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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 17 June 2021

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THURSDAY, 17 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 STATEMENT

School Group Tours



Mr SPEAKER: I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Fig Tree Pocket State School in the electorate of Maiwar; Bray Park State School in the electorate of Pine Rivers; and Mudgeeraba State School in the electorate of Mudgeeraba.

PETITION

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

Tiaro Bypass

2,755 petitioners, requesting the House to reject the two-lane bypass proposal for Tiaro and instead support the construction of a four-lane highway as part of the Bruce Highway—Tiaro Flood Immunity Upgrade (Tiaro Bypass) [\[892\]](#).

Petition received.

TABLED PAPERS

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003:

[893](#) Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation (QOTE) Notice 2021, No. 59

[894](#) Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation (QOTE) Notice 2021, No. 59, explanatory notes

[895](#) Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation (QOTE) Notice 2021, No. 59, human rights certificate

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Coronavirus Update; Coronavirus, Greater Sydney and Greater Melbourne



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.32 am): In terms of our daily COVID-19 update, I can confirm that we have six new cases. All were acquired overseas and are in hotel quarantine. We have 26 active cases. In good news, we have had 9,593 tests in the past 24 hours. This is a terrific result. I remind everyone that if you are sick please stay at home and get tested. In another record, 14,054 vaccines were given in the past 24 hours. That is steadily increasing, which is great to see.

New cases appearing in the community in New South Wales and Victoria show why we can never let our guard down when it comes to the pandemic. Queensland enjoys more freedoms than most places in the world but the price of this freedom is eternal vigilance. I will never stop keeping Queenslanders safe. The Minister for Health will have more detail in a moment, but our strong advice is for people to reconsider travel to Greater Sydney at this particular point in time. Health authorities

have published a list of exposure sites from the latest cases. New South Wales has ordered those who have been at those exposure sites to quarantine for 14 days, so they should not be travelling to Queensland.

In line with other jurisdictions, we will maintain our restrictions on travel from Greater Melbourne for another seven days. In order to better protect Queensland, I can announce that all travellers to the state will require a new Queensland travel declaration. From 1 am Saturday, 19 June travellers arriving in Queensland will have to complete this online declaration that will make the job of contact tracing so much easier. Those living in border communities are exempt. This week's budget shows how our strong health response is enabling our economy and our way of life to continue through this pandemic. We cannot give up on this fight.

Budget, Agriculture



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.34 am): This week's state budget delivers for all Queenslanders, no matter where they live or what they do for a living. Supporting farmers to rebuild and recover is at the core of our COVID-19 economic recovery plan. I am proud to say that the \$523 million agriculture budget delivered by the Treasurer this week will help thousands of primary producers throughout Queensland to build back better. I thank the agriculture minister. He is doing a great job. Furner, the farmer's friend!

Opposition members interjected.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Southern Downs, welcome back. You are warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The budget includes an extra \$3.3 million for Rural Economic Development Grants. The first three rounds of this program created 1,800 jobs. This investment is tipped to create an additional 600 jobs in regional Queensland; \$42.5 million over four years to continue much needed reforms of Queensland's fisheries sector; ongoing funding for five officers in Bundaberg, Mackay, the Central Highlands, Bowen and Mareeba to work with industry to address labour shortages—another very important issue; and more than \$71 million to roll out an improved and expanded drought assistance program. Currently farmers have to wait for a drought to receive government assistance which on average has been about \$7,700. Thanks to the investment delivered in this week's budget, for the first time in history producers will be able to access up to \$50,000 to help droughtproof their properties.

Last sitting I updated the House on the success of our cluster fencing policy. To date, we have invested more than \$60 million in grants and loans to build 9,000 kilometres of cluster fencing. This has resulted in a 75 per cent increase in lambing rates.

Opposition members interjected.

An honourable member: The same distance to Paris!

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. Brisbane to Longreach, Longreach to Brisbane, Brisbane to Longreach—it just keeps going, there is so much fencing.

Mr Dick: We do not have enough time.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right.

An opposition member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I can just keep talking about what we are doing for the farmers and our agricultural sector. I love talking about what the Labor government is doing to assist our farmers.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will come back to you lot later on. Today I can confirm that we are investing an extra \$4 million to deliver the Regional Agricultural Development scheme. This will give producers access to grants to support infrastructure that will grow the sheep industry and create more jobs in the bush. This week's state budget will deliver for farmers right across Queensland. But do not take it from me, this is what AgForce has to say—

The State Government's 2021 budget announcement is a win for Queensland farmers.

AgForce has welcomed news that the powers that be will develop a suite of programs for drought-affected producers, as well as helping communities prepare for future droughts.

This budget is the third year in a row that my government has delivered over half a billion dollars for agriculture. It dwarfs the budgets delivered by the Newman-Nicholls government. I had to get that in there, member for Clayfield.

Honourable members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: You are still here so you are fair game.


Mr SPEAKER: Premier, your comments will come through the chair.

Mr Nicholls: Despite your best efforts!

Dr Miles: Newman's back too!

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. I am proud to lead a Labor government that is delivering the funding our agriculture sector needs to build back better here in Queensland.

Budget, Wide Bay-Burnett

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.37 am): This evening the member for Bundaberg, along with the member for Burnett, are hosting a Bundaberg promotion night here at Parliament House. Bundy nights are always the best nights and I know there will be some great produce and information on show from producers.

Mr Bleijie: Batty's coming down.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Sorry?

Mrs Frecklington: Batty's coming down.

Mr Dick: He's got nothing else to do, has he?

Dr Miles: He's already gone down.

Ms Grace: They still can't get over that they lost.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Sorry, who? What is this name that the member for Kawana mentions? I still do not know what they are talking about.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members!

Ms PALASZCZUK: These producers include Bundaberg Rum, Kalki Moon Distilling & Brewing, Bundaberg Canegrowers, Bundaberg Sugar, Ballistic Beer Company, Queensland Beekeepers' Association, Tinaberries and Bundaberg Fruit and Vegetable Growers who I know have received one of our Digital Transformation Grants as part of our economic recovery plan. There will also be business and community organisations and tourism industry representatives such as Bundaberg and North Burnett Tourism, Mon Repos Conservation Park, Lady Elliot Island Eco Resort and Splitters Farm whom we gave \$1 million to from our Growing Tourism Infrastructure Fund for campsites and eco tents hoping to attract 66,000 people a year. I encourage members to go along if they can.

As part of our economic recovery plan the 2021-22 budget will directly support the Wide Bay region. There is an \$883 million investment in infrastructure, supporting 3,200 jobs. Nearly \$725 million is being spent on health, which is a \$32.6 million budget increase on last year. Full-time health jobs will also increase by 85 in that region alone. There is \$35 million in education funding to improve and upgrade schools. For Bundaberg specifically, there is nearly \$1 million for Woongarra State School to provide wastewater and water service.

There is more than \$5 million for construction projects to improve facilities at the current Bundaberg Hospital. The budget also includes \$15 million to acquire the preferred land site for a new Bundaberg hospital. The member and I have been to that great site. We are committed to delivering that new hospital and planning is well underway.

The budget contains \$1.6 million that will go towards a new \$3.4 million agriculture and horticulture centre at Bundaberg TAFE. There is funding to support the rehabilitation of the Burnett River bridge and culverts near Bundaberg Central. There is so much happening. There is funding for the environment and tourism, including to allow for cultural centre improvements at Mon Repos—and the good news is that those opposite just have to listen. We have purchased an additional 42 hectares of land to double the size of the conservation park and we are investing \$750,000 to install more than 400 new solar panels, meaning the centre will run almost entirely on renewable energy. The budget also contains funding through our Great Barrier Reef Resorts Rejuvenation Fund to support renewable energy infrastructure on Lady Elliot Island to help the resort to operate 100 per cent from solar energy.

Tourism Industry



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.41 am): Queensland is also good to go in tourism. That is the message we have sent to millions of tourists over the past 12 months in one of the most aggressive tourism marketing campaigns Australia has ever seen. Today I am proud to confirm our hard work is paying off. I can announce that our Good to Go tourism campaign has injected more than \$7 billion into our economy over the past year—isn't that wonderful news—supporting 207,000 jobs and generating more than 42 million room night bookings across the state. In total, the campaign has helped to lure more than seven million unique visitors to the new queensland.com website, driving more than 800,000 leads direct to Queensland businesses. That is an outstanding result. It means that our Good to Go campaign is now one of the most successful tourism campaigns ever delivered in Queensland's history, but that is not all we are doing.

Tourism is an important part of our COVID-19 economic recovery plan. That is why we have worked hard to secure more major events that stimulate our economy and support jobs, including: the 2020 AFL grand final at the Gabba; the entire WNBL season; Townsville's blockbuster State of Origin opener last week; the European Masterpieces exhibition from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the Nitro World Games; the TV Week Logie Awards; and now of course we are going for the gold with the Olympic Games. Commitments in this week's budget take us to more than \$860 million in support for the industry to build back better.

Parole Reform



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.42 am): Every Queenslanders has a right to be safe and a right to feel safe. That is why we will do all we can to improve community safety. Today I can confirm that the Minister for Police is drafting laws to change the way parole for offenders who have committed certain crimes is treated. Under the changes being developed, child killers serving a life sentence and multiple murderers serving a life sentence can be prevented from applying for parole, keeping them behind bars for longer and shielding the families of victims from further trauma.

These changes are about keeping the worst of the worst behind bars for longer. They are aimed at keeping the Queensland community safe and those who have committed the most evil of crimes in custody for longer. That is what the community has asked for and that is what we will deliver. They also tip the balance in favour of keeping those offenders locked up longer by creating a presumption against parole for those offenders. They are aimed at ensuring victims and their loved ones do not need to experience the trauma of parole being considered every 12 months. The Minister for Police will have more to say about this matter shortly, but I can say that we will always do what we can to keep Queenslanders safe.

Parole Reform



Hon. MT RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (9.44 am): This government will always do all in its power to support community safety. We have a proven track record of introducing the nation's strongest laws to protect the community and now we will do that again. The Palaszczuk government will introduce the toughest parole laws in the nation so that a person convicted of killing a child and serving a life sentence or a person convicted of multiple murders and serving a life sentence can be blocked from obtaining parole, keeping them behind bars for longer and sparing the families of victims from further trauma.

Under these proposed laws, the President of the Parole Board Queensland will be able to make a declaration that a person who is convicted of killing a child and serving a life sentence or convicted of multiple murders and serving a life sentence and who is eligible for parole will be blocked from obtaining parole for a period of up to 10 years. Further, there is no limit on the number of declarations that can be issued to those prisoners, which means that a further declaration could be issued for up to 10 years at the expiry of the previous declaration, and so on for decades. Also, the President of the Parole Board Queensland will be able to make that declaration irrespective of whether the prisoner has already made an application for parole.


Understandably, whenever a prisoner applies for parole it can re-traumatise the families, friends and the community. These new laws are aimed at shielding those who have lost loved ones from unnecessary pain and suffering. To be clear, the government is introducing these changes because it is committed to ensuring the safety of every member of the community and to protecting the families, friends and the community from unnecessary trauma.

In addition, even if a declaration is not made by the President of the Parole Board Queensland, a new presumption against parole will also be introduced for the prisoners who fall into this cohort. That means that those prisoners who, as the Premier said and I agree with her, are the worst of the worst will have to prove that they do not pose a threat to the community before they are even considered eligible for parole.

These proposed new laws will set a new benchmark for the nation. No other jurisdiction in Australia has the power to declare no parole consideration for a period of up to 10 years and with the potential of further periods of up to 10 years. No other jurisdiction targets both child killers serving a life sentence and multiple murderers serving a life sentence in this way. These proposed laws will be the strongest in the nation to support community safety.

I cannot emphasise enough the extent to which these proposed new laws are aimed at reducing the level of trauma experienced by the families of the victims of violent crimes. The tough new laws we are proposing are about protecting the victim's families and protecting the community.

Queen's Wharf


 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) (9.47 am): Our state's strong health response to the COVID pandemic means that the 700 workers on the giant \$3.6 billion Queen's Wharf Brisbane never missed a beat. In fact, we were able to speed up construction last year during the height of the pandemic. We are one of the only places in the world able to keep our construction industries going largely unaffected throughout the pandemic, keeping Queenslanders in jobs and preventing delays. That means we are now about 80 weeks away from Queen's Wharf opening late next year.

The first section of the Queen's Wharf Neville Bonner pedestrian bridge was positioned at South Bank yesterday, ready to cross the river and connect to the Brisbane CBD. The Riverside Expressway will close this weekend and a 40-metre, 43-tonne section of the bridge will be craned into place at the city end. It is transformative infrastructure such as Queen's Wharf and Cross River Rail that will change the face of South-East Queensland. This will greatly increase pedestrian connectivity in our great city. Fifty years ago last Friday, in this very House, Neville Thomas Bonner was chosen to fill a casual Senate vacancy, making him the first Indigenous Australian to sit in the Australian parliament. Seeing the Neville Bonner pedestrian bridge go into place is a great acknowledgement of his legacy.

In recent weeks, another Queen's Wharf record was broken with a 10th tower crane going up on site, which is the most number of tower cranes for a single project site in the nation. Technically, there are 11 cranes if we include the one on a barge in the river that is working on the Neville Bonner pedestrian bridge.

Twenty years ago, there were 29 tower cranes up in Brisbane and then Premier Beattie was pretty chuffed about that. Today, according to the Rider Levett Bucknall's latest count, there are 71 cranes up in Brisbane as part of 120 cranes across Brisbane, the Sunshine Coast, Townsville, Cairns and the Gold Coast. By this time next year, more than 1,500 workers will be on site at Queen's Wharf as it readies to welcome an estimated 1.4 million annual visitors. It is another Palaszczuk government backed project that is creating jobs and accelerating Queensland's plan for economic recovery.

Budget, Economy

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (9.50 am): The budget I delivered on Tuesday forecasts a return to surplus for the Queensland economy within the forward estimates, but it is important to reflect on the vital role that our stimulus spending has played to protect our economy and to drive the recovery we see underway.

