



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, 16 June 2021

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WEDNESDAY, 16 JUNE 2021



The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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

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

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Record of Proceedings, Incorporation of Material



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, sessional orders now provide that for the address-in-reply debate and the debate on the annual appropriation bills it is not necessary for members to seek leave of the House to incorporate material in the *Record of Proceedings*, provided members have shown the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker the material sought to be incorporated and have obtained the Speaker's or the Deputy Speaker's consent as per standing order 25.

Before my consent will be given, members must ensure and undertake that: for a speech relative to the appropriation bills, the member's total speech must not exceed that which would normally be allowed in a 15-minute speech, thus no speech should exceed 2,600 words; for a speech relative to the address-in-reply, the member's total speech must not exceed that for which would normally be allowed in a 20-minute speech, thus no speech should exceed 3,400 words; speeches should not include graphs, charts or other material; members must provide the Parliamentary Reporting and Broadcasting Service and Chamber Services with their speech in electronic form prior to rising to give their speech; other members will be provided access on request to a member's speech prior to the publication of the *Record of Proceedings*; and speeches intended to be incorporated should not offend standing orders in any way such as by containing personal reflections, imputations and the like.

School Group Tour



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from King's Christian College, Pimpama, in the electorate of Coomera.

PETITIONS

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

Recycled Plastic

143 petitioners, requesting the House to incentivise a circular economy by offering rebates on recycled plastic to businesses who choose recycled plastic that has been reprocessed in Australia from more than 50% locally sourced recycled materials [\[874\]](#).

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


State Parliament, Religious Observances

5,405 petitioners, requesting the House to continue the tradition of opening parliament with the saying of a Christian prayer and not order this to cease [\[875\]](#).

Petitions received.

MINISTERIAL PAPER


Revocation and Dedication of Protected Areas

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (9.33 am): I lay upon the table of the House a proposal under sections 29 and 30 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and a brief explanation of the proposal.

Tabled paper: Proposal under sections 29 and 30 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and a brief explanation of the proposal, relating to Glen Rock State Forest, Main Range Conservation Park and Main Range National Park [\[876\]](#).

NOTICE OF MOTION

Revocation and Dedication of Protected Areas

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (9.34 am): I give notice that, after the expiration of at least 28 days as provided in the Nature Conservation Act 1992, I shall move—

1. That this House requests the Governor in Council to:
 - (a) revoke by regulation under section 30 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 the setting apart and declaration of part of a State forest; and
 - (b) dedicate by regulation under section 29 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 the revoked area of the aforementioned state forest as a new conservation park and additions to an existing national park;
 as set out in the proposal tabled by me in the House today, viz

Description of areas to be revoked

Glen Rock State Forest	An area of about 6299.409 hectares described as lot 123 on plan CC390, lot 149 on plan CC496, lot 84 on plan CC935, lot 9 on plan CC2304, lot 97 on plan CC836182, lot 10 on plan CH31292, lot 23 on plan CH311139, lot 30 on plan CH311898, lot 96 on plan CH312503 and lot 105 on plan CH312522 (to be dedicated as the new Main Range Conservation Park and additions to Main Range National Park), as illustrated on the attached sketch.
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Description of areas to be dedicated

Main Range Conservation Park	An area of about 2891.226 hectares described as lot 123 on plan CC390, lot 149 on plan CC496, lot 9 on plan CC2304, lot 10 on plan CH31292, lot 23 on plan CH311139, lot 30 on plan CH311898 and lot 96 on plan CH312503, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Main Range National Park	An area of about 3408.183 hectares described as lot 84 on plan CC935, lot 97 on plan CC836182, and lot 105 on plan C11312522, 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.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Coronavirus, Update

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.34 am): In terms of our daily COVID update, today I can confirm we have zero new cases. We have carried out 8,658 tests over the past 24 hours. In the last 24 hours, we had 12,709 vaccines administered, which is a new record. Every single day we are seeing more and more Queenslanders coming out to get vaccinated, which is fantastic.

Budget

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.35 am): The budget delivered yesterday by our wonderful Treasurer proves two things: Queensland is back and you cannot keep a Queenslander down. The ratings agency Standard & Poor's put it best when it said Queensland's economic recovery is stronger because our health response to COVID is stronger. To quote them—

Queensland so far has suppressed the spread of the virus, allowing its economy to open and the budget to recover quickly.

I could not have put that better myself. It is, as we have always said, to keep Queenslanders safe keeps our economy strong.

The economic recovery plan we took to the election is working. Our economy is now bigger than it was before COVID. Our economic growth is double the national figures; it is 13 times bigger than expected. Debt is down and we are on track for a surplus in 2024, the first of the big Australian economies to have one. Our capital works and building program will drive jobs growth, and unemployment is set to fall to five per cent.

We have delivered a record \$22 billion health budget supporting even more frontline staff. We have a \$2 billion hospital building fund to expand and improve our hospitals across our state and especially our regions. This was demonstrated recently with the announcement of a new hospital at Springfield and seven satellite hospitals to come.

Our \$52.2 billion infrastructure plan builds the roads, rail and other projects our growing state needs with 61 per cent of it spent outside of Greater Brisbane. The bottom line of the massive building program is jobs. It is proudly a Labor budget that invests in our future: our \$2 billion hydrogen and renewable energy fund and our over \$3 billion Jobs Fund.


A record \$15.3 billion is allocated for education, including 10 new schools—five in the Ipswich area, three in Logan, one in Redland Bay and another one on the Sunshine Coast—catering for our growing communities.

Never before has a Queensland government invested so much in social housing. This budget delivers \$1.9 billion to deliver 6,365 new homes. I will say that again for the member for Everton: this budget delivers \$1.9 billion to deliver 6,365 new homes. It is growing! The Treasurer will have more to say on that.

This budget also allocates \$300 million to set us on the Path to Treaty. It is one thing to say our country deserves a better, closer relationship with our First Nations people; it is well past time to put our money where our mouth is, confront past wrongs and build a better future. Part of that future, we hope, is the 2032 Olympics and Paralympic Games. These Games will unlock a further economic bonanza in infrastructure delivery and jobs, and start what I believe will be a new golden age for our state.

Queensland is well used to the worse that nature can throw at us. We bounce back after floods, cyclones and bushfires. We build back better. The pandemic is proving no different. We support each other through the worst and ensure we are all here together when the winds ease and the high water falls. The story of this budget is that Queensland is proving itself yet again—to defy the odds, to prove the critics wrong and to come back bigger and better than ever.

Budget, Response

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.38 am): There has been widespread praise for yesterday's budget. Economist Nick Behrens said Queensland's economy continues to impress—with the gross state product forecast revised up, the unemployment forecast revised down, and population growth above one per cent despite international restrictions. CCIQ's Amanda Rohan welcomed our \$3.34 billion Queensland Jobs Fund to help business grow and employ new staff as well as the \$1 billion boost to skills and training. She said the policies would help shape a modern economy that is diversified, resilient and sustainable.

There was also applause for our \$2 billion Renewables and Hydrogen Jobs Fund. Queensland Conservation Council Director Dave Copeman said that the state government had already steered Queensland through a period of rapid growth in renewable energy and this announcement would be money in the pocket for Queenslanders over the coming decade. He said—

This public investment in storage will make more cheap, clean renewable energy generation possible. It will make the grid more secure, and help smooth out the evening peak in wholesale electricity prices.

The ETU's Peter Ong said—

It's the right start for Queensland, and I feel we are on the right track with this investment.

Devett Kennedy from the Queensland Community Alliance said—

This is going to deliver real jobs for a real future and we're really pleased for that.

Our multibillion dollar commitment to increase supply and upgrade social housing was also highly commended.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Leader of the Opposition, there are a lot more positive comments here. I will keep going.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am quite sure the other ministers will back that in. QCOSS CEO Aimee McVeigh welcomed the \$2.9 billion commitment saying we were committed to tripling the number of social homes built each year for the next four years. She said—

The recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic must benefit all Queenslanders and this investment delivers just that—homes and jobs. This budget signals a new approach to housing and homelessness in Queensland.

Karyn Walsh, recently named a Queensland Great, CEO of Micah Projects, said—


It is a relief to see the State government making such a significant start to investment in social housing and the reduction of homelessness ... It will make a difference to a lot of Queenslanders.

LGAQ President Mark Jamieson welcomed funding for our highly successful Works for Queensland program and extension of our Skilling Queenslanders for Work program to support local government trainees and apprenticeships. He also praised the Building our Regions funding to critical water upgrades which is a great win for Queensland councils.

Ipswich City Council Mayor Theresa Harding welcomed the new public hospital for Springfield which will deliver much needed hospital beds and create additional jobs for the community. Townsville Mayor Jenny Hill said the budget's capital investment on infrastructure provides the roads, hospital facilities and school buildings her growing community needs. Other mayors have also appreciated the funding for Works for Queensland. Fraser Coast Regional Council Mayor George Seymour said it allowed the council to deliver job-creating projects and to enhance livability. Gympie Regional Council Mayor Glen Hartwig said Works for Queensland is crucial for infrastructure as his region continues to grow.

This budget will help steer us through this global pandemic and beyond to our prosperous post-COVID future.

Chief Entrepreneur

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.42 am): Innovation and entrepreneurship are an important part of our COVID-19 economic recovery plan. Today, along with the Minister for Innovation, I am proud to announce Brisbane technology innovator Wayne Gerard has been appointed Queensland's new Chief Entrepreneur. The Chief Entrepreneur is an important position when it comes to delivering our economic recovery plan. For the first time, our Chief Entrepreneur will be based out of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and will work across government to promote innovation and ensure we are doing everything possible to support small businesses. Supporting Queensland companies to scale up and grow is absolutely vital to rebuilding our economy and creating the jobs of the future in this state. That is why this week's state budget included more than \$47 million for our innovation sector.


I have every confidence that Wayne has what it takes to play a leading role in Queensland's economic recovery. His resume is impressive: co-founder of RedEye, a Queensland startup that now manages more than \$250 billion—

Mrs Frecklington: He is from the Nanango electorate.

Ms PALASZCZUK: There we go. That is fantastic. That is excellent. A positive contribution from the member for Nanango!

He was 2015 Queensland Entrepreneur of the Year, American Chamber of Commerce Queensland Governor and formerly a member of a range of panels and working groups, including the Premier's Business Advisory Council and the Advance Queensland Expert Panel. Wayne has big shoes to fill. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Leanne Kemp, Queensland's outgoing Chief Entrepreneur. The past 18 months have been incredibly challenging for our innovation sector. Leanne has done a magnificent job. I wish her all the best and thank her for her service to Queensland.

Budget

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) (9.43 am): Yesterday the Treasurer delivered a fantastic budget. The Palaszczuk government is committed to creating jobs for Queenslanders and


continuing to deliver Queensland's plan for economic recovery from COVID-19. We are turbocharging local jobs with the \$3.34 billion jobs fund. We are giving industry the support and confidence they need to establish and grow their businesses right here in Queensland. We will work with companies to support projects that have the potential to deliver ongoing economic benefits. The \$2 billion Renewable Energy Fund is dedicated to creating renewable energy and hydrogen jobs. These are the jobs of the future—a healthier future for our children and our planet with cheaper, cleaner energy.

The new \$350 million Industry Partnership Program will deliver cross-sectoral opportunities that unlock growth in multiple industries or supply chains and have a broad impact on the economy. Some \$20 million will go towards the development of the new Translational Manufacturing Institute at the existing Translational Research Institute in Woolloongabba, allowing Queensland to manufacture its own vaccines and create 500 jobs.

Through our signature \$1 billion Works for Queensland program, the 65 councils outside the south-east corner are benefiting enormously through building and maintaining community infrastructure and the creation of local employment opportunities. Similarly, the hugely successful Building our Regions program is helping councils deliver infrastructure projects that create flow-on economic development opportunities and jobs. Over \$348 million has already been approved for 271 projects across 67 councils. This investment has leveraged more than \$539 billion in additional funding from other sources, with a total capital expenditure of over \$887 million. Crucially, this is also supporting 2,770 jobs during construction. That is a fantastic outcome for regional business, regional tradies and, most importantly, regional Queensland families.

This government is working in partnership with local governments, delivering programs such as the \$120 million Indigenous Councils Critical Infrastructure Program, the \$200 million COVID Works for Queensland program and the \$200 million South East Queensland Community Stimulus Program. We have committed more than \$2 billion in capital funding to our local councils. The Palaszczuk government is delivering improved livability, stronger local economies and more jobs in every community right across Queensland.

Budget, Response

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (9.46 am): Yesterday's state budget demonstrated how Queensland's economy is roaring back to life. Across Queensland and across the nation, Queenslanders and Australians are pleased to hear about how our state is leading the nation. Ratings agency S&P Global said—

The state's early success in containing outbreaks has supported a stronger economic and fiscal recovery than otherwise would have been the case.

They also said—

The state's rapidly recovering economy, strong financial management, and comprehensive liquidity coverage, support our ratings and stable outlook.

In addition, S&P Global said—

Queensland so far has suppressed the spread of the virus, allowing its economy to open and budget to recover quickly.

Moody's assessment was similarly positive—

Queensland's revenue recovery has exceeded our initial expectations, reflecting the stronger-than-anticipated domestic economic recovery despite the severe economic and revenue disruptions from the pandemic and border closers.

...

Queensland remains the only Australian state to maintain fully-funded superannuation liabilities and continues to retain ample levels of internal liquidity.

Paul Bidwell from the Master Builders Association welcomed our capital works in education. On the environment, David Cazzulino from the Australian Marine Conservation Society said—

This is great news for our Great Barrier Reef.

Kevin Mercer, CEO of St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland, said of our housing and homelessness announcement—

This commitment will go a long way to ensuring no Queenslanders is left behind.

Stephen Vines, State Director of Mission Australia, commended our housing investment, saying—

This isn't just an investment in houses, but an investment in people. It will help to end homelessness and severe rental stress experienced by thousands of Queenslanders.


Derek Tuffield, the CEO of Lifeline Darling Downs and South-West Queensland, described our homelessness package as 'an outstanding commitment'. The Queensland Tourism Industry Council welcomed the state government's budget for skills, training and workforce development, and our support for small business.

We are getting good reviews from interstate and national publications as well. I particularly want to highlight the contribution of Mark Ludlow, senior financial journalist, writing for the *Australian Financial Review*, who correctly observed, 'The Queensland government still owns a truckload of assets and has fully funded superannuation, which makes its net debt figure look a lot better than New South Wales or Victoria, which flogged off their family silver.'

Also in the *Australian Financial Review*, the paper described 'bankers' as the biggest loser in the budget because they will miss out on the titles office being privatised, as it has been in other states. Terry McCrann, writing for News Corporation, pointed out that Queensland's net debt of \$42 billion was not bad—although I note that the article was not published in the Queensland newspaper, unfortunately. Mr McCrann described our debt as 'parsimonious' when compared to Victoria and pointed out New South Wales has net debt which will top out at \$97 billion.

From across the state, across the sectors of our economy, and indeed across Australia, I am pleased there is broad recognition of this budget which delivers for Queenslanders the dividend for their hard work in dealing with COVID-19.

Budget, Education

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.50 am): I am thrilled to announce a record \$15.3 billion state budget investment in schools and early childhood education to continue to deliver for Queensland children and students from Far North Queensland to the Gold Coast. Included in this is almost \$1.9 billion in infrastructure spending to maintain, renew and build new facilities, including 10 new schools—all part of Queensland's economic plan for recovery.


Our \$913 million investment for the 10 new schools to open in 2023 and 2024 will see six new primary schools at Augustine Heights in Jordan, at Ripley in Ipswich, at Bellbird Park in Bundamba, at Yarrabilba in Logan, at Logan Reserve in Waterford and at Redland Bay in Redlands. There will be four new high schools at Palmview in Buderim, at Springfield in Jordan, in the Logan Reserve-Park Ridge area and at Redbank Plains in Bundamba. These new schools add to the 18 we have delivered since 2015. Four others are underway at Caloundra South, Coomera, North Maclean and in Brisbane's inner west.

This education budget is a down payment on Queensland's future. It will create thousands of jobs to drive our economic recovery post COVID and in the longer term, and is an investment in Queensland's future workforce and leaders in our schools and early childhood centres. This is the seventh record investment in education and continues our proud record of giving children a great start and engaging young people in learning no matter where they live.

This budget locks in four years of funding to provide ongoing, universal access to kindergarten for Queensland children—an investment of around \$203 million. This means funding for kindergartens of more than \$187 million in the 2021-22 budget so that Queensland families will continue to be able to access affordable, quality kindergarten programs no matter what their life circumstance.

Setting our students up for success begins before they start school and our early childhood, education and care networks play a vital role in supporting young Queenslanders. The education budget will provide for at least 1,240 new teachers, in addition to the 1,131 new teachers already employed last year; \$14 million in 2021-22 towards a \$100 million three-year student wellbeing package to provide every Queensland state school student with access to a wellbeing professional and to pilot GPs in 20 state secondary schools; and more than \$23 million to deliver on the 2020 election commitment to build and upgrade training facilities at schools. This is a budget that continues to deliver for Queensland children and students now and into the future.

Budget, Health

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.53 am): Labor governments have a proud tradition of delivering record health budgets—and this year is no different. The 2021-22 state budget includes a record \$22.2 billion for health, including an operational budget of \$20.9 billion. This is an increase of 3.4 per cent on the previous financial year. Our record health budget

will focus on recruiting frontline staff, building health infrastructure and reducing emergency and surgical wait times. It will also enable us to continue our unwavering commitment to protecting the state from COVID-19—something we have never flinched from.


At a time of unprecedented demand for public health services, our record health budget is needed more than ever. As more Queenslanders turn to public health services because they have abandoned private health insurance or cannot access bulkbillable health care, it is increasingly up to the state government to step up where the Commonwealth will not.

This means investing in our clinical workforce to hire an extra 9,475 frontline health staff over the next four years, including 5,800 nurses and midwives; 1,500 doctors; 1,700 new allied health professionals; and an additional 60 paramedics on top of our commitment to deliver 475 new paramedics, taking the total to 535.

The budget will contain investment in bricks-and-mortar projects, with a \$1.35 billion capital spend that will improve health care in communities across the entire state. There is also further investment in initiatives that will make an impact on our surgery waiting lists and the backlog created at the peak of the pandemic last year.

This year's state budget also includes a record \$993 million in funding for the Queensland Ambulance Service. Our hardworking paramedics and ambulance staff are on the very front line of Queensland's public health response, and their tremendous dedication and commitment literally saves lives. The extra funding for QAS is a recognition of the vital role this iconic organisation plays in responding to the needs of Queenslanders who require emergency care. This is a budget for our times—record health funding amid unprecedented demand and a global pandemic—one that will benefit all Queenslanders.

Budget, Housing

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (9.56 am): This budget's \$2.9 billion total housing investment is the largest concentrated investment in social housing in Queensland's history. The Palaszczuk government is launching a bold new housing action plan backed by a \$1.9 billion investment and the establishment of a \$1 billion Housing Investment Fund to boost housing supply and increase housing and homelessness support across Queensland. Our government is increasing the supply of social and affordable housing by almost 10,000 over the life of our Housing Strategy, including 7,400 new social and affordable home builds over the next four years.


In this budget the Palaszczuk government has allocated more than \$1.8 billion in capital investment over four years, including \$60 million to quickly increase the supply of social homes through headleases and spot purchases and prepare a pipeline of work for future years; and \$160 million to leverage contributions from community housing providers and other partners to deliver 3,600 homes over the next four years.

In a first for Queensland, the Palaszczuk government has also established a \$1 billion Housing Investment Fund to generate a perpetual source of funding that will drive new supply of social and affordable housing to support current and future housing need. Yesterday, QCOSS welcomed our housing budget announcement calling it 'a beacon of hope for Queenslanders'—and it is exactly that.

The housing budget also includes an additional \$94.9 million over four years, with \$23.7 million in 2021-22 to support people to access housing support and sustain their tenancies, including \$20 million to assist women and children experiencing domestic and family violence, \$20 million to assist people experiencing or at risk of homelessness and \$54.9 million to fund essential and continuing services delivered through the First Housing Action Plan 2017-2020. This funding changes lives and delivers important frontline services for Queenslanders.

I commend the Treasurer on a budget that fits the circumstances we currently face—a budget that will deliver more homes for vulnerable Queenslanders sooner. Queenslanders needed a strong investment in social and affordable housing—and that is what Labor has delivered.

Budget, Tourism Industry

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism Industry Development and Innovation and Minister for Sport) (9.59 am): As every member of this House understands, Queensland is a big state. That is why air travel is so important to our tourism industry and the Palaszczuk government's economic recovery plan. In yesterday's budget the Palaszczuk government saw


\$10 million over the next two years to continue rebuilding Queensland aviation connectivity now and for when the international border begins to reopen from mid-2022. More flights to our world-class holiday destinations are a critical investment in helping Queensland tourism rebuild better.

Earlier investments have already reinstated 26 services and landed almost 285,000 seats to support at least 900 jobs and nearly \$111 million in overnight visitor spending. That is money that directly benefits tourism operators. That commitment now means that so far we have committed more than \$860 million—that is \$860 million—to support Queensland's tourism and events industries through the global COVID-19 pandemic. In commenting on the budget, Queensland Tourism Industry Council CEO Daniel Gschwind noted on ABC Radio, 'The state government has reacted strongly to the needs of the tourism industry.'

The Palaszczuk government is addressing one of the industry's biggest challenges: workforce shortages in the outback and from Mackay to the far northern tropics. More than \$7.5 million will be invested from 1 July in the Work in Paradise initiative, with financial incentives to encourage workers to take a job in the tourism industry and build capacity for our economic recovery plan. We have continued to roll out our \$74 million Rebuilding Queensland Tourism commitment, including: \$20 million for the Tourism Activation Fund; \$20 million for Events Boost; \$15 million for the Regional Tourism Organisation Fund; \$15 million for a Tourism and Events Queensland marketing blitz; and \$4 million for futureproofing the industry.

Our Tourism Industry Reference Panel is currently considering the industry's ideas for the future, developing an action plan for tourism recovery. We do not know yet what the panel will recommend in its final road map for the future, which is due the middle of next year, but I expect it will be funded in coming budgets. In the meantime, our support for tourism's recovery is working. March 2021 visitor data shows Queensland outperforming every other state in the growth of overnight visitor expenditure. It is up 88 per cent to \$1.35 billion compared to March 2020. That is \$43.5 million spent every single day by tourists in Queensland.

Budget, Road and Transport Infrastructure

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.01 am): Queensland's strong leadership during the COVID-19 health crisis means that our state is the place to be. More people are moving to Queensland than anywhere else in the nation. When worksites across Australia and the world shut down due to lockdowns, Queensland kept building. Since the beginning of 2020 we have injected an extra \$1.3 billion into the economy to accelerate almost 200 road and transport projects to support jobs across our state. This budget boosts infrastructure investments to keep the momentum going on Queensland's economic recovery. We are proud to deliver the sixth record road and transport budget in a row.


Some \$27.5 billion will be invested over the next four years to support jobs and bus congestion. That is 50 per cent more than when we came to office. I note the comments from RACQ head of public policy, Susan Furze, who said, 'The \$27.5 billion in transport funding will go a long way to helping Queenslanders move safely and efficiently around our state. With 119 lives lost in road crashes, we also support the funding boost for road safety programs.' We do not just talk about it; we do it. Our investment supports 24,000 jobs. Most of those jobs—almost 16,000 of them—will be in regional Queensland.

We will keep backing the Bruce with a jointly funded \$883 million boost. Our priorities for the Bruce include improving sections between Gladstone and Rockhampton and north of Townsville as well as building four lanes at Tiaro. There is funding to move freight more efficiently across the state by improving key road and port connections. That includes our \$25 million commitment to the \$125 million Gladstone port access road. It also includes ramping up works on the inland freight rail, which is strongly supported by the Queensland Trucking Association, to take trucks off the Bruce Highway, making it safer for local communities and moving freight more efficiently.

On the Sunshine Coast it was this government that got the Mooloolah River interchange business case done, and now we are investing \$160 million to get it done. The embarrassment of those opposite is palpable. Isn't it great to have two new members on the Sunshine Coast who are so effective! This budget also locks in funding for light rail to Burleigh. We will start construction this year on stage 1 of the second M1 between Nerang and Coomera after it was blocked by the previous government. With almost 120 lives lost on Queensland roads so far this year, this budget commits \$1.6 billion over four years to prioritise road safety initiatives. We will continue to deliver our \$1 billion Queensland Rail building plan in Maryborough, including a \$50 million commitment to upgrade regional train stations in Rockhampton, Maryborough West and Bundaberg.

The Local Fare Scheme, which provides discounts of up to \$400 for a return airfare for residents in regional and remote communities, will be extended. Financial support for transport operators impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic will continue until the end of the year, ensuring Queenslanders across the state have access to essential services. This Palaszczuk Labor government is backing a substantial pipeline of projects that are being built now or are in planning. Those projects will reward value for money, innovation, and provide quality local jobs, more training to build local workforce capacity, better workplace safety, and prioritise local suppliers and manufacturers. Queenslanders can have confidence that our four-year investment plan will continue to build better infrastructure and back Queensland workers and businesses for a growing state. We do not just talk about it; we do it!

Budget, Women

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.06 am): Now more than ever women are looking to government to invest in programs that address inequality, promote respect and support their economic recovery. That is why the Palaszczuk government has kept women front and centre of our budget as outlined in the 2021-22 Queensland women's budget statement. The Premier has identified gender pay and superannuation gaps, safe and respectful workplaces and other issues that hold back women's economic security and participation on the national agenda. Now, industry and community organisations have welcomed our women's budget statement and investment. CEO of Micah Projects, Karyn Walsh, said—

The budget has some really welcome news and it's great to see the women's economic statement so that government really is going through their investment with the lens of 'how does it really impact women'.

We know women were impacted by COVID and its going to take time and intention to really support women back into economic participation, get them back into the workforce and address the issues that impact them like DV and housing.


It's great to see dedicated money for women to get the housing services they need.

In this year's budget we are investing more than \$155 million to respond to violence against women. We are investing \$160 million to provide housing and housing support services to vulnerable Queenslanders, including women impacted by violence, because every Queenslander deserves to have somewhere safe to stay. We have also continued investment in women's health services, including \$60 million for breast screening services. We are ensuring there are secure job pathways for women through our Back to Work program, which has already supported more than 10,600 women into jobs, and we have made our Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative permanent, with more than 31,000 women already having benefited from the program.

Rebecca Andrews, head of Queensland's Ai Group, welcomed our investment in skilling Queensland women in manufacturing. She said, 'Attracting, retaining and promoting highly skilled women into the sector will be key to further innovation and growth.' We are creating skills pathways for women with our free TAFE initiative, supporting more women back into male dominated industries and equipping them with new skills, and our big plans for small business will support innovative and entrepreneurial women achieve business success.

This is our sixth women's budget statement because we know that ensuring women's equality at home, in public and at work requires leadership. This is in stark contrast to the federal LNP, who eight years ago scrapped the delivery of a women's budget statement—a bipartisan practice lasting 30 years that was initiated under the Hawke Labor government. It was in fact scrapped by then prime minister Tony Abbott, who was also the minister for women at the time. It took women marching in the streets this year saying 'enough is enough' to force the Morrison government to take notice and finally introduce the women's budget statement this year. Queensland women and girls can be confident that the Palaszczuk government sees them and is investing in their safety, their success and their economic inclusion.

Regional Queensland, Water Security

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (10.09 am): I have spoken to this House many times about the investment the Palaszczuk government is making in water security for regional Queenslanders. That includes close to \$1.9 billion committed to bulk water infrastructure across the state since 2015—projects like Rookwood Weir, the Haughton pipeline and the Mareeba-Dimbulah improvement project in North Queensland. Water security happens at a small scale as well—in the water treatment plants, reservoirs and water and sewerage systems of our regional towns and cities. In most cases these systems—which are vital to the health and prosperity of all Queenslanders—are operated and maintained by local councils.

Talking to mayors right across regional Queensland, I know that delivering these services for their constituents can put pressure on council budgets. The Palaszczuk government has listened to those concerns and we have acted. In this year's budget, the Palaszczuk government has allocated \$70 million to a new round of Building our Regions to support regional councils to maintain and improve their water and sewerage systems. With this funding, we are showing our commitment to supporting water security at every level of the water supply system.

The hugely successful Building our Regions program has a long history of delivering infrastructure projects, economic opportunities and jobs for our regional communities. To date, the first five rounds of this program have seen over \$348 million approved towards 271 projects across 67 regional councils. It has also leveraged over \$539 million in additional funding from other sources for a total capital expenditure of over \$887 million, supporting more than 2,700 construction jobs in regional Queensland. Building our Regions has already funded successful water supply improvements across our state, from Weipa to Warwick and Toowoomba to the Tablelands. The \$70 million we have committed will be available over three years for councils to target water and sewerage system improvements.

Just like the rest of the investments we are making as part of this year's budget, these projects will be an important part of delivering Queensland's plan for economic recovery from the global COVID-19 pandemic. My department is now working to establish the systems for this round of Building our Regions grants and prepare guidelines for applicants, which will be released very soon. I look forward to updating the House on the delivery of this new round of Building our Regions in regional Queensland.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Health System



Ms BATES (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (10.12 am): I give notice that I will move—

The House:

1. notes the Queenslanders who have spoken out to fix the health system:
 - (a) Patricia from Mudgeeraba, who waited months for surgery to walk again;
 - (b) Donald from Mount Gravatt, who is still waiting for his heart surgery after being cancelled and rescheduled five times;
 - (c) Jan from Mulgrave, who is waiting for knee reconstruction surgery, which has been cancelled three times, twice because of code yellow internal emergencies at Cairns Hospital;
 - (d) Stephen from Loganlea, whose wife died in his arms waiting for an ambulance to arrive;
 - (e) Trevor from Caloundra, who was ramped behind 17 ambulances, unloaded in the rain and waited 10 hours for attention in the ED;
 - (f) Ron from Caloundra, whose daughter died after waiting longer than recommended for an ambulance to arrive to resuscitate her;
 - (g) Sue from Caboolture, whose mother had a fall and lay on the floor for hours in agony despite frantic calls to 000 pleading for urgent attention before being ramped at Caboolture Hospital for another four hours;
 - (h) Rob from Rockhampton, who was ramped in the ED for three hours—alongside eight other patients—after suffering a heart attack;
 - (i) Annette from Morayfield, whose elderly brother-in-law, suffering dementia and unable to verbalise his issue, waited hours for an ambulance after a fall; and
 - (j) Anthony from Ipswich, whose dad was delayed treatment for 26 hours in overcrowded Ipswich Hospital; and
2. calls on the Queensland government to take immediate action to fix the health system.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will conclude today at 11.14 am.

Health Infrastructure



Mr CRISAFULLI (10.14 am): My question is to the Premier. This financial year health infrastructure investment is \$1.47 billion. The budget reduces health infrastructure investment to \$1.35 billion. Given the Australian Medical Association's warning of a ticking time bomb, why is Labor reducing health infrastructure in the middle of a health crisis?

Ms PALASZCZUK: As I said very clearly, we have a record health budget in Queensland—over \$22 billion. There is money there to grow our frontline services and to look at the capital infrastructure that is needed across the state. This includes: expansions to our hospitals in Ipswich, Logan and Caboolture; the new Mater Public Hospital in Springfield that we were able to announce; and seven satellite hospitals. I have been coordinating those satellite hospitals with the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Health to have them up and running within two years because we know people would like to get services close to home. This is an Australian first to have satellite services.

In addition to that, we also have our \$2 billion health infrastructure fund. That is really important. Why is that important? As business cases come to hand, we will be ready to invest the money that is needed to build those hospitals. There is money there for the land at Bundaberg and the day surgery at Toowoomba. There are also those regional upgrades that are needed right across the state—from memory, it includes Charleville, Thursday Island, Mer and Woorabinda. Right across Queensland, that health infrastructure is absolutely critical.

Mr Dick: Morven.

Ms PALASZCZUK: And Morven. I will take that interjection. The people of this state backed this government to deliver health services in this state. They backed this government to keep them safe. One can only imagine where Queenslanders would be today if they had listened to the leader of Nanango and the member for Broadwater and had those borders open 64 times.

Mrs Frecklington: The leader of Nanango!

Ms PALASZCZUK: I think the member for Nanango wants to be the leader again.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left!

Mr Brown: The Barrett centre closed.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take that interjection from the member for Capalaba—a very good interjection.

Mr SPEAKER: There are no good interjections, Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: They absolutely closed the Barrett Adolescent Centre. They shut a really important hospital, they closed it down, and people tragically lost their lives. On this side, we back health. We will look after Queenslanders—

(Time expired)

Health Infrastructure

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Minister for Health. The Treasurer promised a \$2 billion Hospital Building Fund but the budget details show this so-called fund does not have a funding allocation line and does not build a single new hospital. Can the minister tell Queenslanders where the money is?

Mrs D'ATH: It is not surprising that before the budget and after the budget those on the other side still do not understand basic accounting, but that is okay because they have just—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

An opposition member: You're jealous.

Mrs D'ATH: Jealous? I am not jealous of you guys, trust me. We are very proud of our health budget this year, as we are of all of our health budgets. There is a \$2 billion Hospital Building Fund—real money earmarked for real projects.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Members to my left, the minister is being responsive to the question asked. You have asked the question. I ask that you hear the answer.

Mrs D'ATH: This funding is above Queensland Health's normal capital infrastructure program. It is about providing Queensland Health with a secure funding source for projects to tackle growing demand.

Mr Crisafulli: What year? Any year. Pick a year.

Mrs D'ATH: Can I advise the Leader of the Opposition if he can just keep his mouth shut for just five seconds he will find out.

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

Mrs D'ATH: Current allocations including capital and upgrading funding are \$42 million over the forward estimates for the Toowoomba Day Surgery. There is \$177 million over the forward estimates to purchase public health services through the expansion of the Mater public hospital, Springfield. There is \$120 million over two years, 2021-22—

Mr Crisafulli: What year is it?

Mrs D'ATH: If you shush I can tell you.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Members to my left, I hear the interjections, but you seem to be asking a particular question that has already been asked of the minister. In my listening to the minister's answer over the interjections, I believe the minister is answering the question. I would ask you to cease those interjections and hear the answer or I will start naming members.

Mrs D'ATH: There is \$120 million over two years, 2021-22 and 2022-23, for an uplift of Queensland Health's base capital program. The remaining balance of more than \$1.7 billion—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

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

Mrs D'ATH:—can be earmarked for future projects beyond the forward estimates. For example, there is the new Toowoomba hospital. Detailed design is underway for a new Toowoomba hospital. One would think those opposite might be interested in that. One would think they might be saying thank you for Toowoomba Day Surgery, \$42 million, and be pleased that there is detailed design work going into a new Toowoomba hospital. The Baillie Henderson in Toowoomba North is our preferred site and master planning continues. Of course there is also our planning work for the new Bundaberg hospital. We are doing the business case now and our \$2 billion Hospital Building Fund allows us the ability to draw forward key capital funding when we need it, when these business cases are finished, to start the construction of these major developments.

We are very proud of the fact that we are establishing this fund above our normal capital to invest in additional capital for this state to take pressures off our system.

A government member: How many hospitals did you build? Zero!

Mrs D'ATH: I will take that interjection. Those opposite zero planned and built zero when they were in government

(Time expired)

Renewable Energy

Mr WALKER: My question is of the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier update the House on the Palaszczuk government's strategy to rebuild the Queensland economy by investing in renewable energy?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question because, as he knows, it is really important for North Queensland and renewable energy is great for regional jobs. I know all of our regional members support our 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030 because that means jobs in regional Queensland. We know that for many years those opposite condemned those projects that were happening at their back doors. Now we see that our trend towards renewable energy is being driven by this government and investment as well.

Queensland is the energy powerhouse of the nation. We have the most efficient coal-fired power fleet in the country. We have an abundance of gas and where other states are very reluctant to open their gas reserves, we have progressively been opening up more gas reserves, especially for domestic consumption. We know that gas is that transitional source of energy that is needed to drive many of our large industrial projects, which is necessary for the jobs in our state.

I was very pleased to join the local members for the Townsville region as well as the Deputy Premier, the Minister for Energy as well as many energy stakeholders to announce our \$2 billion commitment for renewable energy. This is a game changer. This is Queensland leading the way. Also, when we are talking about the future for this state, hydrogen is a great opportunity; we can actually produce that renewable green hydrogen here and export it to markets across the world. That means

looking to our great trading partners like Japan and South Korea as well as looking at what Europe is doing with hydrogen when it comes to countries like Germany. I think even the federal government is now on the bandwagon; they are talking hydrogen as well. However, it was Queensland that first started talking about hydrogen. Dr Finkel also commended our investment in this area.

Whilst we believe that our assets should stay in public hands, those opposite have a completely different view. They want to sell off our assets. We know that time and time again they always have a secret plan to sell off the assets, and where would Queenslanders be today? They went to an election on it. They actually went to an election.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I say to those members interjecting that they should have a good, long look at where they are sitting in this House.

(Time expired)

Titles Registry, Valuation

Mr JANETZKI: My question is to the Treasurer. Three weeks ago the Treasurer said the titles office was worth \$4.2 billion. Yesterday he said it was worth \$7.8 billion.

Government members: He didn't say it.

Mr SPEAKER: Members interjecting, there will be one warning only today. Questions will be heard in silence. You can start your question again, member.

Mr JANETZKI: Three weeks ago the Treasurer said the titles office was worth \$4.2 billion. Yesterday he said it was worth \$7.8 billion. Can the Treasurer produce the valuation and the assumptions on which it was made?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Toowoomba South for his question. I also say I did not say that three weeks ago. Your assertion is wrong.

Mr SPEAKER: Through the chair.

Mr DICK: I reaffirm to the House what I said yesterday. As yesterday's state budget noted, the \$7.8 billion valuation of our Titles Registry, the best run and the most valuable in the Commonwealth, is the result of detailed due diligence undertaken by the Queensland Investment Corporation and Queensland Treasury. As I said in the budget speech less than 24 hours ago, QIC obtained advice from four independent firms: financial advisory services from Bank of America; macroeconomic forecasting from BIS Oxford Economics—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Sorry, Treasurer. Members to my left, I have been pretty clear when members are responding to the question asked in a manner which is providing information to the House. I need to hear that answer. I believe the Treasurer is responding to the question.

Mr DICK:—financial tax accounting and information technology due diligence from Deloitte; and legal advice from Allens Linklaters, one of the largest law firms in the world. The valuation was approved by QIC's independent investment committee and was then subject to two further independent peer assessments by two global accounting firms—PwC on behalf of QIC and EY on behalf of the state.

I know the member for Toowoomba South had a storied financial career when he worked for the Heritage Building Society on the Downs, a great Queensland company. However, I can say that I will back the Bank of America, BIS Oxford Economics, Deloitte, Allens Linklaters, PwC and EY against the storied financial career of the member for Toowoomba South.

