannot lose. He was sweating bullets in the lead-up to that election. Those figures are telling.

The people of Minjerribah are starting to see through the divisive politics of the member for Oodgeroo. One only has to look at his contribution. By merely naming Uncle Norm Enoch he knows that he is driving a wedge in the Enoch family. He does it on purpose to divide that family and that community. If the shoe had been on the other foot and we had got native title rights for Mulgumpin before Minjerribah, I wonder whether, having a representative such as the member for Redcliffe, who wants to bring all parties together to get a better outcome for the people of Mulgumpin, we would have had the apprehensions that we saw leading into this process.


It is my strong belief that the divisive politics that happens on Minjerribah has caused the apprehension felt towards this bill. I think the member for Bonney and the Leader of the Opposition are genuine in wanting to reach out and work with the people of QYAC. I attended a breakfast on the island with the chamber of commerce at which the member for Broadwater was the guest speaker. I believe he was genuine when he said he wanted to see a better outcome for the island. He went off track when he proposed mountain bike riding on a sand island and I do wonder how that would work, but I believe he genuinely wants to see the island thrive and excel in tourism.

Therefore, I say to the member for Bonney to be careful of the toxicity that the member for Oodgeroo is feeding him in regards to QYAC. The issues on Minjerribah are produced through divisive politics and divisions wedged in the local community by the member for Oodgeroo. We need to work together. We need to bring the community along. We need to allow the people who want to protest against the Whale on the Hill project on Point Lookout to do so peacefully. The government has not interfered in that process because we respect the rights of those people. However, we have to understand the rights of the traditional owners. The land used to be an old tennis court and they want to do something with it. Again, it is their land. This is about self-determination.

When groups saddle up with minority factions of QYAC to drive the political agendas of the day, you have to look at who they are saddling up with. In this case, they are saddling up with people who do not want to see any economic development on the island; they do not want to see any water leaving

the island; they do not want to see any tourism on the island. For short political gain the member for Oodgeroo saddles up with groups of people who do not want to see any economic advancement, which is against what I thought was the ideology of those opposite.

I am happy to sit down at any time with the member for Bonney and the member for Broadwater, the QYAC leaders, the chamber of commerce and the islanders. What came out of the breakfast that I attended with the Leader of the Opposition was that a lot of the issues are simple council issues: not enough parking, not enough toilets, not enough barbecues, the NBN and mobile towers failing and causing credit card machines to go on the blink. At the breakfast we attended those were the main issues that came through, not what QYAC is doing. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (3.23 pm), in reply: Firstly, I thank all members for their participation in the debate on the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Joint Management—Moreton Island) Amendment Bill 2020. The amendments in this bill will allow the Palaszczuk government to meet commitments made to representatives of the Quandamooka people as part of the Federal Court native title consent determination. This bill will deliver a commitment to support the joint management of prescribed protected areas on Mulgumpin between QYAC and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

I am proud to be part of a government that delivers on land justice for the traditional owners of Mulgumpin. I am saddened that Quandamooka people who are present here today to witness this significant milestone have had to listen to the negativity and comments of those opposite when a bipartisan approach could and should have been taken. Unlike those opposite who have used their time in this House to undermine, divide and self-centre, this government is acting on native title and delivering legislation to facilitate a partnership with the Quandamooka people that aims to provide a framework for increased self-determination and the ability to meet their cultural obligations to care for country and work with the wider community to improve the employment and business opportunities for traditional owners on the country of which they are the rightful owners.

I will address some of the issues that have been raised during this debate. The members opposite have continued to raise concerns about matters I already addressed in my second reading speech, but I will respond to them again. The confidential nature of the Indigenous land use agreement and Indigenous management agreement is prepared to support the Federal Court native title consent determination for Mulgumpin. It is not unique. There are many hundreds of Indigenous land use agreements across Australia and the content of those documents is often confidential between the parties that were part of the negotiations for the resolution of the native title claim. The negotiation of those agreements is an important tool to assist the successful resolution of Federal Court proceedings for native title determinations and are a common legal document containing the settlement outcomes reached between the state and First Nations people and their representatives.

Those opposite have been at pains to undermine the confidential nature of Indigenous land use agreements. May I remind those opposite that the principle of confidentiality in ILUAs was in place when the LNP were in government? Why the sudden outcry when for years under the Newman government ILUAs were confidential? The hypocrisy is stark.

Ensuring negotiations can be conducted in good faith with confidentiality maintained is a key principle that underpins our system of commercial dealings with traditional owners and they have every right to that principle, as does any other entity. An example of a confidential agreement that is never made public is a royalty agreement. That is a contractual agreement between the state, traditional owners and mining companies and they are always confidential. I reiterate that the practice of maintaining confidentiality of ILUAs is not limited to this dealing. It has been made clear to me today that those opposite simply do not understand native title or how ILUAs operate. I suppose that is consistent with their opposition to the concept of native title since day one of the High Court ruling. Let me explain in detail, for the benefit of those opposite.

The Quandamooka people have a native title determination under Australian law that recognises and enshrines their rights. The purpose of this bill is to provide a state legislative framework over land covered by that determination to facilitate joint management of Mulgumpin consistent with the outcomes agreed and recorded in the legally binding Indigenous land use agreement between the state and the Quandamooka peoples consistent with their rights and interest under Commonwealth law.

The amendments proposed by those opposite can have the effect of modifying the rights and obligations under the ILUA, which has been developed under the Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993. Modifying the bill as proposed can create inconsistencies between state law, the Indigenous land use

agreement and the Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993. State legislation must not be inconsistent with Commonwealth legislation. If it is then the state legislation itself, and any actions taken under it, may be invalid under the Constitution. Furthermore, the state has entered into these arrangements following extensive good-faith negotiations with the Quandamooka people, with the Indigenous land use agreement being the final result of this negotiated process.

Have those opposite genuinely consulted the Quandamooka people and secured their consent for these amendments? We have learnt that they have not. Is this the way those opposite seek to continue their form of colonialism; talk up their relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people until it becomes inconvenient and then legislate over the top of their aspirations?

The ILUA took decades of struggle, overcoming barrier after barrier and significant investment by the state, the Quandamooka people and the Federal Court. It was genuine consultation, genuine respect and genuine consent leading to a genuine partnership. Now, after all that work, those opposite want to unpick it. Why and for what gain? What advantage do they gain from further undermining the trust gained between the Quandamooka people and the state through this process? What advantage can they gain from undermining the agreement reached through the Federal Court determination process? This could put the whole agreement at risk and lead to years of court action and uncertainty. How does it help better understanding in the community when fearmongering and inaccuracies pepper their contribution to this debate?

Supporting legislative amendments that can have the effect of changing what has been agreed between the state and the Quandamooka people through the ILUA process is not how this government intends doing business. Such action would damage the state's reputation with First Nations people in Queensland, casting doubt on the security of existing and future agreements negotiated as part of settling native title matters and potentially leading to an increase in litigated rather than negotiated outcomes. Clearly, based on the comments made by those opposite, they have no regard for the native title processes and no respect for traditional owners, and if it were up to them we would go back to the old days of our colonial past. Thankfully, those days are past. We on this side of the House deliver on our commitments to respect native title determinations as the law of the land.

I now turn to the matters raised regarding commercial tourism operations on Mulgumpin. Let me be clear once more: the requirement to consult the registered native title body corporate on issuing permits is not new. Similar requirements already exist under the Nature Conservation Act to consult with the Indigenous landholders of Aboriginal land protected areas in the Cape York Peninsula region and Indigenous joint management areas in recognition and respect of the land being Aboriginal land. The bill will insert similar provisions into the Recreation Areas Management Act to ensure consistent requirements apply across the legislative landscape, particularly where a recreation area under the Recreation Areas Management Act is declared over a protected area under the Nature Conservation Act, as is the case on Mulgumpin.

There are many archaeological sites on Mulgumpin and probably many more that are yet to be discovered. These sites can be highly significant as elements of the Quandamooka people's cultural heritage. It is absolutely sensible and appropriate that QYAC be consulted on permit applications to ensure any impacts of the proposed activities on both cultural and natural values can be minimised or avoided and to assess the consistency of the activities with the recognised native title rights of the Quandamooka people. If an application is not able to be approved, existing provisions under both the Nature Conservation Act and the Recreation Areas Management Act provide internal and external review processes to a person who is dissatisfied with a decision. In summary, the requirement to consult the prescribed native title body corporate is not a new one and already occurs where existing joint management arrangements take place, such as Minjerribah and Cape York.

This is a concerted fear campaign being run by members opposite. I was appalled to bear witness to some of the speeches made by those opposite yesterday, particularly the member for Oodgeroo. It was a particularly distasteful speech when the member represents a seat named in honour of a proud and respected Quandamooka woman who made such a contribution to our understanding of Aboriginal culture. As my colleague and proud Quandamooka woman the Hon. Leeanne Enoch said in her speech to the House, the language employed by those opposite when referring to native title matters is, frankly, shameful. We heard this proud Quandamooka woman describe this bill as a light on the hill in terms of ensuring that First Nations people can have the hope that they will have their lands returned and that they will be trusted to manage their country. Those opposite seek to use fear to diminish that light and hope. The fear campaign being run is purposeful and an opportunistic attempt to undermine the very confidence of those they are purporting to support. Mulgumpin townships will be unaffected. Native title does not apply on freehold land. Members know that, but they are persistent with their fearmongering.

Tourism operators will flourish under this bill. A great opportunity exists for Queensland to broaden its tourism product offerings through cultural tourism and involvement by First Nations Queenslanders. It is the Year of Indigenous Tourism and the supposedly pro-business members opposite are trying to discredit these opportunities.

I am perplexed that neither the member for South Brisbane nor the member for Maiwar chose to contribute to this important debate. I thought the Greens political party were meant to stand up for our First Nations people, to support conservation, to support national parks, to support land justice for First Nations people and to stand up for people's rights. We often hear their self-righteous lectures that somehow they are not like other political parties, yet we know that they do preference deals with the LNP and remain silent when the LNP undermine the Quandamooka people and, indeed, the whole native title process and promote division in the community. I wonder how the Greens will vote on this bill; I really do. There seems to be a natural coalition emerging between the Greens and the LNP, so maybe they will endorse the comments of those opposite by voting the bill down. Their silence and their actions speak volumes.

As I informed the House yesterday, over the last three years in excess of 23,000 camping and vehicle permits have been issued each year to visitors accessing Mulgumpin. Existing commercial activity permit holders on Mulgumpin have recently had their permits reissued and a new tourism business has recently been approved by the department and QYAC to provide glamping based overnight accommodation. Visitors will continue to enjoy the island and thrive. Despite the misleading fearmongering of those opposite, all jointly managed national park campgrounds are open and, in peak times, full. 'Going gangbusters,' one tourism expert said recently about the island. I look forward to joining these visitors soon, enjoying and advocating for all the wonderful tourism opportunities that will be provided through new and existing businesses working in partnership with the Quandamooka people.

Let us not forget the purpose and intent of the bill before the House. It is to deliver land justice for traditional owners on Mulgumpin. Those opposite have lost sight of the bigger picture and have unfortunately focused on very narrow and distant hypotheticals instead of taking advantage of the opportunity to set the rightful course of this state, a course that respectfully includes the interests of First Nations people. Let us talk in realities instead of hypotheticals.

The member for Traeger, a member of the committee that inquired into this bill, said yesterday that when he went and met with members of QYAC on Mulgumpin he found them to be engaging and very reasonable and that they seemed intent on working effectively and participating in improving the cultural experiences and environmental conditions on Mulgumpin.

The member for Surfers Paradise raised a number of issues with respect to closures of areas and new fees in Cape York. The traditional owners on the cape own the land referred to as freehold. You cannot just go onto a farmer's land and decide that you are setting up camp. The member for Surfers Paradise has raised issues that do not relate to any arrangements that Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service has with partners for the joint management of protected areas. It is unrelated to the bill before the House and, frankly, yet another example of fearmongering from a person who is supposed to be the shadow minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships.

The opposition are always calling on government to dismantle red tape, except for when it relates to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We have seen a lot of virtue signalling from those opposite in supposed support of First Nations people while in the exact same breath undermining native title and the legal body corporate representing Quandamooka people.

Let me remind the House that the traditional owners of Mulgumpin have lived on country on a permanent basis for thousands and thousands of years. Their connection with the land and sea has a strong spiritual basis. That is what this bill is about. It is about delivering on commitments made during the native title determination process. 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.

I would also like to remind all members of parliament that we have traditional owners of Mulgumpin in the gallery today, as we did yesterday, during the debate. The rhetoric employed by those opposite has been a profound misrepresentation of the significant opportunity to redress the many injustices which occurred during the early colonisation of Mulgumpin. The fear campaigning by some of the members of this House has ignored the very fact that the land of Quandamooka people was stolen and massacres took place. Unlike those opposite, I want to tell the truth about our shared past

and remove fear as part of a process of truth telling. I want to tell a truth that acknowledges the frontier wars, a truth that exposes the laws and policies of generations of stolen lands. We should be fearlessly confronting our history and be a truth teller in genuine commitment to reconciliation.

This bill represents us working together in partnership for the future of Mulgumpin which resets the Quandamooka people as the owners and keepers of the knowledge and stories of Mulgumpin. Joint management is one mechanism through which the state can seek reconciliation with First Nations people, in this case the Quandamooka people. Not only does the process provide for the return of ownership of the land to the original owners prior to their dispossession; it also delivers a framework through which QYAC and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service can work together to ensure the ongoing protection of the natural and cultural resources and ensure that the opportunities that make Mulgumpin such a special place to visit continue.

Joint management will facilitate enhanced presentation of the cultural values of the island. I encourage all Queenslanders to take an opportunity to visit Mulgumpin and enjoy the wonderful natural environment. I will read a statement submitted by QYAC regarding the benefits of joint management to the former State Development, Tourism, Innovation and Manufacturing Committee during its consideration of the bill—

We believe 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.

It is my belief that gaining knowledge and experiences builds greater understanding, which, in turn, I hope will facilitate a wider appreciation and respect for Aboriginal culture not only on Mulgumpin but also more broadly within our society. Joint management can help achieve this outcome, which will bring us closer together to a glad tomorrow.

I conclude by acknowledging and thanking all the staff from the Department of Environment and Science and the Department of Resources for their collaboration and work in progressing this bill as well as my own staff for their efforts. I would also like to acknowledge the work of the previous minister, the Hon. Shannon Fentiman, who introduced this bill last year as well as the work of the current and previous committees that examined the bill.

I would also like to particularly acknowledge the member for Algester, a Quandamooka woman herself, who made a powerful contribution yesterday. I acknowledge Uncle Bob and Cathy Boyle, Aunty Val, Darren Byrne, Daniel Crouch and all the Quandamooka people in the gallery today. I also acknowledge you, Madam Deputy Speaker as the member for Cook, and the member for Bundamba. I feel very privileged to serve alongside three First Nations people. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

### Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 21, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—



**Mr O'CONNOR** (3.41 pm): I move the following amendment—

**1 After clause 21**

Page 13, after line 5—

*insert—*

**21A Insertion of new s 33A**

After clause 33—

*insert—*

**33A Report on work carried out under cooperative arrangement for approved management plan to be publicly available**

- (1) This section applies if the chief executive enters into an agreement or other arrangement with a person or group of persons under section 33.
- (2) The chief executive must prepare a report stating details of any work, including the nature and frequency of the work, carried out in the recreation area under the agreement or arrangement for each financial year or part of a financial year during which the agreement or arrangement is in force.