In 2020, the Palaszczuk Labor government made the calculated decision to put the budget into deficit to defend the lives, the livelihoods and the businesses of Queenslanders. As improving revenues in this week's budget show, in 2020-21 our deficit is projected to be \$3.8 billion, a staggering decrease of \$4.8 billion from what had been forecast in December last year—a \$9.6 billion deficit. However, through the depths of the pandemic, all revenue lines fell; in many cases to zero. The Queensland Office of State Revenue started pumping payroll tax refunds out the door to help tens of thousands of Queensland businesses and hundreds of thousands of Queensland jobs. With revenues so low, that meant we borrowed to pay operational costs. We borrowed to pay the wages of frontline workers, and we did not resile from that for one second.

Just this week, I have heard the argument that borrowing should only ever be for capital and never for operating expenses. If we had gone down that path, if we had not gone into deficit, tens of thousands of nurses, police officers and other frontline staff would have lost their jobs in order to bring expenses down to match revenue. Put simply, that would have been a catastrophe for the Queensland economy. More importantly, it would have been a personal catastrophe for thousands of Queenslanders and their families. Unemployment queues would have been lengthened. Spending in our economy from those no longer employed would have been stopped from such savage cuts. It would have decimated our ability to deliver the COVID-19 health response that has put us where we are today.

In fact, during this period of deficit spending, overall government worker numbers continued to increase. This was the right thing to do and consistent with the approach taken by the Morrison coalition government and other OECD countries. While our stimulus measures had a temporary impact on our bottom line, they did not damage our state's credit ratings. In fact, our ratings have remained stable while New South Wales and Victoria have been downgraded. Today, S&P Global says Queensland has the strongest credit rating of any Australian state.

The approach the Palaszczuk Labor government has taken through the current financial year and the one prior is in contrast to the last time the government went into deficit. In 2012-13, total public sector employment decreased significantly, and S&P Global put Queensland on a negative outlook.

As has been noted by ratings agencies from financial year 2021-22, Queensland's budget is forecast to have a cash surplus from operating expenses. Because our economic recovery plan is working, the cash revenue the government collects will exceed our cash expenses. That means we will not need to borrow to pay wages. We will, of course, continue to borrow for capital investment, delivering our \$50 billion infrastructure guarantee to deliver the roads, the schools and the hospitals and, most importantly of all, the jobs that Queenslanders need.

Budget, Education



Hon. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.53 am): The 2021-22 education budget is delivering for regional Queensland with over \$310 million worth of job-generating projects to maintain, improve and upgrade schools and support local jobs across the state as part of Queensland's economic recovery plan.

In the Far North, that means \$51.2 million for projects including: the new \$11.5 million classroom building at Malanda State High in Hill, and I look forward to opening that building with the member for Hill; \$2.4 million for new classrooms and amenities at Lockhart State School in the electorate of Cook, and I also look forward to opening those amenities with the member for Cook; and a new \$11.5 million hall at Trinity Bay State High.

In North Queensland, there is \$37.3 million going to help deliver new training facilities at Thuringowa State High and at Home Hill State High. We are pumping \$26.8 million in infrastructure spending into the Mackay-Whitsunday region that will deliver new classrooms, such as more than \$8 million at Mackay Northern Beaches State High School and \$3.8 million at Proserpine State High School, and I look forward to opening those with the member for Whitsunday.

In Central Queensland, there is \$74.6 million for projects like new classrooms at Yeppoon State High School in Keppel, and for stage 2 of the Calliope State High School, built by this Labor government on land those opposite were going to sell.

In Wide Bay, \$35 million will deliver new classrooms at Hervey Bay State High, and on the Darling Downs \$66.7 million is going to be pumped into schools from Toowoomba to St George, with St George State High School getting upgrades to the school hall and new \$8.8 million training facilities—I have got so much, I do not even know whether I have enough time—and at Warwick, a new \$5.8 million school hall. Also in the west, there are funds for the Big Red Truck training facilities at Longreach State High School and at Cloncurry State School.

Across the state, we are also ensuring every state school student has access to a wellbeing professional—namely, at our regional Centres for Learning and Wellbeing in Roma, Mount Isa, Atherton and Emerald. We are expanding remote kindy, with 20 more schools coming on board in 2022 in parts of the state with no nearby kindergarten services, such as in Gregory and Southern Downs. Our homework centres will be shortly rolled out in schools across the state, and including more than half of those in regional Queensland.

Our regional education infrastructure spend is an investment in local jobs and, importantly, an investment in Queensland's children and students, no matter where they live in this great state.

Coronavirus, Update; Coronavirus, Greater Sydney and Greater Melbourne



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.57 am): Queensland has smashed its vaccine record. With many of our recently announced community based vaccination locations up and running, yesterday we were able to administer more than 14,000 vaccinations. I want to extend my immense gratitude to all of the health workers who are working at our vaccine locations across the state, and the hardworking Queensland Health staff at the vaccine command centre. I would also like to thank all of the Queenslanders who are stepping up and getting vaccinated.

After news of a positive case in the New South Wales community broke yesterday, the Palaszczuk government has followed the advice of the Chief Health Officer and taken decisive action to protect Queensland from the COVID-19 virus. Importantly, any person who has been to an identified New South Wales exposure site and is currently in Queensland should go and get tested and then immediately return to their home or accommodation, via private transport, to quarantine. They should contact 134COVID and complete Queensland Health's online contact tracing form and await further advice.

Individuals who have been to a New South Wales exposure site and are planning to travel to Queensland should cancel their plans immediately as anyone arriving from interstate into Queensland from 1 am tomorrow who has been to an exposure site will be required to go into hotel quarantine for 14 days. I can advise that the New South Wales website is now reporting 15 close contact sites from Bondi Junction to Mascot, North Ryde, Redfern, Vaucluse and Zetland as well, and also another casual contact site, and now they have listed a public transport route as well. So we ask, please, anyone who has been in New South Wales to check the website and check it regularly for any updates.

We need to be vigilant. Since 11 June, we have had 493 flights from Sydney arrive in Queensland. There are 72 expected to arrive today. We cannot let our guard down. Given the increasing number of exposure sites being published by New South Wales Health, the Chief Health Officer has also advised that any Queenslanders who plan on travelling to Sydney should reconsider their travel.

I was pleased to hear that the Victorian government has somewhat eased its internal restrictions, particularly those in Greater Melbourne. This is great news for the people of Victoria. However, there are restrictions that remain in place for the people of Greater Melbourne. I have been advised by the Chief Health Officer that, at this stage, it would not be appropriate to roll back the current travel restrictions that we have in place for the Greater Melbourne region. The Victorian government has indicated they will consider whether to ease the remaining restrictions they have in place for Greater Melbourne in the near future. We will review the restrictions we have in place for Greater Melbourne at that time.


Today, I can announce some exciting news. The Palaszczuk government is taking an additional step to maintain the safety of Queenslanders whilst also ensuring that we can return to normal as soon as possible. Earlier this morning the Queensland government website went live with Queensland's new travel declaration pass. Any person travelling to Queensland from interstate or New Zealand, whether they are a Queensland resident or not, must complete the online Queensland travel declaration within three days of travelling to Queensland. This system will apply to any travellers arriving into Queensland after 1 am Saturday, 19 June.

The declaration system operates in a similar fashion to the Victorian system. Depending on the location that an individual is travelling from, they will be issued with either a green or amber pass permitting them to travel to Queensland. A green pass indicates the individual has not been to any COVID hotspot and can travel freely into the state. An amber pass will be issued in the circumstances where someone is travelling to Queensland and has been to an interstate exposure site and applies particular quarantine conditions on the person when they arrive. Declared hotspots will be red zones and no travel to Queensland will be permitted from those locations.

I want to make clear that this system will not be imposed upon border communities that often engage in cross-border travel in their daily lives. These cross-border communities are clearly identified on the travel declaration pass. However, where a declared COVID exposure site is identified in a cross-border LGA, there may be a requirement for those residents to complete the travel declaration for a short period of time. Of course, anyone living in those communities who has travelled to a jurisdiction that has exposure sites or is a hotspot should declare that.

The Queensland travel declaration will be extremely useful in ensuring that when interstate exposure sites are declared we can swiftly contact arrivals from that state, which includes Queensland residents, whom we know are in Queensland to provide them with the most up-to-date and accurate public health messaging. This is way the Palaszczuk government is continuing to keep Queenslanders safe.

Budget, Environment

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (10.02 am): Queensland's environment is a major cornerstone of the Palaszczuk government's latest budget, with a record \$1.4 billion investment to protect the country's immense biodiversity and create 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.

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 reduction targets. The budget confirms another \$270 million for our Great Barrier Reef to build on the \$400 million already invested by the Palaszczuk government since 2015. The reef funding will go towards programs aimed at improving the water quality of this World Heritage listed area, and the \$6 billion economy and 60,000 jobs that rely on it.

The budget invests more in the Land Restoration Fund, with a further \$60 million to be made available for investment by the program which partners with farmers and other landholders for land restoration and carbon farming. That injection for the Land Restoration Fund also includes seed funding to co-invest in even more projects with businesses and farmers through the new Queensland Natural Capital Fund. To support our job creation and tourism industry, we will also invest an additional \$8.6 million in our national parks for better infrastructure, visitor experiences and to employ more First Nations rangers.


A further quarter of a billion dollars from the Department of Environment and Science will be aimed squarely at waste. We have banned a swathe of single-use plastics, seen more than four billion containers recycled through our popular Containers for Change program, and now we are setting our sights on capturing and recycling waste through resource recovery before it gets to landfill.

As part of the government's commitment to conserve wildlife in the Sunshine State, \$6 million will be provided over four years to bolster the South-East Queensland wildlife hospital network, with a further \$1.5 million per annum ongoing. I am also proud to announce that we have locked in \$3.7 million for the next four years and more than \$900,000 per annum ongoing to support koala conservation projects.

This 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.

We will also continue our commitment to built heritage in Queensland with increased funding of \$5.5 million over two years for works at Newstead House. We went to the election with a plan for economic recovery and a strong platform to protect our environment and create jobs—and we are backing Queenslanders by delivering a strong budget that will protect our reef, regenerate land and create more jobs in more industries.

Youth Justice

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.05 am): Two of the most important jobs of any government is protecting the community and keeping vulnerable children safe. As the Minister for Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs, I am acutely aware of the enormity of these tasks and the significant role safe Queensland communities play in our COVID-19 economic recovery plan. That is why this year's budget will continue to focus on programs and services to keep children safe, and to keep the community safe—and that means boosting our frontline services where needed.

This financial year, we will spend a record \$1.55 billion on the delivery of child protection services to keep children safe from abuse and neglect. We will recruit an extra 154 frontline child safety workers over the next two years. Sadly, following the pandemic, we are facing increasing pressure and demand in the child protection system. That is why we are providing an additional \$282.6 million over two years for out-of-home care to give children a safe roof over their heads and support to help them thrive.

Safety is at the heart of all our funding decisions. In youth justice, my department's budget includes a total of more than \$290 million for youth justice services to reduce offending and reoffending. This includes continued investment in the diversionary and intensive out-of-hours programs that work, and increased funding to intensify these in areas that need them most. We know Queenslanders want young people to be law abiding and have opportunities and a future. We also know Queenslanders want programs that get at-risk young people back into education, into training and into jobs. That is why we are tackling the causes, not just the symptoms.

Our investment includes an extra \$92 million over four years to fund practical actions to deal with repeat offenders and continue programs and services to tackle youth offending. This means the fantastic work of our co-responder teams of police and youth justice workers will continue in eight locations, including Townsville, Cairns and across South-East Queensland. It means the fantastic work of our services such as our co-responder teams, the Transition 2 Success program and the trial of an on country program in Townsville, Mount Isa and Cairns will continue. The package will also fund extended hours of supervision and extra youth workers on weekends and at night to intensively monitor high-risk repeat offenders and deliver intensive support to their families.

This budget is not just about continued investment in initiatives that work. It is also about looking forward, continuing systemic reform and addressing the criminogenic factors that lead to offending to keep our communities safe. We are partnering with the Ted Noffs Foundation to establish a new 10-bed drug and alcohol three-month residential treatment facility and program for young people who have or who are at risk of offending, through funding of \$7.7 million over four years. To complement our substantial legislative reforms this year, we will invest \$5 million to establish a short-term remand centre. Earlier this year our new 32-bed West Moreton Youth Detention Centre opened, which complements the extra 12 beds at Cleveland Youth Detention Centre and 32 beds at Brisbane Youth Detention Centre delivered under our government.

In this budget we have allocated \$5.7 million to start the next stage of planning, to undertake a business case to investigate options for additional long-term detention centre capacity. These moves underscore our commitment to keeping Queenslanders safe from that small cohort of repeat offenders. Unlike those opposite, we invest, we plan and we build for the future because community safety is paramount and community confidence essential in our youth justice system.

Back to Work Program



Hon. DE FARMER (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.09 am): Wherever you are in Queensland you deserve the chance to get a good job. Members will already know that we are committing \$140 million to our successful Back to Work program, which has already helped over 25,000 Queenslanders into work and helped nearly 12,000 businesses across our state.

We fund these job-creating initiatives not only because they provide really important career opportunities to Queenslanders but also because they help small businesses—and over 80 per cent of employers benefiting from Back to Work are small businesses. They help small businesses find the right staff. We know that at the moment finding staff and the right staff is a critical issue for businesses.

I have even more exciting news to share with members this morning. The Back to Work program is being not only funded but also revitalised, based on feedback from the thousands of businesses I spoke to on our small business roadshow. The Palaszczuk government is always striving to make things better. We listened to what small businesses had to say about how we could improve Back to Work and we have acted.

The new program will provide wraparound support to employers and disadvantaged jobseekers. That support will help businesses not only recruit workers but vitally retain them as well. We have added more elements to the program—mentoring sessions, training guidance, support to secure possible employment requirements like a driver's licence or a blue card. We are making sure both jobseekers and businesses have what they need to succeed.