I heard the leader and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition yesterday saying it was a fraud, it was tricked up. My challenge to the LNP today is this: I challenge the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition immediately after the conclusion of question time to go outside the front of this parliament and say in relation to Tom Seymour, the CEO of PwC in Queensland, and Alison de Groot, the Brisbane Managing Partner for EY—I want you to say publicly that they are perpetrating a fraud.

Mr SPEAKER: Through the chair, Treasurer.

Mr DICK: They want you to say that because you will get a defamation writ faster—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. The level of interjection is too high. Treasurer, you will direct your comments through the chair or I will sit you down.

Mr DICK: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I challenge the LNP to do that, because the LNP will get a writ faster than anything else. Every day of the week I will back the professional competence and expertise of some of the largest financial and legal accounting firms in the world against the storied financial career of the member for Toowoomba South.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, similarly, if you will not direct your comments through the chair you will be warned.

Budget, Sunshine Coast

Mr HUNT: My question is of the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier update the House on the Palaszczuk government's commitment to the Sunshine Coast through this week's state budget?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Caloundra for that question. For many years a lot of LNP members on the Sunshine Coast have delivered not much at all for the Sunshine Coast. It is a very sad story indeed—all those members, and what do they have to show for it? Those opposite are a bit complacent, a bit sleepy and not really hardworking. No, there is not much at all.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: There is a bit of interjection there.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The member for Nanango is not even on the Sunshine Coast!

Mr Mickelberg: She knows more about the Sunshine Coast than the member for Caloundra!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Oh, for goodness sake.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: We on this side of the House love the Sunshine Coast. I am so proud that we have two new members on the Sunshine Coast. What fine members are the members for Caloundra and Nicklin.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: No-one says it about you, member for Buderim.

Mr SPEAKER: Direct your comments through the chair, Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I think we are building a brand new high school in Buderim.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Buderim, your interjections are simply 'loud'. You are warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am proud that in this budget we will build a brand new high school in Buderim. I will be up there a lot. Let us get back to some other issues on the Sunshine Coast.

I can confirm that we are investing \$160 million to deliver a major upgrade of the Mooloolah River interchange. I know that the minister was up there just last week talking that up. We are very pleased to be supporting that. We are delivering more than \$3.9 billion in joint funding for roads and rail on the Sunshine Coast. This includes: \$7 million to extend Third Avenue to Nicklin Way at Caloundra; \$3.75 million for traffic lights at the intersection of Steve Irwin Way and Caloundra Road; and \$35 million for the Bells Creek Arterial Road extension. What a great project that is. The member for Caloundra, the minister and I were up there turning the first sod. That is fantastic. There is also \$160 million to build the first stage of the Sunshine Coast line duplication between Beerburrum and Beerwah.

When it comes to education, there are so many schools being built on the Sunshine Coast. That corridor is so fast growing. We are making sure we have the primary and secondary schools. The Minister for Education is spending so much time up there she may as well get a second home there, because there are so many schools being built. We on this side of the House back education, transport and of course health.

(Time expired)

Budget, Housing

Mr MANDER: My question is to the Minister for Communities and Housing. The \$1 billion Housing Investment Fund appears on page 141 of the budget but there is no funding allocation for this fund.

Mr Skelton interjected.

Mr MANDER: Can the minister advise: where is the money?

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

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. Honestly, the member for Everton has more front than Myer to turn up here and ask a question about investment in housing! A record amount of funding has been invested in social housing. It is the largest concentrated investment in social housing this state has ever seen. I suggest that the member for Everton, who apparently is a former shadow treasurer, refresh his YouTube channel and get a tutorial about how to do this sort of thing.

The fund that is being set up is the first of its kind in this state. It is being set up for the future. In the meantime, we will see a \$1.9 billion investment in social housing over the next four years. That will deliver more than 7,000 social and affordable homes over the next four years. We will see an incredible amount of properties brought into the system.

Not only will we see social homes being built—the Premier and the Treasurer mentioned some 6,365; we will see more than a thousand affordable homes built over the next four years. On top of that, we will see head leasing of around a thousand properties over the next four years. On top of that, we will see accelerated partnerships with the community housing sector to see even more stock in the system. That is what this \$1.9 billion investment is all about.

The Housing Investment Fund is about the future. Some \$160 million over the next four years will be drawn down. We will seed this fund to support this work into the future. This is an incredible amount of investment.


Mr Dick: Page 13 of the highlights.

Ms ENOCH: I take that interjection. Page 13 of Budget Highlights makes it very clear. Of course, the member for Everton completely forgets what he was the leader of when he was the LNP housing minister. What we saw from the member for Everton was some very noticeable and embarrassing shrinkage when it comes to social housing. Quite frankly, the member for Everton has more front than Myer to turn up here and ask a question about housing investment when we saw housing go backwards under him. This government is committed to housing and to social and affordable housing, and we see that in the budget.

Interruption.

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (10.36 am): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. In a previous answer the Treasurer said that three weeks ago he did not mention the valuation of \$4.2 billion. For your reference, Mr Speaker, I table an extract from the *Record of Proceedings* of three weeks ago which shows Mr Dick—I assume that is Treasurer Dick—talking about the \$4.2 billion valuation.

Tabled paper: Extract, dated 27 May 2021, from the *Record of Proceedings*, Queensland Parliament, page 1753 [877].

Mr BLEIJIE: I will be writing to you about this matter, Mr Speaker.

Mr DICK: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. What I did say in that debate was ‘wait for the budget’, and they got the valuation yesterday.

Mr SPEAKER: This is not an opportunity to debate the matter. I will consider any correspondence from the Manager of Opposition Business and give the matter consideration at that time. Further, the member for Bancroft previously interjected while a question was being asked. Member for Bancroft, you are warned under the standing orders.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Resumed.

Bundaberg, Local Government

Mr SMITH: My question is of the Deputy Premier. Can the Deputy Premier update the House on how the budget is delivering for Queensland councils, especially in the great region of Bundaberg, and is he aware of any alternatives?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Bundaberg for his very good question. The Palaszczuk government is proud to be working with local governments right across this state to deliver much needed community infrastructure. We heard from the Premier in her ministerial statement about how the budget has been warmly welcomed by mayors right across this state.

We are working with local governments to deliver local stimulus because we know that often they are best placed to know what communities need and to deliver those projects quickly, creating jobs in local communities in the process. In the budget was our \$200 million next round of the very popular Works for Queensland program—now a \$1 billion program. This round alone will deliver 333 projects across our great state, creating 3,600 jobs for Queenslanders and leaving a legacy of important community infrastructure such as the 50-metre, Olympic standard pool in Bundaberg and the associated aquatic centre that I know the member for Bundaberg was proud to announce along with the assistant minister, the member for Pine Rivers, and that great fan of the Palaszczuk government the Mayor of Bundaberg, Mr Jack Dempsey.

The three of them were able to announce how that wonderful project would allow the young people of Bundaberg to train with the dream of competing in the 2032 Queensland Olympics. Wouldn't that be wonderful? What a wonderful opportunity for Bundaberg locals. We also expect that it will attract teams as a potential training venue in the lead-up to that event—a great opportunity for Bundaberg.

Right across the state we are partnering with local governments to deliver better local community infrastructure. That is starkly different to the approach that the member for Broadwater had when he was the local government minister. He proudly announced that local government was on its own, that it should not look to the state government for financial support, that if it wanted to invest in its communities it should sell its land and its assets and then he proceeded to cut \$60 million of local government grants.

The Palaszczuk government will not do that. We will continue to invest in Works for Queensland projects like the pump track in Hervey Bay, the pump track in Mackay, the national level skate park in Townsville, the skate park and recreational facilities in Roma and the playground at the Rockhampton Botanic Gardens. In fact, all of those projects were funded by the Palaszczuk government.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, you are warned under the standing orders. You are not using members' correct titles. You are not directing your comments through the chair. You will cease your interjections.

Budget, Carbon Reduction Investment Fund

Mr O'CONNOR: My question is to the Minister for the Environment. The \$500 million Carbon Reduction Investment Fund appears next to a blank line in the budget. There is no funding allocation for this fund. Can the minister tell the House: where is the money?

Ms SCANLON: I thank the member for the question. I do not know how many times we need to explain this to the opposition today for them to understand, but I will put it in simple terms. When you have an investment fund it generates returns and those returns are then invested into the source—that is, the Land Restoration Fund, where we have made a commitment to spend \$500 million. We have made a commitment in this budget to deliver \$60 million for the Land Restoration Fund. That is on top of the first round that we have already announced, but members opposite have some nerve coming into this House wanting to talk about carbon reduction because we know that they have a number of very interesting views when it comes to emissions reductions.

Some terms ago the member for Clayfield said that people who have rooftop solar are inner-city latte sippers. I would like him to tell that to the people in Bundaberg, which has the highest penetration of rooftop solar in the state. The member for Burleigh said that acting on climate and reducing emissions will mean that plants die and we will go back to the ice age. The member for Callide said that renewable energy is a fantasy. It might be a fantasy for those opposite, but we on this side of the House will spend \$2 billion. Then we have the Leader of the Opposition, who went to the last election proposing to scrap our targets altogether. It is interesting to note that some people on the opposition do at least acknowledge the science behind climate change.

Ms Bates interjected.

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

Ms SCANLON: Those opposite went to the last—

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Please resume your seat, Minister. Member for Mudgeeraba, I asked you to cease interjecting. You continued to do so. You are warned under the standing orders. It is not helpful doing it on your own.

Ms GRACE: I rise to a point of order—the unparliamentary nature of that call out.

Mr SPEAKER: Please resume your seat, Minister.

Ms SCANLON: There is an interesting Facebook post by the member for Bonney, who pretends to be really progressive but comes into this House and votes against things like sensible tree-clearing laws, which actually have an impact on emissions reductions, and termination of pregnancy. There is a range of different bills that he has voted against despite his so-called progressive nature, but this Facebook post after a session with Dr Karl says—

... so if you know someone who denies the scientific consensus, let me know and I'll give you my old copy to pass on to them.

I have brought two copies into the House today. I think the member for Callide probably needs it the most, but I will table a copy so all of those opposite can read about the science of climate change.

Tabled paper: Book, titled 'Dr Karl's Little Book of Climate Change Science', by Dr Karl Kruszelnicki [878].

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Ms SCANLON: We on this side of the House have a very proud track record of investing in the environment—

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

Ms SCANLON:—and investing in renewable energy. I was recently with the Minister for Energy, the Deputy Premier and the Premier in Townsville where we announced the \$2 billion renewable energy and hydrogen fund that will turbocharge renewable energy in this space. We know some of the biggest impacts to the Great Barrier Reef are climate change. That is why we need to invest in this space. Those opposite like to talk, but they do not walk the walk. At the last election they did not commit to the Land Restoration Fund and they did not commit to emissions reduction targets. They do not deliver when it comes to the environment.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Bonney, you are warned under the standing orders. I gave you several opportunities to cease your interjections. You did not do so.

Budget, Surplus

Ms PEASE: My question is of the Treasurer and Minister for Investment. Will the Treasurer please advise the House on the budget's projection when the Queensland government will return to operating surplus, and is he aware of any alternative forecasts?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Lytton for her question and I trust that she is pleased to see the initiatives being rolled out in her electorate, including extra classrooms at Darling Point and also Manly state schools—two very fine schools on the bayside. The budget I handed down yesterday demonstrates that our government is investing in infrastructure and services while setting us on a path to surplus. Of the big four governments in Australia—the federal government, New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland—we are the first to publish a return to surplus, and that of course is in the financial year commencing 1 July 2024 because of the growing strength of our economy. Earlier today I read out some of the strong positive comments we have received about our economy. There is one that I missed, and this was a comment made yesterday—

Look, I think what we are seeing is the people of Queensland are bouncing back. You know, we are seeing people wanting to move here. That's great for our state. It's a great place to be living and it's pleasing to see people wanting to move here. We know the housing market is strong and we know retail spending is strong, and that's being led by the people of Queensland.

Member for Toowoomba South, I could not have said it better myself. Thanks for the endorsement! But of course those opposite do have a problem about getting back to surplus, because yesterday both the leader and the deputy leader said that we would not see a surplus until after the next state election. I do not know who needs to hear this, but the 2024 state election is in October and October, strangely enough, comes after July. July is seven while October is 10, so 10 comes after seven. I am a bit disappointed in the leader and the deputy leader. As I said, the deputy leader had a storied career in finance and knows a bit about numbers up there on the Downs. He should know when the financial year begins. He should know that. The Leader of the Opposition ought to know that the election is in October and between the two of them they ought to know that the budget will be in surplus in the year of the election. It will be in surplus by October 2024.

Last week we saw the Leader of the Opposition in Rockhampton saying that the government needs to borrow more. Remember when he was on Channel 7 up in Rockhampton—the Emu Park epiphany—and then when he came down here he said something else to a different audience? He wants to rack it up in regional Queensland but will not back it up down here. The LNP is made up of an absolute bunch of phoneyes. That is what they are—an absolute bunch of phoneyes: say anything to any audience, make it up, denigrate some great accounting firms here in Queensland, undermine the budget, do whatever they have to because it suits their political purposes. This is not leadership from the member for Broadwater; this is just a game to him because we know what those opposite will do in government—cut, sack and sell, which is always their agenda.

(Time expired)

Budget, Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund

Mr WEIR: My question is to the Minister for Energy. The Treasurer promised a \$2 billion Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund but half the fund does not have a funding allocation in the budget. Minister, where is the money?

Mr SPEAKER: I will give you an opportunity to rephrase the last part of your question.

Mr WEIR: Can the minister say where the money is?

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the member for Condamine, the shadow minister who really puts the word 'shadow' into his title. Budget Paper No. 2 is pretty clear, and I am sure the member has studied it. As the Minister for the Environment pointed out, you will find the money outlined there on page 147. I am wondering if the member has had a chance to take a close look at that. It starts off this year with \$100 million, a further \$200 million next year, \$100 million the following year, another \$100 million on top of the \$500 million already committed to the Queensland Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The Treasurer will cease his interjections.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The Treasurer is warned under the standing orders.

Mr de BRENNI: As members on this side of the House can appreciate, significant large-scale renewable energy and hydrogen projects take some time to build. We heard the Minister for the Environment talk about the nerve and we heard from the Minister for Housing about the front and we heard collectively about the shrinkage from over there. Talking about shrinkage when it comes to investment in large-scale renewable energy projects, this is why those opposite have no clue when it comes to investing in this state because, quite frankly, they built nothing in their term in office. When we look at the examples from housing, the member for Everton, when he was minister for housing, shrunk investment in housing to 148 homes—a measly 148 homes—then has the front to come in here and say that we should do more. We are doing more. During their term, what did investment in large-scale renewable projects, be they wind, solar, hydrogen or pumped hydro, shrink to? Nothing! There was not a single large-scale renewable project in this state under those opposite.

Not only that, we know that their plan in their unholy alliance with the Greens political party was to sell off Queensland's power assets.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Chatsworth will cease interjecting.

Mr de BRENNI: We are committed to delivering a \$2 billion fund to ensure that government owned corporations can invest in cheaper, cleaner energy for Queensland. That is our record. We have seen a 22 per cent reduction in wholesale energy prices because of our investment in Queensland owned corporations. Under those opposite there was no investment in renewables and a 43 per cent business-crippling, job-crippling, increase in electricity prices.

Budget, Education

Mr SULLIVAN: My question is to the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Will the minister outline how the Palaszczuk government's record education spend will benefit Queensland school students, in particular in my electorate of Stafford, and is she aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for Stafford. Education was a big part of what he went to the election with in October. He was returned with an increased majority. When one considers what we went out with, not only were we returned to government—and those opposite are still on the other side of the House—we came back with an increased majority. Part of that is because of what we have put into education. There have been seven record budgets. It is incredible.

I am so proud to be delivering the infrastructure in all of the electorates in this House, in particular the \$8 million school hall at Wilston State School, which I know they have been waiting for and that the member for Stafford advocated very strongly for; a new outdoor learning centre at Kedron State School, which will revolutionise that school's learning; and around \$650,000 in minor works and maintenance in the Stafford electorate alone. It is an incredible amount of money. It is a \$15.3 billion spend, investing in our education. We will deliver more schools, more classrooms and we are rolling out our election commitments that we made in October when we were returned to this House with an increased majority.

We are rolling out the \$100 million student mental health and wellbeing project and looking for psychologists and mental health professionals. We will be investing in the first stage of that project. It is \$100 million over three years. Not all the money is allocated in this financial year, it is over the three years as we employ professionals and build up the project. The line of questioning about the other amounts of money is quite interesting coming from those opposite. They do not understand how budgets work. We will be employing 109 new mental health and wellbeing professionals right throughout Queensland. If you are a psychologist or a mental health professional I urge you to apply for those positions.

We are also rolling out the homework centres. They have been incredibly successful. We are rolling out 120 this financial year. Already we have had 190 applications. We are looking forward to rolling those out, as well as the 20 GP clinics. One does not have to look far to see the contrast between us and those opposite. Teacher numbers are increasing, teacher aide numbers are increasing, cleaner numbers are increasing and investment in infrastructure is more than three times the amount that it dipped to in the 2014-15 budget delivered by the LNP. Those opposite continue to whinge about a budget that sets records that are far beyond anything they could ever plan or see into the future.

Budget, Path to Treaty

Mr LANGBROEK: My question is to the Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. The budget details reveal there is no funding allocated to the Path to Treaty Fund. Where is the money?

Mr CRAWFORD: I thank the member for the question. We are going to have to go back to basic maths here. The Treasurer outlined this simply, the Minister for Housing outlined this quite simply, the Minister for the Environment did it quite simply and then the Minister for Energy did it, but I will dumb it down even further. Remember when you were in school and you had a Commonwealth government Dollarmites account? You took some money—for some it was gold coins and for some it might have been pennies—and you put the money in the bank and the bank gave you some interest. With the interest you did some stuff. Can I make it any simpler? This is a future fund and just like the questions that we have seen, this is the LNP simply playing with words and playing games. Can I talk about the significance of this investment for the Path to Treaty.

Mr Janetzki interjected.

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

Mr CRAWFORD: Can I reflect on the term of government of those opposite: cutting funding to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector; abolishing the Murri courts, the Indigenous drug and special circumstances courts and youth justice conferencing—510 jobs.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under 118(b). The question was purely around the budget that was delivered by the Labor government yesterday and the lack of allocated funding pursuant to the question. I ask that the minister be brought back to the question asked.

Mr SPEAKER: The question was reasonably specific about a particular line item in the budget so I would ask you to return to that or the policy issue that is being referred to.

Mr CRAWFORD: Let us talk about treaty. This is a \$300 million Future Fund investment. We will draw down on the revenue that we earn from that to fund treaty. Where was the LNP's commitment to treaty in the lead-up to the last election? Did the word exist? Were there any commitments from the LNP in the last election in relation to treaty, in relation to First Nations housing, education, health, employment? There was nothing: zip, diddly, nothing!

The LNP still has not made a decision as to whether it supports a Path to Treaty. I have left the door open. I have written to the Leader of the Opposition. I am waiting for a reply. I do not want to play politics on this. I want this to be a bipartisan approach. I want this to be supported by all parts of this House, including the crossbench. This is too big for us to play politics on. I urge the opposition to support treaty.

Budget, Hospital and Health Services

Mr BROWN: My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Can the minister outline how the Palaszczuk government is supporting our hardworking hospital and health services through the 2021-22 budget?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for Capalaba for his question. I know he is very supportive of the great work that our hospital and health services and our wonderful health staff do right across the state. There is a record overall Health budget for 2021-22 with \$22.2 billion. It is a record budget for every one of our 16 hospital and health services. Over the past couple of weeks, those opposite have been running around and claiming that we were cutting or shrinking the HHS budgets by \$550 million. However, while those on the other side like to talk about shrinkage we like to talk about growth, which is what we are going to see across every one of our hospital and health services. For those opposite, I make it clear what the budget papers show in black and white.

There is record funding for every HHS. For the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service there is \$1.08 billion, which is up by \$30 million or a 2.9 per cent increase. For the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service there is \$691 million, which is up by \$30 million or a 4.5 per cent increase. For the Central West Hospital and Health Service there is \$89.9 million, which is up by \$3.9 million or a 4.5 per cent increase.

For Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service there is \$898 million, which is up by \$27.6 million or a 3.2 per cent increase. For the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service there is \$937 million, which is up by \$35.8 million or a four per cent increase. For the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service there is \$1.77 billion, which is up by \$78.7 million or a 4.6 per cent increase.

For the Mackay Hospital and Health Service there is \$514 million, which is up by \$21.5 million or a 4.4 per cent increase. For the Metro North Hospital and Health Service there is \$3.36 billion, which is up by \$147 million or a 4.6 per cent increase. For the Metro South Hospital and Health Service there is \$2.27 billion, which is up by \$105 million or a 3.9 per cent increase.

For the North West Hospital and Health Service there is \$207 million, which is up by \$8 million or a four per cent increase. For the South West Hospital and Health Service there is \$169 million, which is up by \$3.4 million or a 2.1 per cent increase. For the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service there is \$136 billion, which is up by \$51.9 million or a four per cent increase.

For the Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service there is \$250 million, which is up by \$9.9 million or a 4.1 per cent increase. For the Townsville Hospital and Health Service there is \$1.12 billion, which is up by \$32.1 million or a 2.9 per cent increase. For the West Moreton Hospital and Health Service there is \$750 million, which is up by \$59.4 million or an 8.6 per cent increase. For the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service there is \$724 million, which is up by \$32.6 million or a 4.7 per cent increase.

We are very proud of our \$22.2 billion budget for 2021-22. We thank the Premier and the Treasurer for leading a strong Labor budget, which includes a strong Labor budget for Health, showing our continued investment and growth in capital infrastructure as we invest in our health workforce. That is what Labor governments do.

Hydrogen Industry, Royalties

Mr ANDREW: My question is to the Treasurer. Can the Treasurer update the House on the way the government will extract royalties out of the green hydrogen industry, which Queenslanders are paying millions into at the moment in investment?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Mirani for his question. We want to be a first mover when it comes to the development of the hydrogen industry in Australia and around the world. As the member for Mirani might acknowledge, we were the first state jurisdiction to develop a hydrogen industry development plan. We are now rolling that out with an additional \$2.6 million in this budget to support the hydrogen industry task force, led by the Deputy Premier and supported by the Minister for Energy,

myself and other ministers to ensure that we can be a part of that. Of course, developing the income stream from that industry is dependent on developing the industry first. We have to be the first mover and we have to try to keep our advantage.

What green hydrogen, in particular, offers for Queensland is a new energy source that the world is now demanding. Our big trading partners in Japan, South Korea, China, Europe and the United States are looking for lower carbon energy. That is the reality. We have what the world needs. We have an abundance of land and we have an abundance of sunshine. When you put those two together you can create renewable energy. As I have said on many occasions, you can use that renewable energy to crack water. You take off the H₂. No carbon is produced in that energy source and, when you burn it, it ends up as steam. It is potentially a very virtuous energy cycle.

Having said that, in our budget people will see investments to support traditional industries as well, such as mining with support for our coal industry. We are supporting our new economy minerals industries, such as through the Resources Industry Development Plan that the Minister for Resources is leading to make sure that we can use the cobalt, zinc, vanadium and copper that we are blessed with in this state and nation. This is one of the few places in the world where all of those new economy minerals, particularly those used for the production of electric engines, can be sourced, delivered and, we hope, used for manufacturing purposes in the one place.

I can tell the member for Mirani that, while there is a long way to go yet, our government is backing the old, backing the traditional and also investing in the new. That is what our economy needs. The reason we have been able to sustain such a strong economic recovery is because of the diversified nature of the Queensland economy. We must keep diversifying that economy, whether it is through investment in the tourism industry, the traditional mining and agricultural sectors—which have done so much of the heavy lifting during the past year—or the new industries such as defence industries, advanced manufacturing, aerospace and the space industry itself, green hydrogen and renewable energy. Our vision is for Queensland to be a renewable energy super power. We want to provide renewable energy to the world. Our friends in Japan say that they want sunshine in a suitcase that we can send overseas for them to use. This presents enormous potential for our state and that is why we will continue to invest in it.

Budget, Social and Affordable Housing

Mr POWER: My question is to the Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts. Will the minister update the House on the government's investment in social and affordable housing in this year's budget?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for Logan for his question and for his advocacy with regards to social and affordable housing in his electorate. I add my appreciation and acknowledgement to all members on this side who have very strongly advocated for further investment in social and affordable housing. As a Labor government we are very proud to be delivering this \$2.9 billion investment, which is the largest concentration of social housing investment that this state has ever seen. Of course, as I have made it very clear already, this is made up of a \$1.9 billion investment over four years that will create a number of opportunities to expand our housing stock, which is incredibly important, and also the establishment of a first-of-its-kind \$1 billion Housing Investment Fund.

I know that the LNP opposition do not really get it, but stakeholders get it. This is about establishing self-sustaining funds that can be used into the future to invest in renewable energy, protecting the Great Barrier Reef, supporting Path to Treaty and, of course, building social housing for our most vulnerable Queenslanders. These actions will support thousands of jobs and have been welcomed by stakeholders. The CCIQ welcomed the \$3.34 billion Queensland Jobs Fund. The Queensland Conservation Council absolutely supported the announcement of the \$2.9 billion housing commitment saying that we are committed to tripling the number of social homes built each and every year. Stakeholders get it.

In reference to the question from the member for Logan about social and affordable housing, not only are we seeing the \$2.9 billion investment; this week we also see the release of our latest housing action plan. The housing action plan absolutely drives the idea of getting more investment into this sector and making more properties available so that we can house vulnerable Queenslanders sooner. However, we cannot talk about social housing without talking about the LNP and what they left for us. The member for Everton was the architect of the wholesale giveaway of publicly owned assets in this state, the epicentre being Logan.

Mr Mander interjected.

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

Ms ENOCH: When those opposite were in government, in Queensland we saw a net decrease in the total number of social housing dwellings by 428, that is, there were 428 fewer properties when they left government than when they started. We had to build back that stock and also build on top of it. We are very proud that this \$2.9 billion investment will see more than 7,400 properties built over the next four years.

North West Minerals Province

Mr KATTER: My question is to the Minister for Resources. There is near consensus that global demand for the minerals produced by the North West Minerals Province will see unprecedented increases over the next 30 years. Will the minister please advise whether the government is forecasting annual mineral production from the North West Minerals Province to increase to 2050?

Mr STEWART: I thank the member for the question. We know how important the North West Minerals Province is, particularly to Queensland's economy. We know that mining will be a key component when we go forward with our economic recovery post COVID-19. We are currently developing our Resources Industry Development Plan. We have been working with people in the resources industry, the workers, the unions and environmental people—a really broad smattering of people right across the industry—to consider the impacts.

We are developing a 30-year plan for where we need to be in our resource sector. We need to consider the key components that will impact upon us over the next 30 years. I am getting key people within the resources industry to crystal-ball. We know that over the last 30 years there have been some massive changes in the industry. We also need to prepare for the massive changes that we are yet to see.

As the Treasurer has already highlighted, the North West Minerals Province is absolutely blessed with new economy minerals—vanadium, copper, scandium, nickel and cobalt. These are essential new minerals for the future, particularly when it comes to battery production. We need to position ourselves as leaders in that sector.

There is a huge movement, particularly in Europe, around ethically sourced minerals. There will certainly be a future for ethically sourced minerals. Our biggest competitors in this space are China and Congo. I will bet London to a brick that we have better ethically sourced product than either of those two countries. Our job is to work out how to position ourselves into those markets. How do we tell the rest of the world that the North West Minerals Province has the best minerals you can get, that we have the best workers, who are as smart as a tack in this field, that we have some of the best environmental protections in the world, and that we have some of the strongest workplace health and safety legislation in the world to protect our workers, to make sure they come out of their shift each and every day? It is also about working with proponents around how to set this up. How do we prepare our kids, who are sitting in our classrooms today, for those jobs of the future?

Mr KATTER: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The question asked whether the government would be forecasting an increase. With respect, that is a good answer, but there just needs to be some relevance.

Mr SPEAKER: Please resume your seat. The question was longer than simply that one part, with a reasonable preamble. The minister will continue with his answer.

Mr STEWART: When it comes to our kids sitting in classrooms today, what is the future for them? How do we create future careers for them in a really safe environment, knowing that we are producing the best in the world? We will continue to work with companies to look at those opportunities, because we have the best product in the world.

(Time expired)

Path to Treaty

Ms LUI: My question is of the Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. Will the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is working with the wider Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through Path to Treaty?

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

Mr CRAWFORD: I thank the member for Cook for the question. I know that this is significantly important to her and to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of this state.

On the weekend I attended an event in Cooktown hosted by the Cook shire. It was a significant event about a story around reconciliation and something that probably a lot of people have not heard about. I will quickly cover it. When Cook landed there in 1770, he and his crew were there for 48 days repairing a broken ship. Twelve turtles had been taken on board that ship by Cook's crew. Those turtles were found by local Indigenous people from the Cooktown area and an issue arose over custom and practice. That turned out to be quite a significant event. Had it not been stopped, it would have ended up in significant bloodshed. A little old man came out of the bush and resolved the issue. That was the first act of reconciliation in this country. This is what treaty is about.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Further Answer to Question, Titles Registry Valuation



Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (11.14 am): In question time this morning, the member for Toowoomba South used the following words in a question asked of me—

Three weeks ago the Treasurer said the titles office was worth \$4.2 billion.

In my response to the question he asked, I said that I did not say that. This is because on 25 May 2021, in the introductory speech on the Debt Reduction and Savings Bill, I said—

The Palaszczuk government has already announced a \$5 billion contribution to the Debt Retirement Fund by 30 June 2021, which includes a preliminary valuation of \$4.2 billion for the Titles Registry.

In making this statement, as is self-evident, I was referring to the preliminary valuation at the time of the announcement of the proposed \$5 billion contribution to the Debt Retirement Fund.

On 27 May 2021, as part of consideration in detail, I was specifically asked about the valuation of the Titles Registry by the member for Kawana. In response, I expanded on my earlier remarks and I said—

A valuation of \$4.2 billion for the Titles Registry was recognised in the COVID-19 Fiscal and Economic Review and the 2020-21 budget. The valuation was informed by due diligence undertaken by Queensland Treasury and the Queensland Investment Corporation. Final asset values will be released as part of the Queensland budget in June.

Again, as is self-evident in both statements, I was referring to the past valuation of the Titles Registry, not any current valuation. At no time did I say, imply or purport to provide a current valuation. In fact, I specifically declined to give any opinion or representation as to what I thought the current value was.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I raised a matter of privilege suddenly arising on this issue. I indicated to you that I would be writing to you alleging the misleading of the House by the Treasurer. You indicated that the Treasurer ought not debate the point when he rose to a point of order. As far as I can tell, Mr Speaker, you are now awaiting my letter and I would put to you that the minister is debating the point of order that you have already ruled on.

Mr SPEAKER: Let me be really clear: I asked the Treasurer to not debate the point through a point of order, given that there had just been a point of order raised by you. I did say that I would consider anything which would come. At this point I have nothing before me to consider. The minister is making a ministerial statement, which he is entitled to do. We will hear the minister's statement.

Mr DICK: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I appreciate that. In fact, I specifically declined to give any opinion or representation as to what I thought the current value was. This is because I knew the valuation was being revised as part of the budget and I told the parliament this. Accordingly, the member for Toowoomba South was incorrect to say that I had said three weeks ago that the titles office was worth \$4.2 billion, and that is why today I stated that I did not say that. I trust that this thorough explanation resolves the matter raised by the member for Kawana without wasting any more of your, my or his time.

MOTION

Business Program



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.17 am): I move—

1. That Defamation (Model Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill will be considered during this week's sitting, to complete all stages by 6.55pm on Wednesday 16 June 2021.
2. If the bill listed in 1. has not completed all stages by 6.55pm on Wednesday 16 June 2021, Mr Speaker:
 - (a) shall call on a minister to table any explanatory notes to their circulated amendments, any statement of compatibility with human rights or any statement relating to an override declaration;
 - (b) shall put all remaining questions necessary to pass the bill without further debate;
 - (c) may interrupt non-specified business or debate on a bill or motion to complete the requirements of the motion;
 - (d) will complete all stages required by this motion notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders.

The House will be debating the Defamation (Model Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Although this motion that we are circulating seeks to put a completion time of 6.55 pm today if all stages have not been finalised at that point, I expect, from looking at the speaking list and the way in way the debate moved quite quickly yesterday, that this motion will not need to be exercised and that we will already be on the address-in-reply. Of course, it is important that if we do not get this debate finished we are able to complete this bill and move onto the appropriation bills, which is what all members of the House will be debating over the following two days.

The motion is pretty straightforward. I am sure the opposition will oppose it, as they always do, but I will not pre-empt the Manager of Opposition Business. I would welcome his support on this motion and believe that it should be supported.



Mr BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (11.18 am): I have been vindicated—V for vindicated. I have said that this Business Committee nonsense is ridiculous and that we did not need it. They accuse me of filibustering—always. It has been shown in the last two sittings that that is not the case. In fact, it was the Labor government that was filibustering. The only filibustering I did last week was to assist the member for Noosa on an issue, and she will owe me for it. I will not be accused of filibustering on debates to satisfy the business program motion or to show that the Business Committee is failing. The government has shown, on its own accord, that it is a complete failure.

In fact, we have not debated a business program motion for the last few sitting weeks because there has been no business to debate other than a slow churn of a few bills before the House. If members look at the bill board at the back of the chamber, they will see the defamation bill, which we are currently debating, and the Veterans' Council bill. That is it. Those opposite are lucky it is budget week. They are lucky they have the budget to fill in this week because if they did not then the defamation bill, which has not had too many speakers, and the veterans bill, which is important and will have a lot of speakers on it, would likely have been done and busted this week. This parliament would then have run out of things to do. This parliament would have had no legislation to debate.

The government would then say that we have heaps of speeches in the address-in-reply to get through. For goodness sake, the address-in-reply is to the Governor's speech. The Governor's term is about to finish. We will be doing the address-in-reply to a former governor's speech as he will be out of office. We will be addressing His Excellency de Jersey on his retirement. We will have a new Governor sworn in because His Excellency's term expires next month.

Mrs D'Ath interjected.


Mr BLEIJIE: Unless the government are extending his term and they have not told anyone. Perhaps that is the case. We will be doing the address-in-reply for the Governor who will not be in office because his term has expired. That is how the Business Committee has failed. That is how they have failed to manage the matters before the House.


I have not had to filibuster for three sittings weeks—not to prove a point but to show that there is no legislative agenda of the parliament. Last sitting week the government filibustered on the Debt Reduction and Savings Bill—the more aptly called 'Non-debt Savings Bill'. They had to filibuster. They then had to guillotine the debate because they could not even manage their own backbenchers' filibustering. They ran out of time. They realised after getting all of their backbenchers to filibuster that they were not going to get consideration in detail of the bill done so they had to guillotine their own debate. We know they did this because the speaking list from the night before the final day for debate

had 17 Labor members added to it. All of a sudden, overnight 17 members became interested in the debt and savings bill debate in the Queensland parliament. Overnight 17 new members were added to list.

I am never again going to cop the allegations of filibustering from this mob. We know that the Labor Party has not been able to manage the business of the House. The Business Committee meeting on Monday was a like reunion as we had not met for so long. It was great to see the member for Noosa. I had not seen her in a Business Committee meeting for a while. When the chair of the committee, the Leader of the House, called for the minutes of the previous meeting to be accepted I said, 'I have no idea as it was so long ago.' How could one recall what happened then?

However, we do know what happens. At every Business Committee meeting the crossbench and the opposition get done like a roast dinner. We have suggestions. We play nicely most of the time. The government then come in here and disregard what crossbench and opposition members put forward. As I have said for the five years we have had the Business Committee, it will be the government that decide what happens and when it happens in this chamber. The point is that they have not managed the time of this parliament. We have no bills before the parliament. This is a lazy Labor government and that will always be the case.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (11.23 am): I suggest that any members having insomnia problems should look up the member for Kawana's business program motion speeches. Trying to make sense of them will induce drowsiness and will be effective for that purpose, but probably no other purpose. Let us be frank: it has been merciful that the member for Kawana has not contributed to the business program debates for the last few sitting weeks, but he could not help himself today. He is back again doing his filibustering. It was a very clever tactic to filibuster by mentioning the word 'filibuster' many times. We see through that. This is an ordinary business program motion. The amateur thespian cannot help himself. He is wasting the time of this chamber using all of his allocated five minutes. I intend to use not even one minute. I endorse the motion.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (11.24 am): Why do we have this business program motion? Why this House exists in any way, shape or form is a question that really should be asked. This House is supposed to rule and this House is supposed to govern for the people of Queensland. There is an executive that sits here and brings forward the legislative agenda, brings forward budgets and tells the people of Queensland how it will govern. The job of the rest of those in this chamber is to hold them to account, to make sure legislation is robust, to make sure legislation has been looked at carefully and to make sure legislation does not have any unintended consequences.

If we look at the number of amendments and times we have had to come back into this House and repeatedly fix up mistakes in legislation—legislation that has had the guillotine brought down on it—we will see that restricting this House's analysis of bills and restricting this House's analysis of the governance and the executive of this state causes problems. That is why this chamber exists.

I understand that there is a ruling elite sitting opposite who find it somewhat inconvenient that we will not go along with their arrogance and dictatorship. They have a complete lack of interest in the true desires of the people of Queensland. They do not like hearing the stories about the health crisis. They do not like hearing about their failures of governance. They do not like hearing about the times that money has not been allocated to something and it is a fiction. I understand the ruling elite find that somewhat inconvenient and that it would be much easier for them if the debates in this chamber were curtailed. It would be much easier for them to have this chamber silenced. This is the only time they get held to account.

When we finish this week we will not be back until September. The number of sitting weeks is down. The amount of time we are sitting is down. The amount of scrutiny is down. The amount of legislation is down. The amount of arrogance is up. The amount of hubris is up. This government has the ability to tell everybody, 'Just sit quietly in the corner and don't worry about your democratic rights. We're going to change how you vote at the drop of a hat. We will not have any scrutiny. We will bring in some legislation that is a bit dodgy and has a few problems with it, but don't worry because we will just bring in some more amendments or rush through hundreds of amendments as the guillotine drops.'

On every occasion they want to avoid scrutiny. On every occasion they want to ensure that the people of Queensland do not really know what is going on. The ruling elite want to make sure that the people of Queensland quietly get on with their lives so that they can manipulate the system and the parliament to get the outcomes they see fit. We know that they will use their numbers to change the rules in this place at the drop of a hat. They will use their numbers to change the way we vote at the drop of a hat.

We know their form when it comes to manipulating the system to perpetuate their elite status. The main objective has nothing to do with governing for Queensland and nothing to do with looking after the people of Queensland but is about looking after themselves, looking after their union mates and looking after those people who look after them. Who would think that someone could get a job that they have not even looked at because someone else put their CV through a back channel? Who would think they could get appointed to a position just like that? That is the arrogance of the ruling elite. They are there to serve themselves.