*Examples of work carried out in the recreation area—*

track grading, camping facility cleaning, maintenance or upgrade works to visitor centres or camp sites, maintenance for bushfire mitigation or management of flora and fauna

- (3) The report must be published on the department's website within 3 months after the end of the financial year to which it relates.



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

*Tabled paper:* Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Indigenous Joint Management—Moreton Island) Amendment Bill 2020, explanatory notes to Mr Sam O'Connor's amendments [647].

*Tabled paper:* Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Indigenous Joint Management—Moreton Island) Amendment Bill 2020, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Mr Sam O'Connor's amendments [648].

I note again from the outset that we are supporting this bill as a whole, but this amendment seeks to further amend the Recreation Areas Management Act 2006 by inserting new section 33A. This applies in situations when an agreement exists with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander entities for the area under section 33. It will require the chief executive of the department to put together an annual report on the nature and frequency of work carried out within the recreation area. This would include the management of flora and fauna, any maintenance or upgrade work and bushfire mitigation activities. Importantly, this amendment would require that the report be published on the department's website within three months of the end of the financial year to which it relates.

This island is an ecological treasure and we need to do all we can to protect it. We should not fear more accountability or reporting about how it is managed. This is not more red or green tape. These measures are already tracked and reported internally. The minister has confirmed this in response to my correspondence asking for more information about how the department will monitor these metrics.

This joint management of the protected area between the department and QYAC will be administered through the operational working implementation group which meets monthly and the strategic implementation working group which meets quarterly. There are also further control mechanisms, notifications and requirements for routine, procedural and significant matters which are managed daily by QYAC and departmental officers. This shows there is a lot being put together by the department on how the area is managed, but, importantly, there is not any requirement to make this public. As one of the largest and most significant environmental assets in South-East Queensland, releasing these already compiled metrics makes sense.

The minister did raise constitutional concerns she had with my amendments. I ask that the advice outlining this be tabled for the benefit of the House. If this amendment is to be rejected, I ask the simple question: will the minister commit to comprehensive and publicly available reporting on how these areas are managed?

**Ms SCANLON:** The government does not support this amendment. There is an inference that the governance arrangements are lacking in relation to the particular outcomes of joint management on Mulgumpin. However, the implementation of the Indigenous management agreement for Mulgumpin has oversight through two governance groups, including a strategic implementation working group and an operational working implementation group. The strategic implementation working group comprises the deputy director-general and other staff of QPWS and senior representatives of QYAC. The operational working implementation group comprises leading operational staff from QYAC and QPWS. Both groups meet regularly to plan and oversee delivery of joint management work programs on Mulgumpin.

The Department of Environment and Science does not enter into agreements under section 33 of the Recreation Areas Management Act for the purposes of delivering joint management. The section relates primarily to supporting participation in the management planning process. It can also facilitate agreements where, for example, a local government may be engaged as a partner to deliver particular outcomes within a recreation area and where there are mutually beneficial outcomes for both parties.

Where the Department of Environment and Science does enter into an agreement with other parties to undertake particular works or provide services, they are already administered in accordance with the provisions of the relevant legal agreement, which may include standard government grant deeds, contracts and service agreements. Such agreements are administered consistently with governance financial practices, including compliance with the Queensland government's financial management practice manual, annual financial audits and audit and risk committee oversight. Agreement may be supported by progress reports and invoicing for milestones and services provided.

The proposed amendment is unnecessary as existing governance arrangements are appropriate. It will simply create a bureaucratic reporting process and divert time and resources away from delivering on-ground management in Queensland recreation areas, including those where joint management occurs. Furthermore, this amendment is ambiguous and it appears that it would apply to all seven recreation areas in Queensland. It is relevant to ask what consultation has occurred with other parties who may be affected by this amendment. The chief executive cannot provide a report on the

work carried out under any agreement unless such information is submitted to DES by the other party to the agreement. Has the opposition asked what agreements are in place across recreation areas and consulted with the parties to those agreements on their ability to provide information and have it reported on publicly? Clearly, the opposition has not otherwise the explanatory notes would outline the results of such consultation.

Finally, the opposition's intent is to have this amendment apply retrospectively to any existing agreement. It will breach the fundamental legislative principle that legislation not impose obligations retrospectively. For the reasons outlined, I would encourage the House to not support this amendment.

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

**AYES, 36:**

**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.

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

**NOES, 51:**

**ALP, 50**—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, Linard, 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.

**Grn, 1**—MacMahon.

Pair: Pegg, Watts.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendment (Mr O'Connor) negated.

Clauses 22 and 23, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—



**Mr O'CONNOR** (3.53 pm): I move the following amendment—

**2**

**After clause 23**

Page 13, after line 27—

*insert—*

**23A Amendment of s 52 (Deciding application for commercial activity permit)**

Section 52—

*insert—*

- (8) Subsection (9) applies in relation to the giving of an information notice under subsection (7) if—
  - (a) in making the decision, the chief executive was required under sections 35A and 53(1)(j) to consider whether the requirements under an indigenous management agreement were satisfied; and
  - (b) the indigenous management agreement includes a requirement to obtain the prior consent of the indigenous landholder for the issuing of the permit; and
  - (c) the indigenous landholder refused to give the consent.
- (9) The information notice must include any reasons stated by the indigenous landholder for refusing to give the consent.

This proposes to insert a new clause 23A which amends section 52 of the Recreation Areas Management Act 2006. It will add new parts 8 and 9, which will require the chief executive of the department to include in the information notice they are required to give to an applicant any reasons the Indigenous landholder provides in refusing consent.

Commercial activity permits are a clear area of concern for many operators, and I acknowledge that implementing this is a complex balancing act. My amendment seeks to make sure that when rejected an applicant is made fully aware of any issues. That gives them the best chance to rectify those if possible.

The Quandamooka people absolutely have the right to refuse a permit. No-one disputes that. It is something that can be used to protect their country if they believe a proposal would negatively impact it, but the government will still be responsible for managing and issuing those permits or information notices in the case they are rejected. I have little confidence that they will be as comprehensive as they should be.

If the minister is saying that those opposite cannot support this amendment, does this mean that applicants will not be told when their application is rejected by QYAC, nor will they be provided with the reasons why? If these reasons are able to be provided as per the ILUA—and I have not heard anything to say that this is not the case—the government should reassure current and future operators that they will be given a comprehensive information notice if their proposal is rejected.

Again, I ask for the minister to table the advice she referred to which gave her constitutional concerns about my amendment. If this amendment is to be voted down, I ask another simple question: will the minister commit that information notices given in the case of the rejection of a permit application by the Indigenous landholder will include the specific reasons for that rejection?

**Ms SCANLON:** The government does not support this amendment. The purpose of this bill is to provide a legislative framework to facilitate joint management on Mulgumpin consistent with the outcomes agreed and recorded in the ILUA between the state and the Quandamooka people. It is important to understand that amendments of the nature proposed can have the effect of modifying the rights and obligations under the ILUA which has been developed under the Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993. Modifying the bill as proposed can create inconsistency between state law, the Indigenous land use agreement and the Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993.

State legislation must not be inconsistent with Commonwealth legislation. If it is, then the state legislation itself and any actions taken under it may be invalid under the Constitution. Furthermore, the state has entered into these agreements following extensive negotiations with Quandamooka people, with the Indigenous land use agreement being final as a result of this negotiated process.

Supporting legislative amendments that have the effect of changing what has been agreed between the state and Quandamooka people through the Indigenous land use agreement process is not how this government intends to do business. Such action would damage the state's reputation with First Nations people in Queensland, casting doubt on the security of existing and future amendments negotiated as part of settling native title matters and potentially leading to an increase in litigation rather than negotiated outcomes.

I note that the member for Bonney has talked about legal advice. These are amendments moved by the opposition. I ask: does the opposition have legal advice that provides certainty that they have not been inconsistent with what I have just noted?

We have also been clear with tourism operators that there will be a reason provided—sorry, that applicants will receive a decision of any application. That is a standard process under the legislation, as I have noted in my previous speeches.

Division: Question put—That the amendment 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, 51:**

**ALP, 50—**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, Linard, 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.

**Grn, 1—**MacMahon.

Pair: Pegg, Watts.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendment (Mr O'Connor) negatived.

Clauses 24 to 29, as read, agreed to.

### Third Reading



**Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (4.02 pm): I move—


That the bill be now read a third time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

### Long Title

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (4.03 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.

## MOTIONS

### Order of Business


 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.03 pm): I move—

That government business order of the day No. 2 be postponed.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

### Revocation of Protected Areas

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (4.04 pm): I move—

1. That this House requests the Governor in Council to revoke by regulation under section 32 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 the dedication of part of one national park and one conservation park as set out in the Proposal tabled by me in the House today, viz

#### Description of areas to be revoked

Daintree National Park	An area of 0.2532 hectares described as part of lot 1 on AP19304 (to be described as lot 2 on SP304825), as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Warrina Conservation Park	An area of 0.9376 hectares described as part of lot 337 on plan NR7395 (to be described as lots 1 and 2 on SP318397), as illustrated on the attached sketch.

2. That Mr Speaker and the Clerk of the Parliament forward a copy of this resolution to the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs for submission to the Governor in Council.

There is no doubt that Queensland's protected area estate is truly spectacular. The estate is managed under the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and includes both publicly owned and managed or jointly managed areas such as national parks and conservation parks. It currently occupies over 14 million hectares of public and private protected areas throughout Queensland. To further protect natural, cultural and heritage values for future generations, the government continues to build on the extensive existing network of protected areas by regularly adding to the estate. The Queensland Protected Area Strategy 2020-2030, which was released in October 2020, is a plan to, among other things, accelerate growth of the protected area system.

While the Queensland government is very committed to the dedication, preservation and protection of Queensland's protected area estate, there is also an understanding that sometimes there is a need to balance this protection while providing for opportunities that offer necessary benefits for the community, such as to allow for the upgrade or expansion of public infrastructure. For revocation proposals, appropriate compensation for the loss of protected area values caused by the proposed actions is negotiated in line with departmental policy.

The two proposals that are being debated in the House today demonstrate these principles. Each proposal has been subject to careful consideration by the state before electing to support each proposal. In each instance, with regard to the views and interests of state and local government agencies consultation has occurred with landholders and interest groups and persons, including First Nations people, to resolve land interests over the proposal areas.


The first proposal to revoke part of the Daintree National Park, which will be described as lot 2 on SP304825 and containing an area of about 2,532 square metres, is to allow for the area to be dedicated as road reserve. My department is currently undertaking tenure negotiations with the Eastern Kuku Yalanji people about the Daintree National Park. The department and First Nations people have agreed that only certain tenure actions will be finalised once an Indigenous land use agreement has been executed, and revoking this small section of the Daintree National Park is one of those commitments.

The proposed revocation is administrative in nature and will result in rectifying a boundary issue by aligning the gazetted road reserve over the physically constructed Upper Daintree Road, which has existed for many years. This action will allow for formal management of the road corridor by Douglas Shire Council and will remove a portion of constructed road out of Daintree National Park. The proposal seeks to retain the existing road alignment and would result in minimal impacts to conservation values of the national park. Suitable compensation for the loss of any inherent natural, environmental, social and cultural values associated with the area being revoked has been agreed upon with the Department of Environment and Science. Should the motion be passed and the resolution issued, my department will wait until the Indigenous land use agreement is executed before proceeding with the final step to revoke this area from the protected area estate. Honouring our commitment to First Nations people is important to the Palaszczuk government, and we strive to maintain this good working relationship into the future.

The second proposal is to revoke part of Warrina Conservation Park, which will be described as lots 1 and 2 on SP318397 and containing an area of 9,376 square metres, to allow for the area to be converted to road reserve to facilitate upgrades to the Warrina Innisfail residential aged care facility and rectify historical boundary alignment of the conservation park. Warrina Innisfail is a community based organisation that provides accommodation, care and support for frail, aged and disabled people. The revocation would improve access for construction of a two-storey building and car park, which will enable the Warrina Innisfail facility to meet the growing demand for aged care in the local community.


The area proposed for revocation from the conservation park contains limited conservation values due to historical clearing predating dedication of the conservation park. The proposal will also consolidate the boundary of the conservation park, providing management benefits for the protected area. Warrina Innisfail has advised that it does not have the capacity to meet the department's compensation requirements for the proposed revocation. As parts of the revocation area are cleared and have historically been used for car parking by staff and visitors to the facility due to limited on-site capacity, the department supports that compensation for this proposal is waived.

This revocation is of vital importance to address access concerns for the expanded centre into the future. The expansion of the facility is a joint project with Cassowary Coast Regional Council and is of critical importance to accommodate aged-care needs in the region. I commend the motion to the House.

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (4.09 pm): I rise to second the motion to revoke the dedication of 2,532 square metres of land as national park under section 32 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992. The revocation of part of Daintree National Park allows for the realignment of road reserve over Upper Daintree Road to cover the physically constructed road. The action would allow ongoing public use of the road corridor and maintenance by Douglas Shire Council to service road users. The proposal has minimal impact on the natural, environmental, social or cultural values of the national park.

Alternative solutions to realigning the road reserve would involve unnecessary clearing of remnant riverine vegetation and are not economically feasible. The proposal will also improve management of the national park by removing a portion of constructed road. Compensation for the loss of protected area estate has been agreed upon with the Department of Environment and Science in line with departmental policies. As the revocation is administrative in nature and there will be no impact on continued public access, I will support the Department of Environment and Science's approach to not finalise this revocation until the Indigenous land use agreement with Eastern Kuku Yalanji people has been executed.

This government is serious about building partnerships and working collaboratively with First Nations people, and the progression of this action shows how we are working together to achieve the right outcome for traditional owners and the local community. Similar tenure negotiations have been finalised in my electorate since 2007 which have resulted in far-reaching benefits for Aboriginal people, including landownership. I commend the motion to the House.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (4.11 pm): I rise in enthusiastic support of the motion for the revocation of the protected area called Warrina Conservation Park. This area covers 0.9376 hectares described as lot 1 and is situated in Innisfail in my electorate of Hill. The revocation process was started initially in late 2018, when the proposed \$20 million expansion of the Warrina aged-care centre had stalled because the expansion required the use of a portion of state land adjoining the property. At the time, negotiations were stalled between Warrina and the department of environment and heritage protection. The expansion had been parked and was not progressing as the facility did not have the funds or assets to acquire the land from the state government. The proposed expansion to the facility is self-funded so there was no state or federal funding provided. However, I was approached to lobby the government to secure the land for the much needed expansion to continue.

My electorate of Hill has an ageing population, and existing facilities are at breaking point. Without the expansion, the government's own hospitals and care facilities in the region would have been stretched to breaking point. The Warrina aged-care facility is a not-for-profit community based aged-care facility which employs over 250 people, making it one of Innisfail's largest employees. It is a registered charity and provides world-class care and services to the ageing Cassowary Coast population. I want to thank the previous minister for the environment, the Hon. Leeanne Enoch, for taking the time to hear my argument and agreeing to the revocation. I also thank the minister's staff. I also want to thank the present Minister for the Environment for the role that she has played to meet the needs for the expansion and the needs of this community.


In light of the issues facing aged care in this country, this is a good news story which has been driven by the community and the Warrina CEO, Peter Roberts, and supported by the Cassowary Coast Regional Council. With this revocation, the expansion will finally commence. The construction will employ in excess of 200 tradespeople, which is equivalent to 68 full-time jobs. The majority of the works will be completed by local contractors, which is estimated to account for 80 per cent of the total contract. The expansion will include the construction of a two-storey, 64-bed high-care unit, a complete new kitchen, an extension to the current laundry facility and updated car parking. Again, I should note that the entire expansion is to be funded by the organisation. The expansion will no doubt improve the quality of life for the elderly in this region and will provide security and peace of mind for not only our valued elders but also their families. I fully support this motion and I look forward to the expansion now going full steam ahead.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from 22 April (see p. 1182).