The focus will be on those jobseekers who experience significant disadvantage in the labour market who often need more intensive support to find a job. There will be payments of \$15,000 to eligible businesses that employ an eligible jobseeker, including the long-term unemployed, an

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person or someone with a disability, and there will be a \$20,000 Youth Boost payment for eligible businesses to employ an eligible Queenslander under 25. We are unashamedly focused on getting our young people in the regions into jobs.

The government is committed to creating genuine long-term employment outcomes because we know getting a job can change a life. It changed Sheryn's life, for instance. Back to Work helped her get a Certificate III in Education Support and now she is working as a teacher aide in Mackay—a job that works for her and for her young family. I know the member for Mackay loves hearing stories like that about her community. Sheryn said that that never would have happened without the support of the Back to Work program.

The new program starts on 1 July and will continue to play an important role, helping businesses reopen, rebuild and get growing again. Tackling youth and long-term unemployment remains a focus of the revitalised Back to Work program because real recovery does not leave anyone behind.

Electricity Prices

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement) (10.12 am): The Palaszczuk government has a strong record of delivering cheaper and cleaner energy to Queensland households and businesses, particularly in regional areas—where Queenslanders saw a 43 per cent increase in power prices under the LNP. In contrast, our record stands clear: power prices are down 22 per cent—the lowest they have been in a decade. That is a direct result of decisions and investment by this government, assisting households and creating jobs. Under this Labor government, the trend is heading down further, with the Australian Energy Market Commission's most recent forecast indicating a further 14 per cent reduction over the next three years.


Regional Queenslanders will once again benefit. I can confirm today that the Queensland Competition Authority has released its final price determination, with households in regional Queensland in communities like Mareeba, Charleville, Emerald and Biloela to save an average of \$101—a 7.3 per cent saving in electricity this year. Small businesses, too, will pocket an extra \$79. That is cheaper electricity driving our state's economic recovery.

There is support for regional farmers and manufacturers to grow jobs and boost our economic recovery too. In the days following the 2020 election, the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union raised the issue of regional businesses that will be moving off tariffs made obsolete in 2012. While the majority of the affected business consumers have found savings, there were a small number with annual power bills that are impacted.

Unions and industry groups—like Queensland Cotton, Canegrowers, Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the Australian Foundry Institute—told us their member businesses needed help to support job security and economic growth for regional Queensland. Today I can announce the Electricity Tariff Adjustment Scheme—a program to support regional farmers, foundries, irrigators and employers. Over nine years we will invest \$52.3 million into 1,700 regional businesses through direct electricity rebates to keep regional Queenslanders in work—and create even more jobs.

This is direct investment in Queensland jobs and Queensland businesses, adding to the recently announced Queensland Jobs Fund. I want to thank in particular the member for Maryborough for fighting for this important initiative and the Treasurer for backing this job-creating investment in the budget. Whether you are a regional family, a farmer or run a small business, this Labor budget is backing you.

Callide C Power Station

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement) (10.15 am): I would like to update the House on the situation at the Callide Power Station. After a tremendous effort involving a 300-strong workforce, at 4.30 pm yesterday unit B1 at Callide reconnected and is now delivering 154 megawatts as of this morning. This is an important first step in Callide Power Station's recovery. Over coming days the unit's output will be safely and gradually ramped up to its full capacity of 350 megawatts. Unit B1 coming back online and operating safely is welcome news to the workforce at Callide and the community that supports them. On behalf of Queensland, we say to the Callide workforce: thank you.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, question time will conclude today at 11.16 am.

Health System



Mr CRISAFULLI (10.16 am): My question is to the Premier. The Australian Medical Association calls the budget 'disappointing', saying the hospital crisis will continue unless more is done. It has revealed they are meeting in secret so Queensland Health doctors and staff can anonymously expose mismanagement of the health system without fear of retribution. Why is Labor afraid to listen to experts to fix the health crisis?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. Within the last week I had a great conversation with Dr Chris Perry, head of the AMA, on the phone talking about a whole range of issues dealing with health. I reject the premise of that question. I speak regularly to the AMA and I know the health minister speaks regularly to the AMA—unlike those opposite. Remember the doctors' contracts?

Mr Dick: The member for Moggill does.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The member for Moggill does. The member for Clayfield does. They could have a little chat over there. They sit next to each other. They could reminisce about what happened in those years. I remember it well.

Mr Dick: The Pineapple Hotel.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right—the big meeting at the Pineapple Hotel. The people of Queensland trust our government to deliver health in this state to keep Queenslanders safe—unlike those opposite.

Mr Bleijie: Why do they meet in secret?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Member for Kawana, I would be silent if I were you. I could go on about the lawyers and what the lawyers thought of you when you were in office.

Mr Dick: And the judges.

Ms PALASZCZUK: And the judges. I am quite sure there were a lot of secret meetings happening back then—the attacks on the judiciary, the attacks on the health system, the attacks on the nurses, the attacks on the cleaners, the attacks on the doctors, the attacks on the teachers, the attacks on the TAFE teachers. The list goes on. I do not have enough time, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, instead of going down memory lane, we might come back to the question.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Mr Speaker, may I remind you that you were also there.

Mr SPEAKER: Under standing order 118, can you be relevant to the question, Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We have delivered a record health budget in this state—over \$22 billion.

I travel the length and breadth of Queensland. As I said, I was out at Roma the other day opening a brand new hospital which is being delivered by this government. It will cater for people no matter where they live in this state. It does not just service Roma; it services the whole region. It was great to see the member for Warrego there as well. I even invited her to go on a tour with us to see the state-of-the-art medical facility we have built for the people of Roma. I remind those opposite of the Barrett Adolescent Centre which they shut. They closed it down. They should still be hanging their heads in shame on that and—

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The Premier will resume her seat.

Health System

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Minister for Health. I refer the minister to the health performance stabilisation measure in the budget, which will end 1 July 2022. Does the minister expect the hospital crisis to end in a year?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. We are very proud of our Labor budgets for each year we have been in government. Our record is clear when it comes to the health budget. In every single year since 2015 we have increased the health budget. If the new strategy—well, it is not a new strategy; it is the same old playbook of the LNP to scaremonger. Now they are saying, 'There's no funding for health beyond 2022.' Do not be so ridiculous, Leader of the Opposition. You have no evidence to back up that Labor—

Mr SPEAKER: Through the chair.

Mrs D'ATH: Labor delivers record health budgets. We have the evidence. The runs are on the board. We know what the LNP runs are. When they talk about the waiting list for the waiting list, where did that term come from? That is right; it is from 2012 and 2015 because people could not even get onto the waiting list.

Ms Simpson interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Maroochydore.

Mrs D'ATH: They could not get onto the waiting list.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Maroochydore, you are warned under the standing orders. Treasurer, you will direct your comments through the chair.

Mrs D'ATH: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Ms Simpson interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Maroochydore, you can leave the chamber. I just warned you under the standing orders and you then interjected. You can leave the chamber for one hour under standing order 253A. I have made myself clear, members, regarding that particular approach.

Whereupon the honourable member for Maroochydore withdrew from the chamber at 10.22 am.

Mrs D'ATH: They may have ruled out savage cuts but they have not ruled out cuts. What sort of cuts are acceptable for health? That is what I would like to know from the Leader of the Opposition. What sort of cuts are acceptable? I would also say to the Leader of the Opposition that, in relation to the question just put to the Premier, I welcome any input the AMAQ can add to the conversation about what is happening across the health system in Queensland, because they have the ability to consult with GPs on the ground in relation to changes to the Medicare benefit and what impact that is going to have on the public health system. I welcome the conversation.

As far as secret meetings are concerned, it was the LNP that gagged the Public Service. It was the LNP that gagged NGOs. If you received government funds you could not speak out. They were in absolute fear. I am very proud that, as I travel around the state as health minister, not only do I meet with senior chief executive staff and board members but I personally meet with clinicians, cleaners, wardies, nurses and midwives. I meet with staff at all levels to hear directly from them—not through the executive—because their views are just as important as anyone else's no matter their position in the health system. I want to know their views and I want their ideas as well.

Budget, Health

Ms KING: My question is for the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier update the House on how the government's record health budget is delivering for Queenslanders?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Pumicestone for the question. Our very firm commitment is that we are going to deliver seven satellite hospitals across South-East Queensland in this term of government. It was a signature policy of this government, one to which I am absolutely committed and very determined to deliver. I know that when the Deputy Premier was talking to me about this idea it is like the first of its kind in Australia, and I am absolutely delighted by that.

Today I can advise the member for Pumicestone that we have identified the land for the satellite hospital in Pumicestone. The 1.6-hectare parcel of land on First Avenue at Bongaree is the preferred location for our satellite hospital on Bribie Island. It is right near the Bribie Island State High School. This is fantastic news. I know the community has been liaising with the member about where it will be located, and today she can share that good news.

In further news, I can advise the member for Bundamba and the member for Jordan that we have identified a 2.7-hectare property on Barrams Road, South Ripley—adjacent to the Ripley Valley State School—as the preferred location for the satellite hospital to serve one of the fastest growing areas in our state. I know that both of those members have also been hearing from their communities. On this side of the House we are getting on with the job. We are making sure that we deliver these satellite hospitals so people can get their—

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Those members who were not here during the Campbell Newman years are probably not aware of the savage cuts that happened under the Newman government.

Mr Crandon interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: Whilst I mention 'savage', Mr Speaker, as the Minister for Health was saying, it was interesting that when Peter Stefanovic asked the Leader of the Opposition, 'Are you ruling out cuts?' he replied, 'I'm ruling out being savage.' There will be cuts. It is a big day today. We are going to hear a reply very soon about what those opposite want to do. Will they channel the member for Clayfield? Well, I am looking forward to that. I do not know what that stare was from the Leader of the Opposition. I think he was trying to channel Derek Zoolander in the parliament. Can I say that—

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: All ministers will adhere to the time allocated, otherwise there will be warnings issued.

Health System

Ms BATES: My question is to the Minister for Health. I refer to the AMA's crisis meetings being held in secret so medicos can avoid professional retribution for speaking out about Labor's mismanagement of the health system. Will the minister admit that Labor is losing control of the system, causing frontline staff to stop treating sick Queenslanders, and instead focus on fixing Labor's sick system?

Mr DICK: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The question clearly contains an imputation about retribution and consequences for public servants which has been unsubstantiated, and I ask you to rule on the question.

Mr SPEAKER: My general view of those matters, Treasurer, is that the minister can refute what is contained within the question, and I will give latitude to allow that if she so wishes.

Mrs D'ATH: You have to love the LNP. They are really agile, aren't they? I just answered the question, but she was like, 'I've still got the question. What do I do? I know, I'll ask it again even though I know she's already answered it.' I thank the member for her question; I truly do. It is not a secret meeting when everyone is talking about it. What is a secret meeting is a meeting on a yacht that people did not know was going to happen on election day. Their own leader did not know about it, but anyway.

Those opposite get up and talk about retribution. How astonishing. When I was elected in 2014 to the opposition, public servants were too scared to even meet with me because they had been told they would lose their job. They were not allowed to talk to me. The former member for Ashgrove knows that. She had that fear, that retribution. On election day, the fires who were on the ground supporting me at the booth were being asked what station they worked at and what their number was. NGOs were gagged; they were not allowed to speak up. Chris Davis, one of the LNP members, talked about being bullied. He is not the only one who has recently left the LNP who has talked about bullying.

They come into this chamber and talk about doctors, nurses and health workers being in fear of retribution. This is coming from those who had a pain ranking to help decide their budget cuts. I got told stories of staff who were told to walk into an empty room where there was a phone on a table and to sit and wait for it to ring to tell them if they had lost their job. I still have people coming up to me today saying that they struggle to find employment because of what the LNP did. The people of Queensland have not forgotten. The LNP cannot come here talking about retribution with the history they have. The only thing the LNP should be doing is getting up and apologising to the health workers for what they did to them. Nothing less than that is acceptable.

Budget, Training and Skills

Mr BROWN: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier update the House on the Palaszczuk government's commitment to training and skills in this year's budget and is she aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms PALASZCZUK: We are committed to skills and training because we believe that we have to give people the best opportunity to get a job and the best way to do that is to get them the skills and training in a whole variety of fields. I know that the member for Capalaba is a very keen supporter of TAFEs in our state. Next week I will be going down to Capalaba for the opening of the \$10 million

expansion of the Alexandra Hills TAFE. That is wonderful to see. Minister Farmer and I were recently down on the Gold Coast with Minister Scanlon looking at the upgrades to the TAFE there. We invest in TAFE. We value TAFE. We know that those opposite wanted to dismantle TAFE and destroy TAFE.

We back Skilling Queenslanders for Work. There is a massive injection of money, keeping that rolling over for the next four years. They actually stopped Skilling Queenslanders for Work. They rejected the recommendation to keep Skilling Queenslanders for Work going. They stopped it in its tracks. It has given people such good, secure, long-term employment in this state.

On this side of the House, we will always back TAFE and we will back our signature programs of Skilling Queenslanders for Work and Back to Work. We are making sure there are apprenticeship opportunities for young people no matter where they live. Everywhere I go—whether it is projects such as Cross River Rail—I am meeting the apprentices. When I go through the schools with the Minister for Education, we are meeting the apprentices. We are making sure that at our government builds there is a percentage of people working there getting those apprenticeships. We are also investing in those skills when it comes to hydrogen, with the expansion of the plumbing centre down at Beenleigh where we held our campaign launch—and what a great day that was. We were there mixing with the workers and the young people.

All we see from those opposite is stunts. The other day we saw the cupboard from the member for Kawana. He had obviously misplaced his pet rat that he often brings in. For the benefit of the House, the Leader of the Opposition's website has a picture of the bare cupboard and it has had 404 views. Can I say to the Leader of the Opposition that on my Facebook page my mum's cat has got 4,300 views. Here are the photos: mum's cat and your cupboard.

Budget, Hospital and Health Services

Mr MOLHOEK: My question is to the Minister for Health. The minister says that there is record funding for every health and hospital service. However, comparing current actual funding to next year's budget shows that the HHSs will receive \$74 million less funding next year. The Gold Coast alone is receiving \$52 million less funding for the front line than this year. If the minister cannot run her own budget, how can the minister run the health system?

Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order

Mr SPEAKER: I am going to rule on that question that the preamble is too lengthy. I rule the question out of order. Please resume your seat, member for Southport. You do not get another go at that one.

Coronavirus, Quarantine Facility

Mr MADDEN: My question is of the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning. Can the Deputy Premier update the House on the progress of providing regional quarantine facilities in Queensland?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Ipswich West for his question. It is a good question and a timely question because today, due to the inaction of Prime Minister Scott Morrison, the risk of a lockdown hangs like a cloud over our most populous city. Australia needs regional quarantine facilities. The Commonwealth government needs to deliver enhanced, more effective quarantine facilities. Quarantine is the responsibility of the federal government. In fact in 1901 it was the only health responsibility given to the federal government but what has the Prime Minister done on it? Nothing. He has left it to the states and blamed the states.

As we have just heard, the health minister has outlined to the House that there are two cases of community transmission in Sydney linked to hotel quarantine and that as a result there are 15 contact sites and a risk of infection on public transport. There is a threat of new restrictions and lockdowns if they cannot get on top of it quickly enough—a threat that could have been avoided if the Prime Minister had done his job under the Constitution.

New South Wales have now joined Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia in calling for their own regional quarantine facility. That is an idea that started here in Queensland and has now spread to the other states. We have provided to the Commonwealth a detailed, costed proposal—95 pages of detail—and they have had this proposal for months and months and months. Do you know what, Mr Speaker? There is a commitment to deliver it in our budget that was delivered this week. All we need is for the Morrison government to agree to support it. We will deliver a purpose-built infection control facility for 1,000 passengers who can travel directly from the Wellcamp Airport to the facility.

It is much like the Victorian proposal that the Prime Minister says he supports except it is bigger, it is cheaper and it can be delivered faster than theirs can. We are left wondering what is so good about Victoria? Why does the federal government hate Queensland so much that they will support an inferior facility in Victoria but not a superior facility here in Queensland budgeted for by the Queensland government? This virus has now escaped hotel quarantine 21 times. If it happens again here in Queensland we will know Scott Morrison is to blame.

Waste Levy, Rebate

Ms LEAHY: My question is to the Deputy Premier. Will the minister commit to continuing the advance payments for municipal solid waste to local councils beyond 2022, or is Labor going to slap every Queenslanders with another bill of around \$80?

Dr MILES: As the Treasurer confirmed in the budget, that 105 per cent ongoing rebate of the waste levy will continue for the next 12 months up until the point in time that the legislation said it would be reviewed. That is precisely what the budget said, precisely what our commitments have been and precisely what we will do.

Those opposite have a nerve coming in here and talking about a waste levy. The sole reason we had to bring in a waste levy was because 'Blue Steel' over there abolished it in 2012.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, correct titles will be used in this chamber.

Dr MILES: What was the result? He abolished the waste levy and the trucks started. Truck after truck of waste from New South Wales was dumped in Ipswich because those opposite could not maintain a sensible waste policy and would not maintain a policy that incentivised recycling and waste recovery, because those opposite did not want the jobs that come with recycling and waste recovery. Not for a second have they acknowledged that failure. Not for a second have they admitted that those trucks came because the member for Broadwater, the worst local government minister in recent history, refused to maintain the waste levy, abolished the incentive and abolished the support for an incredibly important industry. The result was a collapse in confidence and a collapse in investment in new waste recycling and recovery facilities that the state and industry are still recovering from.

If honourable members talk to anybody in that industry they will hear them talk about how facilities they had built when there was a price on waste were suddenly not viable; when projects that they planned to build, investments that they planned to make had the rug pulled out from under them by the member for Broadwater when he abolished the waste levy. We brought it back. It is working. It is creating jobs in waste and resource recovery. It is driving investment into local governments right across this great state.

Budget, Frontline Services

Ms LAUGA: My question is of the Treasurer and Minister for Investment. Will the Treasurer please advise how the government is ensuring frontline services can grow for the benefit of all Queenslanders, and is the Treasurer aware of all other approaches to funding the front line?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Keppel for her question and her interest in the Queensland budget. It is nice to get a question on the Queensland budget today. The member for Keppel knows how important it is for Queenslanders to know, wherever they live in the state, they can be confident they can access the services they need and deserve.

Over financial year 2021-22 the budget papers show the workforce of Queensland Health will grow by 2,327. In the Queensland Police Service the member for Keppel will be pleased to know the workforce will grow by 1,075. In education the workforce will grow by 372 and in the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services it will grow by 272. That growth is what we need to deliver the services that Queenslanders need and deserve and it will be delivered because it is what is required for our state. However, that delivery is something no Queenslanders can be assured of under the LNP.

In one of his regular forays on *Sky News* I heard the Leader of the Opposition speak last night, and he was asked how he would pay down debt. The Leader of the Opposition said the LNP would only borrow to create income, not for things that are 'nice to have'. I can assure members on this side of the House that nurses, police, doctors, firefighters and teachers do not create income and I wonder if they are in the Leader of the Opposition's 'nice to have' category.

We did not have to wait long for the answer because the Leader of the Opposition was asked, 'Are you ruling out cuts?', and quick as a flash he said, 'I'm ruling out being savage.' That was nice to hear, was it not? 'I am ruling out making mistakes.' Mark down 17 July 2021; that is the day that the

Leader of the Opposition set out the LNP's strategy and that is to cut. This is the party and a minister of the Newman government that cut 14,000 public servants. He cut 14,000 workers' jobs in this state. They never said it was savage and they still do not think it was a mistake. The reward the Leader of the Opposition gives to frontline public servants for their strength, resilience and dedication during COVID-19—

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

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

Mr DICK:—is to throw them on the scrap heap of unemployment the next time Queensland faces an emergency.

He also said he had no problem with transparency in the costings process. I tell him what, the member for Everton choked on his cornflakes when he heard that after the worst costings debacle in history. Talk about transparency in costings! What about the Bruce Highway hoax and the fake Bradfield scheme? There was no transparency there. Those opposite led by the Leader of the Opposition are a bunch of phonies and he is right at the top.

(Time expired)

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I will wait for silence, members.

Waste Levy, Rebate

Mr O'CONNOR: My question is to the Premier. The Premier told Queenslanders they would not have to pay the waste levy, saying, 'Queensland families will not face the cost of this levy.' Will the Premier guarantee municipal solid waste advance payments to councils will continue past 2022 so Queenslanders are not asked to fork out around \$80 more every year?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. The Deputy Premier addressed this in detail. You lot abolished it.

Mr SPEAKER: Through the chair, Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Sorry, those opposite abolished it. Who is he the member for?

An honourable member: Bonney.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The member for Bonney was not here for that. He should go and talk to his leader, the person who did not care about waste in this state at all. We are growing the industry; we are growing jobs. As we said very clearly, those issues are being addressed in the next budget, and we are not putting any impost whatsoever on domestic waste.

Education, School Infrastructure

Mr McCALLUM: My question is of the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Will the minister advise how the Palaszczuk government has invested in education infrastructure in Queensland schools and advise if there are any alternative approaches?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for the question. I know the member has a very keen interest in education infrastructure in his area, which is a fast-growing area. It will be an absolute pleasure to be with him when we open these fantastic schools that we are now planning—and we have already opened Ripley Valley State School and Ripley Valley State Secondary College, two outstanding, world-class facilities. It was a pleasure to join him at the Goodna Special School recently when we opened an amazing new building at that school. I thank principal Fleur Watson and the school leaders who welcomed us to Goodna Special School. It was amazing to see the new learning centre, Yakka Dargun, which is now open. Those students were well behaved and so eminently entertained by the Goodna State School Indigenous dance group. It was an incredible day and this has been repeated.

The member knows that in a fast-growing area you need to put in resources. You do not sell land. You do not sell schools. You actually plan for the future. That is exactly what we are doing. The area is growing massively. There is \$67 million of work planned or underway on the schools in the member's electorate. We have schools planned for Ripley Valley, Bellbird Park and Redbank Plains. I cannot wait to deliver those on time and on budget. There will be extra classrooms at Bellbird Park State Secondary College, Fernbrooke State School and Goodna Special School and upgrades at Goodna and Redbank Plains state schools.

This is happening, as I outlined earlier today, right across the state. Our infrastructure budget is second to none. These are solid projects. They are solidly delivering for our schools and students. There are no gimmicks. There are no stupid empty cupboards. There are no ridiculous spinning wheels. You really have to wonder how the Leader of the Opposition gets the member for Kawana to spend his weekends spinning wheels. They must have nothing to do. We know they cannot read a budget. They did not go to Beef Week. What do they have to do? 'Can you do something with a spinning wheel?' That is a top stupid idea. Then they thought, 'Maybe we should use rats,' but they have used the rat on the shoulder already. We have genuine, solid infrastructure for schools. They are not gimmicks; they are real good spending.

(Time expired)

Titles Registry, Valuation

Mr JANETZKI: My question is to the Treasurer. The Code of Ethical Standards provides that members have a duty to correct the official record in the House as soon as it becomes apparent that their statements were incorrect or could be misleading. When was it first apparent to the Treasurer that the \$4.2 billion valuation of the titles office he referred to during debate on the Debt Reduction and Savings Bill was incorrect and could be misleading?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Toowoomba South for the question. I am very happy to talk about what happened in the last sitting week, but—let me think—something special happened this sitting week, I think. It might have been the budget.

I thank the member for Toowoomba South for the question. I thought he had been benched there for a while. I thought he had asked two questions in the week and got a bit puffed and had to have the day off, but he has come back strongly to ask me a question about something that happened in the last sitting week and nothing about the budget. I provided a comprehensive statement to the House yesterday for the information of all members of the House.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I have previously made rulings about those kinds of interjections. That is essentially a group interjection.

Mr Brown: Send them all out.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Capalaba, I am giving a ruling. You are warned under the standing orders.

Budget, Hospital and Health Services

Mr HEALY: My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Can the minister outline how the Palaszczuk government is supporting the hardworking hospital and health services in my community of Cairns through the 2021 budget, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for Cairns for his question. As we know, he is a very strong advocate for health services in his area. It is the Palaszczuk Labor government that is ensuring that our health system will remain strong to care for Queenslanders. I am proud that the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service will benefit from this year's health budget with a \$1.08 billion budget, which is up \$30 million from the previous budget.

Through our record \$22.2 billion health budget, the Palaszczuk government continues to deliver world-class healthcare outcomes for every resident throughout the state. I am pleased to update the House that, thanks in great part to the staunch advocacy of the member for Cairns—we know that the member from Mulgrave also advocates very strongly for the area—we are fast-tracking the expansion of the Cairns Hospital emergency department. Construction works are set to commence as early as September this year. The expanded ED, worth \$26.4 million, is expected to be delivered now six months ahead of schedule. It builds upon our government's significant investment to support health care in the Far North. We are pressing full steam ahead with the master planning required to deliver the new Cairns University Hospital. Importantly, we are also delivering a new mental health unit and an endoscopy room to complement the Cairns Hospital ED expansion.

We are also investing in significant upgrades in the Far North—the Atherton Hospital redevelopment, worth more than \$70 million, and the \$10 million upgrade to Mossman Hospital ED, to name just two. It was wonderful to visit Mossman Hospital recently. This is a really difficult site to refurbish as it boasts a heritage listed building. It is an amazing building but it is not fit for purpose anymore. I know that the staff are excited about the fit-out of the new ED coming online.

Let's talk about what we could be facing instead, the legacy of the LNP. We know that when they were last in power they sacked 4,400 health workers including 1,800 nurses and midwives. In Cairns they sacked more than 300 doctors and nurses. The consequences were dire for the staff up there. As I said in one of my previous answers, I still meet public servants, including health workers, who lost their jobs under the LNP. I remember doorknocking and meeting a single mum in Bracken Ridge. She told me that she was having to move to the Northern Territory as she had lost her job. She had to move away from family because it was the only way she could get a nursing job. I still remember that conversation on that doorstep. Those messages continue to live with me. I am so proud of this Labor health budget of \$22.2 billion, delivering for Cairns and delivering for hospital and health services right across the state.

(Time expired)

RSPCA

Mr DAMETTO: My question is to the minister for agriculture and fisheries. Queensland legislation empowers RSPCA as a third party to conduct themselves as animal welfare police. It is alleged that the RSPCA is using these powers to extort and shut down competition for financial gain. Will the minister advise what oversight the department has of the RSPCA and what protections the government can provide for those who claim harassment?

Mr FURNER: I thank the member for Hinchinbrook for his question and acknowledge his work and interest in this particular area. The Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 promotes the responsible care and use of animals in Queensland. The act places a legal duty of care on all those who own or are in charge of animals. The act also provides for offences to persons who breach that duty of care or are found to be cruel to animals.

The act is enforced jointly by Biosecurity Queensland and RSPCA Queensland under an agreement that defines the roles and responsibilities of each agency and the services to be provided. The agreement describes the agreed working relationship for administering the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001. The agreement covers areas of jurisdiction, transfer and assistance policies for complaints, training and appointment requirements, and accountability and reporting mechanisms.

Under the agreement, RSPCA inspectors have primary enforcement responsibility in the areas in which they are located for animal welfare complaints involving companion animals, wildlife, zoos, riding schools, pet shops and rodeos. Within RSPCA areas, Biosecurity Queensland inspectors have primary enforcement responsibility in relation to animals used in commercial livestock production and for feral livestock animals. In areas where RSPCA is not represented, Biosecurity Queensland inspectors take primary responsibility for enforcement. RSPCA Queensland is an important animal welfare partner with the Queensland government and we continue to work in partnership to protect the welfare of all animals in Queensland.

In December 2020 the Palaszczuk government announced a review of the act. The department released a discussion paper for public consultation between 4 April and 21 May. The consultation period is now closed. The department received approximately 914 written submissions and 1,456 responses to its online survey by the consultation closing date.

The department is now considering all feedback received and is developing proposals for amendment to the ACPA based on that feedback. I am encouraged and look forward to seeing that feedback from all of those participants, and I thank them for their interest and engagement in ensuring we get the matter right. I am more than happy to make sure that the member is kept up to date with the regular briefings and I once again encourage and recognise the interest of Katter's Australian Party in not only this area but also agriculture in general and any other matters into the future. I will continue engaging with the member or anyone else in this chamber who has an interest in not only this area but right across the sector of agriculture in terms of my responsibilities.