The job of those in this chamber is to hold them to account. The job of those in this chamber is to make sure that we are not manipulated. The job of those in this chamber is to make sure that the executive of government is working hard for the people of Queensland. The legislative agenda before us shows that they are not. The number of sittings weeks shows we are not. The guillotine shows that we are not.

The fourth estate should be concerned about this, but the fourth estate have nearly all been employed by the Premier's office over the last number of years. Even the fourth estate is not willing to hold them to account because they see that they can earn a bit more money by getting a job in the Premier's office. Fortunately for us there are some people in the gallery who are listening. There are some people in the gallery who are willing to do their jobs. We heard from one of them yesterday, and the Premier did not like being held to account publicly. She did not like it at all. That is what this chamber is for—to hold the government to account, to hold the executive to account, to make sure they are true to their word, to make sure they keep their promises. That is why we will oppose the motion.

(Time expired)

Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed.

AYES, 53:

ALP, 48—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Madden, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mullen, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 33:


LNP, 33—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

Pair: Howard, Mickelberg.

Resolved in the affirmative.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from 13 May (see p. 1470).

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (11.35 am), continuing: I will continue from some weeks ago. As individuals, and Queenslanders, we all need to accept our responsibility to each other and to be held accountable for our behaviours. As MPs, we set examples for our communities. Sadly, at all levels of government we continue to see the need for change, and I thank our Speaker for his commitment to better behaviours. I am also grateful to fellow MPs in this chamber and all in this precinct who show respect for each other regardless of gender or ideology. May these efforts and the headlines that have dominated regarding the treatment of women in other parliaments be a catalyst.

As we continue our COVID recovery we cannot forget the lessons learnt nor the stories from our constituents. That 'can-do' attitude from the emergency phase we must regain and then retain, as already at times I am seeing it being lost, with lengthy delays through stretched resources.

We can resolve the big issues without resorting to the standard cry and outrage across the chamber of 'more', as ultimately this is disempowering. What is needed is a call out of 'how'—how to better utilise what we have, what we know and what we have access to. There is so much to be intensely grateful for. My appreciation I have stated before and will again to government; to the Premier and

Dr Jeannette Young; to ministers and all departments; and to those front liners, agencies, volunteer organisations and communities across Queensland who have never faulted to rally together to support us and each other, to mask up when needed and to keep up their regimes. Noosa, you especially rock!

To all MPs in this chamber who work tirelessly, thank you so much. We are blessed to be in Queensland and Australia with all of you through this pandemic journey. To the family of the member for Stretton, Duncan Pegg, his many friends and beloved community: our thoughts are with you during this time. Peggy, as a committee chair and a wonderful MP, you are deeply missed and will continue to inspire from above as you did in this chamber and beyond.


To finish, 'people before politics' should always be our mantra as we stand in this people's house. We are very much nearly there and all we need are some tweaks, more bipartisan agreements and being prepared at times to say when we have not quite got it right. Less politicking and positioning for elections versus long-term resolutions would be very welcomed by Queenslanders. More caring for each other—in all ways.

We need not fear moving away from the known and what no longer serves us well towards what does. May within the budget we have those many opportunities. There is nothing to lose and so much to gain in this 57th Parliament.

Debate, on motion of Ms Bolton, adjourned.

MOTION

Order of Business

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.38 am): I move—

That government business order of the day No. 1 be postponed.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.


Motion agreed to.

DEFAMATION (MODEL PROVISIONS) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 15 June (see p. 1813), on motion of Ms Fentiman—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (11.39 am): I rise to speak in support of the Defamation (Model Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. In July 2020 Queensland committed to introduce defamation reforms to ensure continued uniformity with other Australian jurisdictions, which is really important when it comes to how matters are published. The amendments to the Defamation Act 2005 and Limitation of Actions Act 1974 contained in this bill will fulfil this commitment to all Queenslanders.

In June 2018 there was a national review process of the Defamation Act. The review of the model defamation provisions considered whether the provisions remained valid and appropriate to achieve their objectives. On 27 July 2020 the former Council of Attorneys-General agreed that all jurisdictions would enact and commence the model defamation amendment provisions. The updating of the national approach to defamation laws will provide greater clarity to the courts, the community and the media. They are important so that people know their rights and limitations under the law.

Some of the significant model defamation amendment provisions in the bill include: the introduction of a single publication rule; a serious harm element; changes to the pre-litigation process and awards for aggravated damages; new defences relating to public interest; and journalism and peer-reviewed material published in academic or scientific journals. The bill introduces a serious harm element so that a statement will not be defamatory unless its publication has caused, or is likely to cause, serious harm to the reputation of the plaintiff, with the onus on the plaintiff to establish serious harm. If the plaintiff is a corporation, the corporation must also prove that serious financial loss has been sustained, or is likely to be sustained, by the publication. If the defamatory matter has not caused or is unlikely to cause serious harm to the reputation of the plaintiff or serious financial detriment to a corporation, an action can be disposed of early in the proceedings rather than being the subject of lengthy and expensive litigation.

I have certainly heard from many in my community about the costs of those processes. It is hoped that this change will deter the bringing of claims and proceedings for trivial, minor or insignificant matters. As I said, it is well known how drawn out and costly defamation proceedings can be. I want to share with the House details of an email and subsequent meeting I had with a constituent in relation to his request for our government to pursue the proposed changes contained in the bill. It was sent to me on 25 February this year. The email states—

Dear Ms Richards,

I write to request a meeting with you to outline my recent damaging experience of Queensland's defamation laws, and to encourage parliament to quickly adopt the Model Defamation Provisions agreed to by the Intergovernmental Committee of Attorneys-General last year. New South Wales has already adopted the MDP amendments in full. They aim to curb the rise in both the number of cases and the value of damages awarded in defamation matters.

In brief, two years ago, Councillor Karen Williams took action against myself and another party under the (still current) Queensland Defamation Act 2005. I took expert legal advice. I was told that my defences against the action, principally, substantial truth and honest opinion, were strong and the plaintiff was most unlikely to sustain the imputations she claimed. Given my background in journalism, this was the response I expected.

However, I was then advised to settle quickly, and pretty much on the terms demanded by Williams, not the least of which entailed a financial loss of about \$10,000. I had been caught in a SLAPP writ, a Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation, against which the current Queensland law offers no protection. In a SLAPP action, the plaintiff has no intention of pursuing a court case he or she is unlikely to win. The whole point is to cause the defendant to succumb to fear, intimidation, mounting legal costs, and/or simple exhaustion—then abandon any resistance, and pay up.

I'm sure you will note what a classic case of bullying this is: A dominant aggressor, overpowering an opponent who is largely defenceless. But it can only happen because the Queensland law, still, offers none of the preventative measures within the Model Defamation Provisions.

It need only be a brief meeting, but would appreciate the chance to give you a first-hand example of why this needs to be fixed as soon as possible.

Thank you

As a result of the introduction of the serious harm element, the defence of triviality—which provides a defence if the defendant proves that the circumstances of the publication of defamatory material was such that the plaintiff was unlikely to sustain any harm—will be repealed. In his contribution, the member for Clayfield said that Queensland is the defamation capital of the world. I would say that at the moment Canberra is close to the capital, but I would put Redlands up there as well. I would also share with the House something really quite extraordinary. I cannot recall any local government having the Ombudsman investigate their approach to defamation.

In January 2017 the Queensland Ombudsman reported on their investigation into Redland City Council. The report is titled *The Redland City Council defamation report: an investigation into the threat of legal action against two residents by Redland City Council*. The report states—

The investigation commenced following complaints from two residents, Complainant A and Complainant B, who had received letters from council threatening to commence legal action against them under the Defamation Act 2005. The letters were in response to alleged defamatory comments about council, council officers and the Mayor, Karen Williams on social media websites. Both letters demanded the complainants remove their comments and post an apology to council officers and the Mayor.

The letters stated that if the complainants did not comply with these demands within a specified timeframe, council may issue a concerns notice under the Defamation Act. The letters further stated that if the complainants did not comply with the concerns notice, legal proceedings may follow.

The investigation found that council's actions in threatening defamation proceedings against both complainants was unreasonable. The investigation further found that council's actions in threatening to take defamation action against the complainants was:

- based on a lack of clear analysis regarding who, if anybody, was defamed by the comments
- not based on instructions from any of the allegedly defamed parties
- not a reasonable or proportional response to what was relatively minor criticism of council's decisions.

Council also spent public funds in seeking external legal advice in drafting the letters to both complainants. The investigation determined that council did not have a policy to guide decision-making around whether to fund private legal action on behalf of councillors or council employees, and that the decision to expend public money was made solely by the council's Chief Executive Officer.


In addition, council wrote to the employer of Complainant B advising that she had published defamatory material online. This was as a result of Complainant B's professional signature block, which included her employer, job title and work email address, being included in an email which council alleged was defamatory.

The then Queensland Ombudsman, Phil Clarke, said that council's 'unreasonable threat of defamation' was not a 'reasonable and proportional response to what was a relatively minor criticism of Council's decision'. I table the article in the *Brisbane Times* that quoted Mr Clarke. I also table the

Redland City Council defamation report prepared by the Queensland Ombudsman. I think it is a very interesting read and highlights why these provisions are so important. Along with many in my community who have been adversely affected by defamation laws in the past, I fully support the bill and I commend it to the House.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Brisbane Times*, dated 5 January 2017, titled 'Ombudsman blasts Redland City Council over Facebook legal threats' [879].

Tabled paper: Queensland Ombudsman report, dated January 2017, titled 'The Redland City Council defamation report: An investigation into the unreasonable threat of legal action against residents by Redland City Council' [880].

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (11.47 am): In rising to speak to the Defamation (Model Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021, can I start by expressing, as other members in this House, my sympathies to the family of Duncan Pegg, the member for Stretton. Whilst on opposite sides of the political fence, I have to acknowledge that the guy was a good one. He loved his electorate and represented it with the fervour that every member should. He brought a lot of fun to committees which both sides of the chamber were involved in, and he had a love of sport that every Queensland bloke should have. I want to commend him for everything he has done and pass on my sympathies to his family.

Were it that we did not need defamation laws. Were it that people could focus on the issues that are being debated and discussed rather than playing the person. I listened with some interest to the shadow Attorney-General's contribution yesterday. Sadly, it appears that since the dawn of time people choose to say things about other people in a way that is not appropriate. I am not going to repeat it all because I know the Attorney-General will roll her eyes at me if I do, but it is interesting to touch on the fact that it goes back to Sumerian and Babylonian times in the sixth century. I love the Lex Salica rule wherein payments were made if you called someone a wolf or a hare. I think that is worth noting.

What we do have now in this nation and this state are national laws that ensure that, regardless of where you are, you can seek recompense for defamation. I want to focus on the two key amendments within the defamation side of the bill: that it is commonplace for the same matter to be published in more than one Australian jurisdiction; and it is important for potential plaintiffs and publishers to know their rights and limitations under defamation laws without having to considering differing state and territory laws. What we are addressing is the multiple publication rule.

The other factor we are looking at is that the amendments will: discourage and prevent expensive litigation for minor or insignificant claims; otherwise encourage the early resolution of defamation claims; ensure that the law of defamation does not place unreasonable limits on the freedom of expression by encouraging open and transparent reporting and public discussion here in Queensland; and modernise provisions to apply more appropriately to digital publications. As a member of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, I can say that there was resounding support for these amendments in that regard. I think a lot of people were hoping though for a further look at how digital platforms will be addressed through defamatory content published online.

We were advised by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General—and the Attorney-General herself shared this in her introductory speech—that there is a second stage of reform coming around these laws that will drill down a lot more into the responsibilities and liability of digital platforms for defamatory content published online, as well as defences applying to disclosures of criminal conduct and misconduct in the workforce. To those submitters who particularly wanted to see how we will deal with the likes of Facebook and others, I can say that that work is underway. I understand there will be consultation more broadly on that at the national level, and then obviously when it comes time to adopt that in each state and territory we will do likewise.

I want to leave my comments about the defamation aspects there because I also want to touch on the legislative amendments to the Heavy Vehicle National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2019. In doing so, I want to acknowledge Mr Karl Frank from the Department of Transport and Main Roads who briefed the committee on this. Mr Frank actually managed to make this information sound exciting with his enthusiasm. Unless you are in the heavy vehicle industry it is a very dry topic, but Mr Frank did a very good job at making us interested in his discussion about this.


These are very complex amendments. In short, they are trying to stop unintended consequences occurring on what are known as PBS vehicles. The PBS Scheme offers the heavy vehicle industry the potential to achieve higher productivity and safety outcomes through innovative and optimised vehicle design. It was discovered that if a vehicle was accidentally off route a number of unintended consequences could occur, including the initiation of court proceedings instead of the issue of a penalty infringement notice, as well as the use of additional enforcement powers, such as a direction not to

move a vehicle until the breach has been rectified or to move it to a safe location. What has occurred as a result of all of this is that, in essence, it has been decided by all that it is best if we simply repeal sections 10 and 11 of the Heavy Vehicle National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Act to remove those. That is a sensible outcome and one that will be applauded by the industry.

In addressing the heavy vehicle national law, I want to add that, whilst it has brought a level of reform and improvement, there is still a way to go. We still find councils and DTMR playing games with the Heavy Vehicle Regulator that are frustrating heavy vehicle industries. I want to acknowledge Woodlands, a very large poultry producer who have their headquarters just on the opposite side of the road of the Glass House electorate in Beerwah. They move an extensive number of chickens as well as an extensive amount of grain and food to their various poultry farms. They are having to do this with single vehicles at the moment because they are still unable to get approvals to use B-doubles through state and council roads. I know people have concerns about the size of B-doubles, but the reality is that they cut down on the number of traffic movements. One B-double takes the place of 1½ single trucks.

I am calling on DTMR and in this case the Sunshine Coast Regional Council to stop being a blockage to the Heavy Vehicle Regulator and to start working with the Heavy Vehicle Regulator to find solutions. It will result in far better solutions for our communities with fewer heavy vehicles moving through our communities, particularly communities like Beerwah. Fortunately, we have been able to factor in potential B-double movements through the new traffic lights that are going in at the Beerwah State School adjacent to the Woodlands headquarters, but that is not enough. We need to review the kinds of vehicles that companies like Woodlands can use in and around South-East Queensland.

With those few comments, I want to conclude by acknowledging the work of our secretariat, Renee Easten and her team, for all they do in assisting the committee during our consideration of these bills. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (11.55 am): Mr Deputy Speaker Krause, with your indulgence, this is my first opportunity to place on record my deep sorrow and grief at the passing of our colleague Duncan Pegg, the member for Stretton. We lost a colleague, a community lost their champion, and many of us lost a mate. While there will be much more said in the future, every single time I come into this chamber and I sit down I think of Duncan because I have a very visceral reminder of that right next to me in terms of his absence from this place. My deepest condolences go to his family and loved ones.

I rise in support of the Defamation (Model Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. This bill modernises, streamlines and simplifies Queensland's defamation laws, providing greater clarity to the courts, the community and the media around the areas of freedom of expression, modern media reporting and the protection of people from reputational harm. Today we take another significant step in protecting the freedom of expression for all Queenslanders and ensuring open and transparent reporting continues across our state.

Key reforms introduced in the bill include: a single publication rule to provide simplicity around the one-year limitation reporting period; a serious harm threshold to be established by a party taking action for defamation and a requirement to issue a concerns notice prior to going to court; two new defences, including a public interest defence and a defence applying to peer reviewed statements and assessments in a scientific or academic journal; and greater clarification around the cap on damages for non-economic loss, setting the upper limit on a scale and applying regardless of whether aggravated damages apply. Defamation law must be balanced with the right to freedom of expression, which protects the right to hold an opinion without interference and the right to seek, receive and express information and ideas. The forms of protected expression are broad, and expression can be spoken, written or in print, art or any other medium. It includes spoken or sign language, books, newspapers, pamphlets, posters, banners, dress, legal submissions and audiovisual, electronic and internet-based content.

The right to freedom of expression and the free flow of information and ideas between people and through the media, particularly about public and political issues, is at the very heart of a healthy, democratic society—a society which we continue to enjoy here in Queensland. A number of the amendments we make today promote that right to freedom. Importantly, they also strike a balance between protecting individual reputations and ensuring the law of defamation does not place unreasonable limits on our freedom of expression.

Defamation laws give rise to two competing rights: the right of individuals to free speech and the right of individuals to the protection of their reputations. This bill includes a number of amendments that promote the right to a fair hearing by ensuring justice can be delivered in defamation proceedings in a

timely, fair and efficient manner. Amendments to streamline the pre-litigation process and the introduction of the serious harm threshold test will have a positive impact on our Queensland courts. The changes will facilitate the greater use of the pre-litigation process in the hope that parties can settle their disputes without the need to proceed to court.

We are further encouraging the early resolution of defamation proceedings by enabling the issue of serious harm to be dealt with as a threshold issue. As a result, the defence of triviality—which currently requires a defendant to prove the harm caused by a defamatory matter was trivial—will be removed from the act. It is unfortunately becoming more common for defamation law to be used for neighbourly disputes and backyard defamation claims whereby people sue each other for comments made on digital platforms.

Debate, on motion of Mr McCallum, adjourned.


Sitting suspended from 12.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

DEFAMATION (MODEL PROVISIONS) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed, on motion of Ms Fentiman—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (2.00 pm), continuing: I will pick up where I left off before lunch regarding it being unfortunate that it is becoming more common that defamation law is being used for neighbourly disputes and backyard defamation claims, particularly within the context of the use of social and digital platforms. While some of these matters are relatively minor with low damages awarded, they do come with disproportionately high legal costs and, of course, take up significant court resources. This bill aims to ensure that only a plaintiff who has suffered sufficient harm to reputation can sue for defamation. This reflects the balance between protecting an individual's reputation and not unduly limiting freedom of expression. Further, preventing matters which are trivial or minor in nature or which do not result in any significant harm to a plaintiff being the subject of a lengthy and expensive litigation also promotes and encourages freedom of expression. These amendments strike a better balance between the need to provide fair remedies for a person whose reputation is harmed by a publication and the need to ensure defamation law does not place unreasonable limits on freedom of expression, particularly about matters of public interest.


We are also taking steps to reduce forum shopping amongst states and territories that had previously applied different defamation laws. That is particularly important. The risk is further heightened through a changing and more modern defamation landscape. The decision to achieve and maintain uniformity of defamation law is based on the fact that it is commonplace for the same matter to be published in more than one Australian jurisdiction, and individual and corporate publishers should not need to consider the potential impact of different state and territory defamation laws before deciding whether to publish material.

Uniformity also assists both parties in knowing their rights and limitations under the law. These amendments keep pace with popular mediums of publication, the most dominant now being the internet, along with increasing use of social media platforms. This is a commonsense approach that brings our defamation laws into the digital age where online distribution is our new norm.

I do note with concern matters currently underway in New South Wales where the LNP Deputy Premier is suing political journalists and Google. Meanwhile, here in Queensland, the state LNP have been totally silent on the actions of the disgraced federal LNP member for Bowman, which includes concerning, aggressive and fixated actions, both in person and online, against the member for Redlands which have been brought to the attention of this House and roundly condemned by those of us on this side.

I turn now briefly to the amendments to the Heavy Vehicle National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2019. This bill repeals sections 10 and 11 before their commencement on 27 September this year. The commencement of sections 10 and 11 would cause unintended and inconsistent mass and dimension enforcement outcomes for performance based standards vehicles detected operating off route compared with other heavy vehicle classes. The repeal of these sections

will retain the status quo in relation to PBS vehicles detected operating off route and will provide time for the issues that have been raised to be addressed in a more fundamental and holistic way as part of the national law review being led by the National Transport Commission. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (2.05 pm): With your indulgence, Mr Speaker, I would like to extend my sympathy to the family and friends of Duncan Pegg. He will be remembered by both sides of this House for his many contributions to the parliament, his quick wit and also his work for his electorate. I place on record my sincere condolences to his family.

I now turn to the debate on the Defamation (Model Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. I thank the parliamentary committee for their consideration of the bill. The bill deals with two main areas: the reform of defamation laws and amendments to the Heavy Vehicle National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2019. In relation to defamation, the attorneys-general of the states and territories agreed in 2004 to support the enactment in each jurisdiction. This will provide uniform model provisions in relation to defamation law called the model defamation provisions, or MDPs. In Queensland this was done through the Defamation Act 2005.

A review led by New South Wales was conducted in 2019 and 2020 to determine whether the policy objectives remain valid and whether the provisions were appropriate for the purpose of achieving their objectives. As a representative whose electorate shares boundaries with two states, New South Wales and South Australia, I am pleased the state jurisdictions came together on this matter.

All jurisdictions agreed in July 2020 to enact consequent amendments to the model defamation provisions as soon as possible. The maintenance of uniform legislation is considered important because it is commonplace for the same matter to be published in more than one jurisdiction. It is, therefore, important for potential plaintiffs and publishers to know their rights and limitations under defamation law without having to consider different state and territory laws.

Much has changed since 2005. We see many newspapers have shut down, particularly in regional areas. We still have some great independents remaining such as the *South West* newspaper whose editor, James Clark, I am sure does know a fair bit about defamation law as he is a former Fleet Street journalist. He publishes a local newspaper where many others walked away from regional communities in Queensland. There are also other publications like the *Western Downs Town & Country* newspaper, which is a free weekly community newspaper for Dalby and surrounds.

In the past many articles, comments and letters to the editor have had the oversight of an editor. A lot of defamation cases no doubt never saw the light of day due to the intervention of that editorial oversight. With the closure of many local newspapers, those editors are no longer providing that discretion on what is published. Social media and blog sites do not have editors. Consequently, that editorial discretion does not occur as much as it used to.

Since 2005 the publishing landscape, particularly in regional Queensland, has changed very dramatically. I do welcome the second stage of the review of the defamation laws that is underway. It is focused on the responsibilities and liability of the digital platforms for defamatory content published online as well as the defences applying to disclosures of criminal conduct and misconduct in the workforce. I know that this review and the outcomes will be of great interest to those in local government and the elected councillors and mayors across Queensland, many of whom have raised concerns with me about the online publishing of inaccurate and potentially defamatory claims.


The bill also takes the opportunity to amend the Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012 to address a number of operational and minor technical drafting issues aimed at the improvement of roadside enforcement, reduction of the compliance burden for industry and the reduction of the administration burden on the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, NHVR.

The work of the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator has not been without difficulty. A constituent from my electorate was carting drought-affected livestock and had a very disappointing experience with this system when he lodged an application for an ABB-Quad and an AB-triple permit. He was advised that under the old system, which he had interacted with regularly, he could call the Department of Transport and Main Roads in Toowoomba and that within two hours he would have a permit. He contacted NHVR and advised that the permit he was seeking was urgent as he was carting drought impacted stock. He was told it would take 28 days to process the permit. It took two months of writing letters and following up with the Department of Transport and Main Roads and NHVR to get him his permit.

Unfortunately, the Department of Transport and Main Roads frustrated and delayed this application. I am advised that in this particular case it appears that the permit applications were delayed for 19 days in the district office of the Department of Transport and Main Roads. When drought-affected stock no longer have water, transport operators need to be able to move those animals. A 19-day delay can create a significant animal welfare issue. I wonder how many other permits the Department of Transport and Main Roads has frustrated in this manner. It is not good enough. These frustrations are happening under this government's watch.

I have another issue at present in Dalby, where the route for trucks to access an industrial area on the western side of town is through one of the busiest intersections in the town. The permit system from NHVR is very difficult for this particular business to operate as the trucks travel from as far as the Bundaberg, Mackay and Burdekin regions. Because of the distance, it is very hard to estimate the arrival times and determine what conditions can be placed on those permits to access this industrial area. There is no easy solution, but there are three agencies to deal with: the local council, Main Roads and the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator. It is very challenging for the owners of that industrial estate, who are trying to ensure they are not impacted, to navigate this system.

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator has been frustrated on numerous occasions, as evidenced in what I have outlined, by the Department of Transport and Main Roads. The system is not working in terms of how it was originally intended to streamline and reduce complication. It has not achieved that because of the frustrations that are occurring. There is considerable complexity in the amendments before us today. I hope that these amendments improve this system, as it certainly needs a drastic overhaul. It was a quite simple, easy-to-access system but, unfortunately, it is not that any longer. Responsibility for a lot of that lies with the Department of Transport and Main Roads, which has been frustrating the system.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.12 pm): As this is my first time speaking since the passing of the member for Stretton, I pass on my condolences to his parents, Lindsey and Graham, and to all the family. I had the opportunity to speak after his final, magnificent speech in parliament. While I had some degree of insight into the seriousness of his illness, I was somewhat shocked and surprised at the speed with which he passed. His community has lost a fantastic champion, this parliament has lost a great member and we all have lost a good friend. He was a legal eagle and, as such, was someone I would turn to for guidance and advice on a bill such as this, because I am very far from being a legal eagle. I am not sure what the opposite is; it is probably a legal chicken or something like that. This is a debate that he would have loved and would have participated in. We all should love and participate in this debate, because it is dealing with some fundamentally important matters that matter not only outside of this parliament but also inside this parliament—that is, free speech, the consequences of free speech and protecting people from the intended or unintended consequences of free speech.

I thank the member for Clayfield for laying out the historical context. I know that it was not necessarily appreciated by all members of this House, but I think it is important to position this debate in its historical context. When we talk about the freedom of speech that is available in this House, we are talking about something that has been developed over a thousand years, sometimes at the cost of blood. It is certainly something that we need to understand and put into context. I did find the member's contribution somewhat confusing in parts, in fact contradictory. He rightly pointed out the complexity of the area of defamation law but then went on to suggest that all we had to do here was cut and paste some laws and get on with things. Nothing could be further from the truth and nothing has been further from the truth. There has been careful consideration of these laws and proper parliamentary consideration and consultation by the minister's office.

As I said, at the core of this issue is freedom of speech and the need for our community to have access to accurate information but also the protection of people from the danger of words. We have all heard the adage 'sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me' said in the playground a million times, but that is completely and utterly wrong. As we all know, words can be very damaging.

One of the core tenets of this parliament and all parliaments in the Westminster system is parliamentary privilege, which effectively gives freedom of speech and protection from defamation. We do not allow ourselves to have completely unconstrained freedom of speech. We still apply rules to the way in which we conduct ourselves. There are many times I would have liked to say things about the members opposite—say, the member for Kawana—but if I did I would have been pulled up for using unparliamentary language. There are many times that he has said things about me and other members of this House and has been rightly pulled up for using unparliamentary language.

The other key limitation that we should take into consideration around freedom of speech in this place is that the information we bring has to be factually correct and we cannot deliberately mislead of the House. That is why I was surprised at the contribution to yesterday's debate by the deputy chair of the committee and member for Currumbin. I did like part of this speech, so I will read it into the record. I stress that these are not my words; this is a quote, so I am not misleading the House. She said—

When all other jurisdictions enacted uniform defamation laws last year, this lazy government is only now bringing reforms before the parliament.

This is good: we have been upgraded from a do-nothing government to a lazy government! Perhaps the member for Currumbin will catch up at some point and realise that we are not a lazy government; we are a competent government that has been returned three times.

The core of the problem with having to use only factual information is that the deputy chair of the committee, who presumably listened during the hearings, said 'when all other jurisdictions enacted uniform defamation laws'. The problem is that all other jurisdictions have not enacted these laws. That does not make us lazy; in fact, that puts the member for Currumbin in a situation where she has misled the House. As she holds the position of deputy chair, we can only assume that, because she was trying to push the point about us being a 'lazy government', the member for Currumbin is deliberately misleading the House. At any point the member has the opportunity to correct the record in this parliament. I hope that the member takes that opportunity.

I take issue with another matter raised by the deputy chair of the committee. The member put on record—

Whilst most of the amendments in this bill are positive, this should not overshadow the dangerous path taken to introduce significant changes without proper oversight.


One would think that a member making an assertion like that would expand on it and talk about what they actually meant but, of course, that was not done. If the member felt that this legislation was so dangerous, she might have brought an amendment to the House or even, as deputy chair, made a statement of reservation to the committee report, but that did not happen.

What will happen is that the member for Currumbin will vote in support of this legislation, so again this is an overstating of the situation. Using language such as 'dangerous path' is a carelessness of language, and that is what this bill is all about. It is about the preciseness and the importance of language at its core. As I said, we are balancing the rights of people to have freedom of speech, the rights of other people to have access to accurate and true information and the rights of people to protect their reputation and good standing in the community.

When we look at current trends in the way that we communicate, we can see that, as technology allows for a greater velocity of information flow and an almost instantaneous reach to millions and billions of people, not only does the capacity for accurate information dissemination increase but also the capacity for disinformation and damage increases. Anybody with a keyboard and a clever pitch and a capacity to get it out there can have an immense impact, both positive and negative, and we have seen many examples of that. There is a growing body of evidence that a well organised and resourced group has used these types of practices to sway election outcomes. When you have the resources and the intent, you can certainly do great damage.

There are several high-profile defamation cases currently underway—and I will not be referring to any of those or the details of them—but they highlight the need for us to be constantly reviewing and updating these laws. The uniform laws will prevent the jurisdictional shopping that we have seen and recognise the modern capacity for publishing in several jurisdictions at once.

In this state we have had a long history of abuse of legal processes. When I was a mere teenager—which is not that long ago, I have to tell you, Mr Deputy Speaker Walker—in those days the family would gather around the TV at six o'clock, as we did, to watch the news—or seven o'clock, depending on which household you were in. As I said, we were one of those six o'clock households. The reality is that just after the headlines and before the sport you would see the other nightly bit of sport—that is, the Bjelke-Petersen regime misusing legal processes to crush dissent and misusing defamation processes to crush dissent. That is why these laws are so important. The serious harm provisions and the notice of concerns are all matters that will stop powerful people like the protege of Bjelke-Petersen—the weird protege, Clive Palmer, who continues this tradition of misusing legal processes—misusing defamation laws to crush dissent and do damage to our democracy and instead will allow people to have freedom of speech. Most importantly, they will also allow people to protect their good reputation and their standing in the community. With those words, I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (2.22 pm): I rise to speak to the Defamation (Model Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. I want to thank the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee for its consideration and report on this bill. This bill fulfils Queensland's commitment to introduce the model defamation amendment provisions being the updated template to Australia's outdated defamation laws. New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia have already passed amendments that mirror those which appear within the Queensland bill. Aside from the rather patent objective to achieve uniformity across Australian jurisdictions, the bill aims to settle a balance between the importance of freedom of expression and the protection of a plaintiff's reputation. By imposing further requirements upon plaintiffs, the amendments swing the balance towards freedom of expression and away from what has been a plaintiff's good fortune for some time now.

The key amendments proposed by the bill include a single publication rule; a serious harm threshold, which must be established by the plaintiff; a definition of an 'employee'; a requirement to issue a concerns notice prior to going to court; two new defences—namely, a public interest defence and a defence applying to peer reviewed statements or assessments in a scientific or academic journal; and greater clarification around the cap on damages for non-economic loss. I will proceed to consider each of these amendments in turn.

The implementation of a single publication rule would get rid of the multiple publication rule that forms part of the existing general law and which has the consequence of exposing a publisher to a suit long after the allegedly defamatory material was first published. Each publication of a defamatory matter is a separate cause of action and the limitation period for bringing a defamation claim is one year following publication of the defamatory material. For online material, publication is ordinarily taken to occur when the material is downloaded by a third party, meaning that a new limitation period starts each time a third party downloads the impugned material, in effect allowing for the plaintiff to circumvent the strict limitation period by downloading the material at a later date. The introduction of a single publication rule addresses the issue of open-ended liability as the start date of the one-year limitation period for each publication runs from the date of the first publication and for an electronic publication, in relation to online material, the start date runs from when it is uploaded for access or sent to the recipient rather than when it is downloaded or received.

The imposition of a serious harm as an element of the cause of action for defamation means that a statement will not be defamatory unless that statement has caused, or is likely to cause, serious harm to a plaintiff's reputation. The onus of proof rests with the plaintiff, who is required to establish that serious harm has occurred. Where the plaintiff is a corporation that has cause of action for defamation—typically mum-and-dad companies or not-for-profits—for harm to the reputation of the corporation to be taken as being serious harm, it must be established that the impugned statement caused, or is likely to cause, that corporation serious financial loss. The introduction of this change intends to have the result of weeding out trivial, minor or insignificant matters and therefore a reduction in the total number of defamation disputes being brought before the courts. As an attendant consequence, the defendant would no longer bear the burden of proving that the plaintiff suffered trivial harm.

The insertion of the definition of 'employee' includes any individual, whether or not an independent contractor, who is engaged in the day-to-day operation other than as a volunteer and subject to the control and direction of the corporation. In general, for a corporation to have cause of action for defamation, it must have charitable objects or fewer than 10 employees. The proposed definition would provide clarity as to who qualifies as an employee of a corporation for the purposes of the employee count being the precondition to being able to bring a defamation action.

The bill introduces a requirement to issue a concerns notice to the publisher of the material that is allegedly defamatory prior to commencing legal proceedings. For a concerns notice to be in proper form, it must be in writing; specify the location where the published material can be accessed; inform the publisher of the defamatory statements as alleged by the plaintiff to arise from the impugned publication and the serious harm or serious financial loss that the publication is alleged to have caused or is likely to cause; and provide the publisher with 28 days for an offer to make amends.


One of the more notable inclusions in the bill is a new public interest defence. This defence would operate to protect journalists and media organisations where they are publishing or reporting upon matters of public interest or concern. For the defence to apply, a defendant must prove that the statement complained of was, or formed part of, a statement on a matter of public interest and that they reasonably believed that publishing the statement was in the public interest. Where a defendant fulfils those criteria, it is then for the court to consider all of the circumstances of the case which might include

the bill's non-exhaustive list of factors—for example, the seriousness of the defamatory imputation, the extent to which the matter published relates to the performance of the public functions or activities of the person, and the importance of freedom of expression in the discussion of issues of public interest.

It has been said that investigative journalism in Queensland suffers from the 'chilling effect'. This new defence intends to ensure that defamation law in this state does not unreasonably limit freedom of expression in public discourse. The defence relating to scientific or academic peer review intends to recognise that it is in the public interest for academics and scientists to be able to express their views freely, especially if their work has been peer reviewed.

In respect of damages for known economic loss, the bill seeks to clarify that the legislated maximum damages amount—currently at \$421,000—is the upper limit on a scale or range of damages and applies regardless of whether aggravated damages apply, where the defendant's conduct increases the plaintiff's injury. Additionally, the bill emphasises that the maximum damages amount is to be awarded only in a most serious case.

The passage of this bill, as other members have mentioned, will allow for consistency across Australian jurisdictions. The suite of defamation law amendments is said to provide clarity to courts, the community and the media in Queensland. Whilst the bill aims to strike a balance between the importance of freedom of expression and the protection of a plaintiff's reputation, the effectiveness of the proposed reforms will ultimately depend upon how they are interpreted by the courts.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (2.29 pm): I thank the Attorney-General for giving me the opportunity to speak to matters in the bill that are related to my portfolio. I wish to acknowledge the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee for its careful consideration of the bill. I also extend my sincere thanks to the member for Toohey, as chair of the committee, and to all committee members and staff.


By way of background, operational provisions of the Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012 commenced on 10 February 2014. The act provides a single national law for the consistent regulation of heavy vehicle operations across most of Australia. The act also establishes the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator to administer the heavy vehicle national law, contained in a schedule to the act. Queensland, as the host jurisdiction, must first pass national law amendments before they can be applied nationally by other participating jurisdictions. I commend the National Transport Commission and national regulator for their management of the national law maintenance process as well as community and industry members for providing their valuable input during consideration of the national law amendments.

The bill is introducing amendments to repeal two uncommenced provisions of the Heavy Vehicle National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2019. Sections 10 and 11 of that act are due to commence on 27 September 2021. These provisions amend sections 96 and 102 of the national law which deal with mass and dimension requirements. The amendments were intended to harmonise penalty provisions within the law to ensure that performance based standards, PBS, vehicles travelling on general access roads do not breach general mass or dimension limits. Although intended to create parity, it was determined that these amendments would result in unintended adverse and inconsistent enforcement for PBS vehicles found off route compared with other heavy vehicle classes.

The PBS scheme offers the heavy vehicle industry the potential to achieve higher productivity and safety outcomes through innovative vehicle design by focusing on how well the vehicle behaves on the road rather than prescriptive vehicle mass and dimension limits. This allows PBS vehicles on route to be loaded to exceed prescribed mass limits, sometimes by many tonnes. The effect of these amendments would be that a PBS vehicle detected operating off route on a road without authorisation under the national law and where not otherwise permitted would lose its PBS vehicle approved mass and dimension limits. The prescribed and lower mass and dimension limits under the national regulation for mass, dimension and loading would apply to the vehicle instead, as happens with other heavy vehicles.

Further, the off-route PBS vehicle would be in breach of prescribed mass limits, and their excess mass would put them into a more serious offence category when compared to other heavy vehicle classes. These offences attract higher penalties and require court attendance, instead of payment of an infringement notice penalty. These PBS vehicles would also be subjected to additional enforcement powers such as a direction to not move the vehicle until the breach has been rectified or to move it to a safe location. As PBS vehicles pose the same risks to infrastructure as any non-PBS vehicle when travelling on roads not assessed and approved for their use, the same penalties for breach of general mass and dimension requirements should apply.

Due to the complexity of the access arrangements in the national law, it was determined there was insufficient time before sections 10 and 11 commenced to develop a nationally agreed policy and the necessary legislative amendments that would ensure that further unintended consequences were not created. The repeal of sections 10 and 11 is strongly supported by both industry and jurisdictions. It is agreed that, to prevent significant unfair and disproportionate consequences for heavy vehicle operators, the status quo should be retained until a suitable resolution is achieved. Given the heavy vehicle national law review is currently underway, it is more appropriate for these matters to be considered in a more fundamental and holistic way as part of this review. I look forward to continuing our engagement with industry as part of the review. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (2.34 pm): I rise to briefly speak in support of the Defamation (Model Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Our laws have clearly not kept pace with technology or changes in society. The environment in which we publish and view content is constantly changing, and it is critically important that our laws keep up with those changes and be consistent throughout Australia. The digital landscape does not stop at state borders, so material is being distributed faster and in more jurisdictions than ever before. We have also not had significant changes to these laws for a considerable time—15 years in fact. Since those last amendments we have seen an unprecedented evolution of publications and media.


These changes bring in a commonsense and uniform approach to defamation laws in this state. The single publication rule allows for the one-year limitation to be adhered to more strictly, rather than the time line having added confusion by every different download or view of the publication in question. This is an important change and one that makes sense with the nature of these online publications.