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (4.14 pm), continuing: I would like to start by congratulating the Premier on leading a great campaign and, more importantly, leading the state safely through COVID. Congratulations to all the ministers and all the members on this side of the House on their re-election. I look forward to working with them all over the coming term. I would also like to congratulate all MPs who have been elected to this place. I would like to congratulate the Speaker and I am deeply honoured to be elected to serve as the Deputy Speaker. In my last address-in-reply speech, I spoke about the need for true reconciliation. The thoughts I shared then remain true. I am thrilled that as a state we are on a path to treaty. This is a real step forward.

When I went to the people in 2015 in Greenslopes, I asked them to give me the opportunity to be their representative in the Palaszczuk Labor government and I promised I would focus on building community, and I have spent every day since working on building community—supporting local community groups, backing local businesses and listening to people in our local community. In all of these interactions, I always encourage people to look for ways to build community. I try to connect good people and when I do, good things happen.

In 2020 our community was tested in ways we could not necessarily have anticipated. We saw the impacts overseas of high numbers of deaths and health systems overwhelmed. Thankfully, these have been avoided here but we have felt the sting of job losses and we have seen small businesses and community groups under pressure. I am really pleased to say that the people of the electorate of Greenslopes rose to the challenge. Good people from community groups, small businesses and just local leaders came together to contact and maintain the safety of people aged over 65 in our community. People from groups like Greenslopes Neighbourhood Watch, Victor Scouts, Faith Works and Lavelle Hair and leaders like Braam Du Toit came together and attempted to contact everyone over the age

of 65. They provided much help and support during that process. Our local Meals on Wheels had to stand down most of its volunteers over the age of 60. We put a call-out via social media and our community networks, and within a week the Meals on Wheels were turning away volunteers.

As the lockdown started to bite, I took an idea to local restaurants and cafes that we run a social media campaign called #thetakeawaymessage to encourage people to buy takeaway food on a particular day. I am pleased that over 40 businesses jumped on board. Even better, local community members like Wayne Hankinson and Catherine Stirling used their social media to spread the message as well. We worked hard and that work paid off. Marco from Ninebar + Kitchen in Coorparoo said to me that he was able to bring back one staff part-time due to the increased customers.

At the last election, I promised to work with the Premier to keep Queenslanders safe and to lead the recovery. We have kept Queenslanders safe by listening to the experts and taking their advice, even when that was difficult. We have kept small businesses viable, particularly through the use of the small business adaptation grants, and we have ensured community groups can continue to offer their services. We saw Stepping Stone Clubhouse, a mental health service, struggling. They have been granted another million dollars to support their ongoing work.

While COVID-19 and the pandemic is far from over and we have to remain ever vigilant, the mind of this government turns to recovery. When we talk recovery, we talk jobs. It is our No. 1 priority. In my electorate I do not have to go far to see the plans of the Palaszczuk Labor government coming into action. Schools in our area are a major source of infrastructure investment. Whites Hill State College, Mount Gravatt State High School, Nursery Road State Special School and Holland Park State School are the latest schools that are benefitting from infrastructure investment. This is creating not just better facilities for our schools in terms of classrooms, playgrounds, sporting fields and security but also jobs. We have also invested in sporting facilities, with Easts Tigers receiving a million dollars to upgrade their facilities. That will be great for Easts, great for sport and great for Stones Corner and Coorparoo business areas. I notice the transport minister nodding along. I am pleased to say that we also invest in public transport. I am extremely pleased that we are continuing the good work of the Veloway. The O'Keefe Street overpass is something I took to the election and I am glad we are delivering on that.

**Mr Bailey:** Hear, hear! It's going to be great.

**Mr KELLY:** It will be great. We continue to back small businesses. Businesses like VMP and Variety Living were able to take advantage of the Small Business Adaptation Grant and remain viable and keep people employed. We have also invested in skills and training. We extended the free TAFE and apprenticeships and that has been very popular. We know there are people who have had to change course during this pandemic. We know there are young people who have had challenges getting a start. By investing in skills and training, we are getting those people a good start.

We are expanding our economy. We have put a lot of work into manufacturing—Rheinmetall being one of the great success stories—but also our energy future; we have changed the story there. We are building on our investment in solar and wind. We know that hydrogen is going to play a big part in the future. Not only is it changing the way we generate energy, which is good for the environment, but it has also been good for creating jobs. We continue our good work in developing a pipeline of work in the film and television industry, and the Olympics is really exciting not just for my community but for the whole of Queensland, providing a 20-year confidence boost.

Finally, there is targeted assistance. We know there are certain industries that are doing it tough, tourism being one in particular. I keep meeting people in my electorate who have taken advantage of those tourism dollars and are out there supporting local tourism businesses. I know that is happening in Cairns and in the Whitsunday. This is COVID recovery. This is what it looks like: infrastructure investment, backing small businesses, providing skills and training, expanding our economy and providing targeted assistance. This is COVID recovery.

I do want to turn my attention to our opponents at the election. I would like to acknowledge all of them who stepped forward except for One Nation. They deserve no praise or acknowledgement whatsoever. It was a cynical paper exercise to generate some money. Their candidate did not show up, did not put up a placard and did not have a Facebook presence. In fact, you could not even find a phone number for them. It was a complete waste of time.

I would like to acknowledge Andrew Newbold and the LNP team for running a good campaign. I would particularly like to acknowledge two of their volunteers, Don and Lila Cameron. Even though they work every single election to get me unelected, we could not deny that they are long servants of democracy. I acknowledge the IMOP candidate, Jazzy Melhop; however, I utterly and totally reject the anti-vaccination message that she carried in all of its forms.

I acknowledge that the Greens ran a good campaign, but I also would like to acknowledge that they ran around the electorate once again lying to people. They told people that they had 40 per cent of the vote secured. As we saw on election day, that was nothing but a total fabrication. Any right-thinking person who analysed their policies would have shuddered: free everything for everyone, but to pay for this we are going to quadruple the taxes on an industry we are going to shut down. There is a certain lack of logic in that. Beyond that, if you looked at their policies they would do two things: destroy jobs and push up the cost of housing for young people. They are not going to get there; they are not going to get anywhere near their 40 per cent while they are lying to people and while their policies destroy jobs and push up housing costs.

As we would all know, no-one gets elected to this place without a lot of help. I would like to thank a whole range of people. My day starts and finishes with my family. I would like to thank my wife, Susan Adams, and my wonderful daughters, Molly and Brenna. As we would all know in this place, they sacrifice a lot of time for us to be here. It is particularly pleasing that my daughters are now old enough to put on a red shirt and help out with handing out how-to-vote cards. That will remain one of my favourite photos of all time, the six o'clock photo near the Greenslopes Baptist Church at the end of a long day.

I would like to thank my mother-in-law, Nola Adams. She was my No. 1 cheer squad in the Coorparoo village. I am sure she locked in a lot of those seniors' votes for me, so thank you, Nola. My mum, Pat Kelly, followed the campaign closely and no doubt was constantly on the blower to God via the prayer system from Coolum Waters nursing home.

My campaign manager is just an amazing person—first campaign that she has managed—Alicia Weiderman. She did a terrific job. She runs a fantastic consulting business. I think wherever she chooses to go in life she will get there. I certainly would not have had the opportunity to come here a third time without her guidance, support, strategic thinking and utter commitment to hard work. It was amazing.

My former campaign manager, Matt Campbell, continued to provide guidance and assistance. He works across four or five campaigns now providing help in a whole range of ways. His first love has always been Greenslopes and helping to get me re-elected, so I would like to thank Matt for not just what he does for me in terms of helping me get re-elected but also the work he does in our community. Volunteering for so many organisations is amazing.

My electorate staff, Brooke Wilson and Jordan Ayton, are two amazing people. They have both grown up in our community. They are both wonderful people. They work hard all the time. They just help people in myriad ways. I think that is why whenever I am out doorknocking or at mobile offices or community events I get nothing but great feedback for them. I know that working in an electorate office, they have to make a lot of sacrifices. We all know how hard our electorate staff work.

I would like to thank Eddie Uzelin, who did a great job of supporting me with my doorknocking. It was never too much for him to come out. No matter how hot it was, no matter how hard it was, no matter how high the hills were—and we do have a few hills in Greenslopes—he was out there doorknocking away with me.

There are so many branch members who stepped forward to help. Karl Birnie, Trish Ryan, Daryl Sparkes, Derek Wood, Christine Anderson, Heather Abramson, Tina Donaghy, Mick Fraser, Jimmy Loftus and Peter Kington all stepped forward and there were many, many more. There were some new people who came along to help as well and I would like to acknowledge them. Callun Lavis, Jaydeen Steers, Claudia Meza, Craig Minns and Carmel Baillie all stepped forward.

There were a couple of branch members who, for the first time, could not help on a campaign and I would like to acknowledge them. Age robbed them of what the LNP never could and that was a desire and an ability to get out there and campaign for Labor. Ray Smith, Ian McLennan, Brian Merrin, Peggy Duke and Brian and Mary Dutton sent me well wishes. They all sent me a few dollars. They would have been out there if age had allowed that. I do thank them for their ongoing support.

I also want to note the sad departure and the passing of a couple of really dear, good friends and hardworking true believing Labor people, and they are Hazel Smith and Dennis Cross. Dennis, in fact, was working right up until the last election and only recently deteriorated due to his cancer. Hazel would have been out there but for the Parkinson's disease. As an aside, if anybody ever wondered whatever happened to the ute from 'ute-gate', it ended up with Dennis Cross. He has a piece of Australian political history. He is terrific bloke.

I would like to thank all of my extended family, and there are a lot. They all helped out in various ways. I particularly want to thank my brother, Peter, who not only is a great delegate for the SDA but is always willing to come down and help with letterboxing, street stalls and pre-poll. Thanks to my brother,




Pete. It would be remiss of me not to thank my sister, Angie, for stepping forward to have a go in the seat of Whitsunday. She got the call-up late. Yes, it is a shame. While I am sad she did not get the opportunity to be here, I know that the families and the students at Cannonvale State School will be extremely pleased to have their principal back. She is a great principal and a great person. Wherever she chooses to apply herself in life, she will make a huge difference. I hope she does think about stepping forward somewhere in politics because she has a lot to offer.

I have several friends I would like to acknowledge. Joseba Larrazabal, Mark Wockner, Mark Kondos, Ben Keenan, Tony Brown, Sagie Pillai and Damian Power all helped me out in ways large and small. I would also like to acknowledge a really good friend of mine, Lisa O'Donnell, who stepped forward in the seat of Chatsworth. She ran a great campaign. She did not get there. It was such a good campaign, I think she almost gave the member for Chatsworth a couple of grey hairs.

I would like to thank the people who donated to my campaign, particularly Crichton McIntyre, a good friend, Don Todman, Peter Stirk and many others. I have never made a secret of my involvement or support for the great Australian trade union movement. I would like to thank the members of all of the unions but particularly the Transport Workers Union, the Australian Workers' Union, the plumbers union, the SDA and, of course, my union, the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union.

I acknowledge and thank Jules Campbell and all of the paid staff and volunteers at party office. They help us out in ways that we do not really see or understand, but we do appreciate that. I thank them all. I know they work extremely hard. There are many local small businesses that supported my campaign. I thank Matt Roberts from Allsop & England Organic Butchers, Ian Chapman from VMP, Gloria from Lady Brock and Mohsen Amini from the Taste of Saffron.

Finally, I thank each and every single person in the electorate of Greenslopes for the huge honour and opportunity to represent the electorate. I thank the community groups and all of those small businesses that serve our community. I promise and recommit to working hard every single day with the people of Greenslopes, as I have done over the past six years. Now we will work not just to build community—we will keep working to build community—but also to keep Queenslanders safe and to lead the recovery.

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (4.30 pm): To stand here in this august chamber and give my address-in-reply after being re-elected for a fourth term by the people of Chatsworth is indeed a true honour and one that I do not take for granted. I fully realise that it is a privilege and not a right to serve in this hallowed chamber. I am truly indebted to the people of Chatsworth. I thank them for giving me the opportunity of serving as their state member in this 57th Parliament.

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land where we all meet today, the Jagera and Turrbal peoples. I again reaffirm my allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and to her representative, His Excellency the Governor, Paul de Jersey, the institution of parliament and of course the electors of Chatsworth, who have entrusted me with a fourth term of electoral representation in this 57th Parliament. I take this opportunity to express my condolence on the recent passing of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. He was indeed the embodiment, the definition, of public service. Nine years ago I stated in my inaugural speech—

Our role and responsibility as a government is to provide an opportunity deposit slip for all Queenslanders and not an entitlement chequebook. It is our responsibility as the government to be an enabler of opportunity and not a provider of assumed entitlement.

Even though six months has passed since the last state election, I take this opportunity to once again acknowledge the valuable contribution made by defeated and retiring members from the 56th Parliament. I congratulate all returning and new members of this 57th Parliament. I also congratulate Mr Speaker on his reappointment to the role.

I acknowledge the incredibly moving speech recently given in this House by the member for Stretton, Mr Duncan Pegg. I share his love and passion for the institution of parliament and, although I obviously differ with his ideological views, there is a complete unity ticket when it comes to upholding the essence of democracy. I thoroughly enjoyed working with the member for Stretton as a Parliamentary Friends of Taiwan co-chair. His commitment to multiculturalism is genuine. I lament the personal health situation he finds himself in, but he has demonstrated to all members in this chamber that he never gives up, and I wish him all the very best.

I remain steadfastly committed to doing what is best for the Chatsworth electorate, which I am proud to serve. Whilst I am deeply honoured to be the shadow minister for customer service and the shadow minister for transport and main roads, as I repeatedly say the most important initials or title one can have as a politician is 'MP'. Without them you are not a minister, shadow minister, whip or anything else. It reinforces the notion in my mind that serving your local community as their MP is and always will be the highest priority. On this point, nothing has changed.

Since first being elected nine years ago, in 2012, my passion to make the local community I represent in the eastern suburbs of Brisbane a better place in which to live will continue to be the focus of what drives me each and every day as a parliamentarian. Being asked by the Leader of the Opposition to again take on the role of shadow minister for transport and main roads was a privilege. It is a portfolio I truly enjoy. This portfolio is crucial to the livability and economy of our great state. While it has its challenges, it certainly has plenty of opportunities.

The transport sector is also a diverse one, where operators range from family businesses to multinational companies providing goods and services to the community. I have continued to make it my business to meet as many of these people as possible: bus operators, taxi and ride share drivers, limo drivers, heavy vehicle operators, road and bridge contractors, train crews and toll operators to name just some of the incredible people who are helping to make this state great.

During my drive from Cooktown to Coolangatta in August last year and on other visits to regional Queensland, it was always a feature of my itinerary to meet with local government representatives to make sure I am learning about their concerns as well as their aspirations. I again place on the record my sincere thanks to those people who have taken me into their confidence, shared their concerns and helped me understand how I could best assist them.

I have always upheld the view that state controlled roads are not just kilometres of bitumen and asphalt; they are in fact vital economic arteries which connect this vast state and add to gross state product. The same can be said for our rail and shipping lines. A vibrant state economy, particularly in a resource-rich state like Queensland, is dependent on a fit-for-purpose transport network which is well maintained. I will come back to this point shortly.