Budget, Police Resources

Mr WALKER: My question is of the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services. With yet another record police budget delivering more police and more police resources right across regional Queensland, will the minister please advise of a time when this was not the case?

Mr RYAN: I thank the member for Mundingburra, who is a strong supporter of the Queensland Police Service, and he is right: it is a record police budget of \$2.86 billion. For those opposite who struggle to read one of these documents or even know what they look like—there are not even any

glossy pictures on the front to distract them—on the spine of Budget Paper No. 3 there are three little dots—one, two, three—so they can work out which one Budget Paper No. 3 is. If we look at the Capital Statement for the Queensland Police Service, we see record investment.

A government member: Page number?

Mr RYAN: Page 87. That is an eight and a seven—87. We see a massive investment in the Queensland Police Service when it comes to facilities and resources. Right across the state, what does this budget deliver for the Queensland Police Service? It is progressing facilities at Aurukun, Beaudesert, Biloela, Burketown, Cairns, Cairns West, Clermont, Cooroy, Cunnamulla, Dalby, Dayboro, Hervey Bay, Kirwan, Mackay, Maryborough, Nambour, Pimpama, Pormpuraaw, Ripley, Rosewood, Warwick and Woree—a record budget investing in the Queensland Police Service. We know that those opposite always have a plan to cut the Police Service.

During the last election we saw that they were not going to match our commitment about a record investment in extra police resources and that would mean is that police resources would be cut in particular areas. I liked the member for Burdekin's comment in the *Townsville Bulletin* just yesterday when he said that fighting crime was not about the number of police on the streets. Why would they say that? Because they want to cut the number of police on the streets. Let us have a look at the cut-ometer of Deb and Dale and David's cuts—

Mr SPEAKER: Please put that down or table the document.

Mr RYAN:—which in Townsville and the north would mean 90 fewer police. That was their commitment at the last election. When we see those opposite and their agenda around the Queensland Police Service, it is always savage—cut, cut, cut, cut. Of course, the member for Broadwater backed that in yesterday when he said that there would be cuts. He says that they will not be savage, but whenever it comes to the Queensland Police Service and the LNP it is always savage.

What did they do when they were last in government? The cuts that they inflicted on the Queensland Police Service meant that 110 senior police were gone and 300 police personnel were gone. They cut training, they cut resources, they made police buy their own body worn cameras and they cut funding to the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council. The most heinous thing of all is that they cut the monitoring of sex offenders—1,700 sex offenders let off the hook because of legislation changes by those opposite. When it comes to backing the Queensland Police Service, it is our government that delivers every single time.

Katie Rose Cottage Hospice, Funding

Ms BOLTON: My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. I refer to our ongoing advocacy for Katie Rose Cottage Hospice and ask: will the minister ensure existing accredited hospice services be provided with the same level of funding as other palliative care providers from Queensland Health's additional \$171 million for end-of-life and palliative care?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for Noosa for her question. As we all know, palliative care is an important service that we must continue to invest in across this state. As I have said in recent times, it was a pleasure to go to the Longreach Hospital recently to see—it was near completion, but in fact I have just been told that it has been completed—the new palliative care unit, so I look forward to going up there and seeing it completed. This gives families more support and comfort where they do have to provide that care in the hospital, but of course we do not want it all to be provided in the hospital. Where we can, we want palliative care provided at home. That is why the Palaszczuk government did announce at the election an additional \$171 million over the forward estimates to develop and implement a new palliative and end-of-life care strategy investing in community based services to develop a workforce plan to support a specialist palliative care workforce and support practitioners and deliver public education and advocacy.

In relation to the member for Noosa's question, that is in addition to existing funding. In relation to Katie Rose Cottage, I am advised that the current funding with the Department of Health goes through to the middle of 2022. The process would be followed, as is the normal process, that future funding beyond mid-2022 would be part of any reconsideration by the department prior to the expiry date. As a minister I believe it is important that we give certainty to organisations, so that reconsideration should be done in advance so organisations know whether or not their funding is continuing. I am a big supporter of that, but we are talking over a year away and so work will be done over the next 12 months to look at that.

I was pleased that Katie Rose Cottage not only got existing funding but also got additional funding, as I understand, with the \$12.9 million to non-government organisations during 2020-21 to deliver palliative care services in the community. I am pleased that it has been able to benefit from that funding. I want to acknowledge all of our health workers who work in this space and our additional nurses and midwives and the creation of a new role of palliative care nurse navigator. This is a really important role and I am so pleased that we are able to fund these positions within the health system. I will continue to work with not just our hospitals but also our NGO sector around palliative care to ensure that, without going into the detail of a bill before the House, people have an option and understand that there is support in the community to make decisions around their end-of-life care.

Budget, Agriculture Industry

Mrs GILBERT: My question is of the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities. Will the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is supporting farmers through the 2021 budget and can he advise of any alternative approaches?

Mr FURNER: I thank the member for Mackay for her question, because she shares the same intimate interest that every member of the Palaszczuk government has for our primary producers—the men and the women who put the food on our plates every day of the week. It is one of the backbones of our economy. It is going to help us deliver our Queensland plan for economic recovery out of this pandemic. 2020 was a year of global disruption because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and that pandemic is no doubt still causing issues of uncertainty today. I want to commend the Treasurer on this budget. It is a budget that delivers for agriculture and agriculture is the heart of the Treasurer's focus given his background working as a senior policy adviser in a previous government for the great primary industries minister Henry Palaszczuk.

This budget will give our producers more certainty in these uncertain times and with this budget we will continue to invest in the key foundation blocks to deliver long-term sustainability and growth right across our supply chain. This morning the Premier eloquently delivered a ministerial statement touching on all of those key points, and I want to once again touch on them. There is \$42.5 million over the next four years for continuing fisheries reforms, \$71.4 million for a drought reform package—a reform package that is well received and supported by AgForce and other stakeholders in our area—and \$8.1 million for biosecurity operations over the next four years.

When it comes to comparing the Palaszczuk government's record in agriculture to that of the LNP's there are stark differences. It is more like comparing apples with bulldust. It is black and white. In 2019 for this portfolio we delivered \$525 million in our budget; \$556 million in the budget last year; and in this year's budget \$523 million. A record three consecutive years of delivering more than half a billion dollars to agriculture across this state. In comparison the LNP budget in this portfolio in 2012 was \$442.4 million; their second budget was \$403 million; and their third budget was \$408 million. It went further than that. If one looks at the record, 600 staff in this area were cut to the bone by this mob opposite. Those opposite have no record when it comes to agriculture. It is only the Palaszczuk government that delivers in this area.

Budget, Infrastructure

Mr BLEIJIE: My question is to the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning. Labor is reducing the infrastructure budget by nine per cent, down from \$56.03 billion to \$52.2 billion, meaning this year's infrastructure spending is less than the 10-year average. Where is Labor's plan for the infrastructure needed to protect Queensland's lifestyle in the future?

Dr MILES: The member for Kawana asks: where is Labor's plan to deliver the infrastructure of the future? For the benefit of the member for Kawana, there was a whole series of booklets that the Treasurer tabled earlier in the week that fully details that plan at length.

Mr Bleijie: I've read it!

Dr MILES: I do not think you did, member for Kawana, because if you had you would know that—

Mr SPEAKER: The comments will come through the chair.

Dr MILES:—first of all the budget more than delivers on the Palaszczuk government's infrastructure guarantee that we will spend more than \$50 billion each and every year. Indeed, in the next financial year we will spend \$52.2 billion. That is more than the \$50 billion guarantee. In fact, over the 10 years to 2024-25 this government will have spent \$110 billion on infrastructure works.

Ms Palaszcuk: Can you say that again?

Dr MILES: \$110 billion!

Mr Bleijie: A \$4 billion reduction!

Dr MILES: If you want to talk about what a reduction would look like, or a shrinkage would be, let us go back to the infrastructure spend that those opposite committed to. They were spending \$43 billion on infrastructure in their last two budgets. The Treasurer is more responsible for the math than I am, but is 43 less than 52?

Mr Dick: Yes, it is.

Dr MILES: Quite a bit less. In fact, in their first budget they made a virtue of shrinking the infrastructure spend. The member for Clayfield boasted that his budget was cutting infrastructure spending in order to deliver on their cruel, savage austerity measures.

It is very clear that it is this government that has a plan for infrastructure, infrastructure like Cross River Rail, that would be built by now if the LNP had not cut it and knocked back federal government funding for it, and Gold Coast Light Rail stage 3, another great infrastructure project being delivered by this government and in this budget. The numbers speak for themselves. We are investing more and more into infrastructure right across this state and we will continue to do so over the forwards and beyond, including to deliver the infrastructure needed for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

TAFE Infrastructure

Mr HARPER: My question is to the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development. Can the minister update the House on the Palaszcuk government's investment in TAFE infrastructure for the hydrogen and renewable jobs of the future and is she aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr SPEAKER: You have two minutes to respond, Minister.

Ms FARMER: I thank the member for his question. We have many conversations about our investment in TAFE, which is about equipping Queensland for future jobs. That includes TAFE infrastructure. In last year's budget we announced a \$100 million, three-year program to invest in TAFE facility upgrades and new facilities across the state. I am very pleased to say that all of those projects will be either completed or underway by August next year. That includes our \$10.6 million hydrogen and renewable energy training facility at Bohle campus.

We have also made other investments in infrastructure around renewables. As the Premier mentioned, we have \$20 million for the PICAC Hydrogen Training Centre of Excellence in Beenleigh where we did our campaign launch. The Minister for Energy, the Treasurer and I did the sod turning earlier in the year. I know that the Minister for Education and the member for Gladstone are really excited about the \$2 million for Gladstone State High School. This all underpins our renewable energy target of 50 per cent by 2030.

There seems to be an announcement almost every week about what we are doing in this space, which makes a comparison with the LNP's position more and more embarrassing. They went to the election saying they were scrapping the renewable energy target. They actually called renewable energy a fantasy. The member for Callide had ads up on Facebook before the election saying that the fantasy of renewables was holding us back. He even linked to an article about a report that had been commissioned by that well-known renewable energy expert Malcolm Roberts, the One Nation senator. Their attitude is an attack on jobs. It is a conspiracy theory. We need to be looking to the future and that is what our investment in TAFE infrastructure is all about.

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Appropriation (Parliament) Bill resumed from 15 June (see p. 1815) and Appropriation Bill resumed from 15 June (see p. 1823).

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)



Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (11.16 am): I move—
That the bills be now read a second time.



Mr CRISAFULLI (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.16 am): It is a great honour to give this budget reply today, not only on behalf of the opposition but also on behalf of all Queenslanders—those who vote for us and those who do not. Without doubt Queensland is stronger with an opposition that is hungry for detail and eager to hold the government to account. To stay true to this objective the process must strive to be open and transparent. The government has a responsibility to honour this objective, not just in the budget documents themselves but also in its communication to the people of Queensland. In this spirit the budget should not just be about large abstract numbers but rather a demonstration of how it will help honest Queenslanders in their everyday lives.

When I was chosen to lead the opposition I promised Queenslanders I would talk with them about the issues that mattered to them. Since then I have spoken to thousands of Queenslanders across this great state. What has followed is the inundation of my office with the personal stories of Queenslanders impacted by the failure of the government to deliver basic services. A budget should give people hope. It should reassure them they have been listened to and that help is on the way. At the very least it should acknowledge the failures and work to ensure these tragic stories are not visited upon further victims. It is my responsibility as opposition leader to speak for these people and ask where in this budget is the opportunity, where is the reassurance, where is the hope?

Where in this budget is the reassurance for Julie from Redcliffe who joins us today? Julie's mum Gwen waited six hours in February and 12 hours in March for an ambulance after suffering falls. Last month Julie's aunt suffered a medical episode and waited 10 hours for help to arrive. What reassurance and hope does a budget that cuts capital expenditure in health give to Julie? Where in this budget is the hope for Wendy? Wendy has been looking for a rental property on the Gold Coast since November last year. After going to more than 100 inspections without success, what reassurance and hope does a budget that cuts infrastructure spending give to Wendy?

Where in this budget is the opportunity for Rodney from the Sunshine Coast? Rodney runs a compliance and labour supply business for agricultural and horticultural businesses in Queensland. His clients are struggling due to huge labour shortages of fruit pickers and his own business is weighed down by bureaucratic red tape. What reassurance and hope does a budget prefaced on the abolition of a productivity commission give to Rodney?

Where in this budget is the reassurance and hope for Alan, who is watching us today from Townsville? Alan's ute was rammed by thieves when, on his way to work, he stopped to help a woman whose house was broken into. What reassurance and hope does a budget that provides no funding towards the reinstatement of breach of bail as an offence give to Alan? A budget that fails to give answers to those Queenslanders fails all Queenslanders.

The reason that the government cannot provide those answers is they are losing control of the things that matter to Queensland. They are losing control of law and order, they are losing control of housing and they are losing control of the health system.

In this state the Australian Labor Party has a long history of overseeing a continual state of crisis within the health system. Who can forget the extraordinary admission of former premier Bligh when, faced with exceptional failures overseen by her and those who sat around her cabinet table, she was forced to admit that Queensland Health was a basket case.

Sadly, we are back to those bad old days. Ramping levels have hit 40 per cent across the state; it was 30 per cent during the Bligh basket case. Elective surgery waiting lists have reached 55,000; it was 36,000 during the Bligh basket case. Dental waiting lists are now at 150,000 Queenslanders; it was 60,000 during the Bligh basket case. The budget does not provide hope, whether it be downgrades to the promised hospital in Bundaberg, the broken promise on the hospital in the Redlands or the inability to deliver a kidney transplant unit in the north. Labor is losing control of the health system and Queenslanders are paying for it with their physical wellbeing and in some cases tragically their lives.