The introduction of the serious harm amendments is also a positive step, increasing the standard of harm the plaintiff must prove as well as removing the triviality clause for defendants. This is an appropriate increase to the standards that must be proven in a defamation claim. Too often, claims are being brought about without what most people would consider to be serious harm being suffered. Most of us in this place, in fact, will have been subject to negative commentary and even attacks on social media. Of course, no-one would endorse some of the current culture of heaping negative comments on people, especially not when it becomes trolling, bullying or even abusive behaviour; however, I do agree that in the context of defamation there needs to be an appropriate level of harm reached for a claim to be warranted. The aim is to minimise trivial claims, and I hope that changing these standards will help.

Importantly, the amendments provide a new defence in respect of peer reviewed matters published in academic or scientific journals. Better protecting researchers, academics and scientists from defamation or the fear of it so they can publish their thoughts on pieces of research is so important to producing the best possible outcomes in these fields. We know too well how fraught debates in academia, science and medicine can be, but that is exactly the point. Those debates are incredibly important to continue to sharpen our best minds and allow them to make their case or critique someone else's. Through this process, through one academic or scientist raising issues with another's work, we will see the best results.

I am so proud to have the largest campus of Griffith University in my electorate, including the brilliant Institute for Glycomics, for which I serve on the board of advice. I want to make sure they have the best protections to confidently publish their peer reviewed work. They should be assured that they will not be open to the risk of needless defamation actions.

I would also like to flag my support for the foreshadowed next review of defamation laws, specifically those regarding social media and digital publications. I have actually raised concerns with the Clerk about our roles as members of parliament and our interactions on social media. My concerns were about whether we, through our official Facebook pages in particular, could be considered publishers and what happens when people comment on our posts in potentially defamatory ways. With so many comments there is no way for us to monitor this, particularly 24/7. A number of my posts—one in particular comes to mind; it called on men to encourage each other to get help if they have any thoughts of violence towards their partners—have led to some pretty wild claims on Facebook. I think it is important that we consider further changes as soon as possible and I welcome any further clarification in our defamation laws. I support the bill.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (2.38 pm): Before I speak in support of the Defamation (Model Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the passing of my good friend Duncan Pegg, the member for Stretton. I sat next to Duncan Pegg for my first two terms of parliament. In many ways we were kindred souls. He will be sadly missed.

The Defamation (Model Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 was introduced by the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Shannon Fentiman, on 20 April 2021. The bill seeks to amend the Defamation Act 2005, the Heavy Vehicle National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2019 and the Limitation of Actions Act 1974. As outlined in the explanatory notes, the objectives of the bill are to amend those acts and implement the Model Defamation Provisions 2020. It also proposes to repeal sections 10 and 11 of the Heavy Vehicle National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2019. In her introductory speech the Attorney-General said—

On 27 July 2020, the former council of Attorneys-General agreed that all jurisdictions would enact and commence the model defamation amendment provisions. The bill closely mirrors the model defamation amendment provisions as agreed at a national level. Updating the national approach to defamation laws will provide greater clarity to the courts, the community and the media.

After its first reading the bill was referred to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee. In its report No. 9 to the 57th Parliament, the committee made only one recommendation, that is, that the bill be passed. The proposed amendments follow wideranging consultation with media companies, peak legal bodies, academics, digital platforms and the lawyers who have represented both plaintiffs and defendants. It seeks to provide greater clarity to the courts, the community and the media while also protecting freedom of speech and ensuring open and transparent reporting. New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia have already passed legislation that enact the amendments contained in this bill— not all jurisdictions, as has been suggested by some of my fellow speakers.

The key reforms introduced by the Defamation (Model Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 follow meetings of state and territory attorneys-general. Amendments to the model defamation provisions include a single publication rule, a serious harm threshold that must be established by the plaintiff, a definition of ‘employee’, a requirement to issue a concerns notice, a public interest defence, a defence applying to peer reviewed statements and assessments in a scientific or academic journal, and greater clarification around the cap on damages for non-economic loss.

Regarding the requirement for a statement causing serious harm, the bill proposes to amend the act so that a publication will not be considered defamatory unless a plaintiff can prove that the publication has or is likely to cause serious harm to the plaintiff’s reputation. The onus is on the plaintiff to establish that serious harm has occurred. Where the plaintiff is an exempt corporation they must establish serious financial loss has been or is likely to be caused to the plaintiff’s business. In some cases, a judge or judicial officer will have the authority to determine whether the party has met the threshold for serious harm early in the proceedings before allowing the matter to proceed to trial. This will enable minor claims to be dealt with at an early stage.

The bill introduces the defences of public interest and scientific or academic peer review. The public interest offence aims to protect journalists and media organisations in circumstances where they are publishing or reporting upon matters that are of public concern or interest by removing the threat of proceedings. For the defence to apply, the relevant defendant must prove that the statement complained of formed part of a statement on a matter of public interest and that they reasonably believed that publishing the statement was in the public interest.


The defence in respect of peer reviewed matters published in academic or scientific journals will apply in instances where an independent review of the statement’s merit is undertaken. The defence is comparable to section 6 of the Defamation Act 2013 of the UK parliament. It recognises that it is in the public interest for academics and scientists to be able to express their views freely, particularly when they have been subject to peer review. This new defence can be defeated if and only if the plaintiff proves that the defamatory matter or assessment was not published honestly for the information of the public or the advancement of education.

In closing, I thank the Attorney-General for introducing this important legislation. I also thank members of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, the submitters, the committee secretariat and Hansard. I commend this important bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Madden, adjourned.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Pegg, Mr D

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (2.45 pm): As reflected by all in the chamber yesterday, the recent passing of Duncan Pegg was devastating news to all of us. I know all of our thoughts are with Duncan’s family: his mum, Lindsey; his dad, Graham; and his brothers,

Grant, Graham, Cameron and Lachlan. I know they were all incredibly proud of the contribution that Duncan made to this House and to the community he never stopped working hard for. It is clear to me from the enormous outpouring of support and wonderful stories shared since his passing that Duncan's community loved him as much as he loved them.

It is with the support of Duncan's family that today I can advise the House of funeral arrangements so that those dear to Duncan can pay their respects. As many members may know, Duncan was a keen cricket fan and it was his wish to be farewelled from the Gabba. Honouring this wish, his family has arranged for a funeral service to be held at a room in the Gabba at 11 am on Saturday, 26 June. The home of one of our world's best wickets will be the venue from which we farewell one of Queensland's best members of parliament. Mourners are invited to register their attendance at the funeral service via a link at the Duncan Pegg MP Facebook page, which has been arranged with the assistance of my department. The funeral notice by White Lady Funerals will appear in the *Courier-Mail* tomorrow.


Lastly, I echo the comments made yesterday by the Speaker. I remind community members that, in lieu of flowers, Duncan had requested that donations be made to the Queensland Cancer Council to support the more than 30,000 Queenslanders who are diagnosed with cancer each year.

DEFAMATION (MODEL PROVISIONS) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 1862, on motion of Ms Fentiman—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (2.47 pm): As others have done, and as this is the first time on my feet since the untimely passing of the member for Stretton, I express my sadness at his passing. I reflect on what an open and collegiate member he was. Perhaps more than anyone in this place, he was very keen on one of those corridor chats to chew over the politics of a particular issue. I always enjoyed his company, despite having locked horns with him as I have with pretty much every committee chair at different points along the way.

I rise to speak to the Defamation (Model Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. At the outset I will say that we support this bill. It is very useful to have a national approach to issues such as this that cross state borders routinely. We very clearly support reforms to limit the misuse or abuse of our defamation laws, particularly by wealthy litigants to silence journalists and everyday people without a good reason. In some quarters our legal system is infamous for failing to protect free speech and defamation is a crucial part of that problem. Without a constitutionally enshrined right to free speech we have the more limited implied right to freedom of political communication and, with very limited protections for press freedom, defamation plays a very important role in how we deal with free speech.

In the past few months alone there have been several high-profile defamation cases waged by powerful individuals against their critics, of which I am sure we are all aware. After threatening to sue my federal Greens colleague Larissa Waters earlier this year, Peter Dutton is now suing a refugee activist for a tweet labelling the minister a 'rape apologist'. Andrew Laming sent concerns notices to people who used the term 'upskirting' to describe him taking photos of a woman bent over at her workplace. John Barilaro is suing a YouTuber for videos he says brought him into public disrepute. Ben Roberts-Smith is suing multiple newspapers and journalists for publishing allegations related to war crimes and domestic violence, which are clearly issues of extraordinary public interest and warrant the reporting that has been made.

Perhaps most infamously in recent times, Christian Porter sued the ABC for publishing an article about rape allegations against him, even though he was not named. There was a funny thing about the Porter case, aside from the very particular role that he held in federal parliament. He had previously criticised our defamation laws for the way they can allow powerful people to bully their critics into silence even with just a threat of having to defend an expensive defamation case. Unsurprisingly, once he had skin in the game he backtracked, of course.

It is really important to focus on this case and what it tells us. The outcome in that case lays bare just how slim his prospects of success really were. I would also say that Porter's reaction to the settlement—a settlement that was made without damages—and the way he spun the outcome of that litigation is really important for us to recognise. Just the initiation of baseless defamation claims allows

quite extraordinary twisting of the truth and dissemination of really damaging misinformation. I have to credit a tweet from Huw Parkinson which I think sums up that case and the outcome almost too well. The tweet simply says—

was going to roast a potato tonight. decided not to roast the potato. this is a humiliating back down by the potato.

I will not table it; it is probably unnecessary. I will not go into just how concerning it is that a man in charge of writing our defamation laws nationally was simultaneously using them for himself. Going back to his early criticisms, he was right in the first instance: it is all too common for CEOs, politicians and celebrities to use their wealth and power to wipe away anything they do not want on the public record and to maintain their position simply by threatening people with defamation and forcing them to either retract their statements or battle it out in court.


This is why I strongly support the introduction of the serious harm threshold for defamation proceedings similar to what already exists in the UK. I hope it means not only that fewer defamation actions succeed in circumstances where they clearly should not but also that fewer trivial or malicious claims are initiated in the first place. I recognise that the defence of triviality already goes some way to filtering out these claims, but a serious harm threshold with the onus of proof on the plaintiff is stronger and, I would agree, more appropriate. I agree with replacing the existing provisions with the serious harm threshold.

I also support the creation of a new public interest defence where the defendant can prove the statement was or formed part of a statement on a matter of public interest and they believed its publication was in the public interest. This is, again, stronger than the existing qualified privilege defence which presents a very high bar. If you told most people in Queensland that a specific public interest defence does not already exist in the context of defamation they might be shocked, and it is high time we saw that introduced.

Defamation laws, historically and right now, are often used by people in positions of significant power and privilege, so it is all the more important that we protect a right to publish information and critiques about those people who all too often will be paid with our taxes, are elected to represent us and make the laws we are all expected to obey, even if they might not like it. In simple terms, if you wield power and authority you should expect robust scrutiny and critique, including in the public arena.

It is interesting to consider these laws alongside or in the frame of racial vilification laws and similar laws. Those who make liberal use of our defamation laws to protect themselves from criticism tend to have a different view on free speech when it comes to something like racial vilification. For some, it is fine to use your platform as a news commentator or politician to spout Islamophobic hate speech that, left unchecked, can and does lead to hate crimes, but God forbid someone on Twitter calls you out for your racism, sexism or history of violence. For the same reasons we have defamation laws for instances where actual harm has been inflicted, and my federal Greens colleagues have for some time been pushing to outlaw hate speech. Alongside reforms such as these currently before the House, we should be doing everything we can to shift the intention and effect of our laws towards protecting people from real harm and protecting free speech, rather than protecting the rich and powerful from scrutiny or from any repercussions for their actions.

The preponderance of defamation actions, particularly by high-profile figures, including politicians, does tend to have a snowball effect. For example, lawyers in the area suggested that the suit brought by Joe Hockey in 2015 seemed to encourage more MPs to have a crack. This bill, particularly the serious harm threshold and the public interest defence, is a good step towards stopping or at least slowing that snowball and beginning to dismantle the idea that our defamation laws are just a tool for powerful people—a tool they can use to protect themselves against public scrutiny and critique. It is a good bill and I look forward to supporting it.

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (2.55 pm): I start my contribution to this debate by declaring that I have a defamation matter before the Supreme Court. I would also like to disclose that this matter is not before a jury and is a preliminary determination and therefore does not breach the standing order relating to sub judice, which I will go on to discuss in my contribution.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr BROWN: I want to bring some real-world experience to this debate! Over the last 12 months I have received not one, not two, not three but four concerns notices, three of which have come from LNP members in the Redlands and one of which comes from an LNP supporter and campaign worker for Andrew Laming. It is funny, because they say they are the party of free speech, but, when you put

a little bit of heat on them and critique them, they are the first ones to run off to the defamation lawyers. You have Dutton, Christian Porter, Laming and Karen Williams. The member for Redlands is correct: second to Canberra is Redlands with regard to the use of defamation laws and hiding behind lawyers.

Let's look at each of the concerns notices I have received. The first one was from Mayor Karen Williams. Karen Williams took offence at me raising the expenditure of millions of dollars of state government grants in her backyard—in the property next to hers—to upgrade walking trails, horseriding trails and bike trails which would result in a material benefit to the mayor's property and business there. I definitely think that is in the public interest. I definitely think it needs to be critiqued. I received a concerns notice, I replied to the concerns notice, and I have not heard anything since. It is coming up to 12 months since the publication of that post.

The second one comes from my LNP opponent at the last state election. I received a concerns notice from my LNP opponent because she took offence that I raised with my constituents her policy position of opening borders during COVID and the fact that she owned a travel agency. You would think it is in the public interest to talk about the biggest policy issue in decades, which is COVID. My pecuniary interests register is public. People understand where I get my funds from and why my policy positions are my policy positions. It is in the interests of the people I represent that I should be able to detail her position on opening borders during COVID. We saw that at the height of COVID and the outbreak in Victoria people died. I do not think there is any more important public interest than that.

The LNP opponent for Capalaba has lodged this matter with the Supreme Court, but it has sat there doing nothing. In fact, I have had to bring the matter on. I have now lodged the application to finalise this matter and I will be chasing costs. I should not have to, because I simply talked about the policy position of the LNP wanting to open up borders and their drastic offence as well.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr BROWN: I will take the interjection.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr BROWN: I besmirched her character by outlining the position on COVID—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Walker): Pause the clock. Member for Capalaba, please take your seat. All discussions should be directed through the chair.

Mr BROWN: I do not know how I can besmirch the character of someone by stating that she owned a travel agency.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Capalaba, please take your seat. Member for Everton, you are warned under the standing orders.

Mr BROWN: I have to bring the matter to a head. I am bringing the matter on and I am chasing costs.

Let us now have a look at the third instance. Councillor Rowanne McKenzie used a fake Facebook profile and email to destroy the career of the then deputy mayor's wife. She was caught out by police. She refuses to answer media questions. When the story was released, all I did was share the story on my Facebook page along with two constituents to whom she sent concerns notices—

Mr HART: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The member appears to be prosecuting a whole other matter here and not really referring to the bill as it stands.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Burleigh, there is no point of order.

Mr BROWN: Talking about defamation matters in a debate on a defamation bill, how can that not be relevant? An LNP supported councillor in my area who was a campaign worker for Andrew Laming has been caught out. She refuses to answer questions. I, along with two other constituents in the Redlands, shared the story and received a concerns notice. We did not reply to those concerns notices because they are absolute rubbish and this has not gone anywhere.

The fourth instance was last week—and this is the best one. The member for Maiwar has just mentioned it. Andrew Laming, through his lawyers—the same lawyers as those in the Christian Porter matter because they did such a great job in that matter—has sent me a concerns notice in relation to the definition of upskirting. I do not know how I am going to respond to that. I am taking my time and getting advice from my lawyers, but know this—


Ms Fentiman: Very good lawyers.

Mr BROWN: I take that interjection. They are very good lawyers—the best. The fact is that a woman was bending over and her G-string was exposed. Andrew Laming took a photograph without her consent. So outraged was the boss of this young woman that he had to have an argument with Andrew Laming to get him to delete that photograph. So offended was her work colleague that both Crystal and her work colleague reported this to the police.

I may apologise with regard to this issue because I do not want to see this become a lengthy matter when this concerns someone at the end of their political career. It is a waste of my time and effort. I really do not want to be bothered fighting over the semantics of upskirting—whether taking photographs of underwear above shorts or under shorts is upskirting. I should not have to do that. How low can one sink in their political career that they send concerns notices to satirical news websites about the use of upskirting? Just take that in for a second. That must be the lowest point in one's political career to be chasing after that.

Here is the thing when one goes after someone for defamation. They have sent me a concerns notice about two tweets. I have said a lot about Andrew Laming on my Facebook page and I have said a lot about Andrew Laming on my Twitter feed. That must be gospel now. That is gospel according to Andrew Laming. The bullying of women online, the harassing of women online and paying people to stalk the member for Redlands is gospel according to Andrew Laming.

It is the party of supposed free speech that hides behind defamation lawyers. When we call out their bad behaviour and call out their public policies they hide behind lawyers and send me concerns notices. Guess what? It has not shut me up yet and it will not. I will continue to stand up for my community. I will continue to call out the wrongs. I should not be in fear of LNP members continually sending me concerns notices. I support this bill wholeheartedly. I look forward to stage 2. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (3.04 pm), in reply: At the outset, I would like to thank all members who have contributed to the debate on the Defamation (Model Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. As I indicated earlier, the bill amends the Defamation Act 2005 and the Limitation of Actions Act 1974 to implement changes to the model defamation provisions agreed to by the former Council of Attorneys-General in July 2020. The bill fulfils Queensland's commitment to introduce the model defamation amendment provisions 2020, as well as Queensland's obligations under the Model Defamation Provisions Intergovernmental Agreement. Passage of the bill will assist in ensuring continued uniformity of defamation law in Australia and, accordingly, will aid potential parties in knowing their rights and limitations under the law and restrict the scope for forum shopping between states and territories due to differing legal frameworks.

The bill also includes amendments which repeal provisions of the Heavy Vehicle National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2019 to prevent unintended operational consequences for the heavy vehicle industry. I would now like to address comments made during the debate.

I acknowledge the contribution made by the member for Redlands concerning one of her constituents who was threatened with legal action for making Facebook comments about property developers and council decisions. As I have stated before in the House, these laws are about protecting Queenslanders. They strike the right balance by allowing for freedom of expression but also protecting individuals from serious reputational harm.

I thank the member for Clayfield for meticulously taking the House through the history of defamation law. The member was very proud of his 29-page speech, noting his speech was longer than the bill itself. Needless to say, I think the member has some time on his hands. The member for Clayfield, towards the end of his history lesson, finally posed some questions to me.

The member for Clayfield raised the interaction between defences under the Defamation Act 2005 and section 54 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 which provides that a person does not incur any civil or criminal liability for the publication of a fair report of a document that is tabled in the Assembly by a member with the express permission of the Speaker or leave of the Assembly. In this regard, I say to the member for Clayfield, perhaps if he spent less time reminiscing about defamation law in Roman and medieval times and spent more time reading the Defamation Act, he would know that section 24(1) of the Defamation Act provides a defence under this division is additional to any other defence or exclusion of liability available to the defendant apart from this act, including under the general law, and does not of itself vitiate, limit or abrogate any other defence or exclusion of liability.

The member for Clayfield also asked whether clause 16, which establishes the public interest defence in new section 29A, applies to republishing proceedings in parliament and what factors in section 29A(3) would be enlivened by such a republication. In this regard, I refer the member for

Clayfield to section 28 of the current act, which provides a defence to the publication of defamatory matter if the defendant proves that the matter was contained in a public document or fair copy of a public document, or a fair summary of or fair extract from a public document. A public document is defined as including any report or paper published by a parliamentary body or a record of votes, debates or other proceedings relating to a parliamentary body published by or under the authority of the body of any law.

I also refer the member for Clayfield to section 29 of the current act, which provides a defence to the publication of a defamatory matter if a defendant proves that the matter was, or was contained in, a fair report of any proceedings of public concern, which includes any proceedings in public of a parliamentary body. Further, the defence also applies if the defendant proves that the matter was, or was contained in, an earlier published report of proceedings of public concern; the matter was, or was contained in, a fair copy of or a fair summary of or a fair extract from the earlier published report; and the defendant had no knowledge that would reasonably make the defendant aware that the earlier published report was not fair.

It is worth noting that the defences in sections 28 and 29 can be defeated if the plaintiff can prove that the defamatory matter was not published honestly for the information of the public or advancement of education.

The proposed new public interest defence in section 29A in the bill will apply to any case where the defendant proves that the alleged defamatory matter concerns an issue of public interest and the defendant reasonably believed that the publication of the matter was in the public interest. In determining whether the defence is established, a court must take into account all of the circumstances of the case and this might include the factors outlined in subsection (3) such as seriousness of any defamatory imputation carried by the matter published; the extent to which the matter published distinguishes between suspicions, allegations and proven facts; and the extent to which the matter published relates to the performance of the public functions or activities of the person. The factors that are relevant to a proceeding or additional factors which the court might wish to consider will depend on the circumstances of any given case.

I now turn to the contribution from the member for Currumbin. The member for Currumbin, who also serves as the deputy chair of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee—the very committee that examined this bill—claimed all other jurisdictions had enacted laws last year. This is not correct. A number of other jurisdictions are yet to introduce legislation to their parliaments implementing the July 2020 agreement. That is a basic fact I would have thought even the member for Currumbin could have gotten right.

I also point out that it is clear the members for Clayfield and Currumbin did not share notes prior to delivering their contributions. On the one hand, the government was criticised for not legislating in this area quickly enough. The member for Clayfield even referred to a quote which suggested bringing a bill before the House was as easy as a cut-and-paste job. Yet the member also in the same speech noted that defamation law was complex and that it was important to get this right.

On the other hand, the member for Currumbin referred to the reforms as ‘dangerous’, cautioned the government on the significance of these reforms and warned of potential unintended consequences. Nonetheless, despite the constant negativity from those opposite, it is once again a Labor government implementing reform in Queensland for the benefit of Queenslanders.

In conclusion, the amendments to the Defamation Act and the Limitation of Actions Act are aimed at discouraging and preventing expensive litigation for minor or insignificant claims; otherwise encouraging the early resolution of defamation claims; ensuring that the law of defamation does not place unreasonable limits on the freedom of expression by encouraging open and transparent reporting and public discussion here in Queensland; and modernising provisions to apply more appropriately to digital publications. 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 33, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (3.12 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. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (3.13 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.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND OTHER LEGISLATION (FURTHER EXTENSION OF EXPIRING PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT BILL

Message from Governor

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (3.13 pm): I present a message from His Excellency the Governor.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Gerber): The message from His Excellency recommends the Public Health and Other Legislation (Further Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

PUBLIC HEALTH AND OTHER LEGISLATION (FURTHER EXTENSION OF EXPIRING PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT BILL 2021

Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68

I, PAUL de JERSEY AC CVO, Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intituled—


A Bill for an Act to amend the Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997, the Corrective Services Act 2006, the COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020, the Economic Development (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Regulation 2020, the Environmental Protection Act 1994, the Explosives Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Regulation 2020, the Gaming Machine Act 1991, the Health Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Regulation 2020, the Justice and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Amendment Act 2020, the Mental Health Act 2016, the Public Health Act 2005, the Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Act 2021 and the Public Health and Other Legislation (Public Health Emergency) Amendment Act 2020 for particular purposes

GOVERNOR

Date: 16 June 2021

Tabled paper: Message, dated 16 June 2021, from His Excellency the Governor, recommending the Public Health and Other Legislation (Further Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2021 [\[881\]](#).

Introduction

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (3.14 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997, the Corrective Services Act 2006, the COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020, the Economic Development (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Regulation 2020, the Environmental Protection Act 1994, the Explosives Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Regulation 2020, the Gaming Machine Act 1991, the Health Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Regulation 2020, the Justice and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Amendment Act 2020, the Mental Health Act 2016, the Public Health Act 2005, the Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Act 2021 and the Public Health and Other Legislation (Public Health

Emergency) Amendment Act 2020 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Health and Environment Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Public Health and Other Legislation (Further Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2021 [\[882\]](#).

Tabled paper: Public Health and Other Legislation (Further Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2021, explanatory notes [\[883\]](#).

Tabled paper: Public Health and Other Legislation (Further Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2021, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[884\]](#).

The bill extends essential measures supporting Queensland's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and makes important refinements to some of these measures. As we all know, COVID-19 has sparked an unprecedented global health crisis. It is now 18 months since COVID-19 was first detected and identified. Since that time, there have been over 172 million COVID-19 cases and 3.71 million deaths reported globally.

The Palaszczuk government has been a world leader in our response to the pandemic. We wasted no time in responding to the risks posed by COVID-19. Within weeks of the first case being identified in China, we declared a public health emergency to activate powers for our emergency officers to respond to COVID-19. This was swiftly followed in March 2020 by legislation to give our Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young, the emergency powers she needed to respond to the COVID-19 emergency in a quick and decisive manner.

In the months that followed, the Palaszczuk government introduced a wide range of measures to allow for flexible and rapid responses to a range of things disrupted, caused or affected by the COVID-19 emergency. These measures have protected the health, safety and welfare of Queenslanders, mitigated the spread of COVID-19 in the community and facilitated the continued functioning of Queensland's institutions and economy.

Recognising the extraordinary nature of this legislative framework, all measures are time limited to ensure they are operational for only as long as needed. This means that without legislative amendment these measures will expire on 30 September 2021.

We have been hugely successful in containing the spread of COVID-19. In the early days of the pandemic, there were estimates that more than 12,000 Queenslanders would die in the first wave of the pandemic if the government did not take swift and decisive action to slow and contain the spread of the virus and protect the most vulnerable members of our society. By managing these risks and keeping Queenslanders safe, we have been able to avoid prolonged lockdowns and have strengthened the community's confidence that they can go out and resume their normal lives.

Our success is testament to the exceptional work of Dr Young and the thousands of emergency officers, clinicians, contact tracers and public servants who have supported and continue to support the public health response. If our Chief Health Officer had not been given the power to issue directions to limit, and respond to, the spread of COVID-19, I am certain that many more Queenslanders would have contracted the virus.

While we can be proud of our achievements and optimistic for the future, we cannot afford to be complacent. The global situation remains a significant cause for concern. Across the world, we continue to see sustained growth in new cases. Recent outbreaks in other Australian jurisdictions and continued large-scale transmission around the world are a clear reminder of how rapidly COVID-19 can spread and overwhelm health systems. We continue to see positive cases among our overseas arrivals. As we saw with the two positive cases who travelled into Queensland from Victoria, there will always be risks of positive cases entering Queensland by way of cross-border travel.

To support Queensland's continued functioning during the pandemic, the bill will extend the temporary legislative framework introduced in response to COVID-19. Most measures will be extended by seven months to 30 April 2022.

The bill will continue the amendments to the Public Health Act giving emergency powers to the Chief Health Officer and emergency officers to make directions to limit, and respond to, the spread of COVID-19 in Queensland. These amendments allow for the public health directions that ensure overseas arrivals enter hotel quarantine, that businesses collect contact-tracing information, and that our vulnerable populations in hospitals, aged care and disability accommodation are best protected, among many other examples. These powers have been critical to the success of the Palaszczuk government's health response.

The bill will also continue amendments to health and other portfolio legislation to support Queensland's broader COVID-19 response, including measures to allow flexibility for institutions to mitigate the adverse impacts of the pandemic on individuals, businesses and the economy. This includes measures to modify legislative requirements by regulation or other secondary instruments to: reduce physical contact between persons; modify statutory time frames where necessary; ensure the continuation of court and tribunal proceedings; and authorise bodies to take actions or do things electronically or take certain actions related to leases and tenancies.

It also includes temporary amendments made across the statute book to enable institutions to continue to function and, where possible, minimise the disruption caused by the pandemic. For example, this legislative framework has given Queensland flexibility for: body corporate meetings to be attended remotely with electronic voting; local government and parents and citizens meetings to be held electronically; administrative costs to be reduced for impacted industries such as the tourism industry; and changes to the conduct of by-elections and local government elections to minimise the risks to health and safety. The bill will extend most measures until 30 April 2022, with a small number to be extended for a further month or two to provide a transition period. The amendments may expire sooner if an earlier date is prescribed by regulation or the declared public health emergency ends.

Only measures that remain necessary to support Queensland's response to the COVID-19 emergency are being extended. The bill provides for some measures to expire 30 September 2021 as they are no longer required. Extending the remaining measures by seven months to 30 April 2022 will ensure the government can manage international arrivals in hotel quarantine and respond to any localised outbreaks in Queensland while the vaccine rollout progresses. This will allow time for Queensland Health to assess the effectiveness of the vaccine rollout and what this may mean for the COVID-19 response.

The bill amends some temporary COVID-19 measures to improve their operation and ensure the public health system can adapt to new risks and challenges as the pandemic and our response to it continues to evolve. The Public Health Act provides that an emergency officer may give a quarantine direction requiring a person to stay in a stated place for up to 14 days. To support rapid contact tracing and the efficient management of quarantine systems, the bill makes clear that quarantine directions may be given electronically with a person's consent. It also clarifies that electronic directions are deemed to have been received when sent to a person's nominated address unless proven otherwise. To remove doubt, the bill will also validate quarantine directions that were issued electronically before the date the amendments commence. These amendments clarify the law and current practice and will provide greater certainty to individuals who are required to quarantine and emergency officers who are responsible for administering Queensland's quarantine system.

The bill also amends the Public Health Act to support Queensland's quarantine system. Our hotel quarantine system has been a key feature of Queensland's success in suppressing COVID-19 and has provided an effective setting to ensure people returning from overseas enter the Queensland community safely. Since 1 July 2020, a person who must quarantine in a hotel has been required to pay a fee to contribute to the costs of government accommodation. This has supported the sustainability of the hotel quarantine system. As the COVID-19 vaccine rollout progresses in Australia and overseas, additional demands will be placed on the quarantine system. We expect that, in time, people from a broader range of cohorts will be permitted to enter Queensland following a period of mandatory quarantine.

The Palaszczuk government has already resumed the return of seasonal workers to Queensland. Recognising these additional demands, the bill will improve the state's ability to recoup quarantine related expenses and ensure that Queensland's quarantine system remains sustainable and responsive to changing public health and economic circumstances. It does this by amending the Public Health Act to insert a head of power to allow a regulation to prescribe cohorts of travellers who will be required to pay quarantine fees before arriving in Queensland. It also provides the ability for third parties to assume liability for the payment of a person's quarantine fees.

Providing a head of power in the Public Health Act allows for a staged approach that is responsive to changing public health and economic circumstances. It will enable the government to respond flexibly as border restrictions ease and more travellers are permitted to enter Queensland. To minimise disruption and facilitate a smooth transition to a prepayment system, the bill builds on the current framework for charging quarantine fees under the Public Health Act. Fees will continue to be prescribed in regulations and persons will still be able to apply for a fee waiver where, for example, they are a vulnerable person or are experiencing financial hardship. The bill also provides for refunds where a person's actual quarantine fees are less than the amount they prepaid. By introducing the flexibility to

approve alternative quarantine arrangements and prepayment requirements for specific traveller cohorts, the bill will improve the state's ability to recoup quarantine related expenses and support Queensland's quarantine system to remain sustainable and responsive.

I want to close by once again acknowledging our Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young, for her leadership over the past 18 months. I want to acknowledge our frontline staff: our health workers, our paramedics, our police, our border workers and all of those working in retail or other service delivery who have worked so hard to make Queensland's response to COVID-19 the success that it has been. I also want to thank all of the public servants who have been involved in our COVID-19 response. While they may not be traditionally frontline workers, they have been working extraordinarily long hours under great amounts of stress and pressure to ensure that Queenslanders are kept safe and our economy continues to function. I hope that all members in this place will join with me in thanking them.

I also want to thank the Queensland community for doing their part by maintaining physical distancing, wearing masks, staying home when unwell and all of the other practices that we have in place to minimise the risk of transmission. It is through everyone's efforts that we have been able to recover more quickly than other parts of the world which have been required to enforce lengthy lockdowns on multiple occasions. The pandemic is not over yet. We must remain vigilant and respond quickly to risks as they emerge. We must have confidence that our community will remain safe and that there are sufficient resources and capacity to manage all arrangements that are in place. The extension of the current COVID-19 framework and improvements to our quarantine system will allow us to do that. The bill represents the Palaszczuk government's continued commitment to supporting the health and safety and economic future of all Queenslanders. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (3.25 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.


Bill read a first time.

Referral to Health and Environment Committee

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Gerber): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Health and Environment Committee.

RESOURCES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (3.26 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Mineral Resources Act 1989, the Petroleum Act 1923, the South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009, the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994 and the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008 for particular purposes, and to repeal the Personalised Transport Ombudsman Act 2019. I table the bill and explanatory notes and the statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Transport and Resources Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 [\[885\]](#).

Tabled paper: Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021, explanatory notes [\[886\]](#).

Tabled paper: Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[887\]](#).

I am pleased to introduce the Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. This bill will ensure the continued effectiveness of key regulatory frameworks within the resources portfolio. It amends the Minerals Resources Act 1989 and the Petroleum Act 1923 to provide certainty to industry and community stakeholders by clarifying the validity of certain historically granted tenures and the standing of existing applications. The bill also includes amendments to repeal the Personalised Transport Ombudsman Act 2019 and a consequential amendment to the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994, which are administered by my colleague the Hon. Mark Bailey MP, Minister for Transport and Main Roads. This bill also amends the South-East Queensland Water

(Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009 and the Water Supply (Safety Reliability) Act 2008, which are administered by my colleague the Hon. Glenn Butcher MP, Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water.

The bill amends the Mineral Resources Act 1989 to validate certain mining leases which may have administrative deficiencies. Prior to 2012 mining leases in Queensland were granted by the Governor in Council based on a recommendation by the minister. Up until 2010 the minister was also required to recommend to the Governor in Council that an instrument of lease be issued. The Department of Resources has identified there were 86 mining leases for coal and 847 mining leases for other minerals that have one of the following or both administrative deficiencies: firstly, the minister did not recommend the issuing of the lease; secondly, the instrument of lease was not issued to the holder.

To make it clear, prior to 2010 when recommending the grant of the mining lease, the minister was required to also make a recommendation to the Governor in Council that an instrument of lease be issued under previous section 271(1)(a). My department is aware of some grants where the minister of the day did not include the recommendation to issue the instrument of lease to the Governor in Council.

In addition, it was administrative practice up until 2010 to not routinely issue instruments of lease. New holders were sent letters advising of the grant of the lease, including conditions, and were able to request an instrument of lease if they required it. There are potentially two deficiencies—the first is that no lease instrument was provided to the holder and the recommendation required under section 271(1)(a) was not made. These are the deficiencies we are seeking to address. These administrative deficiencies cast some doubt on the validity of these mining leases. This issue will be addressed by inserting a clarifying amendment to confirm the validity of these historical mining leases.

It is important to note that these amendments will only validate these grants to the extent that they are impacted by one or both of the identified administrative deficiencies. They do not impact any other aspects of the mining leases or associated approvals and agreements. As these leases were all approved prior to 2010, these proposed amendments are, by necessity, retrospective in effect. However, they are crucial to ensure certainty for the holders of these mining leases and ensure that they can continue to operate with confidence.

The bill also amends the Petroleum Act 1923 to clarify the standing of validly made applications to renew production leases under the Petroleum Act 1923 where the decision to renew is made after the term of the lease has expired. For other tenures across the resources acts, provisions are included to ensure that, where a validly made application for tenure renewal has been made but not decided prior to the expiry, the tenure continues in effect until a decision on the application is made. However, the Petroleum Act 1923 is silent on this issue for renewals of production leases.

These proposed amendments will clarify that, where a validly made renewal application is made but not decided prior to the expiry, the lease continues in effect until the application is decided or otherwise resolved. They will remove any ambiguity that might exist in the Petroleum Act 1923 in relation to production lease renewals, confirm the department's longstanding administration of these applications and bring these provisions in line with other similar provisions that preserve existing rights whilst a renewal decision is pending. As this ambiguity impacts on a number of historical renewal decisions, the amendments will also apply retrospectively. This is necessary to remove any doubt that leases renewed before the commencement of the proposed amendments were validly renewed, even if they were decided after the expiry date of the lease.

The proposed amendments to the Petroleum Act 1923 also address an issue which relates to provisions that expire on 1 November 2021 and that are relevant to the administration of authorities to prospect and the grant of new leases. All authorities to prospect and new production leases will be administered under the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 from 1 November 2021. However, there are no transitional provisions for authorities to prospect that are subject to applications for new leases under the Petroleum Act 1923 but which may remain undecided on 1 November 2021. In the absence of legislative intervention, these authorities to prospect will expire and the associated lease applications will lapse.

This amendment will provide clarity to holders of authorities to prospect who have made a valid application for a production lease before 1 November 2021, that their authorities to prospect will continue in effect despite the expiry of the relevant provisions and despite section 25U of the Petroleum Act 1923 which provides that all authorities to prospect expire on 1 November 2021. It will also ensure that any outstanding decisions on the associated production lease applications can be made after

1 November 2021 if required. These changes do not alter the criteria for decision; they simply provide more time. Any authorities to prospect that are not subject to an application for a production lease will not be preserved and will expire in line with the current provisions.

This bill will also repeal the Personalised Transport Ombudsman Act 2019. This act was to provide for the establishment of the Personalised Transport Ombudsman to investigate and facilitate resolution of complaints relating to personalised transport services. The establishment of the Personalised Transport Ombudsman was deferred in September 2020 due to the significant impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the personalised transport industry. At the same time, the Palaszczuk government announced that it would review the proposed powers of the Personalised Transport Ombudsman. The Department of Transport and Main Roads has since undertaken this review. It has become evident that establishing the Personalised Transport Ombudsman will provide limited benefits to industry or other stakeholders and does not have a role to play in supporting the recovery of the industry following COVID-19.

We have found that complaint numbers under the new framework are low and what is really needed by industry is access to independent mediation services to assist the industry to resolve complex matters. The industry continues to be affected by reduced patronage numbers and a shortage of drivers as a result of the impacts of COVID-19. The establishment of the Personalised Transport Ombudsman would not have supported a stronger industry recovery from the pandemic and would have created an additional regulatory burden. The Personalised Transport Ombudsman was estimated to cost \$5 million over three years, allocated from within the existing department budget. This cost is no longer considered justified given the financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, competing budget priorities and limited benefits the Personalised Transport Ombudsman is expected to provide for industry.

The bill will respond to current industry views and reduce government expenditure by repealing the Personalised Transport Ombudsman Act 2019. The Department of Transport and Main Roads will take appropriate action to ensure existing complaints handling procedures are effective at a significantly reduced cost to government, and to develop mediation services at no cost to industry. A minor consequential amendment to the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994 is also proposed as a result of the repeal of the Personalised Transport Ombudsman Act 2019.

The water restriction amendments in the bill aim to ensure a consistent and equitable water restrictions framework for South-East Queensland and apply only to distributor-retailers Urban Utilities and Unitywater. The amendments will achieve a consistent regulatory framework for all South-East Queensland water service providers whether they are local councils or distributor-retailers. These amendments will ensure that, should South-East Queensland water levels decline to a level that water restrictions are triggered, all water providers have the ability to enforce restrictions to ensure our precious water resources are managed appropriately for the benefit of the community.