While I will always strive to remain positive with the responsibilities of my role, clearly there are times when the government needs to be held to account for its performance. I will not shirk this responsibility. Whether it is fighting for better public transport services or road upgrades, trying to secure a better deal for motorists with backlog maintenance issues or seeking to improve processing times for transport operators, I will always maintain a problem-solving attitude along with a relentless approach to keeping the Palaszczuk Labor government focused on delivering on its transport and main roads commitments.

My role as the shadow minister for transport and main roads is to hold the minister I shadow to account, and I intend to do just that. Let us look at some of these issues, starting with Queensland Rail failures. In a recent speech in this House, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads described things in his portfolio as 'awesome'. I refer to SPADs. A recent Australian Transport Safety Bureau investigation into a 'signal passed at danger' incident by a Queensland Rail Citytrain said—

Such a 'completely missed' SPAD can have very serious consequences as there were limited risk controls or defences in place on the ... Citytrain rail network to recover from the situation.

The driver overrode a safety system as a reflexive response. Overriding systems should not happen so often that it generates a reflex response. There was a real risk that trains could have collided. That is why it is concerning that the September 2020 SPAD figure jumped to 1.89, up from 1.68 the previous month. In October 2020 the figure was up again, to 1.94. The Queensland Rail CEO advised at the estimates process back in November that the rate had dropped; in fact, in November the figure went up to 2.04. In February 2021, the latest data available, it is up to 2.3. It is rising. That is concerning. As you sit on a train heading towards that red light, you have to wonder whether the government has lost control of transport safety.

*Tabled paper:* Extract, dated 27 July 2018, from the *Record of Proceedings*, Queensland Parliament, page 11 and chart titled 'Safety and security: Signal passed at Danger (SPAD)' [[649](#)].

The transport minister also is not meeting his own commitment to publish this data promptly. I table estimates minutes from 27 July 2018 where the minister committed to publishing the data on or around the 10th day of each month; however, as the tabled document shows, March data is over two months late. When the numbers go bad, the government simply stops releasing data. This is not exactly 'awesome', Minister.

Another signal that the passenger rail network is under pressure is the increase in the percentage of skipped stations. Between January and February this year, the percentage of skipped stations almost doubled, from 0.07 to 0.13. If you are at one of those 142 stations skipped in the month of February, it is a case of 'too bad, too sad'. Data shows a steady increase in skipped stations since May last year, when 35 stations were missed. Now it is up to 142—another sign that Labor has lost control of the passenger rail network. Again, this is not exactly 'awesome', Minister. Drivers are running red lights and stations are being skipped to try to preserve the on-time running statistics. Doesn't this all sound very familiar?

The transport minister has his own call centre of excuses: press 1 to blame the current federal government; press 2 to blame the previous Newman government; press 3 to say it is all due to COVID; or press 4 if you would like to hear these choices again. The transport minister needs to take responsibility so that we do not have another 'rail fail'—not exactly 'awesome', Minister.

What about Cross River Rail—a project which is becoming a big financial black hole? The government is now referring to the opening of Cross River Rail being in 2025—we heard that from the minister this morning—yet it was always set to open in 2024, and I refer to an article in the *Brisbane Times* on 26 April 2020 on or at about page 8. How can a \$5.4 billion project blow out by a year and remain on time and on budget? Halfway through construction we see major alignment changes in the southern construction zone. It is like something out of a *Faulty Towers* episode: 'Sorry, we got the curvature of the track wrong!' Allegedly they did not talk to Queensland Rail before signing off on the design. If only it was like a Hornby train set where the track has a set curve! It would appear that cost implications have not been fully disclosed nor a proper operational plan disclosed.

There was a recent report in the media about secret plans to introduce spoil haulage from Roma Street on a Sunday. There is the incorporation of approximately a third of the Roma Street Parklands into the priority development area without proper community consultation—another example of secrecy and lack of transparency. We see the Labor spin machine going into rinse cycle with the softening up of language in a bid to condition the taxpayers for a lesser outcome with the Cross River Rail project. Again, not exactly awesome, Minister. Let us not forget the ballooning backlog maintenance blowout now approaching \$6 billion and rising for state controlled roads, bridges and culverts. This is definitely not awesome, Minister for Transport and Main Roads.

I am also very honoured to have been named the first shadow minister for customer service by our new LNP state leader, and that is something very near and dear to my heart and I will be speaking further in relation to that shadow portfolio in future speeches. It was great to recently visit Minister Victor Dominello MP, the New South Wales Minister for Customer Service. What New South Wales government agencies can see on their iPads, their PCs and their digital dashboard of the whole of government is truly amazing and outstanding and we are being left in the dark.

Other issues I intend to pursue during the 57th Parliament include Commonwealth-state financial relations and competitive federalism. This incessant, ridiculous blame game between the federal and state governments especially in the key areas of health, transport infrastructure and education is beyond a joke. As I have previously stated in this House, urgent reform of our constitutional responsibilities is paramount. I again quote Alan Fenna when he states in his book *A People's Federation* at pages 134 to 135—

The high degree of vertical fiscal imbalance (VFI) in Australian Federalism gives the Commonwealth enormous power to intervene at will in the many areas of jurisdiction assigned by the Constitution to the States ... Australia's current fiscal arrangements obscure lines of accountability substantially.

Vertical fiscal imbalance and the duplicity of service delivery across the three tiers of government is holding this nation back, and the sooner this important area of public policy has informed national debate and dialogue the better. It is a cop-out for our current federal and state politicians to relegate this vital area of public policy to the backburner merely because it is too complicated.

All politics are local and I will continue to fight hard for the constituents of the Chatsworth electorate and look to improve amenities in my electorate. Leading into the 2020 state election I put forward my vision and plan for Chatsworth. This included \$55,000 to build a wildlife crossing for Old Cleveland Road to connect habitats of our local fauna, a \$4 million investment for allied health services for the Clem Jones Centre, \$300,000 for a new outside school hours building at Camp Hill State Infants and Primary School, a million dollars for Gumdale State School for classroom upgrades and fast-tracking solar panels for Belmont State School, as well as adding a pedestrian overpass and removing traffic lights and better traffic signal coordination on Old Cleveland Road and also to get the Eastern Busway back on the agenda.

I am proud to have lobbied for many of these important projects leading into the state election and I am flattered that, like clockwork, many of my commitments, funnily enough, were followed by announcements from the Labor government. Following the 2020-21 Queensland state budget, Gumdale State School has been allocated \$2.4 million out of a \$6 million total spend for new classrooms. I welcome that. The new Allied Health and Wellbeing Centre for the Clem Jones Centre was allocated \$2½ million of a \$5 million total spend. That is welcomed and I am glad that the government is following my lead and great to see. I will continue to deliver these essential projects and make sure that they are delivered on time.

Despite launching a petition which received hundreds and hundreds of signatures, I am disappointed the Labor state government has ignored the voices of our community and is yet to find a fauna crossing for Old Cleveland Road. I will continue to fight to see this important infrastructure built to ensure that we give our wildlife the best chance at survival. You do not need to superglue yourself to a bridge to show true concern for the environment. It is something dear to my heart. Old Cleveland Road is killing fauna at a rapid rate. We need to do a very simple fix and have a fauna crossing. Circa \$80,000, it is money that will be repaid time and time again over and over again. I again urge the minister to give that due consideration—that is, a fauna crossing on Old Cleveland Road.

The biggest challenge though in my electorate is reliable and frequent public transport. I am pleased that construction of the Eastern Transit Way project has finally begun and has been given \$8½ million of a \$30 million total spend to start, but this is simply not good enough. Old Cleveland Road is the major eastern road corridor connecting the city with the Redlands and it needs relief now. The Eastern Transit Way jump lanes at intersections will not provide a long-term solution for Old Cleveland Road. Ideally, a designated busway is the only viable long-term solution and I am committed to getting a detailed business plan on track before the next state election. I would urge the minister to consider getting fair dinkum with Old Cleveland Road with a dedicated busway. I will continue to fight to see the best possible outcomes for my own electorate of Chatsworth.

As I have stated in the past and will continue to acknowledge, there is one aspect of being a politician that unites all of us in this chamber regardless of our various ideological beliefs. None of us can aspire to high office without the help of our wonderful support base. Therefore, I wish to place on record my sincere thanks to several important people. Firstly, to the local LNP branch members, thank you yet again for your dedication and professionalism during the last state campaign. None of you are paid a dime, yet you give up your time and effort in order to support me and the LNP overall. I thank you, thank you and thank you. Just like the previous three elections, there were several days during my fourth state campaign when the mercury was rising and the weather was humid and decidedly uncomfortable. Notwithstanding this, my dedicated support team continued to hit the pavements and letterbox drop targeted areas of the electorate as well as roadside duties and doorknocking.

To the many supporters both from within the LNP and personal friends who assisted with the pre-poll in the weeks leading up to election day, my deepest thanks. I acknowledge Matt, Hayden, Mike, Drewe, Ken, Paul, Charles, Greg and many others. They say it pays to advertise, so I again acknowledge the several hundred supporters throughout the Chatsworth electorate who enabled my mighty campaign team to erect signs along their front yards and fences.

COVID-19 travel restrictions made sure, unfortunately, that my interstate friends Lauren and Ben could not be with me physically for this fourth campaign, but they offered support wherever possible. Yet again my mother, Denise, was exceptional in her support throughout the entire fourth campaign, particularly rising to the occasion with pre-polling. My love for her knows no bounds.


As was the case several years ago when I first ran for preselection, my greatest support base is my immediate family. My two adult children Heather and Lachlan worked tirelessly around their university, school and sporting commitments to assist with my campaign. For the fourth election in a row I was full of pride and overwhelmed with their work ethic and dedication during the campaign. However, nothing politically will ever surpass my pride in watching them grow into fine, free spirited and thinking young individuals. It was with immense pride that I handed my youngest son Lachlan his first ever how-to-vote card, because he had just turned 18 about a month before the election date and cast his first vote—hopefully for his own father, who, like many parents, doubles occasionally as an ATM machine. As I have felt from the very moment I first laid eyes upon them when they were born, I would give up my life for them in a heartbeat.

Nine years ago I described my wife, Roslyn, in my inaugural speech as my rock of Gibraltar. This description is just as apt today. Politically, everything I could have achieved as a member of parliament could only ever have been done with the support and assistance of my wife of over a quarter of a century, Ros. She has done a phenomenal job not just throughout the campaign but throughout the course of my political career. Ros is a consummate professional in everything she does. She is meticulous and matches this precision with a real passion to help people. My success in being elected for a fourth term is due in no small part to her efforts. As a teacher she is a busy professional in her own right and virtually runs the entire household when I am consumed with politics. To my extraordinary wife, Ros, I thank you again from the bottom of my heart.

I have previously stated, and will again reiterate, that our ideological battles here in this hallowed chamber are an important part of the overall democratic process. Indeed, robust debate is an important part of this but, as the approximately 1,200 names on the honour board of past members of the

Legislative Assembly attests, our time here is, relatively speaking, short-lived as a proportion of our entire life's experiences. I believe it is incumbent, therefore, upon all of us to use our privileged time here responsibly in pursuing tangible outcomes for the electorates we serve.

In closing, I dedicate my fourth address-in-reply speech to all those Queenslanders who have been affected by this dreadful COVID pandemic, especially our emergency services personnel. I am truly honoured to be returned for a fourth time and, in closing my address-in-reply speech, I will again quote Hal Colebatch, who stated, 'The high privilege of democracy cannot be maintained unless the equally exalted responsibilities attracting to it are understood and observed.'

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (4.50 pm): I rise to give my address-in-reply. I begin by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which we meet, the Jagera and Turrbal people, and pay my respects to elders of all cultures, those past and those whose wisdom guides us into the future. I would also like to acknowledge the First Peoples of my home, the Quandamooka people, one of the world's oldest continuing living cultures who have, for over 20,000 years, cared for the lands, winds and waters of our stunning Quandamooka coast.

It is an extraordinary privilege to be returned to this place for a second term. I express my deepest gratitude and thanks to the people of Redlands for allowing me again the honour of representing our community. It is and will always be one of the greatest honours of my life. I congratulate the Premier, the Deputy Premier and all the members in this House on their return. I welcome all of the new members and thank those members who were not returned for their service to the people of Queensland. As the member for Chatsworth pointed out, there are a limited number of names on the honour board of the Legislative Assembly and those who come and go provide an incredible service to the people of Queensland.

My first term of two years and 10 months felt like it flew by in a moment. A large part of the back end of that was set amidst probably the greatest challenge any of us could ever have imagined with the global pandemic of COVID-19. I am proud to have been part of the Palaszczuk Labor government that kept Queenslanders and my Redlands community safe throughout the pandemic and as we continue our journey in recovery.

I also take this opportunity to thank my Redlands community for the way in which they have approached every aspect of dealing with the pandemic and the fundamental changes it has brought to the way we live our lives. It has brought such significant change. Our spirit of community in the Redlands is second to none and never did it shine more brightly than it did in 2020. Our community organisations were amazing across the board. Our government, local government and the community worked together to make sure that we kept each other safe.

As I said in my maiden speech of 2018, to the people of Redlands, to those who voted for me and those who did not, I want to reaffirm my promise and commitment to them that I will continue to be a strong voice for our community. I will listen, I will engage, I will work hard. I will bring respect and I will fight for the needs of my unique electorate of beautiful islands and a rapidly changing mainland. The people of Redlands have again put their faith, hope and trust in me and in our Labor team to continue to deliver for Redlands and, indeed, for all Queenslanders. I want my Redlands community to know that I will always represent them in the best interests of our collective community. They will continue to be at the centre of my thoughts and at the heart of my activities and representations in this role as their member in the 57th Parliament, just as they were in the 56th Parliament.

I also said in my maiden speech that I believed a measure of one's success in this place was the legacy ultimately left behind. I am proud of the work achieved in my first term. It is a legacy well underway which includes, in roads and infrastructure, the \$110 million stage 1 upgrade of Cleveland-Redland Bay Road, a highly politicked road for decades. That upgrade is much needed and will help transform and bust congestion in my community. Last week I had the pleasure of announcing the contractors that have been appointed for the \$34.1 million Southern Moreton Bay Islands ferry terminals. These will create the most incredible gateways to our islands. They will be transformative. It is long overdue and will be embraced by not only locals but also those people coming to visit as we continue to transition into a tourism based economy.

I am also proud of working closely with Minister Bailey to secure free Southern Moreton Bay Islands inter-island travel. It is important for our island community to remain connected. At times they can be isolated. The cost of living can be high on an island. For residents to be connected and to be able to go freely from Russell Island to Macleay Island or Macleay Island to Karragarra Island is an important service that the Palaszczuk government is supporting. I was also pleased that we introduced the community grants packages. We have had two rounds. In the first round there was \$2.5 million

allocated. Works are nearly complete on the Southern Moreton Bay Island Green Seal program. There are still more works to do into the future but we have been able to support Redland City council on delivering those works for my community.

It is an absolute privilege to be chairing the Education, Employment and Training Committee. I cannot think of a greater honour. Education is what changes our world. It is part of any legacy that you leave behind.

We have achieved much work across our schools. I do not think there is a school that has not been touched, from air conditioning and solar for all Redland schools, which is well underway, to the \$3 million Victoria Point State High School library and hall upgrade. This was a high school that had not had much love shown to it and was left behind by another high school in the Oodgeroo electorate. The work has created a flexible new learning space and digitalised library for the school. The hall is something they are so proud of. I had the chance to watch the leaders' induction and be part of the official opening of the hall. It was incredible to see the pride on the faces of the students, teachers and parents.