We have heard ad nauseam about the record health budget—a spend unmatched in all the years that have gone before. We have heard that line rolled out by the health minister, the Treasurer and even the Premier as if it is something new; as if it will be the panacea to the crisis situation that our public health system now finds itself in. In our emergency departments one in four people are not seen within the clinically recommended time based on their need.

A record health budget, particularly an increase that is struggling to keep pace with inflation, is not a health outcome. In fact, it is meaningless to the millions of people who rely on our health system each year. Ask Steve, whose wife died in his arms waiting for an ambulance to arrive, what a record health budget means to him. Ask Patricia, who waited not months but years for a hip replacement to ease her chronic pain. It was a record health budget last year and the year before that and the year before that, but still the horror stories continue to mount.

Queensland Health needs cultural change, money to support the front line and transparency in what it does. But how can a government expect transparency from its departments when its signature \$2 billion Hospital Building Fund has no money allocated to build a single hospital? These issues have been exposed by a campaign led by the shadow minister for health. As a registered nurse she knows what matters on the front line. The numbers are real, the people behind them are real and they will not be silenced.

In the past week we have spoken to honest Queenslanders from across the state who are desperate for a better functioning and more responsive health system. Like the thousands who have reached out to my office in the past six months, they were courageous enough to tell their stories. They are doctors, nurses, paramedics, grandparents, mothers and fathers, sons and daughters. At every session current Queensland Health staff came to give their feedback on how to fix the broken system they labour under. Not one of them sought to blame a clinician and nor should they because we know what an outstanding job those on the front line of our health services do. A light was shone upon the work they carry out day in, day out and we are proud and grateful for them all.

Unfortunately, the government is focused on blame, not solutions. The shadow finance minister predicted the excuses that will follow as the budget unravels and whether it is COVID, Canberra or culture the government has sheeted home the blame for every health failure to everyone but themselves. We hear of our ageing and growing population. Those opposite are happy to identify the problem and attribute blame, but as the government it is incumbent on them to find a solution. We are not seeing that.

Where in this budget is the plan to heal our health system? Where is the plan to fix the Queensland Health crisis? Where are the measures that will see a more seamless experience for the patient, from primary to acute care? Where in this budget is the desire to catch Queenslanders with minor health problems before they become major ones or to share and be open with data to improve patient experience?

The shadow minister for open data, the member for Buderim, is spearheading our plan to provide open and transparent data to assist healthcare professionals. It can be such a powerful tool. With it the patient and clinicians can make informed decisions about the care they receive and provide. On this side of the House we have made some responsible and workable suggestions to improve Queensland's public health system, including making emergency room data available in real time. We know that our hospitals record that information already; it just needs to be released publicly. We have asked the government to improve and better resource triaging practices in our emergency departments and to be honest and open about bed resourcing in our hospitals so that a chair sitting underneath a shower does not count as a bed. That is the only way we will empower those on the front line to make decisions about getting the most out of resources.

We want to see our regional and remote hospitals and health centres appropriately resourced and the clinicians in those locations able to work to the full scope of their practice. They should not be hamstrung in looking after their patients. The tyranny of distance will always be a challenge in Queensland and, of course, complex procedures may require a patient to travel away from home. The opposition is realistic about that. However, we should look to that as an option of last resort. Let us equip our doctors and nurses in the bush so that they can care for patients in their local communities and ease the pressure on the larger hospitals in major centres. Is it the best outcome and the smartest use of resources to ask young parents in Chinchilla to leave their community to have their baby?

The problems that have beset our public hospital system can be fixed but they will not be if those opposite put their heads in the sand and remain unwilling to do anything differently. No longer can the government hide behind the three words 'record health budget'. Queenslanders are realising that their health outcomes are being compromised by a mismanaged system and Queenslanders will not stand for it. Yes, there might be a record health budget, as there is every year, but sitting on the benches opposite is a government whose record on health is now failing honest Queenslanders. For Queenslanders it is not about the government's record health budget; it is about their health record and on that front they are failing.

This budget delivers no solutions to the crime wave ravishing communities across the state. With big increases in crime rates in many local communities the government is out of ideas, whether it is stubbornness in refusing to reinstate breach of bail as an offence, the ham-fisted attempt to hide crime figures or the failure of ankle bracelets because they are not fit for purpose, it is clear that the government is losing control of crime in this state.

The disappointing feature of the entire debate is that Labor was never truly committed to combatting crime. It was always too hard or the solutions that worked never met the approval of those elements of the party that see the victim as little more than a nuisance. Sure, the debate moved from KitKats to bracelets after the community and a brave commissioner slapped down the minister, but when the crunch came Labor always uttered platitudes about victims and never took the step to ensure that those Queenslanders are safe. Weak laws and poor resources mean officers are being asked to pick up the pieces after criminals have embarked on their lawless outbursts.

The need for better facilities has been raised on countless occasions with us. Police in Townsville are going to have to wait at least another 12 months for a new station in Kirwan with only minor money for planning allocated in this financial year. The irony that this outdated facility was the location for a group of hoons to conduct burnouts in a car park with a stolen vehicle, goading police to chase them, will not be lost on the North.

The seemingly intractable problem that is occurring today is that offences are being committed by a cohort of criminals who see crime as a recreational activity—a game, a joke. They refuse to take responsibility for their actions and believe that society should simply carry the burden of their existence. Lines in a budget alone will not fix this. It needs changing laws and the knowledge of those who wear a blue uniform that the government has got their backs.

The member for Burdekin, the shadow minister for police and emergency services, has campaigned not only in Townsville but also from the Gold Coast to the Far North for policies that will curb criminal activity. He has highlighted Labor's hands-off approach to criminal activity. He has supported the efforts of the police as they seek to grapple with the elements with one hand tied behind their back. He has led the charge for reforms to the Bail Act to ensure those who breach their bail undertakings can be arrested and charged and, most importantly, separated from the law-abiding citizens they harass and intimidate. Breach of bail legislation is not the cure-all for crime in this state, but it will give police and the justice system a powerful weapon to protect those who are unable to protect themselves and their property.

The stark reality of Labor's failures can be seen in the bungled introduction of GPS tracking devices. They were trumpeted as the solution to the crime problem. It now appears they do not function properly; the technology is not fit for purpose.

The budget represents a lost opportunity, an opportunity to chart a new course in an effort to defeat crime, an opportunity to put the interests of citizens first, and an opportunity to support those protecting Queenslanders. In the last six years, the government has failed the first test of government on so many occasions. It has failed the test of community safety. The government went to an election promising to keep Queenslanders safe and strong. It sure does not feel that way to Phil from Sunnybank Hills who was broken into five times.

Congestion is another area where Queenslanders have reached out to the opposition with stories that demonstrate a government that is losing control of another basic responsibility. The inability to deliver projects on time and on budget will be an albatross on the growth and prosperity of Queenslanders for a generation.

I want to acknowledge the shadow transport minister and member for Chatsworth who has been working hard to keep this government honest when it comes to the state's biggest infrastructure project, Cross River Rail. How many times have we heard those opposite say that it was a \$5.4 billion project? While this budget has many flaws, at least it provides a clearer picture on the current cost of Cross River Rail, now hitting \$6.9 billion, and counting!

It is not just the project budget that is in trouble. We do not know if they have ordered enough trains and if those on order will be ready once the project opens in 2025. That is right—2025. The 2024 opening—well, that is another broken promise. That is Labor's infrastructure record.

Mr Bailey: You cut it, mate!

Mr CRISAFULLI: It has been embarrassing—

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Minister for Transport and Main Roads, you are warned under the standing orders. I am offering the same courtesy to the Leader of the Opposition as was offered to the Treasurer on Tuesday, and you are also not putting your comments through the chair.

Mr CRISAFULLI: It has been embarrassing watching the Treasurer twist himself in knots trying to explain how an infrastructure spend reduction from \$56 billion to \$52 billion is not a cut. The constant message I get from commuters is that they are sick of spending time behind the wheel of their car instead of spending time with families—people like Brad from the Gold Coast who commutes daily to Brisbane. Brad tells me the 50-minute trip now runs well past an hour, forcing him to scramble to make arrangements for his kids and forcing him to lose precious time with them. Around the world, we have seen families torn apart by the pandemic. It makes us realise how we must treasure every minute we get to spend with our loved ones.

For business, time is money. Any small business owner will tell you that if you are sitting in a traffic jam, you are not making a dollar. Traffic congestion makes it harder to service their customers' needs. It makes it harder to deliver and receive goods. It means phone calls from their employees who are late to work because they, too, are the victims of a congested network.

Ask commuters on the Centenary Highway how they feel about the ever increasing gridlock, and ask what they think of the start of construction of the bridge duplication blowing out from 2021 to 2022—another broken promise to mums and dads who just want a few extra precious minutes with their kids. That is Labor's infrastructure record.

On the Gold Coast, we were told before the election that the construction of stage 3 of light rail was imminent. What did we find out after the election? The contract was not signed and a massive \$334 million cost blowout was revealed. A project that was originally meant to be completed in 2023 is now reportedly targeting a late 2024 or maybe 2025 date. Another project, another delay, another cost blowout—that is Labor's infrastructure record. It is worth noting that this project would be in serious strife if it was not for the federal government which agreed to provide additional funding to bail out the state's inability to meet its commitments.

On the Sunshine Coast, the Mooloolah River Interchange is one of those projects that has been on the backburner for too long. This is a state road, and responsibility for the upgrade lies with the state government. The local LNP team, both federal and state, knew that continued inaction was not good enough and they recently secured \$160 million from the federal government for this state project. The state government has had half a decade to do the planning for this vital link. The budget papers reveal just \$4 million out of a \$320 million project this financial year—another delay for another vital link.

Too many Queensland roads need urgent maintenance. The government was warned by the Auditor-General in 2017 that not enough money was being spent on maintenance, and safety was being compromised. Four years later and we now face a maintenance backlog approaching \$6 billion. That is Labor's infrastructure record.

As we look towards an Olympic Games in 2032, what do we need? We must spend more on infrastructure for a growing state. We must plan for the population increases that we know are coming, and have the roads and the public transport services in place ready for that growth. The government has not planned. That is Labor's infrastructure record.

We have learned that despite a substantial increase in revenue, funding for the infrastructure needed to regain control of the housing crisis will not provide the relief that our state requires. Unbelievably, the Treasurer has announced a \$1 billion housing building fund which does not have a single cent allocated in the forwards of this budget. While the Treasurer has made much of the influx of people from interstate, he offers no comfort that the government has any ability to house them without further inflaming the housing shortage. Queensland needs infrastructure built to protect the lifestyles of the people who already live here and infrastructure to deliver jobs for those who are moving here.

Queensland is in the grip of a housing crisis. Years of inaction in providing the needed land supply in supporting road, rail, water and sewerage has led to a severe shortage of dwellings for Queenslanders to buy and rent. This government is losing control of the planning needed to accommodate the thousands of people who are moving to Queensland. But this is not an overnight occurrence; it has been six years in the making. The government's own data shows that in the 2015 March quarter, 7,133 lots were approved across Queensland. A year later that had dropped to 5,285; then 4,899 in the 2017 March quarter; 3,713 in 2018; 3,038 in 2019; and 2,324 in March 2020.

The numbers are starker for the growing south-east corner where the number of approved lots dropped from 6,177 in the March quarter of 2015 to only 1,699 in 2020. This is despite the industry warning over 30,000 additional dwellings are needed to match our growing population. This lack of supply has been driving up the cost of housing to not just buy but also rent. We have all seen the horror stories of hundreds of people turning up to open homes only to find the house is already sold or rented—

people like the constituents who told the member for Kawana that, as a double income family with a long-term rental history in the local area, they never thought they would be on the verge of homelessness, and Cassie, whom we had here at parliament, who has had to move cities to put a roof over her kid's head.

What does this mean for Queensland? For the first time in living memory we have a cohort of families with well-paying jobs that cannot find a home. They are the working homeless and it has to stop. It is not just those on solid incomes who are being left behind. The government is also failing those whom they claim to most vehemently want to protect: our most vulnerable Queenslanders, the battlers on the bread line.

Only last week whilst on a visit to the region we heard the shadow housing minister, the member for Everton, talk about the social housing crisis in Cairns—a crisis brought on by six years of underinvestment in those Queenslanders most in need. This underinvestment in social housing has led to a significant rise in the size of the social housing waiting list—a list that now has more than 26,000 Queenslanders on it. What is more, 16,000 of the applications on this list are from Queenslanders who are classified as very high need. That means 61 per cent of all applications are from those in desperation stakes.

This has happened because over the past six years Labor has only increased the number of government owned housing dwellings by less than one per cent. Let me repeat that: less than a per cent over more than a half a decade. That is housing stock for social housing, community housing and Indigenous housing. Now the government want us to praise them for addressing a crisis they have created by establishing a fund they are not funding. We do have to do better than this.

There are community housing providers who are eager to be involved. Their mission is to ensure honest Queenslanders have a roof over their heads and somewhere safe to sleep. The government can partner with them to give people a shot at a stable home. This is bigger than ideology. Those opposite need to put it to one side. It is about providing a home for Queenslanders. It is too important to get it wrong. We know that a stable, safe home means people are more likely to get a job, more likely to be in better health and, therefore, more likely to break a cycle in which they otherwise could be entrenched for a lifetime. This lack of investment in social housing also impacts the ability of many Queensland women who are suffering at the hands of domestic violence to escape that situation.

I am determined to lead a centre right political movement with conviction and compassion. Today I announce the LNP's social entrepreneurs loan scheme which will be driven by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. Federal Treasurer Frydenberg has committed to an unemployment figure starting with a four. Part of this strategy is to push the jobless rate lower than historical averages to generate accelerated wages growth. To achieve this outcome, more long-term unemployed Australians will need to rejoin the workforce.

ABS data reveals that 34 per cent of unemployed women and 26 per cent of unemployed men are dealing with mental illness. The opposition will advocate to make \$20 million available, with loans to be capped at \$500,000 per enterprise. The policy proposed would be based on that enacted by David Cameron in the United Kingdom where a government body provided loans with repayments to commence after two years. The loan appraisals would be assessed by an independent body. The independent body would also provide links to businesses in Queensland that can provide expertise in financial management to allow the businesses to grow. It is also possible that philanthropic sources and the impact investment market could be leveraged to double this fund and support the creation of hundreds of jobs—jobs for those with a disability, jobs for those with personal struggles and jobs for those who too often fall through the cracks.