These proposed amendments are required to enable Urban Utilities and Unitywater to appoint authorised persons empowered to undertake investigation and enforcement actions against water restriction offences. Specifically, it is proposed that these authorised persons will have the same powers of entry as local government officers to search for evidence of potential noncompliances with water restrictions. The appointed persons will also be authorised to implement necessary enforcement or compliance actions, such as issuing penalty infringement notices.

Combined, Urban Utilities and Unitywater service nearly two million people and approximately 62 per cent of the South-East Queensland region. Local government water service providers Logan, Gold Coast and Redland city councils each have investigation and enforcement power for water restriction offences under the Local Government Act 2009. However, due to a historic anomaly, this power is not available to Urban Utilities and Unitywater. This means that, under the current legislative framework, water restrictions are not able to be enforced on a significant majority of the South-East Queensland population. Whilst most Queenslanders act responsibly during tough times, it is important that our laws in this regard apply equally to everyone. The amendments in the bill are supported by both Urban Utilities and Unitywater and simply seek to remedy a historical anomaly so that distributor-retailers have the same investigation and enforcement powers for water restriction offences as local government providers.

This bill also progresses amendments to the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008 to exclude the requirement for water service providers to make publicly available highly sensitive cybersecurity information and reporting metrics. Having this sensitive information publicly available,

either online or via request, may make Queensland's water service providers vulnerable to malicious cyber attacks and place a community's water supply at risk. An application for such information can be made and considered under Queensland's Right to Information Act 2009 and Information Privacy Act 2009.

However, it is anticipated that highly sensitive information will not be released through this process. It is proposed that water service providers will continue reporting on cybersecurity measures to the water supply regulator, that being the chief executive responsible for administering the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008, but specifically exclude those measures from being made publicly available. The proposed amendments to the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008 seek to ensure the protection of sensitive information and mitigate cybersecurity threats for all Queensland water service providers. I commend the bill to this House.

First Reading

Hon. SJ STEWART (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (3.40 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to Transport and Resources Committee

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Gerber): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Transport and Resources Committee.

MOTION

Order of Business



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (3.40 pm): I move—

That government business orders of the day Nos 3 and 4 be postponed.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from p. 1851.



Mr RUSSO (Toohey—ALP) (3.41 pm): I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we are gathered today, the Jagera and Turrbal peoples. I am proud to be a member of the Palaszczuk Labor government that will implement treaty with our First Nations peoples. This is a great opportunity to resolve unfinished business arising from, and a consequence of, the colonisation of Queensland and the ongoing and devastating impact on First Nations people. Treaty will provide a process that advances reconciliation and justice between First Nations people and all Queenslanders. Queensland as a state has the maturity to confront our history and provide a pathway forward to enhance the lives of First Nations people—together.

The story of First Nations people and this land goes back over 60,000 years. My story with this beautiful nation began only a hundred years ago. It started with my dad, Giuseppe, Joe, coming to Australia as a migrant with his mum at eight years old. My grandfather, Nonno, had come to Australia as an economic refugee just after the First World War. He had worked as a horse-drawn cab driver back in his native Sicily. Nonno could not feed his family on his earnings.

In North Queensland Nonno cut sugar cane and was a cook for the cane-cutting gang. He saved up his money so he could bring his wife and son to Australia, which happened several years after he first arrived. My story is framed by stories of racism my father told me. These values guide me to this very day. Dad was not able to attend the local community dances in his town. There was segregation between us, the Italians, and the white Australians. I feel very strongly about racism and try to speak out against it whenever and wherever I can.

The local white Australians were openly very jealous of my grandfather, who was able to purchase a cane farm from a soldier-settler who could not make a go of it. After the Second World War there were restrictions on who could have cars. My dad told me about the police questioning him about why he had access to a motor vehicle when he was a barber. It was his dad's car and farmers were able to have cars. It was disgruntled locals who had reported dad to the police.

My mum was a registered nurse and I was the eldest of six children—the proverbial good Catholic family. I have very fond memories of being ferried around in mum's grey, two-door Morris Minor with six of us in it being taken to church on a Sunday night. Both mum and dad were a big influence on who I am, how I perceive the world and what motivates and angers me. I want to share what was a pivotal moment for me.

It was the late 1990s and I was living in my mum's basement. I had just opened my law practice and I drove a creamy coloured Gemini and owned one very ugly brown suit—so I have since been told by my wife. Mum always had a keen interest in current affairs and would always be happy to discuss world events. On this particular night we sat down to watch TV and an unfamiliar face appeared on our screen. Pauline Hanson was being interviewed. Mum was angry and I was angry.

When listening to those narrow-minded views of Hanson I thought back to the stories told to me by my father and the prejudice he and my grandfather faced and I began to question if we as a nation had matured. What this person proposed for Australia would take Australia back 50 years. She wanted to abolish multiculturalism, she wanted to change Australia's immigration policy and she disgracefully warned that we were in danger of being swamped by Asians.

I was infuriated to see her showcase this racism on national TV and to see the media giving oxygen to these diverse and xenophobic opinions without a counterview being presented. I was concerned Hanson would get a hold in the Australian political scene. I was afraid this would lead to a divided Australia. That is when I knew I needed to stand up and be counted and so I made a plan. I sought out allies in the fight against racism and engaged in the political process. The plan led me to join the Labor Party.

In many ways it made perfect sense to make the Labor Party my home. It is in my DNA. My great-uncles on mum's side were part of the great Shearers' Strike which led to the formation of the Labor Party. Personally, I do not believe being elected as a political representative was a call to leadership. My belief was being involved in politics gave me the opportunity to have influence and to help make people's lives better. I would hopefully be an agent for change. Looking back at that moment in my mum's living room, the challenge presented to me to act against the hate speech of another was answering a call to leadership.

Today I stand here as a proud member of the Labor Party and the member for Toohey. The electorate of Toohey is a very multicultural and diverse socioeconomic community. There are suburbs with public housing and emergency crisis accommodation, factories, high-tech industry and restaurants worked by people from all over the world. I want to champion them, draw on the success and failures of my own migrant ancestors, see our way to economic recovery and see people find gainful employment.

We need to be unified in our communities. Queenslanders are at their best when we bring our diverse communities together, celebrate our differences, unite on common values and work towards a shared purpose. Leadership comes in many forms, and I would like to acknowledge the tremendous help both Meredith and William have been to me in dealing with everyday issues that arise in my office.

When we were first in COVID shutdown, I concentrated on making calls to my electorate, and I continued the phone campaigning in the electorate up until pre-poll in October. I acknowledge I had tremendous help from over 140 Labor volunteers and supporters on the campaign trail. I did not win this third term on my own. I say a big thankyou to everyone who came out to help and a big thankyou to John Prescott, who was on pre-poll with me every morning for set-up and then again to take down the marquees every night for two weeks.

It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the support and friendship of my union comrades. Thank you to Rohan and Ann-Marie from the AMWU, the RTBU, UWU, CPSU and Together who all helped. We know 2020 gave us COVID-19 along with unique challenges, including people wanting to visit relatives across the border. I thank Maddie Cunnington in the former health minister's office, who responded to an enormous number of inquiries from my office.

We wait for overseas students to return. The toll on business has been multipronged. Students work in restaurants, they rent and they contribute to our local economy. Griffith University has been hit hard due to international students not yet returning to study. My community is anxious to have these students return.

My state government provided grants to support small businesses to respond to the impacts of the pandemic. Businesses in my electorate availed themselves of the grants. I was grateful to visit some: Chipmunks MacGregor, Crank Indoor Climbing, Digital Travel, Grace Education, Fortune Well restaurant, Sunny Flower Florist, the Brisbane Spine Clinic, Zarraffa's Coffee Sunnybank Plaza, Red Chilli restaurant, Thomas Meat, iThai restaurant and many others. All were very appreciative of the support provided by government. Owners told me that the funds paid for advertising. Chipmunks Playland paid outstanding electricity bills. Digital Travel explored new ways to engage with existing and potential customers. All were going to pay for vital functions to stay open.

The RACQ has deemed the Coopers Plains level crossing the most dangerous crossing in South-East Queensland. Since I was first elected I have campaigned with the Coopers Plains Action Group to fix the increasing congestion. It was a great moment during the campaign to announce \$73 million to get these works underway. It is ironic that the LNP came out early and attacked me, supposedly for not being able to secure funding, when the reality is that the LNP made no financial commitment to the project. The Brisbane City Council remains silent on increasing its funding share, which is short by some \$25 million. I await the council's commitment.

As an MP, I am proud to support the right-to-choose legislation. This much needed reform to support women's health was led by community activists such as Children by Choice and, in this chamber, former member for South Brisbane Jackie Trad and Shannon Fentiman, member for Waterford and now Attorney-General. They lobbied to see this important social reform passed into legislation. They did this in the face of bullying and scare tactics led by Cherish Life and supported by the LNP through donations and support from federal LNP members. Their campaign was designed to sow seeds of doubt and fear in the community and mislead Queenslanders.

One of the most galling aspects of the election was the personal attacks on candidates. The behaviour of some candidates and their supporters, highlighted in the hotly contested seat of South Brisbane, where my good friend Jackie Trad was standing, were vile and offensive. The slurs were at best objectionable and at worst just downright ugly, dishonest and misleading. Jackie weathered those attacks with grace and dignity—grace and dignity that the opposition has shown it simply does not possess. I endorse the words of Queensland Labor Party Secretary Julie-Ann Campbell when she said that the LNPs 'only achievement' at the October election was getting a Green elected to parliament. I will miss Jackie's participation in our parliament and her enormous contribution to the wellbeing of our state.

The urgent challenge for us over the next four years is to avoid becoming lost in hard economic policy that prevents us from actioning real social change in the areas of youth justice and rising incarceration rates, to name only two. Barack Obama, in a conversation with Bill and Melinda Gates, reflected on leadership. He said—

... in turn requires the public to think that it matters and is important because, unfortunately, what we discover is that most politicians and elected leaders are followers and not leaders. They are called leaders but most of the time they follow.

I agree that leaders see what their constituencies care about and they respond. It was during my first term when the chancellor of Griffith University raised with me the prospect of having a teaching hospital built on the Griffith campus. At the time I thought this was a great vision, so I adopted it as my own. The vision is for a world-class teaching hospital on Kessels Road, connected to the existing QEII Hospital by a bridge. I think that might be one bridge too far. A teaching hospital would provide great benefit to patients, students and the southside community. This will be a pathway for learning, training and employment in the medical fields and will ensure residents on the south side have access to leading-edge medical assistance.

I welcome the rollout of infrastructure projects in my electorate, one of which is the Salisbury station park-and-ride upgrade. This is sound policy. It encourages people to use public transport, takes congestion off roads and makes access to the Salisbury Railway Station community and family friendly. There is a direct link to a healthier environment and shorter travel time to and from work, allowing people more quality family time. Commuters at the station have told me the extra parking is very welcome. The Cross River Rail project will provide upgrades to Rocklea, Salisbury and Moorooka train stations, resulting in better access for people with disability, the elderly and families with children and prams.

I also believe that we must champion the cause of refugees. We have had refugees stuck in a motel in Kangaroo Point, many held in detention for seven years. These circumstances arose when they were brought to Australia for medical treatment. Their housing was not in the community; they were detained in this arbitrary detention facility. These are people who have not committed an offence. This is cruel and totally unnecessary. We need to highlight this with the federal government and, at every chance, call out the federal government on its inhumanity. The community organised to support these refugees with a 24/7 protest at Kangaroo Point. During 5 am coffee runs, I was inspired by their dedication to this important cause. Their efforts paid off and, thankfully, some of the refugees are now housed in the community. However, I understand that they are not receiving any financial assistance from the federal government.

We cannot ignore climate change and how it affects us and our nearest neighbours. At the Bar Association of Queensland's annual conference in 2020 I heard artist Ben Quilty speak at the welcome function. Ben spoke about Cubbie Station and the devastating impact its operations have on the environment. Cubbie Station was created by amalgamating 12 floodplain properties, providing Cubbie a total of 51 water licences. This has allowed Cubbie to amass a water reserve the size of Sydney Harbour. This water reserve is not subject to restrictions because its dam height is kept below the height requiring restrictions. Cubbie Station is the largest irrigation property in the Southern Hemisphere. The water garnered by Cubbie Station offsets the water flowing into the Murray-Darling River. For tens of thousands of years the river has provided spiritual and physical comfort to First Nations people who lived along its banks. The Murray-Darling River provides waters for important wetlands, providing shelter and breeding grounds to migratory birds and native fish. I want to stress that this is not the sole responsibility of the Queensland government; it is also the responsibility of the governments of New South Wales and South Australia and the federal government. Cubbie Station cannot be permitted to steal critical water supply for profit at the expense of our environment. Now is the time for the government to step in and take action.


I am grateful to Stella Miria-Robinson, from the Pacific Islands Council of Queensland, for her continued friendship and support and for briefing me on climate change in our region. The Pacific Islands Forum is an intergovernmental organisation enhancing cooperation between countries and territories of the Pacific Ocean, including the formation of a trade bloc and regional peacekeeping operations. Stella is a true advocate for our region. In August 2019, the Pacific Islands Forum met in Tuvalu. During the forum, the leaders of the Pacific nations affirmed that climate change is the single greatest threat facing the region.

This issue for the Pacific Islands is no longer political; it is one of survival. There is no time to delay commitments for transformational change. Kiribati, as an example, is already unable to grow traditional foods due to rising sea levels, and the water table is undrinkable because of salinity. The forum noted that Australia's stance on climate change was 'untenable in the Pacific'. This inability to meet Pacific Islands' expectations erodes Australia's influence and leadership credentials in the region and allows opportunities for other countries to grow influence in the region.

On 27 December last year we lost a very special woman, Catherine Louise Burchill, aged 40, to breast cancer. Catherine started her legal career in my office. She sent in a handwritten letter explaining how she was supporting herself through university. In the letter she wrote about her family living at the time at Sippy Downs. I was impressed with Catherine, so I gave her a start. Catherine was a keen hockey player and had a black belt in taekwondo. Catherine was and will always be remembered as a person who lifted the room whenever she was in it. She was kind, generous and honest and the very epitome of the best a lawyer can be—hardworking, smart, compassionate and dedicated. Catherine took on the hard cases, often as a separate representative for children or in child protection matters. As her husband, Marty, said to me, she put her heart and soul into her legal practice, so I am disappointed that Catherine's practice will cease to exist. Catherine is a role model for all lawyers. She was a close friend, a support and a confidante. Her light will continue to shine for her husband, Marty, and her daughters, Phoebe and Ayla, and her legacy as a mother, wife, daughter, friend and lawyer will be remembered as an example for us all.

I want to take the time to express my heartfelt thanks for the continued and ongoing care, advice—yes, even about the ugly brown suit—love and friendship I receive and cherish from my wife, Kerri. She keeps me grounded and on track and it is due to her continued support that I am here today. I am also continuously grateful for the joy my four children—James, Katy, Grant and Joe—bring into my life. I look forward to the day when Joe sleeps in his own bed! I want to conclude by quoting Theodore Zeldin CBE and Oxford scholar—

It is in the power of everybody, with a little courage, to hold out a hand to someone different, to attempt to increase, by even a small amount, the quantity of kindness and humanity in the world.

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (4.01 pm): I also add my condolences to the family of the member for Stretton, Duncan Pegg. He was a very popular member of parliament and I enjoyed working alongside Duncan, especially in our co-chair roles of Parliamentary Friends of Tennis in Queensland. He will be missed.

I rise to deliver my address-in-reply speech in the 57th Queensland parliament. I acknowledge His Excellency the Governor, Paul de Jersey, for his address at the opening ceremony. I also acknowledge Queen Elizabeth and also congratulate the member for Mulgrave on his reappointment as Speaker. I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land both here at the parliament and also in my electorate, the Quandamooka people, and pay my respects to elders past, present and emerging in both locations.

It is certainly an honour to be re-elected for a fifth term by the good people of the Cleveland district, the electorate of Oodgeroo as it is now called, including North Stradbroke Island. I am proud of the solid local result that we achieved and especially under particular circumstances: the global COVID pandemic that favoured a return of the current government; a strong local Labor campaign with a good local Labor candidate; a strong Independent Alliance campaign; extreme coverage by left-leaning media including the ABC, the *Guardian*, *Redland City Bulletin* and others that wrote me off early in the piece; and the preferencing arrangement where the LNP was placed last or near last on most voting slips. So our strong result was against this backdrop and it was particularly rewarding. It is an emphatic vote of support from the community for LNP values, key infrastructure projects and services that I enunciated in the campaign.

The result was even more satisfying on North Stradbroke Island where the government's mismanagement of the economic transition post sandmining to tourism has created mass job losses, economic and social chaos and Indigenous division and disadvantage. While our result was strong at 60 per cent two-party preferred at Dunwich, Labor's primary vote was a record low 13 per cent across the whole of island—North Stradbroke Island, Minjerrabah—and six per cent at Point Lookout. Labor's vote collapse confirms the government's 'Trad-broke Island' plan is a sunken wreck in the bay, having been rejected by the community, and that is people from all backgrounds, all walks of life—workers, small businesses, conservationists and the majority of the Quandamooka people, among others. If the Palaszczuk government is not hearing that, it is tone deaf. So it is time the government started listening, and I implore it to start listening to locals and to provide a better, balanced and inclusive approach for all of North Stradbroke Island's residents. Clearly the Palaszczuk government must recognise that it has no mandate to continue in the same way that it has.

I want to thank my campaign team and volunteers for their hard work and dedication during the election campaign and for their work over the entire parliamentary term. Much thanks to Chris, Robin, Mike, Julie, Trish, Vicki, Henry, Kate and many others whom I could name. I also want to thank my staff—Sue, Josh and Lyle—who worked tirelessly in the 56th Parliament. I especially thank Julie, my amazing wife of 35 years, and our wonderful family and their partners for standing with me and supporting me. A special thanks also to my mother-in-law, Clare, who recently turned 90 years of age. I thank her for her constant encouragement and her prayers.

I acknowledge the hard work of the LNP candidates in the Redlands coast region—Henry Pike, Bev Walters and Kirrily Bolton. External factors impacted the results this time, but I encourage them to run again. Government MPs will not be so lucky in 2024 under what will be a decade-long tired and on-the-nose Labor government by then—like the asset-selling Bligh Labor government in 2012—and they will not have the COVID crisis to save them next time. I want to be on record thanking the member for Broadwater, David Crisafulli, for his involvement in my electorate and in the campaign and for his visits as the then shadow minister for tourism and environment that he made to my electorate in the previous term. I also want to congratulate him on his elevation as the LNP leader, so thank you, David, for visiting Redlands coast with your shadow cabinet. In February of this year the Redlands was the first region outside of the Brisbane City Council region visited, and that just shows your commitment to our region.

This very left Labor government is failing us. It is failing to manage the economy—and I will have more to say on that in my speech during debate on the budget—it is losing control of health and it is failing to balance everyday life issues. In short, it is sending us broke and woke. Queenslanders are carrying the Palaszczuk government's failures on the economy like a ball and chain around our ankles. On its watch, Queensland has among the worst unemployment, lowest business confidence, highest debt levels and highest bankruptcy in our nation. This is nothing new for very left, woke Labor governments in Queensland. They went broke in a mining boom before the global financial crisis, they

lost Queensland's treasured AAA credit rating and they sold \$15 billion of assets in the asset sale of the century—and, by the way, they spent it all without paying down debt. Debt was ballooning out of control toward \$100 billion before COVID hit us.

Labor governments have damaged Queensland's tourism industry, including on North Stradbroke Island, with their flick-it-on-and-off approach to borders that has killed off tourism operators and jobs. It was the Premier, not the LNP, who opened the borders then closed the borders, opened them and closed them, harming the state's tourism industry on each occasion. Tourism is not a tap. You just cannot turn it on and off and expect things to thrive. Business and tourism need predictability, not the added uncertainty created by this government's indecision. Now it blames the Morrison government for its own flip-flopping but then goes cap in hand to Canberra to the same government and begs Scott Morrison to bail it out and save the tourism industry that this Labor government has brought to its knees.

Labor is taking our borrowings to record levels but not building the job-creating infrastructure that Redlands coast and bayside Brisbane needs. Sadly, infrastructure investment in the Redlands Coast is far less than it should be. I will talk more about that in my budget reply speech. We welcome that the government has finally committed to some projects after years of pressure. I will speak in more detail on specific infrastructure and services in my budget reply speech.

For now I continue to call on the government to fast-track a number of projects. Firstly, the Redland Hospital upgrade, including an ICU, beds and car parking, something I have fought for for several years. Then there is the Cleveland satellite hospital, which apparently is not in Cleveland. It was labelled as in Cleveland in the 2020 budget papers, but now it is labelled as in the Redlands in the 2021 budget papers—go figure! In relation to Redlands roads, we need more than the Cleveland-Redland Bay Road duplication, which appears to be the only state road with a major financial commitment in the current budget, but if you read the detail it is not full duplication. It seems to exclude the Thornlands section in the Redlands. I will have more to say on that in my budget reply speech.

There are marine structure issues, such as with the Harold Walker Jetty and the Wellington Point breakwater. This is important infrastructure. Another issue is the fire station that was promised by the member for Springwood. Media are reporting that it has been reallocated outside of the Redlands. I would ask the member for Springwood to clarify through the budget process that Redlands is going to get its fire station. I will do all I can to press the government to honour its promises so that these projects are delivered and delivered on time by 2024 or sooner—not just planned, designed and reannounced at the next election as Labor did with the five eastern transitway bus lanes promised in 2017 but zero built and completed by 2020. Again these promises seem to be there this term.

I have mentioned the Wellington Point breakwater project. Other services I am fighting for include the Wellington Point High School hall upgrade; facilities for other schools; more police resources for community safety; artificial reefs for sustainable fishing—firstly at Wellington Point. I note the concern by many in the fishing industry about the Spanish mackerel fishery. It is very important that the government listens constructively to the fishers and we get that right. I am also fighting for koala protection measures; water quality of the run-off into Southern Moreton Bay; turtle, dugong and other marine research; better targeted funding to North Stradbroke Island—for example, the Dunwich harbour redevelopment. We need the master plan to come out soon and to genuinely engage the community.

I will also fight bad government decisions like the funding cuts to independent public schools such as Cleveland District State High School and Ormiston State School which will be impacted by it. Despite my objections to the minister, two demountables at Ormiston State School, which the STEM programs for girls and boys were running in, were removed meaning that the program has to be truncated. So much for a commitment to STEM programs for girls.

I will fight overdevelopment at the pristine Point Lookout headland on North Stradbroke Island. There are many locals in Point Lookout who are very angry at the way the government has acted in a roughshod manner, evidenced by the low vote for Labor. Many of the Quandamooka people are very angry about how they have been treated. The Leslie Harrison Dam is half the dam it was, meaning it has half the water supply. Because the gates were not put back on we now have half the water supply, half the drought protection if you like, than we used to have. After the Save the Jetty campaign, I am glad that eventually the minister reversed the mean decision to demolish the Harold Walker Jetty and has promised to replace it, though it needs to be in the same scale and capacity. We look forward to that happening.

Small and medium sized enterprises and tourism operators are doing it tough in the Redlands, as they are in many parts of Queensland. I acknowledge Rebecca Young and the Redlands City Chamber of Commerce team for championing Redlands businesses and the good work that they do,

and Colin Battersby and the North Stradbroke Island Chamber of Commerce team, among them a number of good Quandamooka leaders and businesses such as Uncle Norm Enoch and Mark Jones and others, who are doing a good job leading North Stradbroke Island's recovery. We will keep backing all of these businesses of all types, shapes and sizes and fight for the North Stradbroke Island Chamber of Commerce to have its seat on the strategic planning committee returned and the funding cuts that it experienced reversed. Cutting the chamber's funding was purely political. I call again on the government to reverse its funding cuts to the chamber so businesses can get back on their feet and create new jobs and grow the tourism economy on Stradbroke. The government can improve the economic transition by working with the chamber and business community instead of against it.

In terms of transport and roads infrastructure, major state arterial roads are heavily congested due to 30 years of underfunding by Labor governments. Labor has promised to duplicate roads many times at many elections, like duplicating Mount Cotton Road and upgrading intersections. I have heard it many times. While we pushed the government to upgrade the Gateway Motorway on ramp at Old Cleveland Road and dragged them into finally duplicating Cleveland-Redland Bay Road, there are still hundreds of millions of dollars needed to catch up on state roads.

In terms of rail, the duplication of the Cleveland line from Manly to Cleveland is critical and should be brought forward to be built concurrently with Cross River Rail, not long after as is the current pace under this government. In fact, the promised time savings from Cross River Rail for commuters on the Cleveland line, apparently 14 minutes according to the member for Capalaba, are impossible without the duplication of the rail, according to transport authorities like Robert Dow from Rail Back on Track and others. I look forward to the member for Capalaba re-issuing the election promise he made that it will be a 14-minute time saving. We will hold him accountable to that election promise.

With the likelihood of the Brisbane Olympics in 2032, I again call on the government to stop excluding the eastern busway and Cleveland line rail duplication and to announce these critical projects for the sake of the constituents of Brisbane and Redlands so that Redlands can provide venues and not be left out of the Olympics as we fear will be the case under this government.

The current health crisis facing Queensland's health system is due to the state government losing control of Queensland Health. Its recent approximately \$500 million-plus cuts to the hospital and health services is causing even greater harm and suffering to Queenslanders. As I have mentioned, the government needs to fast track the building of the promised ICU and beds at Redland Hospital. I am glad that community pressure and pressure from the LNP has finally made Labor make some sort of commitment to action. In relation to the car park at the hospital, after many years of pressure there finally looks to be some action. For many years we have been trying to get the government to commit to that. In fact, the pressure came from investment from the federal government towards these projects.

Sadly this government is always playing catch up at Redland Hospital. We will always lag behind under this government until it treats the health of Redlanders seriously and equal to other parts of Greater Brisbane. Another obvious indicator that Labor is losing control of the health system is its lack of investment in palliative care at Redland Hospital and elsewhere. This long-term Labor government is losing control of palliative care and we see that as part of the broader picture of losing control of other aspects of health across the state.

In contrast to the government's failure to deliver health service outcomes at Redland Hospital, the LNP government achieved much in just one term.

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Gerber): Order! Members, cease your interjections.

Dr ROBINSON: We almost completely eliminated—

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have just called the House to order. I will start issuing warnings.

Dr ROBINSON: We almost completely eliminated ambulance ramping. We eliminated the dental waiting list, Labor's waiting list, with over 10,000 people on it. We started a hospital based palliative care program at Redland Hospital with new beds plus extra in-home services. By now there should have been a full 10-bed palliative care unit, but there is not. We reduced Labor's elective surgery waiting list and their waiting list for the waiting list. The Redlands needs an LNP government to replace this long-term Labor government that has lost its way.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Pine Rivers, you will cease your interjections. That is the last warning.

Dr ROBINSON: In conclusion, I look forward to continuing to work hard for the families of the Cleveland district, the Oodgeroo electorate and North Stradbroke Island—Minjerribah—for this term of parliament to deliver our fair share of infrastructure and services. I close by thanking the community for their trust and support, and I thank God for his grace towards me.

Hon. LM ENOCH (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (4.20 pm): It is an honour to have been elected for a third term to represent the people of Algeria, be part of the Palaszczuk government and rise today to contribute to my third address-in-reply. In the Jandai language of my people, the Quandamooka people, Yura. Nariba baje baru wunyayi yura. Nya goorigen jagenjen Yuggera Turrbal yura. Ngali jagijin marumba balga yari gana. I begin by acknowledging our ancestors present and past, and also the Jagera and Turrbal people and their country on which we sit. Let us welcome the good spirits here where we talk, think and understand.

I also pay special respect to my family who continue to be my greatest source of support and encouragement, including my mother, Lyn; my brothers, Wesley, Rodney and Andrew; and, of course, my two wonderful sons, Callum and Ethan. I extend my respects to my large and extended family: my aunts, uncles, nephews and nieces, along with the scores of cousins who every day provide me with unconditional love and support. I also acknowledge my union family, the AMWU and the CPSU, in particular for their incredible support throughout the election campaign and their continued support for me as the member for Algeria.

The electorate of Algeria is a diverse and vibrant community. Like all Queenslanders, my community is recovering from the impacts of COVID-19 and banded together to help overcome the challenges we faced as a community. One of the ways we did that was through buying local. As part of our state's economic recovery for Algeria, the Palaszczuk government committed more than \$1.1 million in small business grants to help support local organisations. Many benefitted from a Palaszczuk government small business COVID-19 adaptation grant and, from speaking firsthand to dozens of those small business owners, I know that those grants went a long way to assisting businesses during COVID-19.

Local schools in the Algeria electorate have also received a funding boost from the Palaszczuk government. An incredible \$10.75 million was committed for a new three-storey state-of-the-art building at Pallara State School, which is now hosting 17 learning spaces and two prep areas. Algeria State School received \$1.45 million to refurbish and finalise their administration building, which I saw recently and it is fantastic, and, of course, to install a new security fence, which has made all the difference to the school. Extra classrooms have been added to Calamvale Community College thanks to an \$8.95 million investment from the Palaszczuk government and the list does not stop there. Other schools that are receiving funding boosts include Calamvale Special School, Acacia Ridge State School, Watson Road State School and St Bernadine's Catholic Primary School. It is clear that the Palaszczuk government cares about a strong and supportive education for the next generation of Queenslanders.

In addition to that support, the Palaszczuk government is also providing the Acacia Ridge sports hub with \$500,000 as part of the Mortimer Road Park sport and recreation precinct. That precinct is home to several local sporting clubs, including Souths junior rugby league football club and Acacia Ridge Soccer Club, that opened their doors and hearts to local organisations during COVID-19. Adjacent to the Mortimer Road sports precinct is a piece of aviation history: the Archerfield Airport. For years I have been working with Archerfield Airport to secure funding for their Airside Infrastructure Modernisation project. I am pleased that our government has contributed more than \$13 million to improve and modernise facilities and help the airport become an economic and employment hub.

As part of the Palaszczuk government's economic recovery plan we are delivering \$30 million to upgrade the intersection of Beaudesert Road, Algeria Road and Illaweenah Street to ease congestion and improve commuter and pedestrian safety. On that note, I acknowledge our dear departed friend, the member for Stretton, Duncan Pegg, who worked very closely with me on the election commitment to deliver that great project for our local community. It is something that he was very passionate about as well. Certainly, seeing the project come to fruition will fulfil one of the things that he was working hard for his community on, alongside myself.

Every member of parliament knows that a local election campaign is a team effort. I particularly thank Don Fraser, Barry and Janess Petersen, Nayda Hernandez, Tony Bergman, John Tapp, Anne-Marie Newton, Maria Halwood, Marcus Pedro, Cassie and Connor Cusack, Peter Chalmers,

Jorgen Gullestrup, Gertrude Sios, Logan Mete, Harrison Quin, Rose Matters and the many other friends and family who gave their time and hearts to supporting the campaign. I acknowledge, of course, the many representatives of unions who also assisted, in particular, those from the AMWU and the CPSU. I acknowledge the hard work and dedication of my electorate staff—Amelia Norton, Shelley Flores, Bradley Watson and Louise Nann—who continue to support Algester constituents.

In the last term of government I was fortunate to be the minister for the environment and the Great Barrier Reef and minister for science. I am proud of what we achieved in that portfolio, including action on climate change; the ban on single-use plastic bags and paving the way for banning other single-use plastic items; ending broadscale land clearing; implementing the highly successful container refund scheme; putting an end to interstate dumping; protecting the Great Barrier Reef through record investment and strong regulations to address runoff; and creating special wildlife reserves. I am very proud of the strides made in recognising the unique place of traditional owners in managing national parks and, in particular, the commitment to doubling the number of Indigenous land and sea rangers. I have no doubt whatsoever that the member for Gaven, who has now taken over as Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science, will do amazing things in the portfolio. I know she is incredibly passionate about protecting our state's environment and she has all the energy required to make that happen.

It is an honour to be the Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts in this term of government. The Palaszczuk government has achieved a lot in those portfolios and I know that there is more work to be done. Our government's priority is and always will be the safety and wellbeing of Queenslanders. That is why we see a \$2.9 billion total housing investment in this week's state budget, which is the largest concentrated investment in social housing in Queensland's history. With a \$1.9 billion investment over four years, we are increasing the supply of social and affordable housing by almost 10,000 homes over the life of our housing strategy, including 7,400 new builds over the next four years.

Importantly, First Nations peoples are at the forefront of decision-making when it comes to creating housing outcomes in their communities. Since coming into this portfolio one of the most significant moments I have experienced was seeing the establishment of the new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing peak body to respond to the unique housing experiences and aspirations of First Nations peoples. I pay tribute and acknowledge the former housing minister, the member for Springwood, who did an outstanding job to set in motion all of those fantastic outcomes and, of course, to lay the foundations through the Queensland Housing Strategy to set us up for the announcements we have seen this week in the budget.

In the digital space it is forecast that there will be an additional 10,000 digital professionals in Queensland by 2024. That is why our government is investing \$8 million over four years to deliver the Digital Professional Workforce Plan to ensure Queenslanders have the skills for the jobs now and into the future. We have also launched the Check In Qld app, which is an important tool in the government's economic recovery. Some 3.5 million Queenslanders have downloaded the app, 47,000 businesses have registered and we have seen more than 58.5 million check-ins. It is an incredible success and a great tribute to all Queenslanders who continue to work hard to keep us all safe from COVID-19.

The pandemic has also had a huge impact on the arts sector. Our government implemented nearly \$60 million worth of relief measures to help the industry through this challenging time. The arts is key to Queensland's economic recovery, each year injecting \$8.5 billion into the state's economy and supporting more than 92,000 Queensland jobs.

This year I have had the opportunity to attend numerous performances where theatres have seen 100 per cent capacity once again. We know this is not the experience of other parts of the country and the world. Whether it is the ballet, symphony orchestra, opera, theatre or our galleries, it is great to see the arts sector bouncing back in Queensland. It is a testament to the timely and targeted support from the Palaszczuk government in response to the pandemic and, of course, a testament to the incredible resilience and innovation of the artists and performers that make up the arts sector in Queensland.

This is my third term in this parliament and serving as a minister. In 2015, it was a proud moment to stand in this House and speak as the first Aboriginal woman elected to this parliament. Now, of course, we have three First Nations MPs serving in this parliament—all Labor members. I am proud to stand beside my colleagues the member for Cook, Cynthia Lui, and the member for Bundamba, Lance McCallum, as we serve in the Palaszczuk government. Having three First Nations representatives in this House is a great, albeit overdue, achievement. In recognising that we still have a long way to go and the challenges remain many, it also brings huge expectations.

In my maiden speech in 2015 I referenced a donation to my campaign of \$8.25. It was from an Aboriginal elder in the community with whom I had worked alongside on the stolen wages campaign. She had gathered up what change she could spare and placed it in a ziplock bag to have it delivered to me on election day. Remember, this is a woman who had been removed from her family and sent to work for wages that she never actually saw. She, like so many others of her generation, had been severely disadvantaged by policies that discriminated against the First Nations peoples of this country, based solely on the colour of their skin and their cultural background, the impacts of which are still felt and experienced today. That \$8.25 has a place on my desk in my electorate office and reminds me that, although change may take some time and the path may be more challenging than one can ever imagine, meaningful change is still worth fighting for and that even the smallest contribution can mean so much.

I am not exaggerating when I say that this system and this place are not exactly designed with First Nations peoples or traditional owners in mind. Back when this parliamentary system was being determined, I do not imagine that there was ever a thought that a traditional owner might actually take a seat in this place, let alone serve as a minister in the cabinet; yet here we are, although it is fair to say that it is not always a comfortable fit.

As a member of this parliament, I have been confronted by some of the protocols that belong to this place and, at times, some of the views of members. I have been most confronted by the level of white privilege I have had to bear witness to from the Greens party in particular. Even after I reached out to explain certain positions they had taken and their own acknowledgement that indeed they were demonstrating their white privilege regarding those issues, they still declared that they would not adjust their approach. It is this attitude towards First Nations issues, where they pick and choose what they want from our people and our cultures to suit their agenda, that has been incredibly disturbing. It is clear that, despite their rhetoric, coloniser views are alive and well in the Queensland Greens.

As a minister in the cabinet, my birth right as a Quandamooka woman has prevented me from being part of any decision-making regarding my own people due to a perceived conflict of interest, even though there are literally thousands of Quandamooka people across the community. I have had to declare my status as a Quandamooka person before certain legislation debated in this House, and I have had to remove myself from cabinet and other ministerial forums when decisions related to Quandamooka people are discussed—not because I am a registered member of any legal entity that would create a conflict in the usual way for any other person in this place, but simply because I am a Quandamooka person. The standards that I have been held to are not the same as for others in this House.

One of the hardest parts of this fact is that I have had to silently watch from the sidelines as the LNP, in particular the member for Oodgeroo, and the Greens appear to disregard native title rights and drive division in families. Whether or not it is deliberate, they appear to have inserted themselves into the middle of families and long-held culturally and legally agreed protocols, turning brother against sister to serve their own political agendas. Sometimes I think there are those who like to see First Nations peoples in dispute with ourselves so that they can use our culture against us while distracting the broader community from the big, complex, transformational issues that represent the profound challenges of our generation—a well-used strategy of colonisers across the globe. Even in the face of these moments of discomfort, I am reminded of that \$8.25 sitting on my desk, and I know that there are so many aunts, uncles, brothers and sisters who are relying on us to keep pushing for meaningful change.

Last term in my address-in-reply speech, I spoke on the need for a path to treaty or treaties in this state, and I am very proud to be part of a government that is progressing this important work. This past year we have seen conversations in truth telling globally amplified through the Black Lives Matter movement, raising important dialogue about the historical legacy of oppression and institutional racism.


We need a fearless commitment to telling the truth of our shared past—the sometimes ugly, uncomfortable, hard-to-talk-about truth, a truth that includes exposing the decades-long frontier wars that took place across this continent and all the atrocities that accompanied it, a truth that peels back the layers of policy and legislation that for years have been trying to resolve stolen lands, stolen generations and stolen wages without seeking out the core reason there is a gap to be closed in the first place, a truth that, if embraced, could provide a sense of healing that I truly believe will help propel us into a brighter, more prosperous future for all Australians—a future that allows us all, whatever our backgrounds, to feel a deep pride in our place in this great nation.

As a proud Quandamooka woman, I know firsthand the importance of educating our state in the wisdom of the world's oldest continuous living cultures, and as one of three First Nations members of parliament I am committed to working on a path to treaty. I welcome the Treasurer's announcement of the establishment of the \$300 million treaty investment fund. It is the first of its kind in Queensland and a strong indication to Queenslanders of the importance placed on this work by the Palaszczuk government.