A few weeks ago I visited the new administration building at the Thornlands State School. It is an absolute transformation. There is a lot of heritage building listed there. The administration building was one of those tired, daggy, old spaces, in particular for new families to come into. It was fantastic to see how excited the staff, the principal, the deputy principal, the teachers and the families who were bringing their children in were.

We did a \$500,000 upgrade of the administration and library building at Macleay Island State School; there was \$1.2 million for Russell Island State School classroom refurbishments; and \$9 million worth of work is well underway at the Redlands District Special School. That school is close to my heart. I do not think I stopped talking about it in the 56th Parliament. It is an incredible school. Principal Thompson is amazing. The teachers, the teacher aides and the support staff are doing the most incredible job with the most beautiful students.

We built \$1.6 million worth of new classrooms at Redland Bay State School; \$700,000 worth of new classrooms at Bay View State School; Cleveland District State High School had \$18 million worth of work done on it; and there was \$2.4 million for the YMCA vocational school and youth club—a brand new facility that is transformative in providing alternate options for education to make sure that every young Redlander gets the best opportunity to live their best possible life through education. We have the Redland TAFE at Alexandra Hills with \$15 million for a new nursing building. There is new plumbing underway and resources for trades. We have been focused on how we deliver education for our community, including free TAFE for year 12 graduates and free apprenticeship and training costs.

In hospital and health care we have secured the \$50 million new hospital multistorey car park which is so badly needed and is a huge addition; the design work is underway on a \$62 million new intensive care unit and 32-bed ward; we completed the \$1.7 million emergency expansion and state-of-the-art maternity and birthing ward; and we have a \$6 million hospital expansion business case underway to look at making sure we futureproof the hospital into the future.

One of my proudest achievements is the \$40 million new satellite hospital, which we have done the site evaluation on. That will make a significant difference to my community. There are challenges to living on an island and to access health services you need to travel to the mainland and back again. To have that service located at Weinam Creek near the marina will be extraordinary for so many in our community.

Turning to jobs and economic development, it was lovely to MC the small business reception last night. My chamber of commerce president, Rebecca Young, was there. They have just received refunding for the new regional jobs committee. That fantastic program will absolutely transform the work that they do. Given the work that they have achieved to date and what that refunding will do, we will continue to have a bright economic future, flourish and diversify our economy. Skilling Queenslanders for Work is something else I have spoken about a million times in this place. That great work keeps happening in the Redlands for our people. It is a program that we must continue to invest in.

I am a Queensland hydrogen champion. The work that is happening in the hydrogen space is extraordinarily exciting, particularly in the Redlands where the rubber hits the road. So much great work is happening there.

In the community space, millions of dollars have been delivered from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund for many very important organisations and I will touch on a few of those in a minute. Our IndigiScapes facility has been upgraded. We have had sports upgrades. We have more police officers,

new police equipment, vehicles, barges and high-speed jet boats. There are more fisheries patrol officers. There are new fire appliances. We have invested in new DV crisis accommodation, which is extraordinarily important, and we continue to invest in DV worker support for our Redlands community.

Much work has been completed and much work is underway. I know that there will always be more to do to continue to build on the legacy that I want to leave for my Redlands community. We really do have the most vibrant community heart. Our community is a collective of generous and kind-hearted people. I have been blessed with the opportunity to engage with many incredible community groups, service groups, sporting clubs and volunteer organisations. I want to mention some of those, but there are so many I know I will miss some.

We have amazing churches in our area. Champions Church runs our food bank and does an amazing job in the community. In the conservation space there is SMBI Coast Care, the garden clubs, Bay Islands Conservation, Coochiemudlo Island Coastcare and Karragarra Community Garden. In the service organisations we have Lions and Rotary. They all do an incredible job.

In the emergency services volunteer space, we have Volunteer Marine Rescue at Victoria Point and the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard at Redland Bay. I am extraordinarily proud of the work that we have done on the War on Wrecks, cleaning up our waterways and looking at how we can improve them into the future. I am extraordinarily proud to be the patron of the coast guard. We have a rural fire brigade station on each island and they do an incredible job. The Coochiemudlo Surf Life Saving Club is also fantastic. It is the breeding ground for all of our nippers. Our volunteers in police do an amazing job as does Volunteering Redlands. We have local ambulance committees as well the Venturers, Scouts and Girl Guides. There are many organisations that I could mention.

The Redlands RSL branches are wonderful. In the Redlands we have Night Ninjas, the Redlands Centre for Women and Running Wild which all do absolutely incredible work. Meals on Wheels has been extraordinarily well supported as are our seniors clubs, art groups, Rugby League clubs, AFL clubs and netball clubs. I am a passionate netball junky from a long time ago. I have really loved getting back on the court with a whistle in my hand. It has been a real treat to be able to do that during the 56th Parliament and continuing into the 57th Parliament. I am very good with a whistle, member for Bundamba. There are many great sporting clubs that are working hard. There is a lot to be excited about in the Redlands. As our chamber of commerce says, we have an extraordinarily bright future ahead and a really strong community.

I think everybody in this place knows that it is the incredible people behind each one of us in this House that see us here today. To everybody who has been a part of my journey to have the honour of representing my Redlands community in this place, thank you for your support and enthusiasm, for rallying when required and for cheering loudly when I needed it most. Without your ongoing support and friendship we could not have achieved this. Our campaign was honest and it was grassroots. It was a long-term campaign. Every day that we are in this place working for our communities we should work as hard as we did when campaigning. Whether we are in this place or out in the community, it is always about working for our people, working for our community and being a part of it.

There are so many people to thank. I had an army of volunteers who helped across the campaign, throughout pre-polling and on election day. I was helped by over 150 volunteers. It was a massive turnout. Firstly, thank you to every single Labor Party branch member in the Redlands, particularly my current branch president, Ken Kirby, and my former branch president, Ross Cornwill. Our branch friends who came out were also incredible. We had so much support come in so many ways. From phone calling to doorknocking, from roadside to trailer duties, they were incredible. To the residents who allowed me the privilege of putting up my signs at their homes, thank you. An extraordinary number of locals backed me and I thank them for that.

My deepest gratitude goes to some people who really helped me and assisted my campaign. My campaign manager and her husband, Stephanie and Mike Morris, were my rock of Gibraltar—they really were. I thank my field organiser, Jasper Every, and the whole Young Labor crew. I have no doubt that Jasper will be in this place one day. He is an extraordinarily passionate member of the Labor Party and an extraordinarily passionate member of our Redlands community. To the whole Hewlett family, thank you. To Glenda Little and her family, thank you. To Glenn Barlow and his family, thank you. You were all absolutely incredible. You all had my back when I needed it most.

To my electorate neighbours, Don Brown and Mick de Brenni: it has been quite a ride. I thank you for all of your support. To Jules Campbell, Jeanette Temperley, Meredith Newman and former senator Claire Moore, thank you for your wisdom, advice and guidance. It continues to be invaluable.

Thank you to the amazing teams at the ETU and the United Workers Union. Again they were the wind beneath my wings. They have been incredible supporters in every way. I thank them so very much. I am very proud to be part of two unions that day in, day out work to get a fair go for all Queenslanders, creating a better and more equitable life for all. I also thank the AMWU, the CPSU and Emily's List for their support.

As everyone in this House knows, the support and love of our families is essential. To my partner, Shayne; my mum, Lynne; my son, Luke; my sister, Rachel; and my nieces, Jess and Jodi: thank you for letting me have the honour of representing our community. Thank you in advance as I continue to take you on this exciting and sometimes crazy journey with me. Mum, thank you for all that you do. You are amazing. For a 77-year-old to be out on roadside duty is pretty cool. Mum rallied all her friends to come out. She was really fantastic. She was great on pre-poll with her wheelie walker. She did a really good job.


**A government member:** She's a proud.

**Ms RICHARDS:** She is a proud mum. On election day she helped captain the booth on Russell Island. She caught the early morning ferry out there and the very late ferry back again that night. She is incredible.

My son, Luke, supported me from long distance. COVID kept him in Sydney. He was not able to be here at the time, but he certainly is pretty useful in the media space. He provided support and help from afar. He is my proudest achievement. His kindness, his lens of fairness and his caring for others inspire me. It is how I will continue to approach every day as the member for Redlands.

In 2020 I had two very different campaigns running simultaneously. The most important one was to see my partner, Shayne, beat cancer. The second was to win an election for the privilege of representing my community. Shayne was diagnosed with cancer in August last year and his chemotherapy and radiation treatment ran through to the end of the year. I have to say that on election day he looked like death warmed up. However, with the help of some friends he made it out to vote with me at Bay View State School on the morning of the election. He was nothing short of amazing, but I was not able to be there to support him through that. Everybody in this place knows how much time we spend away, engaging with our communities. I am really pleased to say that he has had the all clear, so in 2020 I had two victories in two campaigns that were very important to me.

Finally, to finish where I started, thank you again to the people of Redlands for your faith and trust in me. I promise I will not let you down. Together we will continue to forge a strong community. We will work together, we will build more respect in our community and we will leave an amazing legacy for our children and for future generations.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (5.10 pm): I offer my congratulations to Mr Speaker on his election to the high office of Speaker, a position which has a proud history in the Westminster tradition.

I would like to thank the Gympie electorate and I am honoured that they have again placed their trust in me to represent our region in the 57th Parliament. I am immensely proud of the values Gympie residents hold. I will endeavour to advocate and fight for the things that matter to them.

I am also excited to be asked to serve as shadow minister for agriculture, fisheries and forestry. These industries are extremely important to Queensland's economy and should be supported instead of undermined by ideological and anti-agricultural crusades. While the position comes with additional responsibilities, they are a natural fit for someone from Gympie. In 2018-19, agriculture, fishing and forestry represented one of Gympie's top three industry sectors. They contributed \$177.6 million to Gympie's gross regional product and numbering 1,185, or 26.1 per cent of businesses, they are the largest business category.

During the last two parliaments, I was given opportunities and experiences which I hope will stand me and my community in good stead over the next four years. Elections always bring change and loss. Some choose retirement and some have it imposed on them by the brutal arithmetic at the ballot box. I refer to the former member for Bundaberg, David Batt, and my neighbour in Nicklin, Marty Hunt.

Being opposition leader can be onerous and lonely. I thank another electorate neighbour, the member for Nanango, and the member for Everton for their leadership and service. I would also like to congratulate our new leader, the member for Broadwater, and the deputy leader on their election.

Without family support, none of us could do this job properly. I would like to publicly thank my wife, Michele, and my daughters, Stephanie and Josie, for their support. They have put up with a lot over the years in respect of my absences and the calls on my time. Stephanie's wedding even had to be scheduled around my election timetable.



I would not be here without a team of supporters. The LNP relies on the support and hard work of volunteers and families. We do not have paid union officials, activists and political operatives to support us; our support comes from everyday Queenslanders. I would like to thank my campaign team and supporters, including my campaign manager Mark Ostwald, SEC chairman Guy Burnett, secretary and treasurer Kathy Worth, Wayne Plant, and all the volunteers, friends, booth workers and local party members who helped me. I would also like to thank my staff for everything they do.

The election was conducted under the shadow of COVID restrictions. I will not argue the merits of those; however, I want to point out that it caused some people to miss out on exercising their democratic rights. I have received numerous complaints regarding the postal vote application process. Postal voting relies on the timeliness and reliability of postal services to ensure no-one is excluded from voting. Mail services are now notoriously slow. This is exacerbated in regional and rural areas, where services are not even provided every day. When ballot papers are received, voters also need to access a service to post them back.

Several applicants have told me that they did not receive ballot papers in time, despite submitting their applications as soon as they became available. Some were able to find help to attend a polling booth on election day but many could not. Many elderly constituents also found telephone voting unsuitable as they are hard of hearing and/or suspicious of providing highly personal information over the phone. Some people received their ballot papers up to a week after the election. They found this unacceptable and very upsetting. COVID-19 cannot be the excuse. One constituent said that this was the second state election that he and his mother had not received their ballot papers until after the election. He was upset that they both had been unable to exercise their democratic right for the last two elections.

When some voters contacted the Queensland Electoral Commission asking the whereabouts of their ballot papers, they were told the ballots were posted and given a date which eventually did not match with the envelope postmark. They feel they were fobbed off with excuses. Others report that they were advised that they would not be fined. The ECQ missed the point. Not everyone votes because they fear a fine; some people are interested in who governs us. These people want to vote. Many found the response flippant and ignorant about the loss of their democratic right to vote and the democratic process. They were upset that they were excluded from having their say. There needs to be some consideration of not disenfranchising rural and regional constituents, who do not receive the level of postal services which are taken for granted by those in Brisbane.

My years in local government showed me that what matters are basic commonsense policies. A survey last year of almost 1,500 residents, or 6.6 per cent of Gympie households, found their top concerns were crime, sentencing, state debt and cost-of-living issues. The challenges for government are systemic high unemployment; providing infrastructure which supports future growth and business opportunities; supporting small business, which is the gateway to job opportunities; maintaining and upgrading state roads; and providing quality facilities for health, education, fire, emergency services and police.

In last year's December quarter, the unemployment rate of 11.1 per cent was 4.1 per cent above the state average, a rise of 1.7 per cent from the March quarter's 9.4 per cent. Queensland's unemployment is higher than that of Victoria, which was locked down for most of a year.

Government decisions cannot be isolated from their impact on our budget, our economic health and real, long-term jobs. Policies have a flow-on effect to local jobs markets. When the government does not release the medical advice but cynically uses it to justify a scare campaign to get re-elected, it has a devastating impact on jobs and businesses.

Gympie is experiencing high growth. It is not surprising. It is a strategically located, high-growth commercial and residential corridor with more than three million consumers within two hours travelling time of Brisbane. Gympie has one of the most diverse regional economies. It is more attractive than regions which experience fluctuating peaks and troughs in industries like tourism and mining. The government cannot ignore the data. Growth is putting pressure on local infrastructure and services. Local real estate agents report a tight property market and rentals are being snapped up as soon as they hit the market. My office receives calls from distressed renters who find it hard to find somewhere to live.

We need to unleash the potential of the private sector to value-add, borrow, invest, grow and generate jobs. Policies which do not equate to improved employment outcomes and chances to find jobs and access employers waste taxpayers' dollars. It is just not smart. That is why the LNP kickstarted the Bruce Highway upgrades and locals eagerly await the completion of the Gympie bypass.

The Cooloolool Coast needs a properly designated police station. The current police beat does not provide the same level of service as a police station. When the police beat was opened in 2006, the local population was 999. Today there are 6,500 people on the Cooloolool Coast. This swells by thousands during the peak tourist season and on weekends. The coast needs the same level of service provided to other areas with a much lower population.

In the Mary Valley, the Imbil Police Station needs upgrading and additional police personnel. Two police officers are stationed there; however, for long periods of time only one is operating there. The Imbil Rural Watch's strong connections and liaison with the police and community do not replace a police presence. According to the 2016 Census, the Mary Valley population has grown to almost 6,500, even more if you count visitors and tourists. People are moving in, significant investment is going on and crowds of tourists are visiting. More than 500 properties have returned to private ownership because of the strategies to attract people to the Mary Valley. They have been bought back from the state government after the failed Traveston Dam project.

It is busy all the time, not just on weekends. On weekdays it is crawling with people. The population swells during holiday and peak tourist season and through attractions and events such as the Borumba Dam, Gympie Music Muster and the Mitchell Creek Rock 'N' Blues Fest.

Popularity is also pressuring state controlled roads such as Rainbow Beach and Tin Can Bay roads and the Mary Valley Highway. The government needs to tell us the time frames and plans, including for overtaking lanes, to upgrade these roads. The minister advised me that the Mary Valley Highway safety upgrade report, which was due last year, will be completed in June. I trust that it will be publicly released when it is available.