We want to break barriers for those Queenslanders who just want the pride that comes with being able to provide. The shadow Treasurer will outline the mechanics of this initiative. We hope the government sees it worthy of adoption. If not, I commit that the first recipients will benefit from the LNP's social entrepreneurs loan scheme in 2025.

There are other failures I will touch briefly on ahead of the contributions to be made by shadow ministers and shadow assistant ministers during this debate. Disappointingly, the Treasurer broke his commitment, at least in spirit, to no new taxes when he refused to guarantee advanced waste levy payments to councils beyond the 2021-22 financial year. He will now be forcing councils to be collection officers of the Premier's wheelie bin tax. Shadow local government minister, the member for Warrego, will detail feedback that she has received from councils throughout Queensland. Needless to say, when ratepayers receive rises in the years ahead, to the tune of around \$80, councils will be in no mood for the recycled excuses that householders will not be impacted.

Whilst on environmental initiatives, the only reduction I can see in the \$500 million Carbon Reduction Fund is of the financial variety, with not one cent in the forward estimates. The government has given up on protected areas, with an increase of 0.01 per cent. In his speech, the shadow environment minister will expose how the government has missed every major environmental target it has set itself in office. In the resource space, the Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund has more money not budgeted than it has funded. In agriculture we again see a reduction in staff, including in the crucial biosecurity space. Research and development is an afterthought for an industry that soldiered on through COVID, despite the challenges of staffing shortages.

With the prospect of water restrictions on the horizon for South-East Queensland families, the lack of future planning for water infrastructure has never been starker. As the shadow water minister, the member for Nanango, has revealed, not intent with ripping down Paradise Dam last term, questions remain unanswered over the government's strategy to deliver water security for our growing population while allowing opportunities for farmers in the Lockyer.

In my shadow portfolio responsibility of tourism, we have seen no major financial injection in their hour of need. In the wake of COVID, the state government has provided amongst the lowest amount of industry support per person of any government in the nation. Now is the time to develop new product to ensure the floodgates open when international travel is safe to return. The flagship ecotourism Wangetti Trail project, backed so strongly by the opposition as a new product for our tourism offering, is mired in delays. The budget papers show only \$430,000 of a \$4.52 million budget has been spent in the 2020-21 financial year. The Outback Tourism Infrastructure Fund has spent \$1,000 of a \$1 million fund. Tourism, events and hospitality are on the cusp of a golden era in this state. In a post-COVID era, the clean and green reputation of the coast and the rainforest and the Dreamtime stories of Western Queensland set us apart from our competitors across the globe. Now is the time to provide the confidence for them to invest.

When asked about a contingency for another outbreak, the Treasurer's response was, 'Heaven forbid there is.' Business is not looking to the sky; they are looking for certainty. Those in hospitality are looking for the comfort to know that if they cannot trade for the greater good and lose thousands of dollars in perishables, a safety net is there to assist. Those in events want to bring business to Queensland in the knowledge that if it is cancelled for worthy health reasons beyond their control, a portion of their costs could be met.

These initiatives are not worth tens of millions of dollars. In fact, if we are confident in our health response, they will never be used—but they send a signal of confidence to the private sector to invest in Queensland. If as leaders we can instil confidence in the vaccine rollout amongst our community, the likelihood of lockdowns will diminish in the months ahead.

I said from day one I would be prepared to praise things where they align with the values of our community. With the federal government embarking on an aggressive free trade strategy, international relationships have never been more important. The increased funding for the International Education and Training Strategy is to be applauded. We must be prepared to welcome back students in a safe way in the years ahead. A good education should be the cornerstone of all we do. The government's funding of 10 new schools is welcomed. We intend to work cooperatively to ensure they are delivered by the election and the pipeline to meet growth continues in the decades ahead.

Child safety has been an area of great failure for a generation. The increase in funding for child safety officers is positive. Now the minister must lead the cultural change our most vulnerable deserve.

In my own electorate of Broadwater, there is money for the Jabiru Island bridge—the vital link over Coombabah Creek. Residents will be disappointed that the money is not for the duplication that has been put on the backburner for a generation, but it is attention nonetheless and I welcome it. Coombabah State High gets nearly \$13 million for new classroom facilities. While it technically falls in neighbouring Bonney, it is a vital facility for my local area. I will be again campaigning for Coombabah primary and Biggera Waters to be given similar attention to replace dongas that came on the back of a truck decades ago. I acknowledge the minister's good grace in always discussing schooling matters in my local area.

Transparency and accountability matter. There is a reason I named a shadow minister for integrity. It is because I intend that we conduct ourselves in an open manner. The member for Maroochydore will set that standard in government. Those opposite have no such role and have given up on integrity. The abolition of the Productivity Commission has been done for one reason and one reason alone—it shone a light on the fact that government has no vision and no plan to grow the economy through productivity gains.

Productivity growth is supported by governments when they provide the necessary infrastructure to help business grow and individuals live their lives more efficiently. It is a tradie being able to quote an extra job instead of being stuck at a level crossing on Barrack Road in Cannon Hill. It is a sugarcane farmer in Mirani being able to use new cropping technology made here in Queensland to get better yields on her crops with less water and energy costs. It is a cafe owner in Mitchelton being able to spend more time with his customers rather than filling out forms at a table out the back. It is about a holiday resort in the Whitsundays being able to have access to a labour pool today that can provide basic services to keep their occupancy rates at a maximum; an IT firm in Longreach having access to government data in real time to drive opportunities for the region; or a suburban accounting firm in Cairns being able to find a commerce graduate to head to the Far North, find a house to live in and help the firm take on more clients. That what it is about.

It is about ensuring that our citizen's skills are kept up to date so they can pivot to new careers throughout their life. It is about governments ensuring a supportive culture for emerging industries to provide certainty to venture capitalists that Queensland is a place worth investing in. We know that venture capital from Australian sources is mostly spent either overseas or in southern states. This should not be the case. It is about providing the infrastructure and services so businesses know that Queensland is a place to expand their business rather than expand across the border.

Up until last month Queensland had a Productivity Commission. This independent and free-thinking commission produced landmark reports into electricity prices, service delivery in remote Indigenous communities and improving regulation. In fact, the commission produced a report that demonstrated that we could improve our gross state product by one to two per cent by reducing regulatory burden. There are over 265,000 separate regulatory requirements in Queensland.

The commission recommended that our regulations be reviewed to ensure they are fit for purpose. The commission also produced a report demonstrating how Queensland can build economic resilience into the future and be ready for the next shock when it comes. This commission was too independent for the Treasurer, so he decided to bury it in Treasury with what is the rather Orwellian title of the 'Office of Productivity and Red Tape Reduction'—seen for a fleeting media release and then stripped of any independent thought or power.

When this government closed the Productivity Commission it sent a message to Queenslanders that the days of openness and transparency are over. This is a government that needs all the help it can get when it comes to new ideas and vision. They are in their third term. They are becoming smug. They are closed to new ways of thinking and supporting innovation.

Much has been made of the Treasurer's definition of 'frontline services' which sees about 91.5 per cent of public servants classified as frontline or frontline support. I will let the Treasurer outline his reasons for this definition. Instead, I will outline what Queenslanders deserve—frontline workers with the resources and trust to serve the public and those in administrative roles with the respect and independence to provide the best policy objectives and to allow the private sector to get the most with every dealing with government. In 2024 there will be a minister for customer service, and the member for Chatsworth will ensure each Queenslanders is respected and served in the best way in this country.

An area of concern for me is the 20 per cent cut to staffing under the Chief Customer and Digital Officer. This is part of a wider drift on digital policy, with most digital projects coming to an end at the end of June. Are we doing enough to guard against cyber attacks on our key government platforms? Are we doing enough to create jobs in the new economy?

The lack of transparency around the budget process is a great disservice to Queenslanders. The amount of trickery and confusion that surrounds the budget has the effect of leaving Queenslanders in the dark. While the more jaded among us may write this off as 'political spin', it is in fact nothing short of the disenfranchisement of Queensland people. The attempts by the government to sow confusion range from 22 budget releases late on the Friday of the Olympics announcement through to an orchestrated campaign by Labor MPs to prevent scrutiny during the estimates process. We have even seen the Premier hiding her director-general hiring practices on private email.

In this budget we saw several headline programs announced with no funding. The Treasurer sold an asset he already owned to himself at an inflated price to pay down debt. Today I unveil my proposal to pull back the covers on budgetary and costing matters and give Queenslanders a clear view, to put an end to a secretive process which is designed to confuse them, not to serve them.

I give the commitment today that, if elected, I will establish a parliamentary budget office and start the journey towards transparency. Costs to run one vary between jurisdictions in the range of \$1.5 million to \$3.5 million. As you can see, Mr Speaker, this is a small investment in a large shift in the way we respect our democratic process.

The parliamentary budget office will produce an intergenerational report that sets out a long-term strategy for Queensland. It is a vision and a road to get there. It will also put an end to arguments over budget and election costings by offering a policy-costing function. Furthermore, it will ensure Queenslanders know the truth at election time by producing a pre-election economic financial outlook to be delivered six weeks before the start of the election period.


I do not fear having the microscope put over what I say I will do, when I will do it and how much it will cost. Does the third-term Premier value transparency in the same way she did when she sat in this chair over half a decade ago? Crucially, the parliamentary budget office will be run independent of government and come under the authority of this parliament. It will be available to all party leaders in this place.

The parliamentary budget office and my reforms to the estimates process that I announced last year will bring back trust and dignity to the process and finally allow Queenslanders to know the truth. It should not have to wait until 2025. I ask the government to embrace this idea, supported by both sides of politics for over a decade, and implement it ahead of the 2024 election. To borrow a phrase, 'It's time'.

An opposition's role is to hold the government to account. This necessarily involves constructive criticism. I have tempered this with some suggestions for the government on how they could start to address some of the concerns that Queenslanders have outlined to me. I have also set out a blueprint on some accountability measures that will help with transparency around the budget process and lead to better outcomes for honest Queenslanders. Despite the lack of transparency that surrounds this budget, it is clear that it is a deeply flawed document.

At the start of my reply I outlined how a budget should speak to the issues that impact the everyday lives of everyday Queenslanders. This budget fails to deliver on this and as such will set Queenslanders back. I say to Queenslanders: when an ambulance does not arrive in Redcliffe because of a failure to address hospital resourcing, think of this budget; when you are stuck in traffic heading to the capital from the Gold Coast or Sunshine Coast because of cuts and delays to road projects, think of this budget; when your car is stolen in Townsville because of a failure to provide police with the tools they need, think of this budget; when a lack of housing options in Aspley means your children cannot compete and buy their first home because of the government's failure to keep up with infrastructure, think of this budget.

Two days ago the government had the chance to outline a plan to regain control of health, crime, congestion, productivity and housing. Two days ago it had a chance to put money in the funds they trumpeted to fix these problems. Two days ago they had a chance to regain the mantra of transparency they heralded more than half a decade ago. Two days ago the Treasurer delivered this budget and proclaimed it was a typical Labor budget. Mr Speaker, I agree with him.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) (12.02 pm): I am sorry, Mr Speaker. I just had to wake myself up a little. I rise to support the Palaszczuk government's budget. It is clear from the rant we just heard from the Leader of the Opposition that those opposite have no plan for our pandemic recovery and no vision for our great state. Queensland has done remarkably well throughout the pandemic and we are now ahead of the rest of the world in our economic recovery. The budget data confirms that.

On almost every indicator we have seen this year Queensland is outperforming the rest of Australia. More jobs have been created in Queensland than in any other state. We have faster dwelling approvals growth than anywhere else in the country, with approvals for construction up 61 per cent since April. We have faster retail growth than the rest of Australia, with retail turnover up 6.2 per cent since the March quarter of 2020.

I have exciting news for the House. Hot off the press, the Treasurer has just handed this to me. The Australian Bureau of Statistics has just released the May labour force data, and it is very exciting indeed. It shows that employment increased by 32,300 people last month. That is more than a thousand jobs created each and every day. Queensland now has 84,900 more jobs than its pre-COVID level in March last year, the highest in the nation, and—wait for it, Madam Deputy Speaker—the unemployment rate in Queensland posted the largest fall in the nation, falling to 5.4 per cent—it is now below its pre-COVID level—and the Queensland labour market did all of this while the participation rate, the share of people in work or seeking work, increased to 66.6 per cent, almost half a percentage point above the national average.

The Palaszczuk government has added 337,400 jobs since we came to office. Our economic recovery plan is working and it is proven in this data. Our budget continues that good work. I make the point that the Leader of the Opposition questioned the budget projection that we would achieve a five per cent unemployment rate over four years—we are now at 5.4 per cent in just one month.

Instead of seeing the incredible opportunities ahead of Queensland, all the Leader of the Opposition could do was talk down our great state. Whinge, whinge, whinge. Our economy is bouncing back, but he says it is sluggish. We are on track for five per cent unemployment, but he says he does not know what a reasonable unemployment target should be. We are growing at twice the national average, but he spent the whole pandemic criticising our pandemic response which makes Queensland the safest state. We are the first large economy to project a surplus, but he says—well, it is not really clear what he says, because in one breath he says we should be spending more and in the next we should be cutting spending. That is right: he says we should spend more but borrow less.

Our world-class health system, which kept us safe from COVID and is the envy of the world, he insists is in crisis. The most important thing from here to get more people into jobs is confidence, and the Leader of the Opposition is doing everything he can to undermine that confidence. I guess Queensland is lucky; nobody knows who he is. Nobody is listening to him. In fact, we learned today that more people know the Premier's cat than know the Leader of the Opposition.

A government member: It's her mother's cat.