This government supports a path to treaty by strengthening the way to greater reconciliation, self-determination and a more inclusive and respectful shared future in line with Tracks to Treaty. Tracks to Treaty is about acknowledging the past and paving a way forward. Through Tracks to Treaty, we are committed to moving forward together with mutual respect, recognition and willingness to speak the truth about our shared history.

I, like those on this side of the House, remain committed to seeing the Path to Treaty or treaties supported through to reality in this state, but we need all members of this House, regardless of political allegiance, to support this important work so we can finally, as a state, explore and accept the truth of our shared history as we move toward a conversation to fully understand our relationships right now and propel our actions toward the next steps in agreement making.

It is not always comfortable, but every day that I get to stand in this House as the member for Algester I am reminded of everything that the \$8.25 sitting on my desk represents—an acknowledgement of a sometimes painful and challenging past and a recognition that there is hope for a brighter, more prosperous future for all of us in this state. I am very proud to be the member for Algester, I am proud to be a Quandamooka woman and I am proud to be part of this team, the Palaszczuk government, continuing to work so hard to ensure that everybody in this state has a prosperous future.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (4.37 pm): Before anything else, I want to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we all live, work and play, both here in Meanjin and across this continent. I pay my respects to elders past and present as we meet here in this place of particular significance to First Nations women.

Each and every day that this parliament sits, we acknowledge that this is Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the deep cultural and spiritual connection and the countless generations of custodianship. What we do not acknowledge is that First Nations sovereignty over this land was never ceded, that this is stolen land. We do not acknowledge that, to this day, the sovereignty of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people has not been recognised by our state or its institutions. We do not acknowledge that, to this day, and since the very inception of the colony and this parliament, this institution remains responsible for dispossession, racism and violence against First Nations people.

It is very encouraging that in the last parliament we began taking steps towards treaty, and I acknowledge and very much appreciate the work of the Eminent Panel and the Treaty Advancement Committee. We, both as a community and as elected representatives, must not mistake the formation of panels and committees for the deep, fundamental changes that must underpin a genuine recognition of First Nations sovereignty. We cannot undo the centuries of dispossession, violence and trauma inflicted since invasion, but we have to start with an honest reflection on this history and the acknowledgement of its continuing impacts on the lived experience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

At the outset, I would like to offer my congratulations to every member elected to this 57th Parliament and, in particular, to the member for Mulgrave for his election to the Speaker's chair for another term. I am so very humbled to have been returned as the member for Maiwar. It has been an incredible privilege to represent the people of Auchenflower, Bardon, Fig Tree Pocket, Indooroopilly, St Lucia, Taringa and Toowong as the inaugural member for this seat. I am so grateful for their endorsement at the last election.

It is also an incredible privilege to be returned here to provide a voice for the more than 270,000 Queenslanders—almost 10 per cent of us—who voted Greens in the election and to be joined by the member for South Brisbane, Amy MacMahon. I have heard the member for South Brisbane acknowledge a number of times that she has big shoes to fill, but I have seen already—as has anyone paying attention in this place since November last year—that she is absolutely the right person to represent her electorate and to shake up an institution that is profoundly ill-equipped to represent an increasingly disillusioned and progressive voter base, both in South Brisbane and across the state.

The two most recent election campaigns in South Brisbane were, frankly, brutal and tell us a lot about the sense of entitlement the old parties seem to bring to this kind of contest. Rather than taking a good hard look at why they have continued to lose progressive voters, their instinct is to lash out, bully and smear. Even since Amy has taken her seat here, I have been truly staggered at the response of Labor members and ministers to the simple fact of her presence in this place. I feel incredibly proud and privileged to work alongside the member for South Brisbane in our small but growing party room.

What an experience it has been to see Amy observe the inner workings of this place up close and come to understand the countless ways in which it fails to deliver on the promise of transparency, accountability and genuinely representative democracy. As a unicameral parliament, we are clearly at a disadvantage compared to our interstate counterparts, but I reflect and remember how genuinely shocked I was throughout my first term to learn how dysfunctional this place is as a forum for genuine debate. It is clear that neither of the big parties have a real interest in making this place work effectively for the people of Queensland. Despite having spent all but five of the last 30 years in opposition, the LNP seems to have no real interest in making it work better. Instead they will cling to their dream of running an unaccountable government in some future term.

The Queensland Greens took a bold platform to this election—one that I am incredibly proud of. We called for big corporations to finally pay their fair share. We fought for climate justice and a good life for everyone, regardless of their background, postcode or bank account balance. We stood up to billionaire bullies and their backers in the major parties. The results for the Greens, in those seats where we managed to have conversations directly with voters about this vision, proved it is popular.

Some—plenty of people—called our plans extreme. Major parties, far-right lobby groups and the fossil fuel industry spent thousands of dollars relentlessly attacking our supposedly extreme policies. I do not think it is extreme to say that, in a wealthy state like Queensland, no-one should go hungry or be homeless while multinational corporations export billions of dollars worth of our resources. I think the real reason our ideas were labelled extreme is that the political establishment and their powerful donors were finally forced to question their entitlement to unchecked power.

What they did not understand was that for every billboard, every flyer and every attack ad they placed, we were having hundreds more conversations with residents on the phones and at their front doors. We cut through the nasty politicking by talking to people one on one about what really mattered to them. That is what made this campaign truly radical and powerful—a record-breaking grassroots movement of people fighting for something bigger than themselves. This was the biggest state campaign in our party's history. We tripled our campaigning capacity from 2017. We were talking to thousands of residents each and every week.

On the ground in Maiwar we built a campaign team of almost 500 volunteers who all played an essential part. There was a core group of around 150 active volunteers. We had 8,730 conversations with voters, knocked on around 16,000 doors and made around 12,000 phone calls. We installed about 750 yard signs, including 100 of the really big ones—megaflutes as everyone loves to call them. Despite the smear and misinformation circulated by our opponents, we achieved a 13.5 per cent primary swing and received 41.3 per cent of the primary vote.

I cannot possibly thank everyone I would like to, but there are some folks who I absolutely must. First of all, the Maiwar campaign committee—Ginny, Roxie, Ben and Gemmia—thank you for your guidance, but also for the trust you placed in the campaign team. There was a dedicated core office crew who gave up endless time to help pull off such an enormous campaign. To Sean, Stirling, Hira, Samantha, Esther, Rusty, Seb, Zoe, Emily and the Debs, I say thank you. I will name just a few of the doorknocking and phone banking superstars who gave up time every single weekend and between them had thousands of conversations with Maiwar residents: Libby, Michaela, Max, Tyson, Andrew, Carmen, Kathy, Ann, Becca, Liz, Julie, Sophie, Neridah, James, Marian and Allen. That really is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to my gratitude. I want to single out Nick McKinnon—a relatively new and very enthusiastic campaigner and doorknocker whom I know had a really challenging six months since the election. Thanks to you, Nick. I look forward to catching up again really soon. Whether you have given up weekends to talk to voters, walked the streets delivering letters or put up yard signs at the crack of dawn, I cannot thank each and every one of those volunteers enough. The outstanding result we achieved in Maiwar belongs to all of you.

This is also an important opportunity for me to express my deep personal gratitude for all my staff and their efforts over the last three years. So many others have made this claim in their speech in the address-in-reply, but they are all wrong—I am sorry, my staff are absolutely the best in the business,

both the folks in the electorate office and those in the election campaign. It is such a privilege and a pleasure every day to work with such amazing people. I am still feeling sad to have recently lost some absolute superstars from the team. In no particular order, I want to thank: Clare Scrine, Emerald Moon, Abe O'Neill, Monika Correa, Clare Quinn, Steph Moss, Michelle Duncan, Hira Fatima, Sophie Perissonotto and Hannah Wright. You are truly some of the best people I have ever known and had the pleasure of working with. I cannot tell you how much I value each of you as friends and as colleagues. I have felt consistently supported by each of you throughout the last term, both professionally and personally. It often feels like there is no end to what I have to learn in this role, and so far I have learnt virtually all of that from or alongside one of you.

It is telling to me how routinely someone out in the community will comment to me on how impressed they have been with one or another of my staff. It is absolutely true that we could not have done the work we have done for Maiwar residents without the extraordinary effort that you have all put in. From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

Last, but certainly not least, I want to thank my family for their love and support and for their endless tolerance of all this job requires of me and imposes on them. My parents, Jan and Craig, deserve special mention for being the warm, devoted Nanna and Grandpa that all our kids love so dearly. They have always been on call and willing to step in to help, which has meant the world to us, especially as our family grew with Juniper's arrival nearly two years ago now.

When I gave my first speech I was looking up at only two of my gorgeous kids in the gallery, Bonnie and Noah, and thanking them for tolerating such a busy dad and getting me out of bed every day—literally and figuratively. Since the arrival of their beautiful baby sister, Juniper, she has taken up the mantle of getting me out of bed in the literal sense. The littlest Berkman is an absolute delight. Juniper is one incredibly lucky little person to have such a doting brother and sister as you two, Bonnie and Noah. And Daile, my love: it has been a pretty wild ride at times over the last few years, and you have borne the brunt of me having this gig more than anyone else has, but you decided to marry me anyway—sucker. Thank you for your steadfast support. I love you with all I have.

My first term in this role was a challenging but eye-opening experience. Both in the local community and here in parliament I am so proud of what our movement has been able to achieve. From day one my team and I have set out to do the job of local MP differently. We wanted to put local voices and everyday people at the heart of everything we do. Instead of sitting back, focusing on incremental change or photo opportunities, while watching governments and council make poor decisions for our community, we actively mobilised residents to campaign and take action on the issues that were impacting their lives. We have proved that one does not need to be in government to serve ones community well and to deliver for them. In just three years we were able to successfully campaign and secure a commitment for a new school to address critical overcrowding issues that had left kids at Toowong, Ironside and Indooroopilly state schools scrambling to find classroom space and dividing up their lunch time to play on the ovals.

Alongside an enormous community campaign, we mobilised residents to fight against Brisbane City Council's proposal to privatise parts of Mount Coot-tha with an ill-conceived plan to build mega zip-lines down the mountain. Having a Greens MP in the community meant residents concerned about this project had an ally, and we were able to help thousands of residents make submissions, rally and write to decision-makers. In the end, after more than 18 months of campaigning, the pressure was too much and the council scrapped the idea altogether. That is one moment in the last few years that I will never, ever forget.

We led an enormous community campaign to return the ABC site to public hands and land a green bridge from Toowong to West End there—which council is now doing. We secured new bus routes for families struggling to get their kids to school on public transport and new pedestrian crossings to ensure everyone can get around safely.

We are still campaigning for accessibility at all of Maiwar's train stations, for better public transport and against useless road-widening projects. Over the next four years, we will continue to work towards making sure new development is sustainable and accompanied by necessary infrastructure like new parks and bikeways, and we will be working to ensure Maiwar's new school is in the best location and meets the needs of locals.

I have also been proud to represent my electorate, and the thousands of people across Queensland who want a better future for all of us, on big issues in this place when the major parties have refused to. After years of fighting to clean up politics, I introduced legislation to ban all corporate political donations in Queensland. I cannot say that I was at all surprised when both Labor and the LNP

voted against this proposal to shut off a major funding stream for their campaigns. But we secured a ban on developer donations and caps on donations and electoral spending, and I have no doubt that my presence here and our stubborn refusal to shut up about the corrupting influence of big corporate money in politics pushed these reforms forward.


Similarly, I was proud when the provisions in my bill for improved justice for survivors of institutional child abuse, including access to redress for physical as well as sexual abuse, and scrapping the 'Ellis defence', were belatedly incorporated into the government's bill. At numerous points during my first term I was the only voice in parliament pushing back on the major parties' environmental destruction, pandering to conservative commentators and disgraceful infringements on civil liberties.

I was the only one voting against the internationally denounced anti-protest laws and mandatory sentencing for young children. I was the only MP opposing Adani, openly supporting the students striking for climate justice, pushing to treat drugs as a health, not a criminal, issue. At first I was the only one calling to fix the absolutely broken estimates process and make things in this place more transparent and democratic. Last year the LNP even started joining those calls.

Alongside the wins there is so much more to fight for. Day in and day out, my electorate office hears from those people who have been let down by the system—people struggling to make ends meet or for whom our social services and security net does not cater like newly arrived migrants or international students; or people with a disability struggling to navigate complex government bureaucracy; or renters afraid they will be kicked out of their home for no reason under our broken tenancy laws.

That is why we are not happy to settle for the status quo. It is why we took a plan to the election to fundamentally transform Queensland politics and improve the lives of ordinary people genuinely doing it tough—a plan to build 20,000 new public homes every year so we can actually make a dent in the government's 47,000-person strong social housing waiting list; a massive investment in publicly owned renewable energy to reach 100 per cent renewables by 2030; reviving public manufacturing by building green steel, solar panels and wind turbines here in Queensland—it is great to see the government picking up these ideas further down the line; abolishing public transport fares; meeting our SRS funding obligations so state schools have smaller class sizes, better resources and no fees; giving every single state school kid in Queensland the opportunity to have a healthy breakfast and lunch each day.

The government do not hate it because they think it is impossible; they hate it because they know it is possible if we get the big banks, developers and mining corporations to contribute a fair share. It may seem impossible to them—and it does because they cannot imagine putting the people of Queensland ahead of their big corporate donors—but that is our job, and it is what I will continue fighting for every day in this place.

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (4.54 pm): I start by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather today—the Jagera and Turrbal people—and pay my respects to elders past, present and emerging. I would also like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which my electorate sits—the Kombumerri people and pay my respects to their elders past, present and emerging.

I said in my first speech that my presence in this House as a then 24-year-old woman being elected as a Labor MP on the Gold Coast was unlikely. So unusual was my election that a staff member who shall remain nameless nearly did not let me in to the Legislative Assembly following the Governor's speech for the opening of parliament, explaining to me in the hallway as elected members were asked to leave the upper house that 'this was just for MPs'.

I would be lying if I said that there were not significant barriers for young women in politics. We need only look to the experiences of many brave voices from the federal parliament who are speaking out to say enough is enough. While these headlines may deter some from entering institutions of power, I am a firm believer that the only way we will create the reform needed for gender parity is to hold a seat at the table and break through that glass ceiling one small crack at a time.

I am incredibly grateful to be given the extraordinary privilege to hold a seat at that table and be returned to this place for a second term. I express my deepest gratitude and thanks to the people of Gaven for trusting me to continue representing our community—the place that I grew up in and love. Despite there being more than double the number of candidates in the field this election, I was incredibly

grateful, and in all honesty surprised, at the swing we received going from a 0.7 per cent margin to a nearly 7.8 per cent margin. There were people who voted Labor for the very first time, and I will never take that trust for granted.

Like the commitment I made in 2017, regardless of your political persuasion, I remain steadfastly committed to doing what is best for the Gaven electorate. Whilst I am deeply honoured to be given the responsibility of the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs, the most important title I have is MP. Serving my local community is and always will be the highest priority.

My presence in this chamber would not be possible though had it not been for the many volunteers who gave up their time to campaign on our team. From residents in the community, branch members through to family and friends, I would not be here today without their support. I give a special thanks to the volunteers who made phone calls, doorknocked, letterbox dropped, organised postal votes, did street stalls through to staffing pre-poll and election day. Words will never express how grateful I am to have the support of so many kind and generous people.

To the staff of the Queensland Labor Party, particularly Julie-Ann Campbell, Kerry Kahlon, Stephanie Sall, Brianna Rose-Bailey and David Shaw: thank you for your enormous effort in keeping Gaven red and for putting up with my frequent panicked phone calls. Thanks also to the mighty union movement—my union the United Workers Union, as well as the ETU, RTBU and MUA—for their support.

At difficult moments during the last term I reminded myself of the quote: 'Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.' While there were a growing number of people who volunteered so much of their time—and I wish I could name them all here today—there are a few people I need to specifically mention.

Megan Kennedy-Clarke is our electorate officer and so much more. Megan is the person you want in your corner when things get tough. Her selflessness, dedication to the cause, generosity and ability to pick up new skills when I say, 'I have a good idea,' ranging from trying unreasonable requests like turning around a mail-out to nurses with hand creams within a week through to learning to fly a drone should make her eligible for sainthood.

Luke Eyres is our AEO or, as many refer to him as, 'that lovely young man in your office'. Luke is one of the most generous people you will ever meet. He will drop everything to help if you ask and is the person who will jeopardise often his own health for the betterment of others. Luke, like me, sometimes gets frustrated at the time it takes to create progressive reform, so today I restate my commitment to him that I will continue to push for a Queensland and Labor Party that future generations will be proud of.

Kathy Cardona is our other AEO. You will not find a prouder resident of Nerang than Kathy and her husband, Pete. Both give up huge amounts of time in our area at Country Paradise Parklands in an effort to ensure residents are not socially isolated. It was therefore a no-brainer that she take on the work on complicated constituent matters.

Margaret Cox had never been involved in an election campaign before, but she made up for that in spades. Margaret dedicated her professional life to helping vulnerable Queenslanders, and in retirement she has not stopped playing an integral role in the campaign—doing all of the public out-facing activities on our campaign, as well as key organisation assistance behind the scenes.

Last and certainly not least I thank my mum and my brother, Callum. Callum, or as he likes to be referred to as 'my favourite brother'—despite having no other siblings—is not particularly interested in politics. However, he is fiercely competitive and protective of those he loves, so naturally those attributes come in handy on pre-poll. In those last tough and long few weeks of the campaign, seeing Callum's face at the voting booth gave me the energy I needed and reminded me why I entered politics in the first place.

Finally, I mention my mum. For much of our lives Mum raised Callum and me as a single parent, and she made up for that absence with double the focus. She has dedicated her entire life to ensuring that my brother and I reach our fullest potential. My mum is tired though. Every day she gets up to care for my brother, Callum, who has Down syndrome. There are some really lovely moments because Callum is a kind-hearted, funny and decent bloke, but there are some challenging times. Mum is tired because for his entire life she has been advocating for him to be given the same basic opportunities I was: to get a quality education, to get a job and to gain as much independence as possible. I shared the story of this fight in my first speech at our high school; 10 years later, not a lot has changed.

Debate, on motion of Ms Scanlon, adjourned.

MOTION

Health System



Ms BATES (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (5.00 pm): I move—

The House:

1. notes the Queenslanders who have spoken out to fix the health system:
 - (a) Patricia from Mudgeeraba, who waited months for surgery to walk again;
 - (b) Donald from Mount Gravatt, who is still waiting for his heart surgery after being cancelled and rescheduled five times;
 - (c) Jan from Mulgrave, who is waiting for knee reconstruction surgery, which has been cancelled three times, twice because of code yellow internal emergencies at Cairns Hospital;
 - (d) Stephen from Loganlea, whose wife died in his arms waiting for an ambulance to arrive;
 - (e) Trevor from Caloundra, who was ramped behind 17 ambulances, unloaded in the rain and waited 10 hours for attention in the ED;
 - (f) Ron from Caloundra, whose daughter died after waiting longer than recommended for an ambulance to arrive to resuscitate her;
 - (g) Sue from Caboolture, whose mother had a fall and lay on the floor for hours in agony despite frantic calls to 000 pleading for urgent attention before being ramped at Caboolture Hospital for another four hours;
 - (h) Rob from Rockhampton, who was ramped in the ED for three hours—alongside eight other patients—after suffering a heart attack;
 - (i) Annette from Morayfield, whose elderly brother-in-law, suffering dementia and unable to verbalise his issue, waited hours for an ambulance after a fall; and
 - (j) Anthony from Ipswich, whose dad was delayed treatment for 26 hours in overcrowded Ipswich Hospital; and
2. calls on the Queensland government to take immediate action to fix the health system.

It is incumbent on those governing a state jurisdiction to effectively resource and manage a healthcare system. That is, after all, one of the core functions of a state government: to run public hospitals. Honest Queenslanders across the length and breadth of the state depend on it. They depend on our public health system each and every day. They depend on our paramedics to arrive promptly to an emergency in their hour of need, they depend on our nurses to compassionately care for them and they depend on our doctors to treat them. And don't they do an amazing job! I am proud of, and thankful for, every last one of my colleagues in the health profession who staff our hospitals and health clinics across the state, but they are being let down. They are being let down just like the patients they see each and every day. They are all being let down by a government that is losing control of our health system.

Honest Queenslanders are sick of it and they are speaking up. In recent weeks and months they have walked the halls of this building. They have sat in the gallery. They have visited town halls with others from their community who share the same concerns about a system on its knees. Their voices must be heard. I am proud to say that this opposition has given them one. We have given a voice to Patricia, Donald, Jan, Stephen, Trevor, Ron, Sue, Rob, Annette and Anthony, and I thank them for being so courageous and for speaking out. In doing so they have shone a light on a health system which is letting them down.


Unbelievably, a member in this chamber, the member for McConnel, effectively dismissed the concerns and experiences of these people. The member effectively accused these Queenslanders of making up stories. She accused them of not telling the truth. It was beyond belief! That comment from the member will not be forgotten. It will not be forgotten by those named in this motion today, and it will not be forgotten by the hundreds and thousands of Queenslanders who have shared their stories with the LNP.

Over the last few days in this place we have heard a lot of numbers—huge sums of money being thrown around, a record health budget—but we know what Queenslanders get with a record health budget under those opposite because we had a record health budget last year. With the last record health budget this is what Queenslanders got: ambulance ramping across the state is the highest in a generation at 40 per cent; an elective surgery waiting list of 55,000 people, an increase of nearly 25,000 in six years; finally, we have the waiting list for the waiting list of 220,000 people, enough to make your eyes water just looking at it.

We heard the health minister rattle off a list of numbers for each hospital and health service and the budget increase from last year. Let me remind the House of some numbers the government does not want to share. These are the ramping numbers across some of Queensland's largest hospitals. In

February this year ramping at Logan Hospital was at 53 per cent, up eight per cent from February the year before; at the Royal Brisbane it is 51 per cent, up seven per cent from the year before; at Redlands Hospital it is 51 per cent, an astounding increase of 24 per cent from the year before; at the Redcliffe Hospital it is 50 per cent, a 12 per cent increase; at the Gold Coast University Hospital it is 50 per cent, a 15 per cent increase; at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital it is 50 per cent, a two per cent increase; at the Rockhampton Hospital it is 49 per cent, a whopping 27 per cent increase; at the Ipswich Hospital it is 49 per cent, up 14 per cent; and at the Prince Charles Hospital it is 48 per cent, an 18 per cent increase.

The minister can continue to stand up and read numbers that are convenient for the government. Let the record show that we will continue to stand up too, but it will be to shine a light on the numbers that matter, the numbers that Queenslanders care about. This motion is for the people behind those numbers, the people brave enough to speak out. There will be more, because what really changes in this budget? There is a \$2 billion fund that could not even get a mention as a line item. Mr Deputy Speaker, do you know why? Because the money is not there. It is an empty promise, and it must leave Queenslanders who yearned for a more responsive health system feeling empty. The LNP will make sure their voices are heard.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (5.05 pm): I move—

That all words after 'spoken' are omitted and the following inserted:

'about the health system, including Patricia, Donald, Jan, Stephen, Trevor, Ron, Sue, Rob, Annette and Anthony; and

2. notes the Palaszczuk government's continued investment in the health system and the record 2021-22 health budget.'

Mr Bleijie: Disregard their stories.

Mrs D'ATH: I will take that interjection. I have just mentioned each and every one of those individuals. I am not disregarding their stories; I am shining a light on what the opposition is doing. We just heard the member for Mudgeeraba, the shadow minister for health, talk about the community being let down. They are being let down by the LNP, which has politicised the global health pandemic from day one. You cannot imagine the situation we would be in if they had been in government. They would have opened the borders time and time again. They would have allowed this infection in and the risk of 12,000 people dying would have been seen under that lot because—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Before I call the health minister to continue, the mover of the original motion was heard with relative respect and quiet. I would expect that those on this side will extend the same courtesy to the person replying to the motion or I will start warning people.

Mrs D'ATH: The shadow minister talked about once-in-a-generation statistics; how about a once-in-a-century global health pandemic! Those opposite continue to ignore the fact that this has happened. It was the Prime Minister of this country and the Leader of the Opposition who talked about hiding under the doona. What they did not tell the people of Australia is that it is the LNP who is hiding under the doona and ignoring the fact that we have this pressure that has been acknowledged not only by Queensland but right across this country by every single jurisdiction no matter what their politics are.

All different political persuasions across this country have acknowledged the disruption to their health systems. It is well above normal year-on-year growth and pressure and it has been acknowledged by every single jurisdiction. They should pick up the phone to their New South Wales mates and ask them what they are seeing. No, they want to politicise this and tell the people of Queensland, 'This is just a Queensland problem. I don't know what's going on. It's all the government's fault.' Let's ignore that every state and territory is feeling these pressures. Let's ignore the World Health Organization, which says that out of 152 countries, 92 per cent—

Mr Millar: This is Queensland! You're in charge of Queensland Health!

Mrs D'ATH: This is Queensland, but you cannot put your head in the sand and ignore what is happening around the globe.

Mr Millar: Stopping blaming that!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Member for Gregory, you are warned.

Mrs D'ATH: I have to take that interjection. Stop blaming the health pandemic! Let's stop blaming the virus that is killing millions of people around the world. That is an appalling statement to make, but it shows what the LNP is all about.


Opposition members interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: It is not ignorance. It is not being oblivious to the facts, although I do question some. The LNP is completely ignoring what is going on. After five minutes of listening to the shadow health minister there was not one idea from them. Not one idea; just whingeing. There was not one idea what they would do differently to deal with the global health pandemic.

Our health system is stretched because it is dealing with testing every day, hotel quarantine, managing positive cases in our hospital system and now vaccinating the entire state so we can open up our economy—but, no, it is business as usual according to those on the opposite side. For them, there is nothing different in 2020 and 2021, nothing has happened, there is nothing to see. This is extraordinary—from the party that cut the jobs of 5,000 health workers and picked fights with the doctors. They actually wore as a badge of honour the cuts that they made in their budgets and said that it had to be done: 'We're very proud of the budgets that we have put in place.' It was the Leader of the Opposition who said it was a bloated bureaucracy and attacked our Chief Health Officer and has never apologised for calling the Chief Health Officer of this state a punch-drunk bureaucrat.

That is what the LNP are about. They stand for nothing. They play cheap politics. They have done it with health from day one. For the last 18 months their behaviour has been appalling. When the rest of the country was coming together on all sides of politics, it was the LNP in Queensland which embarrassed themselves. They should be ashamed of themselves.

(Time expired)

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (5.10 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion moved by the shadow health minister. The people of Queensland, and indeed Redlands coast residents, are feeling more and more disillusioned by the state's failing health system. Confidence and trust is fast being lost at a time during the worldwide pandemic when health should be one of the government's highest priorities. Let me say at the outset that we are extremely fortunate that our hospitals and our ambulance stations are staffed by highly skilled and extraordinary medical professionals and support staff. Whilst they do their very best at all times, they are being let down by a government that is not committed to fixing a major problem—a problem that is fast escalating.

I am on the record in this House as calling for a major upgrade of Redland Hospital. For too long the Redlands community has needed a hospital of an appropriate level that can service the area's growing population—one with an ICU, better palliative care, more beds and a decent free car park. After my lengthy and vigorous campaign to have the current woeful hospital parking situation rectified, I shared the excitement about the news of the construction of a long-awaited car park. However, it comes with some trepidation as it is yet to be confirmed if the hospital parking will soon come at a cost to sick people who can least afford it.


Let us rewind a couple of years when Redland Labor members stood silently by while the IHPA figures for Metro South hospitals, which includes Redland Hospital, showed the state had reduced funding levels to the hospitals over two financial years while federal funding had increased. If it is now a case of trying to play catch-up, it is not working—evidenced by the overwhelming feedback we receive from families who have had to watch loved ones suffer at the hands of a government that should be doing much better in terms of health care.

Apart from cases mentioned by the shadow minister and my parliamentary colleagues, I am personally aware of a patient who has recently been prepared for surgery in one of our major hospitals on three separate occasions before finally striking it lucky and having the very serious surgery on the third attempt. Specialist surgeons and staff share the frustration of patients and their families because they too are witnessing an administration that is obviously broken. Patients are waiting in limbo, not knowing if they will be going into surgery because of the unavailability of ICU beds. How can this be happening in Queensland in 2021? In our great state, it is concerning that so many surgeries are not completed on time. The government should be ashamed and alarmed about statistics that show that people are not being seen in time frames that are clinically recommended.

I am proud of the LNP's work to reduce elective surgery waiting lists during our time in government. However, the number of Queenslanders on the waiting list to go onto the waiting list under Labor is large and growing. This Labor government is overseeing a system that allows patients to be on the dental waiting list for more than 10 years. A whole decade of dental pain is unimaginable. I feel for those people as they suffer with dental issues and wait for treatment that must seem like a lifetime in coming to fruition. I once was one of them.

Unfortunately, when it comes to ambulance ramping, Redland Hospital is regularly one of the worst, especially during the winter months which is a time when several of our region's senior residents suffer with serious medical conditions. Ramping has been as high as 51 per cent. That is completely unacceptable. Let me share with the House Catherine Santagiuliana's late father's experience. She is a well-known local in our region, alongside the late Eddie Santagiuliana. After waiting approximately two hours for an ambulance with bleeding after a cannula had come out, Catherine's father was made to sit behind the ambulance in a wheelchair in the ambulance section of the Redland Hospital. After 12 hours he still had not received the medical treatment he needed. When told to try again in the morning because it may not be so busy, Catherine's dad said he would rather go and sit under a tree and just die than come back to the hospital. A nurse attended to the cannula during a later in-house visit. Despite his terminal illness, Catherine feels her dad gave up his will to live and sadly he passed away.

In conclusion, the government are losing control. They are clearly losing control of Queensland Health. They have been losing control in metro south, they have been losing control at the Redland Hospital and they are letting Queenslanders down.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (5.15 pm): I rise to speak in support of the amendment to the motion. It is interesting that the member for Oodgeroo talked about losing control because one thing they will never be in control of is this side of the House because of their record on what they do in health. The Queensland public will never accept them back on the government benches if they continue to run on their record of how they manage health.

One of the other things that the member for Oodgeroo talked about—and this is what we will see here: we will see a constant criticism of Queensland Health staff. It will be shielded or perhaps put in different words, but at the end of the day the side over there are criticising the hardworking doctors, ambos, nurses and health professionals who are working in Queensland Health.

Dr ROBINSON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence at those comments. I made no such comments that were derogatory about staff and I ask that they be withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I will take some advice. We have not heard the member referring to the member personally. We will review the transcript later but for now we will ask the member to withdraw.

Mr WHITING: I withdraw. What a contrast we have: the LNP which put up this motion compared to what we are doing in this budget to make sure the lives of Queenslanders are protected.

Ms Lauga: A record budget.

Mr WHITING: It absolutely is a record budget. I will take that interjection from the member for Keppel. It is \$22.2 billion, which is up 13 per cent in two years and over 53 per cent higher than under the final allocation of the Newman government. It includes a new investment of \$482 million to support the delivery of health care, especially to focus on that increasing pressure we are seeing on emergency departments and in elective surgery. We are starting on our satellite hospitals at Caboolture, Pine Rivers, Bribie Island, Redlands, Brisbane South, Ripley and Tugun. These are things that the LNP would never, ever do. They had their chance and they would never, ever do it.

Let us look at the Caboolture Hospital. We were there the other day. It is a \$400 million build, with this new massive clinical services building coming out of the ground, effectively doubling the size of the hospital. The other side could not even aspire to something like that. It is a contrast. What is the LNP policy? What policy are they peddling tonight? There is none. Instead of coming up with an alternative, they are just focusing on peddling misery, and that is an insult to the people of Queensland.

I take issue with one of the themes that the LNP are delivering here—and this is something that the minister spoke about—and that is their argument that we should be doing better because our system has only had minimal impact from COVID-19 because of the few people with COVID-19 here. We heard the member for Gregory say, 'Stop blaming that. What pandemic? Never happened!' That kind of argument from them is wrong; it is misguided.

We know that our whole health system has geared up to prevent COVID-19 working its way through Queensland. Firstly, if we look at our health system, we see it has moved into a massive preventive and testing effort. That is even before we get to the inoculation phase. Honourable members should think of how many people were allocated to staff the vaccination clinic at Caloundra in recent times. They pulled in people from everywhere. Was it dozens? Was it hundreds? Who knows? It was a

massive effort to get that doing. Yet what did we hear the member for Kawana say? 'Hang on, don't close the music venue down the road. We have to keep it open,' and, 'Oh look out, the Queensland state government is going to lock us all down.' That is not the approach we need to keep Queensland safe. It is probably the opposite approach.

I think this line of argument from the opposition shows their ignorance about the management of the health system and it shows why they cannot be trusted to manage a health system anywhere in Australia. I ask them how could they not think our whole health system has changed in a COVID-19 world? All they can do is chase headlines and chase ambulances. We know that our public healthcare system is carrying a heavy load. One of the reasons for that is that people cannot get in to see a bulk-billing doctor because the federal government has not increased the bulk-billing rates.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order, members.

Mr WHITING: Mr Deputy Speaker, I am being assailed by minnows over here. I will not need any protection—maybe a mosquito net for their faint barbs. That would probably be about it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Back to the motion please, member.

Mr WHITING: They have frozen the amount of the Medicare rebate. It is hard to get in to see a doctor when people want to be bulk-billed. I could go on and on, but we would not trust them going anywhere near a health system.

Ms SIMPSON (Maroochydore—LNP) (5.21 pm): Here is a fact: Sunshine Coast University Hospital was supposed to have 738 new hospital beds open by this year, but no, what did Labor do? It changed the language on the website and said it would have 'built capacity' by 2021, so we will have hospital rooms with no beds or staff. This is why we have a tertiary level hospital with some of the worst ramping of ambulances we have seen. There are vulnerable Queenslanders waiting in ambulances. About 50 per cent of the ambulances are waiting to unload those patients into the hospital—not to go into a GP clinic I say to the member who spoke before me—where they need access to a triage system with hospital beds. But no, 738 beds are not open but are closed with the fudge and the mistruths of this government that did not deliver. We have a situation in Queensland where there needed to be more built capacity, beds and staff treating vulnerable Queenslanders so that ambulances are not ramping at record levels.

This is going back to the bad old days we saw about 20 years ago when vulnerable Queenslanders used to go to their local member saying, 'I have a life-threatening condition and I cannot get access,' or, 'My loved one has a life-threatening condition and this is what happened.' Now we are talking about it again in the parliament because this incompetent Labor government has lost control and it is losing control of health.

We have heard vulnerable Queenslanders telling their stories, and they are telling their stories because they are desperate. They should not have to advocate for life-supporting treatment, but they have to because this government says they are making up stories; it abuses them in this parliament as if somehow they are not telling the truth. They are not only telling the truth; they are stuck in those ambulances. Their families are telling us tragic stories, as we have heard from my colleague the shadow minister and other colleagues, of people actually dying while waiting for access.

This is happening across the board. One constituent aged 79 who is in a nursing home had to have medical treatment to have teeth removed. He needed an ambulance to take him back because he had had a stroke and needed a high level of care. He was waiting to be transferred back to his nursing home from the hospital. At 3.30 pm he was still waiting. At 2.30 in the morning he was sent back to the nursing home. Members opposite might say that is not a do-or-die situation, but here we have 78- or 79-year-old people having to wait till 2.30 in the morning, tying up a hospital bed in the meantime, because of the ramping crisis, the dysfunction and the spiral of incompetence of this government.


These are real stories and the distress it is causing people is incredible not to mention the distress it is causing staff, our health professionals, who know this is not how you manage health, this is not how you solve this issue. It is time we saw investment in the hospital beds and the staff to open those beds rather than all this abuse from the mob opposite who are denying that there is an issue. The health minister—and I appreciate her background was in law—can try to fudge the words, but at the end of the day the facts stand. They can also try to hide the statistics, but the statistics of the degree of ramping at our hospitals currently are some of the worst we have ever seen in this state.

The lead time for this crisis was before COVID. I say for the benefit of members opposite that all crises have a lead time when it comes to a lack of built capacity being funded in terms of actually opening beds in our hospitals. We have seen health professionals saying this government has not kept up with ensuring that beds in our hospitals are, in fact, staffed. This is why we are seeing the ramping crisis and, still, we see the denial of this government.

We have a situation where 50 per cent of ambulances are waiting to unload at Sunshine Coast hospital, a two per cent increase, and we are seeing this replicated in many other areas of Queensland. We will stand up and fight for the vulnerable of Queensland, but it is time there was a systemic reform of health and an acknowledgment that there needs to be investment in opening these hospital beds rather than the fluff and bubble of a government that is not listening to the people who come to see them.

This government has been in power for six years and they are still making excuses while Queenslanders are dying to get access to the hospital services they have a right to access.

(Time expired)

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (5.26 pm): I support the amended motion. Every day in Queensland our hardworking staff do an incredible job caring for Queenslanders. Whether someone is a midwife delivering our newest Queenslanders, a nurse in an ICU ward caring for people in their hour of need, a paramedic out there on the road off to an emergency or a doctor working in regional Queensland or in any part of the Queensland health workforce, I want to put on the record my thanks for the amazing work that they do every day.

I am also pleased to be part of the Palaszczuk Labor government, a government that delivers record health budgets year after year. We continue to ensure that our health system remains strong. We do this by restoring the frontline services and staff that were savagely cut by those opposite and building the health infrastructure that Queensland needs.

It is the Palaszczuk Labor government that has been fixing the mess that was left behind by the LNP Newman government. The Labor government delivers record health budgets, in stark contrast to those opposite. When they were in government, the LNP did not build or even announce a plan to build a single new public hospital.


The LNP's legacy when it comes to providing public healthcare services in our state is to cut services. Then they sack the workers and sell off the assets. The Leader of the Opposition sometimes does not know up from down. This is the man who thought that the LNP cuts had improved Townsville's health services. He said, 'I think the hospital is running pretty well,' after he sacked all those nurses.

The LNP are simply determined to talk down our health system at every single opportunity. I certainly will not be listening to those whose mates in Canberra have been undermining Medicare for years and they have made it more expensive to see a GP. What they are doing is pushing more people into hospitals because Queenslanders know that if they turn up to a public hospital they will get free, world-class health care delivered by a world-class workforce. The lack of bulk-billing doctors is especially apparent in regional Queensland and where I am from.

Mr Deputy Speaker Kelly, you will not believe this: only last week in Canberra they were caught red-handed trying to sneak through more cuts to Medicare. If those opposite really cared about Queensland's health system, they would be banging on the doors of their friends in Canberra to reverse those Medicare cuts.

When families are doing it tough and cannot access a bulk-billing doctor, they do not go to a doctor. They choose to put food on the table. They want to keep a roof over their heads and keep the lights on. They wait until it is an absolute emergency before they show up at our EDs. This is putting more strain on our medical services. What did the member for Dawson do when all of our bulk-billing clinics closed in Mackay? Instead of finding a solution, he said, 'Go to your ED; it is your right.' How shameful it was. He could not care less. He had to be shamed into doing something after the absolute outcry from constituents. They knew that turning up to an ED was not a solution to not having bulk-billing clinics.