The Cooloolool coast is a popular spot—a premier destination. Most people travelling to Fraser Island access it through Rainbow Beach. They must travel on Tin Can Bay and Rainbow Beach roads, which are below standard for such a major tourist destination. The Coondoo Creek bridge upgrade was welcomed, but traffic is often held up. There are limited passing opportunities on Tin Can Bay and Rainbow Beach roads. Drivers become frustrated and take risks which have shown up in increasing traffic accidents and deaths. If the government wants to advance Queensland tourism it must put its money where its mouth is. Passing lanes will make the road safer for everyone.

The need for a new fire and rescue station in Gympie cannot be ignored. Land was bought for the station in 2014—almost seven years ago. In 2016 then minister Byrne said that construction would start in 2022, with completion in 2023. We need to be told if this is still on track.

The government needs to keep its eye on the ball with service delivery at the Gympie Hospital. I have received numerous complaints from local doctors about service delivery. The Sunshine Coast hospital is more than 100 kilometres away. Gympie needs local services. Our hospital is on a constrained site at the top of a steep hill and parking is poor. The closure of the private hospital is putting pressure on Gympie Hospital. If Gympie Hospital cannot meet its community service delivery obligations then planning for a new hospital needs to start.

The review of the health needs of the Cooloolool coast was due in February last year. It will provide some guidelines on what health and medical facilities are needed. Currently patients have to travel significant distances for many basic healthcare treatments that are available in towns with populations of only 2,000.

I inherited Glenwood from the Maryborough electorate in the redistribution. More than 6,000 people live there and in the surrounding towns. The Bruce Highway going through the region is notorious for accidents. It is up to a 40-minute wait for an ambulance to come from Gympie or Maryborough. Locals tell me that their previous requests for an ambulance station were ignored by Maryborough's Labor member.

I receive regular feedback about concerns in relation to class sizes in Gympie public schools. Gympie has only two state high schools offering years 7 to 12. The Tin Can Bay and Mary Valley schools only go to year 10 and students must commute into Gympie to complete years 11 and 12. Local high schools are under pressure. Enrolments are increasing at James Nash State High School and Gympie State High School which currently educate more than 2,300 students. Three private schools already ease the burden on local state schools. We need to be proactive and start planning before current facilities and services are unreasonably stretched.

During last year's election I secured LNP support for many local community groups, sporting organisations, men's sheds, cadets and school committees. Cooloolool Coast Medical Transport provides a door-to-door service carrying patients to out-of-town medical appointments. The Gympie & District Show Society undertakes a massive task in putting on Queensland's third largest show. These groups put in hours to make our community better and to plug holes in missing government services.

It is a privilege to be on the shadow ministerial team. Agriculture, fishing and forestry are major employers in rural and regional areas. With unemployment higher than in other states, it is imperative to allow those industries to borrow, invest and grow. Business owners and workers make significant personal and financial commitments. They need certainty for current and future investment and not to be held back by government policies and inaction. The minister can no longer keep kicking into the long grass major issues impacting the future of these industries. The proposed drought reforms need to be brought forward. They were delayed based on COVID. Changes will happen on 1 July, only seven weeks away. I am unsure if the promised consultation has ever happened.

The Premier promised a timber advisory panel 18 months ago. It has been conveniently overlooked for political purposes. The timber industry is currently facing the potential closure of mills and supply issues of native whole log exports. The failed farm forestry plan promised by Beattie in 1989 never materialised. Foresters need a solution.

There is considerable angst in the commercial fishing industry around legislative and regulatory changes. The government dodged delivering a regulatory impact statement on these changes. I have received numerous representations questioning their fairness and outlining the cold-hearted way people are being forced to exit the industry.

Labour shortages are not confined to horticulture. Shortages cut across the farming, fishing and forestry sectors. There is a growing gap between farm labour supply and filling the demand. So far the government has delivered very little in solutions other than grandstanding, finger pointing and some media spin. The shortage of thousands of workers will mean economic loss for growers and price rises for consumers.

Agriculture alone is worth \$18 billion and employs more than 60,000 people across 26,000 farm businesses. It accounts for 315,000 people employed across the whole food supply chain. Addressing these issues cannot be avoided. They cannot be put on the backburner if the government is genuine about growing the economy. Labor's usual solutions are to increase regulation, licensing, legislation and bureaucratic intrusion into our lives. We need to promote better government not more government.

Gympie has experienced the appalling waste of taxpayers' money. Residents still recall how a Labor government casually wasted half a billion dollars—\$500 million—on the failed Traveston Dam. We have had a five-year saga of two ministers refusing to simply sign a lease for an empty building which TAFE did not want. It was left to deteriorate while a tenant was ready to come in.

Last year a stretch of the Bruce Highway was dug up and repaired only six months after the completion of a \$17 million job. They said they did not know the condition of the underlying pavement. They were not forging a path over the Blue Mountains in the 1800s. There would have to be a metre of archives going back 50 years of a mishmash of repairs. It would be one of the most dug up, patched and re-patched stretches of highway. Just ask the thousands of truckies who travel through there each week. Tune in to channel 40 and you will soon hear what they say about the continual delays due to stop and go signs. The transport minister, who is usually quick to blame someone else, was suspiciously quiet.


The same minister turned the upgrade of the Coondoo Creek bridge into a political football. When the LNP committed to a \$10 million upgrade before the 2017 election, Labor let the Gympie electorate believe it was on their radar. It was not in their 2018 budget. The minister spent 2018 continually blaming Canberra for a state bridge on a state road. By August a year later Canberra had generously committed \$5 million. The minister still said nothing. The upgrade was only finished late last year because Canberra showed them up.

Responsibility stops in Brisbane, not Canberra. Instead of blaming everyone else, the government should accept responsibility and do its job. Do not blame Canberra. Do not blame COVID. Do not blame a government from six years ago. No more rebadging, reannouncements and recycling—it is disrespectful to Queenslanders. Gympie needs practical, commonsense policies which use taxpayers' money carefully and prudently. The government needs to provide real job prospects, practical support for families and the Gympie community, greater investment in local infrastructure projects, maintenance and improvement of existing facilities, and support and incentives for local business and industries.

Before I finish, I join my colleague the member for Chatsworth in acknowledging the role the member for Stretton, Duncan Pegg, has played in this parliament. I built a strong friendship with Duncan as co-chair of the Parliamentary Friends of Cricket. We have sat in the Gabba and travelled interstate together to watch those sporting events. I acknowledge his role in promoting cricket and his

encyclopedic knowledge of cricket not only in this country but across the world. He will be missed in this parliament. I take this opportunity to wish him well. I know things are not good. I want to acknowledge my friendship with him that has developed since 2015.

I am once again honoured to represent the people of Gympie in the 57th Parliament.

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (5.29 pm): I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet today and pay my respect to elders past, present and emerging. I would also like to pass on my congratulations to the Speaker on his appointment to the high position in this parliament for a consecutive term. He is the first to achieve this in many years. I thank him for his ongoing support of Queensland.

I am deeply honoured and humbled to again be given the opportunity to represent the wonderful people of Rockhampton. Anyone who knows me knows how much I love Rocky and the people who make it a wonderful place. I really look forward to continuing to work hard for our community, so I thank the people of Rockhampton for the faith they have in returning me as their local member.

I would not be here today without the dedicated commitment and support of many. To my family, I thank you. I am so lucky to have a family who has supported me over the years and for their patience. I thank my wife, Sue-Ann; my sons, James and Harry, and their partners, Kelsey and Hannah; my brothers and sisters; and my extended family and friends. Without you I would not be able to do the job that I do. You have moulded me into the person I am today.

Thank you to my campaign manager, Craig Marshall, and the many Labor Party members who have supported me and worked tirelessly during the campaign. I have to thank Amanda, Craig's wife, for allowing him the time to support me. Thank you to the people of Rockhampton who placed my signs on their fences and to those who did the hard yards.

I particularly wanted to mention a few. Tom and Marree Bartlem, you are legends. To Ann, Karen, Deb, Evan, the two Barrys, Margaret, Rhonda, Robert, Graham, Sandra, Denise, Jim and Dan: thank you. To my brothers, Brian and Tony and his wife, Lyndall, thank you. You have given freely of your time, offered great advice and been a great sounding-board. To all my booth volunteers, thank you to all.

I congratulate Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk on her re-election for a third term. She is now the longest serving female Queensland premier. The Premier has led our party with dignity and has guided us through COVID with a calm and measured approach. She has listened to the health advice and acted to protect the people of Queensland. This has also allowed us to get on with delivering our COVID financial recovery plan. With the Premier's strong leadership, we will continue to make a difference for those in our community who need a hand.

Under her leadership we have been creating jobs, building important infrastructure, introducing important social justice reforms, growing the economy and restoring our vital frontline services. We have seen over 320,000 jobs created in Queensland since the Palaszczuk government was elected, and Rockhampton is one of those places that has benefited.

While some businesses have been doing it tough in Rocky, I have also heard many saying that they have not seen business as good. Just recently I was looking at the job vacancies in Rockhampton and the Capricorn Coast on seek.com and there were 212 job vacancies advertised. The real estate market is going well, with sales as good as or better than in the early 2000s. There is a positive feeling in town and many are looking forward to a prosperous future.

Some of the infrastructure projects that have happened or are happening in Rockhampton have created hundreds of jobs. Road construction projects such as the \$1.065 billion to build the Rockhampton Ring Road, which is due to commence construction next year; \$158 million for the Rockhampton northern access upgrade to duplicate the Bruce Highway to four lanes through Parkhurst; \$75 million for the duplication of the Capricorn Highway between Rockhampton and Gracemere; and the many other road projects are supporting more than 1,290 jobs in Central Queensland as part of Queensland's plan for economic recovery. Another major project nearing completion is the Capricornia Correctional Centre—a \$241 million expansion, creating a further 232 permanent jobs.

Rockhampton is going well and we have a long list of job-creating projects to be delivered over the next four years. While it has been good for Rocky, we have seen a real tightening of the rental market. Those on low incomes are finding it very difficult to pay the rent or to even find a rental property. The federal government has always played an important role in supporting public housing. Unfortunately, the LNP under Tony Abbott completely wiped the National Rental Affordability Scheme that played a significant role in increasing our housing stock—and we are paying the price for that today.

The federal government needs to restore that program and start increasing our public housing supply. This is not just about addressing homelessness; it is also about helping our small businesses. If workers cannot find affordable housing in Rocky, employers will struggle to find staff, and that hurts our entire local economy.

The Queensland government is doing its bit with a \$1.6 billion building program across Queensland, with approximately 60 new dwellings for Central Queensland. I must acknowledge all of the community organisations out there that do an absolutely wonderful job in supporting members of our community, particularly at the moment while we are under housing stress. They do an absolutely wonderful job working with those people.

Some of the projects that have been delivered over the last three years through the Works for Queensland funding to the Rockhampton Regional Council include the development of the artificial hockey surface and other infrastructure at the Rockhampton Hockey grounds. That is a \$2.4 million project of an excellent standard. The Cedric Archer Park water play area at Gracemere is a \$1.3 million project that has seen the area become a recreational hub embraced by the Gracemere community, and recently we opened a \$600,000 pump track.

Other projects include the Gracemere CBD footpath upgrades—\$500,000—and the reception room at the Rockhampton City Hall where they removed the mezzanine floor and restored the hall to its former glory to allow for civic functions to be conducted. That was a \$1.3 million project. There were SES facilities upgrades with the construction of additional buildings and amenities at the Gracemere SES site. That was a \$1.1 million project.

Work happening at the present time is the Rockhampton Airport upgrade—a \$6.4 million project—which has seen our regional airport completely revamped. It is probably going to be one of the best in regional Queensland. In recent weeks we have seen \$9.46 million go to the council in the last round of Works for Queensland. The new art gallery is taking shape and due for completion midyear—an investment of \$15 million by our government.

In relation to Rookwood Weir, the roadworks have been completed, Riversleigh Bridge was officially opened last week, the workers' accommodation is finished and work has commenced on the weir itself. This is a total combined spend of \$367 million to support the construction of the 86,000-megalitre Rookwood Weir on the Fitzroy. The federal member for Capricornia had to be dragged kicking and screaming to this project to get the funding. She kept referring to this as 'just a big bathtub'—86,000 megalitres is an awfully big bathtub.

During the last term of government, in education we had a \$2.75 million upgrade to the home economics block at North Rockhampton State High School; an additional \$1.6 million to enclose an area with two multipurpose courts also at North Rockhampton State High School; and a \$1.2 million upgrade of the Rockhampton State High School for air conditioning. We saw the completion of the \$12 million upgrade and repair work at the Rockhampton Courthouse. There was the \$30 million total spend to complete improvements to intersections and road train access on Rockhampton-Emu Park Road to access the beef facilities.

I suppose now is a good time to mention Beef Week—a \$1 million investment by the Palaszczuk government. It was pretty good there last week. We had so many of our ministers—the Premier, the Deputy Premier, the Treasurer and the farmers' friend, Minister Furner—and parliamentary colleagues there showing support for our beef industry. There were very few, if any, LNP members there to support them.

The \$25.5 million Rockhampton Hospital car park was delivered. It is a four-storey building with 594 car parks. The \$14 million drug rehabilitation centre is under construction and expected to be finished later in the year. The Rockhampton Regional Council received \$500,000 for an upgrade to netball facilities at Jardine Park under the female facilities program. The investment in Rockhampton and Central Queensland has been significant and there are many more projects on the go.

Just a few of my election commitments include: \$25 million to deliver stage 1 of the redevelopment of Browne Park, which will be a wonderful asset for our local community; \$10.7 million to establish a new substation at Gracemere to improve network performance and support the growing community; \$8.4 million total spend for a business case for a Rockhampton campus consolidation and a new Central Queensland TAFE Centre of Excellence; \$300,000 to provide equitable access to the amenities and B block at Crescent Lagoon State School; \$900,000 to install the A block lift at Crescent Lagoon State School; \$100,000 for a hard roof shade cover to the existing prep play area at Crescent Lagoon State School; \$190,000 for a covered STEM amphitheatre at Glenmore State High School; \$920,000 allocated across 16 schools in the Rockhampton electorate for maintenance throughout the

2020-21 financial year; \$360,000 allocated across 16 schools in the Rockhampton electorate for minor works in schools throughout the 2020-21 financial year; \$409,000 to provide equitable access to the hall stage at North Rockhampton State High School; \$250,000 to replace the septic system at Port Curtis Road State School; \$370,000 for a quadrangle upgrade at Rockhampton North Special School; \$700,000 for a security fence at Rockhampton State High School; \$600,000 for a security fence at Gracemere State Primary School; \$18.2 million to deliver a cardiac hybrid theatre to establish diagnostic and interventional cardiac services to support a wide range of cardiovascular procedures; \$7 million to continue the upgrade of the Rockhampton Ambulance Station and Operations Centre; and \$6 million to refurbish the Rockhampton Hospital mental health ward and delivery of a six-bed expansion.

We will see more mobile Police Beat vans, additional QLITE devices, more body worn cameras and approximately 150 additional police across the district. Fire and Emergency Services will receive \$2.2 million for the construction of a new auxiliary fire and rescue station at Gracemere. There is a \$301,000 commitment to the CQU Rockhampton Panthers Australian Football Club and \$35 million to widen Lawrie Street in Gracemere to four lanes and upgrade the intersections.

I am proud to be the member for Rockhampton and proud of what has been delivered by successive Labor governments. There are so many more projects, but suffice it to say that, from hospital hill to the top of Mount Archer, more than a billion dollars has been spent. I intend to keep the tradition going. There is still more to be achieved, and I again thank the people of the Rockhampton electorate for their support. I will continue to provide a strong voice for our region.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Before I call the next speaker, can I just remind all members that under our COVID-safe plan all members need to be sitting in their allocated seat.



**Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (5.43 pm): It is a great honour and privilege to stand here again in the people's house on behalf of my home, the Noosa electorate, and all who inhabit that very special place. To the newer members of the chamber as well as those who have been re-elected may I offer my hearty congratulations. If you have never visited my community, please drop by. It is an incredible, diverse and welcoming mob, beautiful inside and out, even when sorting out our differences with a passion that can be stunning and as fierce as our summer storms, ultimately revealing great compassion and connectivity in the calm of the aftermath. To say that I am intensely proud of those I represent is an understatement. They inspire me to be better and do better, as they do.

The election just passed saw this passion and commitment displayed again through our local teal army, both two- and four-legged. This proud movement reflected an ongoing intent to see politics and electioneering move from deceptive tactics and the power of the purse to true community campaigning. Comprised of all ages, political ideologies, religious beliefs and income levels, they were united in their effort to continue the culture of the collaborative 'can do' with representation that is focused on people and respect; one that rejects misleading advertising, misinformation and misdemeanours and disrespect to residents, which sadly was displayed by some yet again. We trust this will be the last time we ever see that in my community and that future candidates will reject divisive methodologies as part of their offerings. I also trust that in future the reply paid envelopes for postal votes clearly articulate who the post office box belongs to out of respect for all Queenslanders, and I will not rest until this deception ends.

There are so many to thank and so many unforgettable moments shared during the election: the famous 'corflute kings', bonza booth managers and market matriarchs. Many were hesitant first-timers; however, their confidence soared when they experienced the incredible energy created by a positive campaign. We also had times of great sadness and introspection—the passing of a long-time friend on the first day of pre-poll who worked the booths for my four campaigns. Trying to hide grief while handing out cards is never easy, and to find out that one of our much loved 'tealers' put off having an operation for her cancer to support our efforts left me speechless. It really hit home about our responsibilities when we are elected and how it is both a selfish and selfless undertaking. There are times of great guilt, which I know at some point we have all shared as MPs.

To my much better half, 'Shoey', family and friends and supporters in the Noosa electorate, all I can say is how much I treasure and love you. For those unrelated by blood, whether you like it or not, as you know, I consider you extended family. We are one mob, and I thank you for putting your trust and faith in me again.

To say that I learned much in my first term through both achievements and frustrations is an understatement. To progress commitments made was not easy, however, it was very worthwhile, including the historical ones. Funding for stage 1 of the Tewantin bypass, also known as Beckmans

Road, and replacing the very dangerous Six Mile Creek Bridge No. 7 were welcomed by my community—we do very much look forward to that shovel ceremony—as well as hulk removal, improved management of the Noosa River, including dioxin testing and progress for our Noosa North Shore ‘overlove’. It is a start, yes; however, we have a way to go and the rollovers, hooning, congestion and safety of our turtle hatches are urgent priorities.

Our decommissioned TAFE site will finally be brought out of its disintegration after a seven-year journey that no-one will forget and I hope to never encounter anywhere again. To see taxpayers’ dollars treated in this way is beyond wasteful. It goes against everything we fight for, including repurposing and recycling. The COVID Works for Queensland assistance to Noosa council has seen everything from our halls—some of them very historic and loved—getting the work they need through to pathways and walkways, stage 1 of the master trails, and a community development officer for disaster recovery. The list is long and the funds are much appreciated. I will never stop requesting that Noosa be re-categorised for this funding ongoing.

We cannot forget the journey to equity in the chamber. With the first of the crossbench parliamentary policy officers commencing, it is the start of a new era and one that will be of benefit now and for future parliaments and parliamentarians.

Mr Deputy Speaker Kelly, as you know, representing our electorates is much more than ticking off the big ticket items. The hundreds of good outcomes for our community and individual cases that are never broadcast are ones that bring tears of grief, as well as hope and joy. Thank you to all involved—from our frontliners, to departmental staff and ministers, to fellow residents and to my fabulous staff Lisa, Zac and AMF, volunteers and interns. These outcomes are a result of hard work, compromise, prioritisation and negotiation, as well as pulling out of hairs. Most importantly, there was lots of collaboration. It is never easy, but if our systems worked as they should they could be delivered with greater efficiency than what we are at times seeing. It should never be about which of us is elected or what the issue is. Our role as MPs, I believe, is to ensure departments and agencies have the legislation, systems and resources to do what they need to do. When they cannot do that, they need a concise way to get the message through to us about what needs to change.

Some of these failings of our systems are deeply affecting our community’s physical and mental wellbeing which leads to even greater costs that could be avoided. Examples are easy to find. Within my own electorate, there is an inappropriate volume of heavy haulage impacting our infrastructure, businesses and residents in our country villages, and that is why an urgent review of policy surrounding reviews of environmental authorities is essential. As well, we are going to need plenty of funding for major works that are now needed.

I will give another example. We have incredible volunteer organisations that work tirelessly in multiple realms, yet they live in uncertainty when waiting for funding of the essential services they deliver and this impacts the health of the organisation and the individuals involved. That is totally unnecessary. We have recently seen the ongoing impacts of COVID, with delays to surgeries and, concerningly, our ambulance services. As exemplified in my adjournment speech during the last sitting, if we cannot get assistance to our elderly in their time of emergency, we need a system that can advise of the delay and options of assistance available. We could have lost one of our matriarchs through blood loss, and a community nurse or a volunteer first responder would have averted this near tragedy.

Bad behaviours on our Noosa North Shore require a firm stance with greater consequences, as current infringements are not a deterrent—although the drone has been a very welcome addition. On the other hand, change brought in without community consultation is a recipe for great dissent and one that can be easily rectified. Advising key stakeholder groups should be a standard before any announcements are made in the media.

What can I say about our housing crisis? I have brought this issue into this chamber on numerous occasions over the past three years. Some simple changes in legislation and how we view housing would have gone much further than the provision of 800 social houses per year, when across Queensland 26,000 approved applicants waited. These numbers do not take into account those who apply and do not meet the criteria. I have many of those in my community who are workers with such high rents and they are not eligible. This again needs reviewing. The current commitment of 5,500 social homes to be built is welcomed. However, it still falls far short of demand. We are now hearing—and we have heard it in this chamber this week—from many more MPs across the state who are experiencing what could have been averted if those who work in community, cohousing and share housing spaces, as just some examples, were listened to and assisted by all levels of government.

For Noosa, we are now having a staffing crisis on top of the social impacts because of this housing crisis. After the year that our tourism and hospitality businesses have gone through, to be confronted with closing hotel rooms through lack of staff is another result of slow response times and is damaging to our economy. However, it is one that we will find options for and I thank Minister Miles and the state planners for working with us on this, as well as Minister Hinchliffe.

Arenas that are not meeting community expectation should not be feared. We need to build trust in our governance systems. Being independently critiqued is one way to build confidence. Greater efficiency would be welcomed by not only constituents, communities and their MPs but also the frontliners and departmental staff who are doing the very best they can in a system that at times appears designed to grind everyone down through process. A demonstration of this was the recent motion for an inquiry into the estimates process. I may not have agreed with the form the motion took. However, I will support any avenue that can deliver equitable outcomes. The attack and defence mechanism used across the chamber was disappointing and is one that we need to move beyond. All that was required was a bipartisan agreement to look at how we can do better. This includes ensuring that allocated speaking spots are not guillotined, as was experienced this morning during question time.

The list going forward this term is not short by any means. Stages 2 and 3 of the Tewanin bypass need committed funding, and projects that demonstrate sustainability and deliverability for our sporting, wellness, housing and connectivity endeavours need support. We need an extension of our emergency department at Noosa Hospital to minimise going into bypass mode, plus the initiation of a volunteer first responder program to decrease duress on our ambulance services and our residents. Patients find it difficult to get back home when they are sent an hour away to SCUH instead of to Noosa Hospital, and that also needs to be considered. In a small community that swells by over a million visitors each year, we appreciate borderless policies—however, not when our services are being utilised elsewhere, making our community vulnerable and putting the lives of our vulnerable at even greater risk.

Noosa is really innovative and not shy of trialling programs. Our Be: Noosa Connect pilot has begun, providing transport to SCUH for our frail who cannot access their medical appointments. This pilot is self-funded with the assistance of volunteers and is already identifying where the gaps are. Concerningly, it is quickly facing being oversubscribed by those who need daily treatment for weeks at a time. The unfair eligibility criteria of the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme is a contributor to this and I will continue to seek that this be rectified. This was a result of services at Nambour Hospital being moved to SCUH. Appropriate care for an ageing community is paramount and we await the clinical master plan recommendation. This includes when access to affordable medicinal cannabis will eventuate.

Affordable and sustainable living continues to be a priority for the majority of my residents. Currently, there is a determination being considered around the minimum size of home water treatment plants that will increase the cost to the small-size end user by over \$6,000. Why, you ask. I have yet to hear a legitimate rationale. However, what users in my community say is very clear. Those who are trying to live smaller with less impact on the environment should not be penalised by mandated larger systems. Their efforts should be encouraged and applauded. There are many other examples where policy is problematic, including those STAS rules which make no sense and are contributing to family duress.

An open mind to future school models that can deliver a reported better experience and outcomes for our children and teachers by reducing stress without impacting on results is essential. Reviewing aged practices and conventions in this chamber that preclude the inclusiveness sought is needed to demonstrate we are more than words. We need to walk the talk. Hence why I have and will continue to seek independent reviews of our systems and processes that fall outside the realm of the Queensland Audit Office.

Debate, on motion of Ms Bolton, adjourned.

## ETHICS COMMITTEE

### Report




**Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (5.58 pm), by leave: I table Ethics Committee report No. 205, titled *Matter of privilege referred by the Registrar on 11 March 2021 relating to the alleged failure to register an interest in the Register of Members' Interests*. The committee has recommended that the House take no further action in relation to this matter. I commend the report to the House.

*Tabled paper:* Ethics Committee: Report No. 205, 57th Parliament—Matter of Privilege referred by the Registrar on 11 March 2021 relating to the alleged failure to register an interest in the Register of Members' Interests [\[650\]](#).



## ADJOURNMENT

### Everton Electorate, Road Infrastructure

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (5.59 pm): South Pine Road is the major arterial road that runs through the middle of my electorate of Everton. It is a road that has become problematic. It is a road that was not designed to take the amount of traffic it does now after developments in the north-west of Brisbane and beyond in the Moreton Bay region. Tonight I am making a plea to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads about a particular section of South Pine Road, and that is the section immediately outside Everton Park State School.

That is a primary school whose P&C association has wanted me on a number of occasions to represent their interests with regard to the safety of their children who have to cross South Pine Road. I have now written to the minister on at least seven occasions over the last two years to take some action after a series of accidents—and they continue to occur, most recently just a week ago.


The department has done a number of things. Through my lobbying, we brought about the 40-kilometre-per-hour speed limit during school hours, which has been very warmly received by the school community. There have been upgrades to the signalling. There has been some non-slip surface applied to the road to help with the grip. The intersection of South Pine Road and Dargie Street is at the crest of a hill and it is very dangerous.

The school community is asking for the erection of some protective barriers to protect the children. The school fence abuts this road. It has been damaged due to cars careering off the road and going into the school fence right beside the footpath that schoolkids use frequently. In fact, the part of the school behind the school fence has been designated a no-go zone by the school for the protection of the students.

My plea to the minister tonight is to listen to what the school community is saying. Yes, there has been some work done, but that work has not gone far enough, particularly in relation to the protection of school students. We are asking that something is done immediately.

I would also appreciate a reply from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads on when the Everton link road is going to open. It would be polite to answer.

### Redcliffe Electorate, Small Business; Redcliffe Dolphins; Redcliffe Hospital

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (6.02 pm): The month of May is Small Business Month, and I could not be prouder of our wonderful small businesses in Redcliffe. Small businesses make up the fabric of our tight-knit community, and over the month of May we reflect and celebrate everything small business. It has been a challenging time during this pandemic for everyone, and small businesses have not been immune. In fact, I think small businesses have probably taken the brunt of it.


I was pleased to join small businesses from right across South-East Queensland, including representatives from my own electorate of Redcliffe, for the parliamentary reception held in their honour last night, hosted by the Minister for Small Business. The atmosphere was electric. It was great to have Jesse and Joel from Flock Eatery, and Salem and Ric from Hakuna Ma'Coffee representing the Redcliffe small business community.

The small business community always shows so much resilience and hard work, especially over the last year. The Palaszczuk government will always back in our local small businesses, and I will continue to support all of our wonderful small business operators on the peninsula. I know many of our small businesses have been supported by the Palaszczuk government's funding support and initiatives, and many have said how grateful they are for the assistance.

I have said it before and I will say it again. The Moreton Bay Dolphins are the No. 1 and only choice to be the next NRL team in Brisbane. We look forward to the NRL finally making a decision in the coming weeks and months and making that announcement soon. Last week I joined the Deputy Premier, my parliamentary colleagues from the Moreton Bay region, the mayor and councillors and representatives from the federal government to back in the Dolphins NRL bid and co-sign a letter to the NRL. I encourage all members of the House—and I know many are already big supporters, including the member for Kurwongbah and the member for Bancroft—including the members for Greenslopes, Ipswich, Ipswich West, Bundamba and Jordan to get behind the Dolphins NRL and sign the pledge. There is only one team with not only the financial credentials but also the community backing and a wealth of sporting history, and that is the mighty Dolphins. Go the "phins'!

While I am on my feet, on behalf of our entire community I want to thank our hardworking nurses and midwives at the Redcliffe Hospital. The team there do an amazing job, going above and beyond each and every day to support our community. During the week of International Nurses Day I want to pay tribute to their hard work and dedication and thank them for the work they do each and every day.

### Kruger, Mr D


 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (6.05 pm): I rise to acknowledge a very special event that is planned for Monday, 17 May when a new record will be reached by a resident of my electorate in Roma at the Pinaroo aged-care facility. Dexter Ronald Kruger will take the record for Australia's oldest living man of all time. Dexter will reach 111 years and 124 days, overtaking the record of the late Victorian Jack Lockett, who reached 111 years and 123 days. Dexter was up at 11.45 pm the evening before his 111th birthday earlier in the year waiting for the clock to strike midnight. I have no doubt he will do the same thing on Sunday night.

Dexter was born on 13 January 1910 at Bayview Terrace, Nundah. After his birth his mother carried him as a baby on the pommel of her saddle to join his family at Sheep Station Creek near Kilcoy. Throughout his life he has been a farmer, a passionate advocate for the cattle industry and later in life a writer producing 12 books and an autobiography that is waiting for a publisher. We are looking forward to this autobiography. I do know that the Premier has a number of his books and I hope she will also buy a copy of his autobiography. There will be some really good bush humour and some tall tales. I am sure the 'life and times of Dexter Kruger' will be a great read. I extend to Janet Rowlings and her family, who have helped Dexter, a huge thank you for all the assistance they have provided his family with organising birthdays, research and writing books.

Monday will be a momentous occasion for Dexter and his family at his home at Pinaroo. To the best of my knowledge, Pinaroo is the only aged-care home in Australia owned and operated by a service club, the Rotary Club of Roma. I say thank you to the Rotary Club and the Pinaroo board for the dedicated volunteer work that they do to operate this wonderful 71-bed aged-care facility. To Melanie Calvert, the CEO of Pinaroo, and the staff who take such good care of Dexter and many other aged-care residents, I say thank you.