I am pleased that the Palaszczuk government continues to deliver services. In my region of Mackay we will see upgraded mental health facilities that will provide safe and private clinical environments for patients, improve patient management and improve the delivery of mental health services. On top of this, there is a new pilot crisis support space at Mackay Base Hospital providing an alternative to emergency department care for someone arriving at the hospital in distress. It is not just in my region; it is across Queensland that we are delivering.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (5.31 pm): Labor's economic plan for Queensland is one that is deep in deception and full of trickery.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Apologies, member, but your own side is interjecting and making it difficult for me to hear.

Dr ROWAN: Labor's economic plan for Queensland is one that is deep in deception and full of trickery. More than anything else, Labor's sheer incompetence when it comes to a lack of service delivery is best illustrated by the current state of Queensland's public hospitals. Labor's failings in health have spanned multiple Labor state governments. Queenslanders are seeing a health and public hospital system that mirrors the worst of the Beattie and Bligh Labor governments. I refer to previous Labor ministers for health Wendy Edmond, Gordon Nuttall—I know that the member for Maroochydore will remember the sheer incompetence of those two Labor ministers—and Geoff Wilson and their bumbling management of the health system in Queensland. Now under the Palaszczuk state Labor government we have had three of the worst health ministers in the members for Woodridge, Murrumba and Redcliffe. We are seeing the leadership provided by health ministers in Queensland decline over time.

The motion moved by the Liberal National Party shadow minister for health and ambulance services references many shocking and terrible patient experiences in our public hospital system. There is no doubt that the system is in crisis and that Labor is failing to act. Under Labor, ambulance ramping has returned. It has to be remembered that the former Liberal National Party government had eliminated ramping here in Queensland. In my electorate of Moggill, many residents rely on public hospitals such as the Ipswich Hospital, the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and the Princess Alexandra Hospital. I am hearing many terrible stories about what is happening with ambulance ramping. At the Ipswich Hospital ramping is at 49 per cent; at the Princess Alexandra Hospital ambulance ramping is at 34 per cent; and at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital ambulance ramping is now at over 50 per cent.

Given serious matters related to a lack of emergency department resourcing as well as a critical lack of inpatient beds across our public hospitals, access block is only getting worse for patients with serious medical and health conditions. Those patients are not able to be admitted within clinically recommended time frames. Certainly that is jeopardising outcomes for those patients.

These real stories and experiences of Queenslanders that are included in the motion are truly disturbing; however, they are just the tip of the iceberg. I have been contacted by many local residents in the electorate of Moggill, all of whom felt compelled to reach out to me and speak up about their own personal experiences. Recently a resident of Kenmore told me they are now ashamed to be a Queenslanders. They have lived in Australia for 36 years and in Queensland for more than two decades and have never seen a more incompetent government than the Palaszczuk state Labor government. This resident has a brother, a pensioner with serious neurological—

Government members interjected.

Dr ROWAN: They laugh at this, Mr Deputy Speaker. They laugh at these serious issues in relation to patients who have serious conditions. They do not care. This is the hallmark of this Labor government. This Labor government knows that there are patients who have been jeopardised, whose clinical care is being affected, but Labor members opposite laugh at the experiences of these patients. They do not believe them. They come into this place and reject the experiences of these patients.

Health professionals are contacting me all the time—doctors, nurses, allied health professionals, GPs, medical specialists and others. The health department is leaking like a sieve. They are calling out for help as well, because they do not have a government that will listen to them and give them the resources, the structure and the governance models to make Queensland's health system work. It is time this Labor government stepped up to the mark and backed patients here in Queensland. It is time it resourced the health system and ensured that frontline clinicians get the resources they need.

I heard the member for Bancroft talk about our hardworking clinicians. They are hardworking clinicians, but they are being let down by a Labor government that does not care about them. This Labor government has recklessly abandoned frontline clinicians, patients and Queenslanders. Queenslanders are contacting the opposition and asking for help. They are crying out for help. At the AMA past presidents meeting and the Rural Doctors Association annual conference, all clinicians will be talking about this Labor government and its staggering level of incompetence to provide for the people and the patients of Queensland—in Brisbane, on the Gold Coast, on the Sunshine Coast or

right across Queensland. It is time those opposite stopped laughing about these matters, fixed the health system and actually worked hard to support clinicians, patients and all Queenslanders. Every Queenslander deserves nothing less.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! Member for Everton, I remind you that you are on a warning.

Ms LUI (Cook—ALP) (5.37 pm): I consider myself an optimist, but I must admit that I am losing all hope that one day the LNP will come into this House and back our health system instead of bagging it. Even in the face of this record budget, a budget that is over 50 per cent greater than when they were in office, they continue to run down our health system and, by extension, denigrate the great work of all those who work in it. After the challenges presented by COVID that we all have been through together, one would think the opposition would rally around Queensland's achievements and the mighty work of our clinical staff in keeping their fellow Queenslanders safe. One would think they would take a moment to reflect upon the COVID catastrophe continuing to unfold around the world that we have so far avoided. I applaud the efforts of all Queenslanders, particularly our health workers, in delivering such an outstanding outcome. Let's not talk about the 64 times the LNP called for the borders to open.

The LNP may have a new jockey, but it is the same old 'caught in the rut, lead weight of negativity in the saddlebags' LNP horse. One would think if they were going to rubbish the budget they could at least get their story straight. The Leader of the Opposition said that there would be cuts to HHS budgets. There are increases to the budgets of every single HHS. He said that the capital budget had been cut. Once leasing arrangements from last budget are taken into account, there is a 23.7 per cent increase.

This is a health budget that delivers for Queensland and delivers for the Cairns region, the Torres Strait and Cape York. I welcome the record \$1.81 billion budget allocation for the Cairns and Hinterland HHS which represents an increase of 62 per cent on the budget provided in the final budget of the Newman government in 2014-15. I also welcome the record \$250 million allocated to the Torres and Cape HHS which represents an increase of 45.6 per cent on the 2014-15 budget in the final year of the LNP's term in office. This budget also adds a further two staff to the cape and an additional 353 staff to the Cairns HHS.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order, member for Nanango.

Ms LUI: It is further evidence, if any were needed, that the Palaszczuk government is committed to investing in people and services in stark contrast to the havoc wrought by the LNP's program of sacking and cutting. The budget also provides \$7.7 million towards the accelerated delivery of the upgrade of the Cairns emergency department—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Ms LUI:—and funding for the Block D ward fit-out which will create—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Nanango, you are warned.

Ms LUI:—an additional 11 beds and the Cairns hybrid theatre. These investments build on the \$70 million committed for the construction of a new mental health unit and the \$16.5 million for the development of a business case and land purchase for the construction of a new Cairns health innovation centre as part of a partnership with JCU which will give Cairns Hospital university status. I also welcome the \$2.5 million towards a total commitment of \$7 million to replace the health building on Mer Island and the \$2.6 million for a new CT scanner in Mareeba. I was also delighted by the more than \$37 million over the next two years as part of the \$363 million investment in the Making Tracks initiative to improve the life expectancy of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people allocated to improving health outcomes for Indigenous Queenslanders.

The Palaszczuk government has delivered almost 1,200 beds since it came to power and will continue to deliver many hundreds more in coming years, including the 174 that the Premier announced two weeks ago that will be built at Mater Springfield. The very Labor budget delivered by the Treasurer yesterday stands in stark contrast to the recent actions of the Commonwealth government. The changes it is proposing to Medicare rebates across hundreds of surgeries will not only make health care more expensive; it will inevitably drive more patients onto public hospital waiting lists and add even more pressure to our already stretched health system. On this issue—an issue that really matters and will directly impact health services in Queensland—the Leader of the Opposition says nothing.

Mr Saunders interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Maryborough, you are interjecting over your own team. I am going to warn you. You are on a warning.

Ms LUI: Instead of talking down the Queensland health system and Queensland health workers, he should ring Scott Morrison and Greg Hunt and get them to reverse this damaging decision.

Mr BENNETT (Burnett—LNP) (5.42 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the shadow minister, because it is important that we talk about the health crisis and it is extremely important that regional Queenslanders have their voices heard in this House and—

Mr Smith interjected.

Mr BENNETT: I take the interjection from the member for Bundaberg early, because it is going to go all night. He is the member who should be fighting for the people of Bundaberg. He is their member. Instead of interjecting about the crisis, he should be fighting for his own region instead of fighting for relevance in his own party.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I am usually pretty quick, but I must have missed the joke.

Mr BENNETT: I am sorry if you thought it was a joke. I was just taking a very rude interjection, Mr Deputy Speaker, if I can clarify my position.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Due to the level of other interjections, I could not hear the interjection you were taking.

Mr BENNETT: Tonight is an opportunity for the people of Queensland to hear solutions and an opportunity for transparency about the Queensland Health crisis. It would be helpful if we could finally have the truthful facts around the proposed new Bundaberg hospital. Our community deserves a more detailed consultation process, and we want to know why consultation has ceased. It is important for the people of Maryborough and Hervey Bay to also be included in what the future of health services in the Wide Bay health service will include. It is really important that those fast growing communities also get their fair share, and I say that with all sincerity.

I have said for years—and I started this in 2019—that you cannot have a level 5 hospital without a medical school. Since October 2019 we have been fighting the secrecy and lack of information on all of the proposals. 2019 was the start of problems when this government stood by when the CEO was unceremoniously walked out the front door of the hospital. Then the Wide Bay health service had an operating surplus of \$10 million and the service delivery in all areas was 100 per cent of all guidelines. There was also \$2.5 million given to the Wide Bay health service from Queensland Health to set up a regional medical school to employ 20 professors. Today we want to know where those professors are, where the money has gone and, more importantly, what is going to be the future.

Mr Smith interjected.

Mr BENNETT: I take the interjection again, from the member for Bundaberg. If he is going to continue to be disruptive, I will continue to remind the people of Bundaberg what he says about the health service. He should be fighting for them, not trying to get relevance. The level 5 hospital—

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members! Order, member for Bundaberg.

A government member interjected.

Mr BENNETT: I take the interjection from the member for Hervey Bay. The man has come out of hiding. He has been in witness protection for the last six months. He finally got a voice. It is wonderful to hear from him as well.

Government members interjected.

Mr BENNETT: I take the interjection from the member for Maryborough in terms of fighting for a good health service, so I suggest he also puts his efforts into fighting with his own team about getting the services that his electorate wants and needs.

Mr BLEIJIE: I rise to a point of order. My honourable colleague is taking interjections from the member for Maryborough, who is on your warning, which would—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Very astute, member. I was about to pause the clock as you were rising to your feet, but I thought I would hear your point of order just in case you did have something novel to say. Member for Maryborough, you are on a warning. I would ask you to leave the chamber for an hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Maryborough withdrew from the chamber at 5.45 pm.

Mr BENNETT: A level 5 hospital should be a university hospital. In simple terms, it is about having teaching specialists aligned with the curriculum. It should have been the 'Wide Bay University Hospital'. We know that the business case in 2019 had it as a university level 5 teaching hospital with cancer and full cardiac services, all medical subspecialties, development of education partnerships and appointments of professors or chairs in each speciality. In October 2019 I stood in this place and said that the health service is going to get worse before it gets better in Bundaberg, and here we are on the slippery slope. Waiting lists have blown out. All have increased. I highlight some alarming data around the size and lengths of waiting lists for outpatients, endoscopy and surgery. Our emergency department has got worse—

Mr Smith interjected.

Mr BENNETT: I will take the interjections from the member for Bundaberg all night if he wants to continue down this path.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members! Pause the clock. Member for Bundaberg, you are on a warning.


Mr BENNETT: Our emergency department has got a lot worse. We are struggling to fill medical vacancies. Executives have left and have not been replaced. The performance at the hospital has slipped and the Wide Bay health service's financial deficit is astronomical. This was so concerning that I wrote to the Auditor-General in 2020 asking it to conduct a financial audit, and that audit last year confirmed our worst fears. It is important that we talk about capital expenditure and the importance of what it means, and let me remind the House: in 2020-21 it was \$1.4 billion whereas this year it is \$1.3 billion. Clearly we need to acknowledge what this motion is about. Let us shine a light on ambulance ramping. Let us start doing things differently. Let us get the 230,000 people off the waiting list for the waiting list. Let us make sure that those people in my electorate who are waiting for dental services, like the 150,000 across Queensland—some waiting for 10 years—can at least get their service delivered when it should be. The other important—

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr BENNETT: I take the interjection from the member for Pine Rivers. It is not all about a federal blame game; you have a role in Queensland Health to provide services!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members! Comments will come through the chair.

Mr BENNETT: Let us talk about the health data transparency. The government cannot just continue to pick and choose what it gives to Queenslanders. That is why we have a crisis. That is why we need to back in the motion to shine a light on this disgrace.

 **Mr HUNT** (Caloundra—ALP) (5.48 pm): I rise to speak in support of the amended motion. In my community we recently had to deal with the shock of having two positive COVID cases. Our health system responded brilliantly. Our fever clinics extended their hours and tested thousands of people. Our Queensland Health staff stood up a new vaccination hub in a matter of days that continues to vaccinate thousands.

I am so grateful to Queensland Health staff and I am disappointed that the LNP continues to attack the health system composed of such amazing and hardworking health workers. We were promised a new kind of politics, but the LNP has collapsed back into its default setting and even brought Campbell Newman back into the fold, and that is a sure sign of things to come. Unfortunately for those opposite, Queenslanders have not forgotten the damage that they inflicted on the health system when they were last in government. They have not forgotten the workers who were sacked, the services that were cut, the programs that were slashed and the facilities that were closed.

They have not forgotten the sight of nurses marching on the parliament to protest against hundreds of their profession being sacked. They have not forgotten how the Newman government went to war with our doctors. They have not forgotten the community health groups that lost their funding. They have not forgotten the decision to close the Barrett Centre despite the fact that the expert advice urged them not to.


Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! Pause the clock. Member for Kawana, you are on a warning.

Mr HUNT: The contributions of the LNP members in this debate show that their default view is that our public health system is fundamentally flawed. They attack the quality of the services provided and scour the health budget looking for more strong choices to make so that they can cut more staff

and sell more services. Every government around the country is aware of the pressures that increasing demand is placing on our health system. The opposition, however, has chosen to ignore this reality. Instead of contributing sensibly to the discussions around the solution, those opposite take the low road of political opportunism. What a contrast that presents to the Palaszczuk government whose investment in the health system in this budget is over \$7.2 billion higher than the allocation in the final LNP budget just seven years ago. I welcome the record \$1.364 billion going to the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service this year: a whopping 96.2 per cent more than our region received under the final budget of the Newman government.

This budget also includes \$105 million for our satellite hospitals program, which are on track to deliver health facilities closer to where Queenslanders live in 2023. This budget also delivers an additional 2,327 staff to our health system, another step along the road to delivering our 9,475 additional nurses, doctors and allied health professionals and paramedics to the front line over the forward estimates. If the LNP wanted to make a positive contribution to the health debate they would join us, the AMA, radiologists, the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, the hospital and health services, the private health insurance industry and all the hospitals, public and private, and call on the Commonwealth government to reverse its decision to ratchet up the out-of-pocket costs of hundreds of surgeries, but all we get is silence. If the LNP is really interested in dealing with the challenges presented by the rising demand for health services then they would stand up for Queensland, stand up to Canberra and directly oppose the Commonwealth's attack on Medicare which will only add more pressure to our health system, a fact that those opposite have continually ignored and remained silent on.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (5.52 pm): Firstly I would like to thank the doctors, nurses, paramedics and chopper pilots who provide the services that we receive in our region of Toowoomba. Out of great tragedy comes an opportunity. In 2015 there was a tragedy in Toowoomba. A young lad called Brayden Smith needed emergency neurosurgery. It was not available in our hospital and he sadly passed away. There is a campaign running that talks about every second counts. I table the petition page.

Tabled paper: Great White Campaign Inc. document, undated, titled 'Every Second Counts' [\[888\]](#).


When we are dealing with medical facilities every second does count. No matter how good your doctors and nurses are, no matter how good your paramedics or chopper pilots are, if you do not have the facilities that are required for that emergency then you are in trouble. In Toowoomba we do not have neurosurgery facilities. As we look at building a new hospital in Toowoomba we should consider including neurosurgery facilities to honour Brayden and help other people in our region who need that facility, whether it be from stroke, a car accident or any other incident that requires a neurosurgeon.

The member for Bancroft asked us to bring him a policy. I have a policy for him: let us fund a hospital in Toowoomba. Let us actually commit the money and build it. Alternatively, if the government cannot follow that policy, maybe it could try a public-private partnership—get someone else to pay for it—and sign up to pay it off over 25 years.

The people of Toowoomba need health services now. If we start building today it will still take five years. We have an ageing population. Our over 65s are increasing as a percentage of our overall population. Our hospital is at capacity. Our doctors and nurses are doing the very best they can, but if the built environment is not up to scratch, if the built environment is 25 years old, if the built environment needs updating, then there is nothing they can do. Toowoomba is No. 1 on Queensland Health's list of places to build a hospital, but all we have seen in this budget is trickery, smoke, mirrors and illusion. I ask the government to build the hospital via a public-private partnership and give the people of Toowoomba what they want. It is one of our biggest employers. We know the health crisis will get worse. There is an opportunity for this minister to stand up and do something positive for the people who live west of the range and that is build a new hospital. The government invested the money in getting a plan for a hospital drawn up. Do not leave it on a dusty shelf. The policy should be to build the facilities that we need to take our health services forward. That is the policy, member for Bancroft. That is the policy I encourage the minister to implement.

I urge the minister to fight the other ministers for the money that his department deserves so that it can build the facilities that Queenslanders want. We on the hill pay our taxes. We do not deserve a second rate health service—not because of the people working there, but because the facility is not up to scratch. We have people who need surgery who catch a taxi—paid for by the state government—down to Brisbane. They get their surgery and catch a taxi back up.

I am pleased to hear that the day surgery, something I have campaigned hard for, is going to be built. This is a finger in the dyke. The tsunami of medical incidents on the range and the Darling Downs will get worse and we are going to need more helicopters, more paramedics and more ambulances if a hospital is not built. It will get really busy on the Warrego Highway and on the helipads, because people will be moved down to Brisbane for operations that could easily be done in Toowoomba if the facilities were provided. That facility could be built if the money was there, if there was cash on the table, if there was a commitment and a will and a desire to serve the people of Queensland, particularly my constituents in Toowoomba and the people of the Darling Downs, but that will is lacking. It is not there. If it was there we would not be hearing about smoke and mirrors in the budget. We would not hear about a Future Fund that is going to fund this and that and everything else. It will take over a billion dollars to build our hospital. Get on with the job: build a hospital in Toowoomba and put in a neurosurgery facility.

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (5.57 pm): I rise to support the amendment moved by the Minister for Health. I acknowledge the people who are listed in the motion moved by the opposition. Each of these individuals and their families deserve to have their concerns addressed and I trust that the Minister for Health has been provided with those details.

Let us speak further about details and facts. Fact: health systems across Australia are currently feeling incredible impacts resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Queensland is not unique in this.

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member for Gregory, you are on a warning. You can leave the chamber for an hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Gregory withdrew from the chamber at 5.57 pm.

Mrs MULLEN: 'A patient suffering a stroke was forced to wait more than 40 minutes for an ambulance last night, while another person with chest pains waited an hour during a critical lack of resources, according to paramedics.' That was reported in South Australia under the Marshall Liberal government. 'An outbreak of COVID-19 in hospitals would have a catastrophic impact on a health system that is already in crisis mode, according to the Australian Medical Association.' That was reported in Tasmania, under the Gutwein Liberal government. 'Emergency departments are clogged with seriously ill patients and paramedics are responding to record numbers of life-threatening cases as doctors warn the after-effects of people delaying medical care due to COVID-19 restrictions are pushing the system to crisis point.' That was reported today in New South Wales under the Berejiklian Liberal government.

Those opposite can come in here and pretend that this is a uniquely Queensland and Labor problem, but they either do not understand what is going on in our country or they are deliberately playing politics with people's distress. Where are they on aged-care beds? Where are they on NDIS packages? We know that there are currently almost 600 people in Queensland public hospital beds who could be better cared for in other settings. What are they saying about this? Where are the calls for the federal Morrison government to step in and provide packages to those who need aged and disability care?

The Queensland public hospital system is not where those people should be. They have been abandoned by the Morrison government, they have nowhere to go and we are looking after them. Our government has not stopped caring for people—

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member for Coomera, you are on a warning.

Mrs MULLEN: Our government has not stopped caring for the people of this state and we continue to do that each and every day. Only last month the health minister announced a \$100 million funding boost to tackle the unprecedented demand in Queensland's public hospitals. We did not put our heads in the sand. We acted decisively with this funding to create an initial 65 new beds in some of Queensland's busiest hospital and health services. Through this motion the opposition is again misleading Queenslanders by demanding immediate action when immediate action has been taken. Our government's record health budget, which was announced only yesterday, will provide \$22.2 billion to ensure our state's doctors, nurses and emergency response personnel have the best facilities to continue to deliver care.

In my own electorate we will see the best facilities. I am very pleased to speak about the new public hospital in Springfield that we have announced. I want to thank the member for Mudgeeraba for her motion because it also gives me the opportunity to put some facts on the table. I am very proud that

our government will be investing in a new public hospital in Greater Springfield. This will be important for those who live not only within the area but also across the greater Ipswich and western Brisbane region. The \$177 million announced in yesterday's budget, working in partnership with the Mater, is significant and it is a commitment that our community has warmly welcomed. It is something that I have advocated for since I was elected in late 2017.

During the 2020 state election, the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce began a public campaign and petition calling for the new public hospital. I want to thank the chamber for their work on this. It was a funded campaign that included signage, billboards, social media and videos. I am sure that it cost their members significant funds. During a candidate debate with the chamber, the then LNP candidate turned up. It was the first time we had ever seen him on the campaign trail. He announced to the audience that the LNP would be supporting and funding a new public hospital in Springfield. For two weeks, during pre-poll and on election day, LNP volunteers kept telling voters that they were going to deliver the new hospital.

What I thought was most curious was that neither the then leader of the LNP, the member for Nanango, nor the shadow minister for health, the member for Mudgeeraba, turned up to announce what surely was a most significant election commitment for the region. Where were they? Then I saw the actual commitment in a letter provided by the member for Mudgeeraba to the chamber of commerce and shared by some LNP members online. I table that letter because it shows—surprise, surprise—that the LNP were, in fact, not funding the new public hospital. Their commitment if elected was to seek a briefing from Queensland Health. That was it: a briefing. What would I value a briefing at? Perhaps 50 bucks. Maybe 100 bucks if it was a catered affair.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 23 October 2020, from the member for Mudgeeraba, Ms Ros Bates MP, to the President, Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, Mr Neil Coupland, regarding a new public hospital in Springfield [889].

Once again they have misled voters with a fake commitment. It was absolutely shameful. Given the LNP's primary vote of 22 per cent in Jordan, thankfully it was one that the voters in my electorate did not swallow.

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

AYES, 47:

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

NOES, 36:

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

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Pair: Howard, Mickelberg.

Resolved in the affirmative.

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Ring the bells for one minute.

AYES, 47:

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

NOES, 36:

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

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Pair: Howard, Mickelberg.

Resolved in the affirmative.


Motion, as agreed—

The House:

1. notes the Queenslanders who have spoken about the health system, including Patricia, Donald, Jan, Stephen, Trevor, Ron, Sue, Rob, Annette and Anthony; and
2. notes the Palaszczuk government's continued investment in the health system and the record 2021-22 health budget.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from p. 1888.

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (6.10 pm), continuing: Most recently my mum spoke out at a conference pleading for the Commonwealth to reverse the decision to bring in the privatised independent assessment process as well as raising concerns over the new Sustainability Action Taskforce, a razor gang within the National Disability Insurance Agency which is reported to have told staff to 'slow down' getting Australians with a disability on the NDIS and to slow their funding. My mum is busy enough trying to care for my brother. Carers and people with a disability should not have to keep fighting for basic rights. I am lucky to have a platform to raise issues on the public record and restate my commitment to lending a voice to those vulnerable Queenslanders who deserve to be listened to.

We advocated on some big issues last term, from the NDIS through to aged care, and we delivered on what we said we would do: the Nerang BMX track upgrades; Pacific Pines State School \$900,000 resource centre upgrade; \$800,000 upgrade of classrooms at Worongary State School; and Pacific Pines State High School's multimillion dollar new 2020 Ready two-storey building. We delivered the first two upgrades of the M1, we installed traffic signals and road lighting on Beaudesert Nerang Road at the Nerang fire station and we restored frontline health services.

At this election I made a number of commitments, and I intend on ensuring every one is delivered, like we did last term. Ensuring Gold Coasters have good, permanent, full-time work has always been a priority for me. With a large manufacturing base in my electorate I advocated for a manufacturing hub, and I am pleased that funding has been allocated for this to be based in Nerang.

Like any good Labor government, our priorities remain investing in critical frontline services. When it comes to education, we will be delivering over \$20 million to deliver a massive expansion of classrooms at Pacific Pines State High School; \$5 million to upgrade the performing arts space at Nerang State High School; and \$350,000 for Nerang State Primary School to go towards general upgrades including to the prep playground. I was pleased to call the principal last night and advise her of a further million dollars that will be added to further enhance facilities at that primary school. We are also providing \$350,000 to upgrade the STEM building at Worongary State School and \$700,000 for upgrades at William Duncan State School. We will be air-conditioning every state school classroom, library and staffroom by mid-2022 and delivering over 190,000 solar panels for state school rooftops.

We are also investing in tertiary education, recently opening the new \$10.5 million trades training centre at Ashmore TAFE and a \$10 million nursing and allied health facility. Work will commence on a new \$5.7 million plumbing tower at Ashmore, there is \$11 million to expand our TAFE training facility in Coomera and there is funding for a new eco-friendly TAFE campus in Robina.

When it comes to roads and transport, a number of big projects will commence in this term of government. There will be a \$755 million investment to begin construction of the second M1 from Carrara to Coomera, creating 700 new jobs. We have committed funding to upgrade Yalkuri Drive and the Maudsland Road and Beaudesert Nerang Road intersection. Following a transport mobility study conducted last year, we will be delivering a \$2.8 million demand response trial for Nerang West, Highland Park and Pacific Pines which will allow families who do not have immediate access to public transport to be picked up from their address on demand.

We are building three new train stations for the Gold Coast as part of the Cross River Rail package at Helensvale North, Merrimac and Pimpama. We are building Light Rail stage 3 as well as delivering a business case for stage 4. We have allocated \$1 million to install sound barriers on Nerang Broadbeach Road and there will be a multimodal study for Nerang Broadbeach Road to look at rapid transit options.

The list goes on. For the Gold Coast health system, we will be investing to deliver over 680 new nurses and midwives, over 160 new doctors and over 160 new allied health workers. There is \$105 million for a new 40-bed secure mental health rehabilitation unit, something I know many people in my community advocated for. We recently opened the new \$5.8 million hybrid theatre, and we are also delivering a \$40 million new satellite hospital on the southern Gold Coast.

We are the party that created Medicare and we will continue to invest to ensure Gold Coasters get the health care they need.

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Ms SCANLON: I note that the member for Currumbin is interjecting. It is interesting to hear from those opposite on these projects because, of course, these projects would not have been delivered had those opposite received enough seats to be entered into government. They did not match the Palaszczuk government on any of these projects during the election, and I will be reminding everyone of this fact whenever those opposite wish to make commentary, particularly given their appalling track record under Campbell Newman when health workers on the Gold Coast were so callously sacked. This budget will see even more funding for education, and I just mentioned a number of projects.

We are delivering not only frontline services but also progressive reform. Last term we created a new offence of industrial manslaughter; we criminalised revenge porn; we criminalised wage theft; we have made TAFE free for young Queenslanders; we legislated Queensland's own Human Rights Act; and we no longer criminalise a woman's right to have agency over her own body. We started the conversation around treaty with First Nations Queenslanders, and we made proper reparations for having stolen the wages of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in past decades. I am very proud to be a part of a government that made a significant contribution today as part of the Path to Treaty.

We banned developer donations and we have the strongest, fairest and most transparent electoral laws in Australia, including real-time donation disclosures and expenditure caps. We created the nurse navigator positions, the first of its kind in Australia, as well as implemented nurse-to-patient ratios and minimum staffing levels in publicly owned aged-care facilities. We made it a requirement to have a teacher aide in all prep classrooms and career progression for high-achieving teachers. We expunged historical homosexuality convictions and allowed same-sex couples to foster kids in care.

We are building hundreds of new public housing homes on the Gold Coast as well as a new youth foyer for at-risk young people. Again, I was incredibly proud to be a part of this government that announced record funding for public housing throughout this state.

The list goes on, including in the environment. Right across our state, the Palaszczuk government is making meaningful and positive change when it comes to jobs, protecting our natural assets and driving our economic recovery from COVID-19.

It is an honour to continue delivering the legacy of my previous ministerial colleagues as the Minister for the Environment and Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs. This budget is investing \$1.4 billion for the environment and for jobs. This year's record investment will see a significant focus on the ongoing protection of the reef, measures to reduce landfill, land regeneration and conservation while creating jobs as part of the state's COVID-19 economic recovery plan. That includes: \$270 million for the Great Barrier Reef; \$60 million for the Land Restoration Fund; \$254 million for waste programs and initiatives; \$12 million for our Crocwise program; \$8.6 million for national parks infrastructure, visitor experiences and engagement with First Nations communities; \$8 million for ongoing scientific research; \$6 million for the South East Queensland Wildlife Hospital Network; and \$3.7 million for koala conservation projects.

When we announced Queensland's plan for economic recovery last year, we made sure that protecting our environment would be a key pillar. We know that to protect the environment we must drive down emissions and create the jobs of the future, which is what this budget does. This investment in the environment, together with record investment in this budget for renewable energy, will help Queensland meet its emission targets. We have also passed significant legislation, like the ban of single-use plastics, with thousands of businesses gearing up to ditch plastics ahead of the 1 September ban.

We have returned the protected areas of Mulgumpin—Moreton Island—to traditional owners with the passing of legislation just in the last month to transfer back some 17,000 hectares of national and conservation park land. The passing of the legislation is about the ongoing recognition of Quandamooka connection to the land, returning rightful ownership to traditional owners and working with them to manage and promote new tourism opportunities for this national treasure.


This government knows just how important protecting our environment is to creating jobs. It is why we have set a 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030 and a net zero emissions target by 2050. We are well on our way to achieving those targets. We have increased renewable energy generation by almost 300 per cent, and we are building on it with new renewable energy zones, like in the Far North where the Premier only recently announced that the Palaszczuk government will unlock 350 jobs and \$370 million in renewable energy infrastructure. We have established Queensland's new publicly owned clean energy generator, CleanCo, focused on growing a portfolio of low- and zero-emission electricity generation assets. We have implemented containers for change, which has seen more than four billion containers diverted from landfill, \$400 million back into the pockets of community organisations and individuals and 700 jobs at facilities right across Queensland.

We are also working with primary producers right across the state to make their farms more sustainable and profitable and to protect our \$6 billion, 60,000-job-supporting World Heritage listed Great Barrier Reef. We released Queensland's strongest ever koala protections with the South East Queensland Koala Conservation Strategy. We have stopped widescale tree clearing and established the Land Restoration Fund to monetise carbon sequestration through vegetation protection and better land use management. Queensland now has some of the strongest mine rehabilitation laws in the world, with a financial assurance fund to guarantee rehabilitation costs are being provisioned for and independently managed, alongside the independent Office of the Rehabilitation Commissioner. As the home of the world's largest coral reef system and more than 1,000 national parks and protected areas—double the size of Tasmania—the Palaszczuk government knows just how big a role the environment plays in Queensland's economy.

Our budget also focuses on building Queensland's scientific capacity with a further \$7.7 million over three years for research into disaster management, water quality modelling and sediment management. Our scientific and health experts helped keep Queenslanders safe during the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing us to kickstart an economic recovery focused on jobs. We are backing them with close to \$8 million in additional funding to support the 300-plus scientists who work tirelessly in the pursuit of scientific excellence, because we trust the science and the experts. Thanks to the medical experts and science, Queenslanders have continued to manage the pandemic.

I will conclude by paying tribute to my year 7 teacher, Mick Beard, who was present in the gallery when I delivered my first speech and sadly passed away in October last year. The world has lost a giant in the education sector and one of my favourite people. Mick Beard's teaching method was not ordinary and the impact that he had on students was extraordinary. He is the person who inspired me to critically think, challenge the status quo and be a part of reforming public policy. While changing minds and laws can feel painfully slow at times, Mr Beard is the person who taught us that changing the world one step at a time is a worthwhile endeavour.

This election was different without him. In 2017, despite being very unwell, he was insistent that he help hand out how-to-vote cards for me on the pre-poll booth. The last time we saw each other was filled with laughs and a couple of drinks at Javeenbah Theatre Company in Nerang where he was loved and known by so many in our community. Mr Beard leaves behind a legacy of students who are better people because of him. He will be greatly missed.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (6.23 pm): It is my privilege to rise once again as the member for Toowoomba South and make a speech in the address-in-reply. It is a privilege that I never take for granted. I know that every MP will say that. It is a significant privilege to be a member of parliament and represent one's community—in my case, the communities of South Toowoomba, Rangeville, Middle Ridge, Darling Heights, Glenvale and Kearneys Spring. It is a true privilege and something that I never take for granted.

I start by acknowledging the candidates against whom I competed in the election last October. In particular, I want to acknowledge the Greens candidate, young Thomas Coyne, who was tragically killed in a car accident just recently. Thomas was a fine young man who participated in the democratic process with all his heart and with great vigour and respect. I had a great deal of time for Thomas and some lovely discussions with him. I know the member for Maiwar has paid tribute to Thomas as well, but I wanted to publicly acknowledge Thomas for the wonderful young man he was. What a tragic loss he is to the Toowoomba community. I also acknowledge the respect generally shown by political foes in my electorate and the respect with which the campaign was undertaken. I am thankful for all their comradery and healthy competition.

I also want to acknowledge the impregnable member for Toowoomba North. The member for Toowoomba North has taken an extraordinarily challenging seat for us—one which was a strong Labor seat when he started campaigning—and is the epitome of what it takes to win a seat; that is, to embed

oneself in the community and represent the interests of the community. The member for Toowoomba North is quite the inspiration for me when I see him out on street corners in the cold every couple of Saturdays. He is the exemplar of campaigning and community heart. I acknowledge Trevor's victory in very difficult circumstances for him again. Congratulations, member for Toowoomba North.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: It would also be remiss of me not to acknowledge the member for Condamine—my other neighbour.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: I am coming to the member for Condamine. I acknowledge the member for Condamine as well. His electorate wraps around mine. Again, he is impregnable. He is a great local MP who is loved by the community.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: And the member for Lockyer, whose electorate is to the east of mine. I reckon there could be a few others too, but I will pull up stumps there.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: No member for Glass House or Burnett. I acknowledge team LNP right across the Darling Downs and the passion and determination we share to continue to represent our electorates to the very best of our ability.

I acknowledge and thank a whole bunch of volunteers on my local campaign. We hear across the board the local people who are willing to give up their time, free of charge—at least on this side of the House—and who are absolutely committed to further the cause. In my case, I want to acknowledge Sam, Steven, Greg and Boyd. I have actually talked about Boyd in both my maiden speech and my last address-in-reply contribution. Boyd is my pre-poll extraordinaire. He is absolutely committed. We all probably have a couple of them. I thank Boyd for his service, commitment and unstinting support right through the election campaign. I wanted to thank Boyd publicly.

I also want to acknowledge my office staff. Last term my shadow responsibilities meant I spent a lot of time away from the office. We all acknowledge our staff. I acknowledge Janice, my office manager—

Mr Weir interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: I will take the interjection from the member for Condamine. She is a constituent of the member for Condamine. I want to give Kevena a shout-out again because Kevena came into the Toowoomba South electorate office in 1991. Kevena is still there today. I am a short-term torchbearer in Toowoomba South—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: Not too short. There have been some extraordinary members for Toowoomba South dating back to Queensland's greatest philanthropist, Clive Berghofer. I follow in the footsteps of Mike Horan and John McVeigh. Kevena has served from Mike Horan onwards and she continues to serve in my office today and somehow tries to keep control of my diary—so thank you, Kevena. Lacey is a wonder support as my media adviser. Julie has come on board with community engagement. I am very thankful to them for all their efforts.

I must acknowledge my family who, like everyone else, bears a heavy load in good health and bad health. I acknowledge my wife, Mel, and our three precious children.

Last year was a difficult year politically speaking. COVID made it very difficult. I want to acknowledge the contribution of our former leader, the member for Nanango. But for COVID I strongly believe that the result in the election last year would have been very different. I want to pay tribute to the member for Nanango and the member for Everton as well, as a leadership team. There was no small target with the opposition last term. We took to the election a bold strategy for victory to grow Queensland. The efforts of the leadership team last term are to be applauded. As I have said, but for circumstances, I believe the campaign and the result would have been very different.

In respect of the last campaign, I want to acknowledge as well the remarkable crop of candidates that we had right around Queensland. The crying shame of the election result is that we did not have another dozen LNP members because there were some extraordinary candidates right across the board—Aspley, Mansfield, Barron River, Springwood, Redlands, Maiwar, Townsville, Mundingburra and Cairns. I think of the candidate in Cairns—Sam Marino. What an effort! I am disappointed for them because they gave it everything, as the leadership team did. They gave it everything in pursuit of an

LNP government. I am looking forward to a whole crop of new candidates in the coming years. My hope is that some of those candidates will run again because this House need MPs like that. We need a dozen, 15 or 20 more outstanding LNP candidates.

Mr Dametto interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: We had a great candidate in Hinchinbrook too. We had an amazing candidate in Hinchinbrook who gave it everything. I hope over the next few years we see our wonderful candidates step up and take it to those opposite and to the crossbench and get into this House because we so desperately need it.

I want to address a couple of things in the Toowoomba region. The budget that we saw yesterday falls short in a whole range of different areas. Firstly, I want to mention the Toowoomba Hospital. The government may talk about a day surgery at the Baillie Henderson site, but what we so desperately need is a new Toowoomba Hospital—a place where the people and the communities not just in Toowoomba but to the Territory border and to the New South Wales border can have trust that they will be getting the highest quality health services because we deserve it—communities deserve it.

I think about the centres of excellence that we could have in rural and regional health at the new Toowoomba Hospital. We could have a neuro unit. I think of Braydon Smith and the campaign of the Smith family, who are now starting their own petition to make sure we get a neuro unit at the Toowoomba Hospital. To achieve that we need a new hospital. We are at capacity. We had three code yellows at the Toowoomba Hospital just last week. We need an investment, not just unfunded promises in the never-never which is what we have seen from this government in the budget this week. We need a serious commitment to a new Toowoomba Hospital. I know that my surrounding MPs and I will continue to keep up the fight for that.

We have seen infrastructure cut by \$4 billion over the forwards. What that means is less infrastructure for regional Queensland. In our region from Toowoomba North to Toowoomba South and to Condamine, there is no greater need than a road that connects Highfields to Westbrook. We will see another 30,000 people by 2050 in the western and southern suburbs of Toowoomba. That continuing growth in our region must be supported by physical and social infrastructure. We need a commitment from this government to develop a road from Westbrook to Highfields. We will not be giving up until that is achieved.

With that we need a new high school at Westbrook as well. I have Harristown and Centenary Heights in my electorate. They are at capacity. We desperately need a new high school at Westbrook to meet that capacity. Beyond that, across Glenvale we need amenity. We need paths, greenspaces, real social infrastructure that can make our western and southern suburbs the most livable.

I want to draw attention to an aspect of the budget that I am deeply concerned about, as so many on this side of the House are. It relates to the issue of homelessness and affordable housing. In the budget that was announced yesterday, social housing in Toowoomba is woefully underfunded. We are near the bottom of the table when it comes to investment in social housing in this year's budget. There is a homelessness and housing crisis in Toowoomba, like there is in so many areas around Queensland. I want to acknowledge the efforts of a local group called Protea Place and their CEO, Amanda. I also think of Suzy, who works there, and the women who run Protea Place right across the board—Shirley-Anne, Jacqui, Amanda, Lizzie.

We have an extraordinary community in Toowoomba. The efforts that the not-for-profit and volunteer sectors go to to support our community must never be underestimated. I want to refer to an email from Amanda. She has told me that they have never seen anything like it at Protea Place. She has told me that today they arranged a motel for a young mum and two babies under 2½ who had reached out to her. They had been sleeping in a tent in a creek bed since January.

There is a homelessness and housing crisis in our state. I invite the ministers—the members for Waterford and Algester—to come to Toowoomba to meet with the women who run Protea Place. I want them to meet Amanda and Suzy and their board because places like Protea Place need substantial funding. It is a day refuge that provides women with practical support in the absence of immediate accommodation. They provide meals, short-term hygiene packs, showers, laundry, clothing, domestic violence support, legal support and child safety advice. Every woman who comes to Protea Place seeking support from them will present with five different needs—five different touchpoints—right across the state government sector, whether it be child safety, youth justice or housing. There is a significant need. I call on the Labor government and the two ministers in particular to meet with Protea Place to learn more of their concerns and their funding needs. They are urgent and our community is calling out for it.

I want to acknowledge the service of one legend of the Darling Downs. I want to acknowledge the voice of the show movement, Angus Lane. Angus has officially retired. His last show was the Toowoomba Royal Show in April. I think back on his career. His first show was at Jandowae. He went all the way to announce at the Ekka between 1992 and 2008. He announced at 20 Perth royal shows. He was a fixture at the Toowoomba show. It was pleasing to see him acknowledged last year as a Queensland Great because Angus is one of Queensland's greats. It was pleasing to catch up with him this year at the Queensland Greats Awards. He could not be afforded the wonderful celebration last year because of COVID, but it was good to see Angus there this year. I want to acknowledge the health battles that Vicki faces which have caused Angus to hang up the microphone.

What everyone loved about Angus was that he told the stories. His view of announcing, no matter the show, was to tell the stories of the producers and the animals that were there. With Angus we always got the story. I acknowledge his contribution to the show movement. He will be sorely missed. I do not think we will be able to keep him away from the shows. I look forward to seeing him at shows in the future in a different capacity.

On this note I also want to acknowledge my own father, who this year is stepping down as Darling Downs sub-chamber president. Dad has done a sterling job in his six years as show sub-chamber president, and I reckon that mum nearly has a hat for every show over that time.

Mrs Frecklington: He was at every show in the region.

Mr JANETZKI: I take the interjection from the member for Nanango. Dad does get around to every single show that he possibly can. It will be good to have him a bit more available for baby-sitting on weekends when we need it. The kids love him. I want to acknowledge my father as well.


In the short time I have left I want to make a couple of comments about some commitments in my electorate I want to continue to pursue the government on. Firstly, we still need a community hub at Darling Heights. Darling Heights State School is the most diverse primary school in Queensland. I was there just recently for the launch of a brand new book by the Zonta club of Garden City, and I acknowledge Emma Mactaggart for all of the work that she has done in getting this book to fruition. At Darling Heights State School half of the kids speak another language at home, and I acknowledge their principal, Mark Creedon, who does an extraordinary job in their school community. Darling Heights is lacking a community hub, a place where the community can come together. There we could have a community garden, a men's shed—places for a diverse community to meet and gather. I am going to continue to pursue the Labor government to fund the community hub at Darling Heights, because we need it and the diversity of our community deserves it.

I also want to talk about community gardens in my electorate. I made a commitment to them during the election. Again, they bring people together. This kind of community infrastructure brings different communities together. It promotes healthy eating, and I want to see it out the back at Glenvale. I think the Toowoomba Community Baptist Church is the perfect location for it. I want to see new community gardens right across the electorate. My hope is that the state government will join with us, and Neil and Annie, as we continue to pursue this interest.

I want to acknowledge the efforts of Ken at the Rangeville-Centenary Heights Neighbourhood Watch. Like everywhere else in Queensland, there is a crime crisis. All too often I hear stories of home invasions, property damage and cars being stolen. It is not good enough. We have been consistent in our calls for breach of bail to be returned as an offence. I know that the Toowoomba community is no different. I am tired of hearing stories of crime in our community, and I will continue to pursue the government on this issue. We also need to invest in our Neighbourhood Watch groups. I am looking to support Ken in his efforts at Rangeville and to get behind community Neighbourhood Watch groups at Kearneys Spring, Harristown and Glenvale.

I want to conclude by again saying what a privilege it has been to be the member for Toowoomba South. As deputy leader I will offer whatever support I can to the leader, the member for Broadwater, in his pursuit of the Labor government over the next 3½ years. I have an important role to play, and I will give it everything in support of the leadership to achieve an LNP government in 2024.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (6.43 pm): As I rise in this place I am extremely proud to be returned as the member for Gladstone. I am humbled that the people of my electorate have once again placed their confidence in me to represent them. While Queensland is the place to be, as we have seen there is no better jewel in the crown than the electorate of Gladstone. Three years ago I stood in this place and

recommitted myself to work hard for my electorate. I reaffirmed my dedication to my position, and today I reaffirm that commitment. We have achieved a lot in Gladstone since 2015, and I am determined to continue to deliver for the electorate to ensure a bright future for every resident, every visitor and every investor.

As all members here know, you do not get elected to the Queensland parliament on your own. You can only do it with a dedicated team behind you, and I have the very best team. First and foremost I want to thank my much loved wife Theresa, who has been my biggest supporter and No. 1 advocate. The past 12 months have been a huge adjustment for us as I have taken on ministerial duties that keep me on the road for long stretches of time. I cannot adequately express how much her support has meant to me. Theresa drives me and inspires me to keep representing Gladstone the only way I know how, and that is full throttle. I have one more special thing to mention about my wife, who took up the slack and kept the wheels turning at home while I recovered from spinal surgery late last year. Without her dedication and support my recovery from surgery would have been a whole lot longer. Without a doubt, this is one of those times when a thankyou is just not enough.

One of the things that makes it easier to be away from home so much is knowing the huge support Theresa and I have from our family. Once again they were right behind me during the last election campaign. Our lovely daughter, Taylor, and our ever-dependable son, Blake, Taylor's husband, Matt, and our beautiful grand-daughter, Peyton, continually motivate me to keep delivering for Gladstone and future generations. I said this the last time, but it keeps getting more and more real to me: I know that I could not do what I do without their continued love and support. It means the world to me!

A very special thanks must also go to my mother and father, Annette and Neville Butcher. After the COVID-19 travel restrictions were lifted they were good to join the grey nomad life and take the caravan to all parts of the state, but they always planned to be back in Gladstone, ready to help me out for the state election. My dad hammered in nearly 150 corflutes around the electorate—not bad for an 'old fella' who recently turned 77. When it comes to convincing the people of Gladstone to continue to put their faith in me, my dad was certainly always up for the fight. Thank you also to my identical twin brother Wayne, who allowed me to be in more than one place at the same time. Thankfully, this campaign he managed to avoid doing any TV interviews for the cameras. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to my extended family, especially my mother-in-law and father-in-law, Dave and Joanne Gourley, who are always available at a minute's notice to help in any way needed. I could not do it without any of them—not just during election campaigns, but all year-round. That support continues to this day.

Everyone in this House knows the value of committed local branch members, and I belong to the best branch that is no exception to the rule. In fact, the cooperation and assistance of my local ALP branch members has surpassed my expectation in every election I have run. When you add to that the volunteers from many walks of life, I have a campaign team that works like a dream. As a sitting member, there is nothing better than walking around town and seeing my 'red army' proudly wearing their campaign T-shirts while going about their everyday lives. We handed out over 450 T-shirts at the last election. As always, comrades from the trade unions came to the fore and rolled up their sleeves, many joining street stalling, doing a few hours pre-polling or on an election day polling booth on their way home from night shift. Like my good friend the member for Maryborough, I am a proud union man. I have seen firsthand the positive changes that our advocacy makes for workers.

I also must thank my good friend, the mayor of Gladstone, Matt Burnett. Like me, Matt is a huge advocate for Gladstone. It has been my pleasure to work alongside him to deliver the infrastructure and services that locals deserve. His advice and perspective on the challenges our community faces and the opportunities available to make it an even better place to live will make him an outstanding member for Flynn in the future. I look forward to working side by side with him to deliver for the community of Gladstone and the region. I encourage everyone to get behind him.

When it comes to people in your corner who will do anything asked, and often so much more that is not, I could not wish for a better colleague, comrade and friend than Shelly Holzheimer. Since I last had the opportunity to stand in this place and thank Shelly for her outstanding contribution to my success as the member for Gladstone, much has happened to Shelly in her personal life. She has dealt with the passing of her dear husband and my friend John and endured her own personal medical challenges, but if there is one thing you can say about Shelly, it is that she has an unbreakable spirit and determination. Even through her toughest times she has remained a constant support for me, my office and the community. First on the hustings, last to go home and master of the volunteer roster, my campaign simply would not run as smoothly as it has done in the past without Shelly's commitment to

the cause. I do not think there are enough words to describe just how much inspiration those around Shelly have drawn from her strength and positivity even in the most difficult moments. It would be remiss of me not to inform the House that Shelly did in fact perform a celebratory 'shoey' on election night.

Last but not least on my list of gratitude, I want to acknowledge the part of my recent success at the polls that belongs to my hardworking staff. First, my electorate office staffers have, as always, done an incredible job—particularly over the last 18 months. In addition to my ministerial duties taking me away from Gladstone more often, they have had to navigate supporting our local community through a global pandemic, and they have met each and every challenge that has come to them. To my assistant electorate officers Jill Hopson, who has been in my office since day one, Jo Schuler and Alana Watt, thank you for everything that you do every day for our local community—not just when you are in the office but as outstanding ambassadors for our community on a personal level.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to my new electorate officer, Danica Thumm, who joined my team in February 2021 and has hit the ground running. Danica replaced my former electorate officer, Tara Manning, late last year. Tara's departure surely was one of those examples of being both sad for your own loss but also excited for what the future would hold for her. After having been employed in my office since 2015, Tara accepted a wonderful career opportunity, still helping her local community working in her field of law. Tara had the ability to stay grounded through times of pressure, with her focus on delivering for the Gladstone community always her ultimate goal. We all miss her smiling face and her warm, friendly, effective manner in the office, but the beauty of a close community is that we can still catch up for a drink and a bite to eat, which we regularly do. I know everyone who has had dealings with Tara joins me in wishing her every success in her new job.

For the first time, I want to thank my ministerial staff for all the hard work they have done in the past 12 months—from helping me to get across my new portfolios to spending hours together in planes, cars and boats visiting regions right across the state. Every single one of them has done an outstanding job to help me fulfil my duties to the people of Queensland as a minister of the Crown. They are all prepared to go above and beyond the call of duty whenever needed, and I sincerely thank them for that. Dedication to a role is something that money cannot buy; it comes from within.

When I was first elected to represent the people of Gladstone back in 2015, I said my focus would be on delivering investment in critical infrastructure the region sorely needed, especially in our health services and schools. While there is still much more that I have on my list to deliver, I am proud of the progress that Gladstone has made. Last year I was proud to welcome the Premier to Gladstone to open the brand new \$42 million Gladstone Hospital emergency department. The new ED doubles the total operation to 22 treatment spaces with capacity to expand further at times when there is greater demand.

That was not the only health related news for the electorate last term. Working with then health minister and now Deputy Premier, I was able to secure the Mater hospital site in Gladstone, with a nearly \$20 million investment to continue providing vital health services for the local community. I want to thank the Deputy Premier for listening to my concerns about the potential loss of private clinic services in Gladstone. Because Labor invests in health services, we were able to keep these services—including the delivery of cancer and surgical services—in the now renamed Gladstone Hospital West Wing. There is more to do and I encourage the people of Gladstone to be patient because we are getting there.

In education, local Gladstone schools also secured important funding to upgrade facilities, improve access for students with disabilities and deliver skills training. Since being elected in 2015, I have been able to deliver more than \$140 million in upgrades to local schools in the Gladstone region. That funding includes the \$450,000 provided to Gladstone South State School to install security fencing and the \$400,000 for Gladstone Central State School to upgrade their amenities block. The funding goes right across Gladstone—like the \$350,000 that Clinton State School received to refurbish their G block classrooms and the \$280,000 that Gladstone State High School received for shade cover for their multipurpose courts. This is not just an investment in our kids' future; it is an investment delivered by local contractors, supporting local jobs in Gladstone, because that is what Labor does—we invest to create jobs. There are so many more examples of this Palaszczuk government's ongoing investment in Gladstone, including local road improvements, domestic and family violence support, more police, equipment for local fires, nine projects worth \$5.2 million delivered under the Works for Queensland program—and the list keeps going on and on.

As I mentioned earlier, in May last year I was fortunate enough to be tapped on the shoulder by the Premier to be Queensland's Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and now also the Minister for Water. I have always lived around and been a champion for regional Queenslanders so

it was a great honour to be given the opportunity to be their voice and advocate even more strongly for their interests around the cabinet table. With my history working in the alumina industry, I was also thrilled to be able to work closely with the sector to deliver positive outcomes during what was for many businesses a very difficult time.

I am a huge believer in go, look and see. You cannot make decisions based in Brisbane or in Gladstone; you have to get out and talk to the people. My team and I have put in thousands of kilometres on the road, in the air and on the sea visiting all corners of the state in the last 12 months making sure regional Queenslanders were being heard in their own backyard. There are plenty of ministers who can tell you that I made sure their voices were heard loud and clear. That is what Labor governments do. We are considerate, we listen and we deliver.

I must take this opportunity to thank the Treasurer for handing over some incredible programs that are making a real difference to Queensland manufacturers. Over the past months, I have been lucky to announce Made in Queensland and regional Manufacturing Hubs Grant Program recipients right across the state that are helping businesses move into advanced manufacturing, grow their operations and create more and more local jobs in regional Queensland.

The regional manufacturing hubs are just one of those initiatives, and it was fantastic to be able to bring my portfolio and electorate responsibilities together to open a hub in Gladstone last year, adding to the hubs in Cairns, Townsville and Rockhampton—but we are not stopping there. I am looking forward to delivering on the Premier's announcement of a new hub in Mackay and one on the Gold Coast to further enhance this excellent program. I also look forward to delivering on another election commitment in the coming months by opening another round of the hugely successful Made in Queensland grants program—so stay tuned for more on that one.

As members could imagine, I have really enjoyed my responsibility as minister for craft beer in Queensland, visiting our talented craft brewers around the state and sampling their outstanding work. You will not be surprised to hear that I look forward to continuing to work very closely with the industry to help them grow and create those jobs that we know are there for the next four years.

In this term the Premier has handed me responsibility for water in Queensland. The prolonged droughts and recent deluges we saw last year across the state strengthen the importance of our focus on water planning, reserving, conservation and re-use. I look forward to delivering for the people of Queensland in this incredibly important portfolio area. It was a privilege to announce the latest round of Building our Regions, specifically focusing on water security for our regional communities. As we continue to implement our economic recovery plan in the wake of COVID, I feel a great deal of pride when I represent my electorate of Gladstone and the people of Queensland more broadly in this House and certainly around the cabinet table. It is nothing short of a privilege.

News reports over the last year have caused the public to question whether some in Canberra truly appreciate the privilege bestowed upon them when they turn up to work at Parliament House either as staff or as members of parliament. The start of a new parliamentary term serves as a reminder to all of us that public office is not just a job. Being here in this building means we have a unique opportunity to do something for the public. The positions that we hold in this House are privileged and we must remember that each and every day that we are here. We have the ability to provide comfort and stability to the people we serve. We also have the ability to provide Queenslanders with a feeling of security in times of uncertainty and to foster a feeling that in times of crisis we will be there.

Through all of this, our government will do its absolute best to make sure there are jobs, opportunities and a bright future for all of us in this great state. Everyone in this House is extremely lucky to be provided with the opportunity to represent our constituents and to make the lasting contribution that we do. I look forward to working with each and every one of you in this chamber to make everyone's life in Queensland all the better.

Debate, on motion of Mr Butcher, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

2022 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Gold Coast Clay Target Club



Mr STEVENS (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (7.00 pm): On Sunday just past the Gold Coast Clay Target Club celebrated the 70th anniversary of its establishment. As a proud and long-serving life member of this club, I was pleased to attend and participate in this Olympic Games and Commonwealth Games discipline. The sport has many women, juniors and disabled people participating at the same level as the men and it is a sport that can be continued into later years—as long as your eyesight holds

up. It is a sport that requires instantaneous reaction, undivided concentration; and safety, respectful manners and strict adherence to shooting rules make it a sport that families can share, as evidenced by several grandparents, mothers and fathers shooting with their children on the weekend.


The Gold Coast Clay Target Club is one of the largest clubs in Queensland and has shared four different homes over its 70 years of existence due to Gold Coast development encroaching on previous sites. However, the current site, established in 1991 with the help of the Albert shire—I used to be mayor of the Albert shire in case honourable members did not know—looks like being the permanent home to this noise-sensitive hobby. It is to the great credit of many volunteers of the club over those 70 years that the Gold Coast Clay Target Club is thriving in the 21st Century. It is with this success story for the club that I implore decision-makers for the operation of the 2032 Olympic Games that all clay target events in the 2032 Olympic Games be held at the Gold Coast Clay Target Club.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr STEVENS: I will get to that. Media reports have suggested winning the 2032 Olympic bid as a mere formality for Brisbane, Queensland and Australia and it is only fair and just that if the 2032 games are to be for all Queenslanders, as espoused by the Premier, then the Gold Coast Clay Target Club should be the host for all of the Olympic clay target events.

The greatest benefit of hosting the Olympic Games is the legacy of leaving lasting infrastructure behind for the respective sports. The Brisbane Gun Club had their facilities upgraded for the Commonwealth Games in 1982 and again for the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games in 2018. It is now the turn of the Gold Coast Clay Target Club to have their facilities upgraded to Olympic standard in the fastest growing city in Queensland. By 2042 the Gold Coast is projected to have a population of one million people, so a lasting legacy of the 2032 Brisbane Olympic Games could be, and should be, a fantastic legacy facility for the sporting shooting fraternity on the Gold Coast. The athletes village is on the Gold Coast, and that fits in perfectly.

Townsville, State of Origin

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (7.03 pm): I rise tonight to talk about the sea of maroon that flooded Townsville for our tropical State of Origin just last week. The streets were absolutely chockers, our hotel operators were full and businesses said it was one of the best weeks they had ever had despite some of our COVID restrictions impacting them. Just ask anyone who was in the events capital of North Queensland and North Australia last Wednesday and they will tell you how fantastic an event State of Origin was.


The Palaszczuk government built the Queensland Country Bank Stadium—built by locals for locals—to attract world-class events, which helped so many businesses, particularly during our economic recovery from COVID-19. It was the Premier, Anastacia Palaszczuk, who went to the 2015 election; the stadium was the only infrastructure build that she had committed to and that was in Townsville. Now we have the Origin.

Origin was the biggest thing Townsville had ever seen and the whole town worked hard together to make it an unforgettable event. Normally we come together when there are cyclones and floods. This is where we came together as a great city. What an unforgettable event it was. It injected around \$7 million into the local economy and highlighted Townsville on the national stage, which is an important thing to bring new people to the capital of North Queensland, certainly into the future. Hotels were booked out, pubs were full and the phones are all ringing hot at tourism businesses throughout North Queensland with so many footy fans keen to extend their stay in Townsville. Time and again we have proven that we can safely host major events and deliver strong benefits for local businesses.

Despite the result that I do not think anyone in the House wants to talk about, it was one of the greatest football spectacles North Queensland has ever seen. We will not stop at State of Origin though. In Townsville we have the Oceania Rugby Sevens challenge coming up at the Queensland Country Bank Stadium later this month as well as Tones and I playing at the stadium as part of the North Australia Festival of Arts. Plus we have the Supercars hitting the streets of Townsville just next month and, of course, at the end of the year we have that great rock band Kiss. I invite all honourable members to come along and see Kiss at our Queensland Country Bank Stadium.

Backing events is important for our economy. It creates jobs and it is an essential part of our economic recovery plan as well. Townsville is the events capital of North Australia because this government knows how important events like Origin are for business operators who have been hard hit by this global pandemic. Although the Maroons may have not gotten over the line in Origin 1, Townsville was certainly the winner.

Petition, Watts, Mr B

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (7.06 pm): I table a petition with the names of over 72,000 people who have signed for Sian Kingi.

Tabled paper: Nonconforming petition regarding opposing the release of Mr Barrie Watts [\[890\]](#).

That is 72,000 people who remember the atrocities committed against her and the monster who committed them; 72,000 people who have joined her family, her friends and our community to send a clear message to the Queensland Parole Board that Barrie John Watts should remain in jail. Last Sunday, just 10 days ago, Sian's family, her friends and our community put out a call, a call to all Queenslanders to join our campaign to keep Sian's killer behind bars. In that short time they have overwhelmingly answered that call.

The Parole Board of Queensland is an independent body and I respect their independence. Their mission clearly states when making decisions the board's highest priority will always be the safety of the community. Their primary consideration is to make evidence based decisions as to whether there is an unacceptable risk to the community if a prisoner is released on parole. The petition tabled here today is clear evidence that Queenslanders firmly agree Barrie John Watts is an unacceptable risk to our community.


If Watts were to be released and he was to reoffend, it would tragically be predictable. We only need to remember Rodney Williams or another Barry, Barry Gordon Hadlow, convicted child killers who were released into our community only to kill again. Releasing Barrie John Watts risks history repeating.

Sian's parents have never spoken publicly. They want me to pass on their heartfelt thankyou for the overwhelming support they have received from the community during this campaign. They also want me to put on the record that they have grave concerns for anyone living in any community into which Watts is released.

In 1987 the sentencing judge agreed with them by saying, 'The sentence for murder is life imprisonment and in my view the sentence should mean just that.' He called Watts an 'evil man devoid of any sense of morality'. Sian's teachers and friends have been asking me, 'How is it possible that Watts is even eligible for parole?' How is it possible that the monster who killed their friend had been caught, sentenced to life in prison and yet may soon be back in the community? They were told back in 1987 that they did not need to be scared anymore, but now they are scared again, and rightly so.

The parole application has already inflicted more unnecessary pain on those closest to Sian. I have promised them all, just as I promise the 72,000 people who signed this petition, that for as long as I am here I will fight to keep Barrie John Watts and others like him out of our community.

Premier's Reading Challenge

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (7.09 pm): One of my favourite things as a parent has to be the Premier's Reading Challenge. We have just had a bumper education budget, but every single year I love having my kids participate—

An opposition member: Is she reading already?


Ms PUGH: She is a very smart baby; yes, indeed. We just absolutely love having our kids participate in the Premier's Reading Challenge right throughout all of the schools in Mount Ommaney. We just happen to be blessed with a plethora of really fantastic published local authors. Recently I met with Melissa Ashley, the publisher of *The Birdman's Wife*, a wonderful book. She has just published her second novel. We also have some absolutely fantastic children's authors. Locally published Sue Sheppard has published a wonderful book, *Polar Bear's Brown Boots*. It sounds like a cute little story about a polar bear wearing shoes; it is actually a wonderful children's story about climate change. It is a fantastic read and a really great way for parents to relate these issues to their kids. Local dad Scott Cohen, who is sick with cancer, has written a beautiful story, *You Can't Go to Bed with a Giraffe on Your Head*. It is a love letter from a sick dad to his son. It is an absolutely beautiful story and it can be purchased online. I will be donating these books to the Parliamentary Library so that everybody can have a read.

Of course, you cannot get through the Premier's Reading Challenge with only three books; you need a few more. That is where the Good News Lutheran School fete comes in handy. Every single year they have a book themed fete. Last weekend, Milton Dick and I went along. We stocked up on cookbooks and kids' books. It is the local equivalent of the Lifeline Book Fair. People come from all over the western suburbs and beyond to stock up on good, cheap reads. We also have a second-hand

bookshop run by Linda from Corinda. A Page or Two, on Oxley Road in Corinda, is a wonderful second-hand bookshop where people can stock up and get a few extra books. It is increasingly rare to come across a second-hand bookshop in this day and age. It is really nice to have that in my electorate.

In the time left I want to give a special congratulations on the Premier's Reading Challenge to one of my schools. As I said, all of my primary schools participate, but one school in my electorate, Darra State School, has a 100 per cent participation rate in the Premier's Reading Challenge. That is something that only a handful of schools in Queensland achieve every single year. Darra has a very high percentage of children who do not speak English at home, so this is a really magnificent achievement for the school. It is something they have worked very hard on for a number of years. Tonight in the House I acknowledge that achievement, because it is important to them and it is important to me. Congratulations, Darra State School.

Watts, Ms B

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (7.12 pm): When we come into this place we bring with us values that have been taught to us. I was taught values by a woman I want to talk about briefly. She taught me the value of respecting minorities and respecting women. She taught me about hard work, resilience and being part of a community. She was born many years ago now—77 to be exact—and her first home was Dr Barnardo's orphanage because her family home had been bombed out in the Second World War. From there they moved into social housing, where she grew up into a young lady. When she got married, her first married home was a caravan. From there, after saving up enough money, she bought her own house in a small community and became an absolute legend in that community, contributing greatly to all of its activities but most particularly its football.


One of the things she did as a young lady in her 20s was foster, I guess one would say, my first sister, Odette, a little West Indian girl. This was right at the start of the 1970s. This was an unusual thing to do at that time, but she was totally committed to looking after that little girl for a period of time, until her family were ready to take her back. She suffered a divorce and was a single mum for a period of time. She put a lot of time, effort and energy into making sure we grew up into boys who knew how to treat women properly and take care of things. She was a big advocate for women's rights and making sure that women would be respected in their community. I carry with me her values with regard to those things.

The values I use to serve my community were given to me by someone who knew what it was to be resilient, someone who had a difficult time with aspects in her life. She went through a divorce when divorce was not popular. When I was at school, there was only one kid in my class whose family were divorced—and that was me. She taught me about making sure you knew how to look after yourself.

As I serve my community, I want my mum to know that her values live on. I want her to know that treating minorities properly, treating women properly, making sure you look after your community, making sure you serve people in your community who are less fortunate than yourself, making sure that social housing is available—these are all things that I hold very dear, because without them my mum would not have been able to make her way in the world, I would not know these values and I would not have been able to make my way in the world. I miss her dearly, but she was a great servant to her community. She lived the life she wanted to live and she was a tough, resilient woman.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Well said, member. Condolences.

Townsville, State of Origin

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (7.15 pm): Good speech, member for Toowoomba North.

Queenslander! That was the call that went up—and you mob would have heard it down here, I imagine, when 28,000 people piled into Country Bank Stadium. I want to talk about the amazing transformation of our city that led to the great State of Origin game 1. Let's deal with the result. It is over now. Yes, Queensland lost. I know that Peggy used to hang it on me for the Cowboys. He was also a New South Wales supporter. He got his last wish: they won. They were a good team.


Our job was to land the event, and we did it. The boys, under Greeny, will need to lift if they are to have a shot in game 2. Queensland will need to dig deep. That is what we do in Queensland: when the chips are down, we stand back up and have a shot. I hope the result is different in game 2. It was good to see three Cowboys players in Val Holmes, Kyle Feldt and Coen Hess make the Queensland team. They are all local juniors. Go get them, boys!

Hosting that game has boosted our local economy by millions of dollars. The 22,000 beds booked says a great deal, but the positive mood in Townsville was almost tangible. Normally staging such a huge event takes months of planning, but we got it done in nine days. I want to give a shout-out to the Premier, the Treasurer and the Deputy Premier not only for negotiating with the NRL to have the game played in Townsville but also for having the vision to build that stadium in the first place. We simply would never have had a shot at hosting Origin with the old stadium. When we opened the stadium I put a cheeky petition online to host it. Well, we did it.

I thank you to the entire team: Queensland Country Bank Stadium, led by manager Tom Kimble; great Queensland company Clifton Productions' national events manager Phil Harris—they got another 2,000 seats 1,400 kilometres up the highway to make our North Queensland caldron sing 'Queenslander'; and grounds manager Bruce Fouracre. What a name! The green grass was great. They all completed the final preparations to transform Queensland Country Bank Stadium ahead of the opener. The Premier knows that managing events like this in Townsville—the State of Origin opener—is an important part of our government's economic recovery plan.

The State of Origin was the most significant sporting event Townsville has ever seen. It injected millions of dollars into our economy. We had a thousand staff rostered on for the game. It was not just about the footy; it was the big festival that was going on downtown as well. It was fantastic. Virgin had extra flights and hotels were booked. Some 20,000 pies were eaten; there was 750 kilograms of North Queensland beef by Paul Bonner and the team at Sunvale; 4,000 kilograms of cheese; 15,500 litres of beer; and more than 500 litres of Bundy Rum. Queensland, lift and go get them in game 2.

Spanish Mackerel Fishery

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (7.18 pm): I rise to express my concern about the potential closure of the Spanish Mackerel Fishery next year by Fisheries Queensland. Spanish mackerel is high in demand. If you walk into any fish and chip shop in North Queensland and ask for crumbed or battered fish, there is an 80 per cent chance you will get Spanish mackerel. However, the fishery could be closed after a meeting held by the East Coast Spanish Mackerel Working Group. The report is available on the department's website. I table the report.


Tabled paper: Department of Agriculture and Fisheries communique, dated 17-18 May 2021, regarding the closure of the Spanish Mackerel Fishery [891].

The report reveals flaws in either the management or the assessment of stock levels in the fishery. In the report, the commercial harvest of Spanish mackerel since 2004 has averaged 300 tonnes annually, almost half the allowable limit. Even if we add 170 tonnes from recreational fishers, it is still well below the commercial annual quota limit.

According to DAF's last stock assessment of Australian east coast Spanish mackerel in 2018, it clearly states that the result suggests annual harvests of around 550 tonnes across all sectors will build the biomass towards the 60 per cent level. If 550 tonnes of Spanish mackerel are harvested annually, stock levels should be maintained at 60 per cent. However, three years later, fishers are being told that levels are now at only 17 per cent. Anything under 20 per cent would trigger the closure of the fishery, which has every commercial and recreational fisher and business owner worried.

How is it possible that the Spanish mackerel stock levels have fallen to 17 per cent if, according to Fisheries Queensland, total fishing has been well below the annual commercial quota since 2004? Either Fisheries Queensland has had the management so wrong for 17 years and should be held accountable or the process used to measure the correct stock status is seriously flawed and incorrect. I understand the stock assessment is currently under an independent scientific peer review. If this review confirms the 17 per cent biomass assessment, then the government is liable for compensation to commercial fishers and related businesses because of 17 years of mismanagement of the fishery. I urge the minister to ensure no rash decisions are made on the fishery by using incorrect or flawed data.

Pegg, Mr D; Tarnawski, Mr J

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (7.21 pm): I rise to speak of a great man from my electorate who sadly passed away recently. Before I do that, I want to acknowledge the passing, as others have in this House tonight, of a colleague and a friend of ours, Duncan Pegg, and extend my sympathies to his friends and family and to his community, who are missing him deeply.

Last week I was invited to the funeral of an incredible local from my electorate, Josef Tarnawski, who passed away at the age of 93. His funeral really was a celebration of his life and his life really was one of a migrant story—one of resilience and tenacity and love for his family and for his community.

Josef, or Joe, grew up in a very small and poor mountain village in Romania. He was conscripted to fight in World War II and, shortly after seeing firsthand the devastation of war, he fled, somehow making his way to his mother in a migrant camp in Maitland in New South Wales. He was just 23 years of age.


Joe moved to Brisbane where he became a fitter and turner at the Government Printing Office in George Street, but his real love was the game of chess. In a story with striking similarity to *The Queen's Gambit*, Joe was mentored in the game of chess as a young child of just 10 years of age by a shopkeeper in his local village who wanted Joe to play chess with his son. Joe fell in love with the game and it was on settling in Brisbane in The Gap that he was able to focus on this passion. He was a master at lightning chess, or quick chess, which imposes a five-minute time frame on the game, as if chess was not stressful enough ordinarily!

We know that Russia often dominates the international chess circuit, but on 6 October 1963 something really remarkable happened. The Russian grandmaster Alexander Kotov was touring Australia in a series of championship and exhibition tournaments. At the time Kotov was one of the world's top 10 chess players and he had been Moscow's champion in 1941, 1948 and 1950. It was Kotov's first tour to Queensland after an international lightning chess tour was announced. Earlier that day our very own Joe Tarnawski had beaten other visiting Russian chess players and suddenly found himself playing and actually defeating the world champion in Kotov. A *Brisbane Times* article quotes Joe as saying—

I never thought I would beat him ... All I wanted to do was play against someone better than me, so I could improve my chess.

There is really not enough time to pay tribute to Joe. He was a self-made entrepreneur, a philanthropist, a beloved husband, father and grandfather. In the ultimate act of kindness, he asked for donations in lieu of flowers at his funeral to be made to the Chess Association of Queensland to support women and girls in the game of chess. He will be missed.

Chatsworth Electorate, Small Business Outstanding Customer Service Awards

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (7.24 pm): This evening I rise to highlight some fantastic small businesses that not only provide high-quality products and services for our community but also back it up with outstanding customer service. Whether it is a government department or a small business, great customer service is so vitally important. As they say, it takes months to find a customer and seconds to lose one. As the shadow minister for customer service, I decided to kick off a new series of awards to recognise small businesses in Chatsworth that demonstrate outstanding customer service. Given it was Queensland's Small Business Month last month, it was the perfect time to launch round 1 of these awards to help celebrate small businesses that contribute to our community and economy. To show my appreciation, last month it was great to visit and congratulate round 1 small business award recipients and present them with a special trophy plaque.

Without further ado, it is my pleasure to acknowledge the following small businesses on their outstanding customer service contribution to the Chatsworth community. In the cafe and bakery category awards, the awards were presented to Backstreet Espresso, the Baker's Corner on Kenrose, Uncle Bobs Bakery and Urban Cocina. In the restaurant category, Elio's Osteria and Giovanni's Woodfire & Kitchen were awarded for their hospitality and delicious Italian food.

Although I do not have any hair to use the many fabulous hair and beauty stores in Chatsworth, I was pleased to present awards in the hair and beauty category to Carina BarberShop—voted best barber shop in Brisbane by the *Courier-Mail* in 2019—Magnolia House in Gumdale, Special FX Hair Studio in Carindale and Zorba Hair—a family owned, longstanding salon that has been in service in the Carindale area for 40 years.


In the fresh produce category, we had Aussie Seafood House in Chandler, Carina North Quality Meats, Salm's Meats at Carindale and Chris' IGA Carina. These businesses are all family owned and it has been inspiring to see the tradition being passed on to the next generation. A special mention to Chris' IGA, which is an iconic landmark in the Chatsworth community. This store has served the community since 1955 and it is still as popular today as it was when I was a young boy with hair living in Carina!

Finally, in the specialty retail category we have Carina Florist, Sue's Shop, Rockaway Records, Blue Line Dry Cleaners, Male Manor, Burstall Avenue News and Todds Hi-Fi. Most of these stores have stood the test of time, including the Male Manor, which has been providing quality customer service and menswear for more than 30 years at Westfield Carindale. This just proves the passion and dedication that these family oriented businesses show daily. We all know that small businesses are the

backbone of the economy and can be relentless in terms of the long hours, so it was truly gratifying on behalf of the broader Chatsworth community to formally recognise these worthy recipients for outstanding customer service.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I think there would be very few people on the south side who have not been saved late at night by Chris' IGA.

Ipswich West, Social Housing

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (7.27 pm): Since the commencement of the Queensland Housing Strategy in 2017, the Palaszczuk government has awarded contracts for 229 social housing dwellings in the Ipswich region. I was brought up in an era when the state government built whole suburbs of social housing, but we need to make much better use of the land that is available now and locate social housing near transport and commercial hubs.

The most recent social housing project to commence construction in Ipswich is a 12-unit complex at Wellington Street, Brassall, designed for residents with a disability. On Tuesday, 8 June I was pleased to welcome Leeanne Enoch, the Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts, to my electorate of Ipswich West for a sod-turning ceremony for the project. To accommodate people with a disability, three dwellings are designed to gold level and include features such as level thresholds, wider doorways, hallways suitable for older people and people with impaired vision. A further three units are designed for platinum level and include extra features such as additional clearances, making them suitable for residents who mobilise in wheelchairs. The Wellington Street complex is close to the Brassall Shopping Centre, schools, sporting fields, parks, bus stops and the Brassall bikeway network. The \$3.5 million contract was awarded to Nileport Projects Pty Ltd, with completion scheduled for March 2022.

I look forward to Minister Enoch returning to my electorate for the official opening of another social housing project, a \$10.4 million, six-storey, 30-unit project at 26 The Terrace in North Ipswich. The project comprises 20 one-bedroom units and 10 two-bedroom units built by Paynters Pty Ltd, which did a great job. Five units will be fully adaptable for people with a disability, providing wheelchair and pram access and accessible features such as extra clearance spaces. The 2021-22 state budget provided \$1.5 billion for social housing and homelessness investment in the Ipswich region over four years and aims to build 383 dwellings in the Ipswich region by 2022. As Minister Enoch said at the Wellington Street sod-turning ceremony—

We have to remind ourselves all the time we don't all start from the same place. For some people being able to secure a house has been a real lifelong struggle.

When they're able to get those services and find something there's a sense of relief and safety. It just gives people hope for the future.

In closing, I want to thank the hardworking staff of the state government's Ipswich Housing Service Centre who do not just provide social housing but, as the minister said so well, give people a sense of relief and safety as well as hope for the future.

The House adjourned at 7.30 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Healy, Hinchliffe, Hunt, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly, King A, King S, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, MacMahon, Madden, Mander, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Skelton, Smith, Stevens, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Watts, Weir, Whiting