Dexter has already become Australia's oldest person—at his 111th birthday in January this year. This on its own is a milestone of major distinction. He did so with good humour and humility and a wish for a bit of chocolate. His next milestone is no small feat and the countdown is on to Monday. Congratulations Dexter Kruger. You are Australia's oldest living legend of all time. Australia salutes you. You have the best wishes of the Queensland parliament.

### Health System

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (6.08 pm): It is a pleasure to be one of the people standing to speak to finish off the week in the Queensland parliament. Often at this stage we reflect on what we have learnt during the week. What we have learnt this week is that the LNP has an unhealthy fixation on health itself. For three weeks they have spent each question time literally chasing ambulances. Federal budget, COVID-19 pandemic—not an issue; they have their political yellow brick road that they are following. Besides this LNP strategy and tactic being somewhat offensive, it is perplexing and amazing because the public are not going to listen to them about health and hospitals. They remember what happened during the Campbell Newman era. It was not just staff cutting—4,400 people from Queensland Health, including 1,800 nurses—but supplies were also reduced.

I refer to small businesses in my area. An owner of a linen supply business lost his contract with Queensland Health and moved to New South Wales. The contract of another local business that provided supplies to premature baby wards was cut and that business suffered. From talking to a nurse I learned that even saline products were rationed during this time.


The major problem with this strategy is that the messenger has no credibility. When members opposite talk about Queensland Health, the only thing Queenslanders hear is 'Campbell Newman'. When members opposite keep talking about health, they keep talking to Queenslanders about Campbell Newman. This fixation is also pretty much in the Newman mode. They have tunnel vision and they cannot tolerate any diversion or naysayers.

This week we have seen what the LNP will be like under the Campbell Newman protégé: a one-track mind with no deviation. No matter how many people say, 'Maybe this is not a good idea,' they will keep going down that road. Over the next couple of years, I will be interested to see how this all ends.

**Ms McMillan:** The demise of the LNP.

**Mr WHITING:** I take that interjection. A few of us are thinking that perhaps this will not go well. I encourage members opposite to keep going down this political yellow brick road.

### **Gold Coast, TAFE and Schools**


 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (6.11 pm): I rise to speak about recent improvements to TAFE in my electorate of Southport. I am so delighted that the new trades training centre has been completed. I was lucky enough to tour those new developments and to visit with some of the students. I was also fortunate to join the minister at the opening. I am grateful for the invitation. This new \$10½ million centre provides state-of-the-art facilities and training for around 850 students and future apprentices, including access for high school and international students. I was pleased to meet some of those students and many of the staff, along with a lot of local builders and other people from the construction industry.

Last week, I also was invited to tour the new allied health training facilities at the Southport TAFE, something that has been on the agenda for some time; in fact, we started looking into it back when we were in government. It is great to see that it has finally come to pass and that we now have a \$5 million fit-for-purpose facility. In fact, you could almost be mistaken for thinking that there was a new hospital with 65 beds in the middle of Southport. The set-up that has been implemented there is absolutely incredible. It is such an important asset as we continue to struggle to find the labour force of the future. We need to be training more people as allied health workers and nurses. The team at Gold Coast TAFE is doing an absolutely incredible job. I particularly pay tribute to Deb Blow, the head of that learning area. She has been at the Gold Coast TAFE for more than 20 years and has trained nurses and allied health workers for many years.

Both of these developments offer fabulous learning experiences for students. They are also great for the local economy because they do attract other people into the city. I particularly congratulate Karen Dickinson and the whole team at TAFE for their relentless effort in pursuing the funding for this and for their work in bringing these projects to fruition. I know that these things do not happen easily and that there was an incredible amount of planning in preparation and lead-up.

There still is so much more to do in the education space. Many of the local schools in my electorate are crying out for capacity improvements to meet the demand that has been fuelled by population growth on the Gold Coast. Our international education and training sector recently received a lifeline from the Commonwealth government but is still struggling to stay afloat. As we all know, education is such an important pillar of the Gold Coast and Queensland economies.

### **Aspley Electorate, Small Business**

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (6.14 pm): As it is Small Business Month, I am very pleased to speak about some of the fantastic small businesses in the Aspley electorate. As we all know, it has been a tough 12 months for many small businesses, but I am constantly in awe of how they have been able to adapt to change and evolve their business models locally throughout this health pandemic and through the varying levels of restrictions of different types they have had to face. Cafes have adapted and changed, sports clubs have shifted their menus to takeaway and many have continued their innovative approaches as COVID-19 restrictions have continued to ease. Small businesses truly are the lifeblood of our local economy and are a vital cornerstone of our economic recovery plan.

At the height of COVID-19, I partnered with Aspley Hornets, Matthew Thomas Cafe and the amazing Dana from Stellarossa Aspley to provide free coffees to our local retail workers. It was great to see these businesses stepping up to contribute to the spirit of our community during a tough time. Retail workers did it particularly tough in 2020, so I was very happy to show my appreciation in a small way.

At a recent mobile office I spoke with Kevin Russell, managing director at Freemont Business Solutions in Geebung. Kevin runs a bookkeeping business and is passionate about assisting local businesses in our area. Kevin also informed me that he was awarded one of our COVID-19 adaptation grants and has been able to use the grant to promote his business and revamp his website. I also mention the nearby Gopher Coffee, which does great coffee in Geebung, and Peach Tree Perinatal Wellness Centre, which is a really great resource for local mums.


I also must give a shout-out to some of my office neighbours who are outstanding small businesses and lunch destinations including Dosa Hut Aspley, which makes some of the best biryanis you can get, and Fish on Line, run by great local couple Melinda and David. If you like calamari and

chips, it is definitely a place to visit. There are plenty of great food options near my office. I cannot list them all. Maybe there are too many for the likes of me! I give a great shout-out to the Coffee Club Aspley, which has supported some great causes recently in our community, including raising funds for breast cancer research at its recent Breast Night Ever event.

Speaking of locals doing great things in our community, I give a shout-out to two of our local kindies in Geebung: Lady Gowrie-Marchant Park Kindergarten and C&K Geebung Kindergarten. For the latter, I acknowledge committee president Shae Bishop. Recently, I visited both kindergartens and had the privilege of conducting a story time, which I hope I did justice. I also toured some of the new community projects including Marchant Park's kindergarten recycling hub, which is a great initiative. The kids liked my reading so much they did not even want me to read the book a second time!

These fantastic community organisations are doing great work and, hopefully, soon they can see the light at the end of the tunnel as we get back to more of a normal state. In this Small Business Month I wanted to give a shout-out to some great locals doing great things in the Aspley area.

### Social Housing


 **Dr MacMAHON** (South Brisbane—Grn) (6.17 pm): Last week QCOSS, along with 12 other organisations, launched a campaign urging the Queensland government to act on the social housing crisis. They are calling for an investment of \$4.1 billion to build 14,700 homes for Queenslanders most in need. Everyone in this chamber should be familiar with the devastation of Queensland's housing crisis. Some 47,000 people are waiting on the social housing register—that includes 26,000 families—and the list has increased by 68 per cent since 2017.

This week we have learned that government has sold off almost 2,000 public homes since 2015. This after promising that it would never sell off public assets again. Selling off thousands of public homes represents thousands of broken promises and is an insult to the 47,000 people Labor has left to wait on the social housing waiting list. The excuse that public housing is being sold off to fund new social homes is the same excuse used by the LNP Newman government.

The Minister for Housing claimed this week that the government is delivering the biggest investment in housing since the Second World War. Let us look at the history. Between 1945 and the late 1950s, almost 100,000 public homes were built across Australia. The Queensland commission built 22,000 homes over this time. Queensland's population then was 1.5 million, so this roughly equates to one home for every 65 people. With today's population, a comparable number would be 79,000 homes over a decade. Compare this with the government's strategy to build just 5,500 homes over a decade.

Do members know what else we did during World War II? We introduced rent caps. Right now our rental system is being stretched to its absolute capacity. In Brisbane vacancy rates are at 1.5 per cent for people on JobSeeker or the DSP. There are next to zero affordable rental properties and rents are increasing three times faster than wages. We know what we need to do in Queensland to ensure that every Queenslanders has a home, and this is why I fully support QCOSS's calls for more public homes. We could afford to build 100,000 public homes over the next four years with a modest bank levy, a value gains tax for developers and increasing mining royalties. Long-awaited rental reform in Queensland has to include caps on rent increases. This is a crucial part of ensuring every Queenslanders has a home. The only reason that we in a wealthy state like Queensland have a housing crisis is a lack of political will.

### Brisbane Jets; Queensland Reds

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (6.20 pm): I was recently invited to provide a letter in support for the Brisbane Jets expression of interest to join the National Rugby League as the competition's 17th team, and I will now read my letter into *Hansard*. It states—

Mr Peter V'landys AM, Chairman, Australian Rugby League Commission

I am pleased to write this letter in support of the Brisbane Jets' Expression of Interest to join the National Rugby League, as the competition's 17th team.

Having been born and raised in Ipswich, rugby league is in my blood and the Jets have no greater supporter than Jim Madden, the Member for Ipswich West.

In September 2015, I was pleased to join my fellow Jets supporters to travel to Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane to cheer on the Jets Team, led by Keiron Lander and coached by Ben and Shane Walker with their Queensland Cup grand final victory over the Townsville Blackhawks.

I look forward to travelling to Suncorp Stadium, in the future, to watch the Brisbane Jets NRL games.

Ipswich has a proud rugby league heritage having produced numerous rugby league champions including my childhood heroes, and Australian Rugby League greats, Noel Kelly, Dennis Flannery, Doug McLean, Peter Gallagher, Rod Morris, Dud Beattie and Gary Parcell.

Later, the production line of rugby league champions continued with players such as Alfie Langer, Pat O'Doherty, Kevin Walters and Kerrod Walters as well as many current NRL players, that include Luke Keary, Sam Walker, Phillip Sarni, AJ Brimson, Jake Turpin and Kurt Capewell.

The Brisbane Jets player catchment will be well over 20,000 and the Ipswich production line of future NRL players is evidenced by the 2020 Ipswich State High School Senior Rugby League Team where eight (8) members secured NRL contracts.

The population of Ipswich is currently about 230,000 and this is set to double in the next 10 to 15 years.

It has the largest population growth of all the Local Government Areas in Queensland. There is commensurate growth in industry, business, service industries, educational services and our defence forces, with Amberley RAAF Base, the largest Airforce base in the southern hemisphere, located in Ipswich.

Now is the time for the National Rugby League to capitalize on this population growth in Ipswich by granting the Brisbane Jets an NRL Licence, to allow our talented rugby league footballers to play in the NRL for their hometown.

Being born and raised in Ipswich, it is with great pride that I write this Letter in Support for the Brisbane Jets' Expression of Interest to join the National Rugby League competition.

Yours faithfully

Jim Madden MP

Member for Ipswich West

With the indulgence of the House, I will take these few moments to congratulate the Queensland Reds on their magnificent victory over the ACT Brumbies with their 19-16 victory in the Super Rugby Australian final at Lang Park played on Saturday, 8 May.

### Theodore Electorate, Coomera Connector



**Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (6.23 pm): Go the Titans! When it comes down to it, we will end up pinching all of your good players anyway. That is all right and there is nothing wrong with that!

On 25 October 2019 the Premier and the Minister for Main Roads announced that community consultation on the Coomera Connector project would be undertaken in late 2019. The community consultation summary document states—

The focus for the community consultation was to listen to community input to help ensure the project takes the local context into account.

Many residents across the northern Gold Coast participated in this consultation in good faith that their ideas and concerns were going to be listened to. Whilst many residents understand that this project is needed to reduce congestion on local roads, they feel that there are variable ways to reduce the impact of this road on the local communities and local roads. In an answer to a question on notice I asked the minister on 3 December last year, it was clear that the department had no intention of building an interchange at Hope Island Road. The excuse given was that the department would have to purchase 100 houses. It appears that Main Roads had no intention to place an interchange there but wanted to dump the traffic onto Helensvale Road.

Let me put this in perspective. Gold Coast City Council officers forecast that this will double the 5,000 to 6,000 vehicle movements per day on this already congested road. Helensvale State High School, one of the largest schools on the Gold Coast, is located on Helensvale Road—a road that, for the most part, is a single bidirectional carriageway. It simply does not have the capacity to take the extra traffic without major upgrades. A report on the *Gold Coast Bulletin* website on 6 May found further evidence that the community consultation was nothing more than a sham. A senior former member of the Coomera Connector consultation group Mark Hunter wrote to the Minister for Main Roads accusing his department of being unethical and manipulative, and I table his letter for the information of the House.


*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 22 April 2021, from Shores Representative, Community Reference Group Coomera Connector, Mr Max Hunter, to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Hon. Mark Bailey, regarding the Coomera Connector CRG committee [651].

Residents want their voices heard and they are seeking genuine consultation to minimise the impact of this new road. They are seeking assurances to implement technologies to minimise the impact of this road and they want world's best practices investigated. This is a vital piece of infrastructure that is desperately needed for residents on the eastern side of the M1 motorway. They want the government

to work with them properly to get this project up and running as soon as possible whilst also listening to their concerns and using best practices to ensure that this road will have a minimal impact on them and their lives.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Before I call the member for Capalaba, let me just say that if you bring the Jets or the Dolphins into this discussion I will be very disappointed.

### Laming, Mr A

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (6.26 pm): Is it any wonder that the Jets and the Dolphins want to leave the QRL when Wynnum is on top of the ladder, flogging them week in, week out? The Wynnum Seagulls are not going anywhere. We are just too good. It is our place. It is no wonder that these other teams want to get out of the QRL.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mr BROWN:** Yes, we flogged them too. The attacks are back. Andrew Laming is back on the attack. The empathy training did not work. I had faith that a couple of hours of online empathy training would change his whole perspective and outlook, but it has not. He is back on the attack, and who can blame him after he tried that sob-story that no-one believed about ADHD? He said, 'I took one pill and I started to feel better.' That is an absolute insult to everyone who has ADHD. That press release went out and his own colleagues dumped on him by commenting—and I cannot quote it exactly because of the expletives in it, but it went along the lines of, 'That would explain why beep, beep he's this way'—so is it any wonder that he did not pull off that sob-story? Obviously after he saw that he said, 'I might as well go back to the bin.'

The same old Andrew Laming is trolling people online, sending out emails and attacking again. It is good to have you back! You are the gift that keeps on giving! That is why 150 people came out on Saturday to protest. We need a good representative now. Donisha Duff is a great candidate who spoke well at the rally. She is focused, and members can understand why, because in this budget we saw absolutely nothing for the Redlands—not a cent in infrastructure spend, but is it any wonder, because he was on leave focused on himself and not focused on the people of Redlands?

What we have seen since is a clash of the divide in the LNP. We have the Christian warriors backing one side and the Lamingites backing another side. We have central office backing two other blow-ins. It is just great to see the infighting that is happening. We also see that the mayor has turned fully blue now and joined the LNP. What did she do today? She launched an extraordinary attack at the state government on a budget that we have not even delivered yet but has made no public comment about the Redlands missing out in the federal budget. The Townsville mayor did. The Sunshine Coast mayor did. We are seeing her true colours with her complete silence on the fact that the Redlands gets nothing. The LNP membership is alive and well. I will continue to fight for the Redlands. I am not going anywhere and I will ensure that in this state budget we will deliver plenty of infrastructure for the good people of the Redlands.

The House adjourned at 6.29 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, Linard, 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