Dr MILES: It is her mother's cat; you are right. Mrs Palaszczuk's cat has a higher profile than the Leader of the Opposition. Yesterday the Leader of the Opposition was asked if he would make cuts if he was in office, and he confirmed that he would. He said there would be cuts, but he would draw a line: the cuts would not be savage. There is a policy position for you. The LNP will make all the cuts they possibly can right up until just before they become savage. What kind of cuts does that mean they would make? Harsh cuts? Severe cuts? Devastating cuts? Cruel cuts?

A government member: Shrinkage cuts?

Dr MILES: Shrinkage cuts? Ruthless cuts? Crippling cuts? Dreadful cuts? Brutal cuts? They are all job cuts, no matter what he says. They would cut them just so long as they were not savage. Maybe they will dust off the old 'pain threshold ranking' that the Newman government's razor gang used. Do you remember that? Their cuts were ranked from one to four based on how painful they would be. We know they like to cut—that is in their DNA—but so is selling.

You will have noticed that in his speech the Leader of the Opposition criticised our move to ensure our titles office in Queensland can never be privatised. The only reason he would criticise that is so they could privatise it themselves. New South Wales and South Australia both privatised their land titles registries in 2017, Victoria in 2018. We will not do that because we do not privatise things, but also because when New South Wales did it their new private operator increased some fees by 1,900 per cent. That is what you get when you sell off your titles office.

By opposing our steps to keep the titles office in public hands, the Leader of the Opposition is keeping his options open so that he can privatise it down the track—to make the same mistake that New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia have made. We know they wanted to do that last time because it was recommended by the infamous Costello Commission of Audit, which recommended the mass privatisation of state owned assets, including the outsourcing of registry services.

The Leader of the Opposition questioned the independently verified valuation of our Titles Registry. He cannot accept that we have the best run, most efficient titles office in the country and that we should keep it in public hands. The centrepiece of the member for Broadwater's alternative budget is a new bureaucracy doing the exact same job that we have Queensland Treasury for. It is an insult to the hardworking officers of Queensland Treasury that he would stand in this place and question their independence—that because he cannot understand the budget papers, he insists they must be wrong; that because it does not suit his narrative that Queensland is stuffed, he thinks the Treasury must be wrong.

It is an extraordinary attack by an opposition on the Treasury itself to say that they cannot be trusted to prepare the budget papers. This is because those opposite only care about themselves and political pointscoring. They do not care about Queenslanders. We did not hear a single pledge from them on the things that matter to people—health, keeping people safe, education, infrastructure, the things that improve the lives of people in our state. They are not fit to govern.

As he spoke, we could see those opposite thinking, 'Jeez, even the member for Nanango was better than this.' We could see members on the backbench thinking, 'The member for Everton might not have been that good at maths, but at least he knew how the budget worked. The member for Clayfield might have put a for sale sign on everything but he wouldn't stoop to blaming the Treasury for the bits of the budget he couldn't understand.' There is plenty there to ponder for those opposite today.

There is no question that the Palaszczuk government is committed to creating jobs for Queenslanders and continuing to deliver Queensland's plan for economic recovery. Our world-class health response has provided us with an opportunity to attract and create jobs, grow our traditional industries and attract new ones. This budget is a great example of how we will capitalise on those opportunities. The \$3.34 billion Queensland Jobs Fund is about encouraging investment in Queensland and giving industry the support and confidence they need to establish and grow their businesses here. The fund contains \$2 billion dedicated to creating renewable energy and hydrogen jobs. A hydrogen revolution is coming and Queensland is well placed to become a world leader in this new industry. This investment will create jobs and support our government owned businesses to expand ownership of renewable energy and storage to deliver on our 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030.

It will also allow us to make more things right here in Queensland. We do not want to invest in renewable energy just so we can ship it overseas; we want to capitalise on this cheap, clean energy boon to encourage local large-scale manufacturing. Right now, three-quarters of Tesla's lithium—the key ingredient in their lithium-ion batteries—is sourced from Australia as is more than one-third of its nickel. Globally, Australia is supplying 50 per cent of the world's lithium ore at a value of \$130 million, but we do not supply any of the refined product suitable for battery cells. If we did, the value of that product would be \$2.2 billion. Our Renewable Energy Fund will allow us to build up this industry.

A new \$350 million Industry Partnership Program will provide tailored assistance packages to strengthen local supply chains and grow the footprint of Queensland's industries while creating 2,800 new jobs in industries like advanced manufacturing, hydrogen, biofutures, biomedical, defence, aerospace, space, resource recovery and mining equipment, technology and services. It will deliver cross-sectoral opportunities that unlock growth and shore up supply chains. It will allow us to ramp up Australia's capacity to develop our biomedical industry and manufacture potentially lifesaving vaccines with the development of a new Translational Manufacturing Institute at the existing TRI.

This budget also delivers on the next stage of Queensland's economic recovery plan. It includes funding to address land supply challenges. People and businesses are moving to Queensland in droves because they know it is one of the safest places in the world to live, work and raise a family. This budget includes \$10.5 million from the Building Acceleration Fund to support the development of trunk infrastructure at the Growth Areas Team's first pilot site within the emerging community of Caboolture West. The Building Acceleration Fund is also supporting the construction of new roads, including opening up approximately 1,700 residential lots plus retail development at Bahrs Scrub and funding to unlock the next stage of Yarrabilba.

There is also \$320 million to extend the highly successful Skilling Queenslanders for Work program, \$140 million for the Back to Work program and \$330 million for the Great Barrier Reef to support our tourism jobs there. One of the greatest job-creating initiatives of our government—our signature \$1 billion Works for Queensland program—sees the 65 councils outside the south-east Queensland corner benefitting enormously through building and maintaining community infrastructure. Since its inception, Works for Queensland has created or supported more than 21,600 jobs. I am very much looking forward to announcing the projects to be funded in the South East Queensland Community Stimulus Program shortly. Additionally, \$41 million has again been committed to assist our Indigenous councils to deliver general and essential public services. Already through this program, over \$348 million has been approved towards 271 projects.

I am proud to say that this is a budget that also delivers on our commitments to the people of Murrumbidgee. There is funding for our schools, more money for our hospitals and more support for our community's small businesses. We have seen more money for schools across my electorate, including Dakabin State School, Hercules Road State School, Kallangur State School, Mango Hill State School, Mango Hill State Secondary College and Undurba State School. The satellite hospital in Pine Rivers will continue to move ahead quickly. The Moreton Connector—a once-in-a-lifetime infrastructure piece—has also received early funding. That road will transform our community, connecting Mango Hill and Griffin, massively upgrading the Bruce Highway capacity and delivering on- and off-ramps at Murrumbidgee Downs.

This is a budget that delivers on core Labor values, delivering on education and on health care. We know that, for some communities, health care and social services are difficult to access, particularly for school aged children. Families in Dakabin reached out to us to get better health services, and I am proud that the Dakabin health hub—located between the Dakabin State High School and the Dakabin State School—will deliver much needed health services to those communities.


All of these initiatives in my community and right across the state are ensuring improved livability, stronger local economies and more jobs in every Queensland community. This budget allows us to leverage the incredible head start given to us by our health response to build back better and to deliver good, stable jobs and vibrant, thriving communities for all Queenslanders.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Gerber): Before I call the next speaker, I take this opportunity to remind those members in the chamber who have been issued with a warning under the standing orders—the member for Southern Downs, the member for Coomera, the member for Capalaba and the member for Miller.

Interruption.

PRIVILEGE

Comments by Member for Broadwater

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (12.17 pm): Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. The Leader of the Opposition has made claims in his budget reply speech today about the Cross River Rail budget that are misleading. They have been clearly reported in multiple budget papers since 2019. I will be writing to the Speaker about this matter.


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed, on motion of Mr Dick—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12.17 pm): This budget sets a record—the record amount of time for a budget to fall apart. The fiscal governance of this state has hit a new low, and that is something I did not think was possible after the former member for South Brisbane's track record. What we have are funds without funding and accounting without principles. In fact there are barely any principles in this budget, but I guess that saves the Treasurer the trouble of walking away from them.

As anyone who has ever done a budget before knows, you set your fiscal principles and strategy first and then you build the budget from there. The Treasurer tells us that the principles will be retrofitted in a little while—like changing a fiscal principle to focus on the net debt-to-revenue ratio rather than a general debt-to-revenue ratio. I will give the House a stone-cold guarantee: that any budget delivered by me under a Crisafulli government will have clear and consistent fiscal principles and that if I fail at any of them I will stand before this parliament and explain why they were not hit, like someone with ticker would do—

Mr Power interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Gerber): Through the chair.

Mr JANETZKI:—like someone with ticker would do, someone with ticker that would not cherry-pick journalists' quotes just to feel better about themselves. As Terry McCrann really stated, 'The Queensland budget is bad ... the surplus fantastical.' As Mark Ludlow really stated, 'Dick starts to pay down debt, even if it's a sleight of hand,' and, 'It seems like it's only something small, but it makes a big difference when you're spinning your budget numbers.' The reality is that the Treasurer lives in fear of

a credit rating downgrade. Who can forget his mea culpa after the 2012 election? While ministers including Fraser, Jones, Hinchliffe and former premier Bligh declined to speak, the Treasurer already had one eye to his political future. He was quoted as saying—

I do think Labor fell into the error, or seriously miscalculated and under-estimated the desire for Queenslanders to hold onto the AAA credit rating ...

And I think the concern Queenslanders had generally about government debt and deficit.

The Treasurer's desperation to persuade credit rating agencies that net debt is not all that bad has goaded them into creating assets out of thin air. Their valuation of the Titles Registry simply does not make sense. How can the state government believe that the Titles Registry is worth nearly 40 per cent more than the current market capitalisation of the Bank of Queensland? The government will misdirect to the precedent of New South Wales, but that precedent involved something entirely different: privatising the operations of their counterpart office and theirs was valued at \$2.6 billion.

Labor believe their Titles Registry, which will not be privatised, should be valued at \$7.8 billion all up, which is worth more than double those of New South Wales at \$2.6 billion, Victoria at \$2.8 billion and South Australia at \$1.6 billion. I do not know what methodology the government used, but this does not look like mark to market and it sure strains credulity to say it is mark to book. The state's reputation is on the line here, so we continue to ask the Treasurer to release the opaque valuation methodology so that Queenslanders can assess it. If the government has nothing to hide, they have nothing to fear from its release. Now the government has announced that it will retain \$1.8 billion from the Titles Registry residual holdings on its books to presumably offset borrowings for unfunded initiatives including the Housing Investment Fund, the Path to Treaty Fund and the Carbon Reduction Investment Fund.

Returning to the fantastical proposed surplus in 2024-25, it reminds me of one of the Treasurer's good mates, and I will use his words. He said, 'Mr Speaker, this is a Budget that moves from supporting the economy through the slowdown to bringing us back to surplus now that we are recovering strongly.' Who could it be but Wayne Swan in the 2010-11 budget speech. Again, 'This Budget delivers a surplus this coming year, on time, as promised, and surpluses each year after that, strengthening over time.' That was Wayne Swan in the 2011-12 budget speech. 'The deficit years of the global recession are behind us. The surplus years are here.' That was Wayne Swan in his 2012-13 budget speech. Those words say it all. Here are the facts.

The Palaszczuk government had already blown the budget before COVID. Debt had blown out from \$72 billion to \$102 billion before the pandemic was ever heard of. There had been nine new taxes. We were anchored near or at the foot of CommSec's reports on most measures. That is still the case today no matter who or what the government choose to blame: COVID, Canberra, canines, councils, commercial in confidence, culture, cross-border migration or Queenslanders, as the member for Kawana's blame wheel highlighted. We are on a three-year streak of the most bankruptcies in the country and this budget merely embeds our underperformance.

There is a \$4 billion cut from the infrastructure spend when we already spend the least in the country as a percentage of our total budget. In contrast, New South Wales and Victoria are spending up to 25 per cent of their total budgets on infrastructure across the forwards. Worryingly, we are ever more reliant on federal expenditure to help Labor prop up the mismanagement of our economy.

As the member for Broadwater and our leader has already spoken about, the government's agenda of micro-economic reform is non-existent; in fact, it is laughable. The government clearly do not end intend to do anything real. The business launch pad cuts no regulation and simply gives businesses a single portal into a sprawl of regulation. The Treasurer has replaced the independent Queensland Productivity Commission with the government controlled and Orwellianly named Office of Productivity and Red Tape Reduction. It was abolished for the simple reason of asking too many questions of the government and delivering too many ideas to them that they did not like.

The problem with the fear of ideas and no reform agenda is that there is nothing to drive private business investment. There has been an alarming decline in Queensland private business investment, the driver of sustainable long-term growth in Queensland's future. It is declining in competitiveness as a share of the Queensland economy and in absolute terms. During the Bligh and Palaszczuk eras, Queensland's competitiveness in attracting private business investment has declined by almost a quarter, causing the business investment share of the economy to collapse by over a third. Even Victoria, the land of the lockdown, is outperforming Queensland in private business investment. Queensland private business investment is declining at more than 12½ per cent on an annualised basis.

Now budget papers reveal the heroic assumption that overall business investment is expected to grow by four per cent in 2021-22 after three years of consecutive decline. More specifically, the budget papers predict a four per cent increase followed by a further 7½ per cent growth annually in business investment. What is the Treasurer basing this heroic assumption on? It is a sentiment survey—feelings—and an assumption of no natural disasters, no interest rate rises and no capacity constraints.

Deloitte Access Economics has warned that unemployment will be Queensland's continuing Achilles heel. It is a fact that Queensland's current reversal in employment fortunes is heavily skewed towards part-time, casual and temporary jobs created by the consumption and housing boom we are seeing. Federal Treasurer Frydenberg has talked about an unemployment rate with a four in front of it. That means that every employment opportunity must be available to every Queenslander to find work. That is why today I want to discuss an area of policy that is particularly close to my heart.

The growing social enterprise sector focuses on improving the employment prospects for those furthest from the workforce. The success rate of social enterprise workers is undeniable: 80 per cent employment after 12 months compared with 35 per cent for government programs for disability employment services. As a founding director of Vanguard Laundry in Toowoomba, I saw up close the power of giving people with a lived experience of mental illness a job and an employment pathway. These were men and women who had struggled to find secure employment, some for a decade or more. Broader research by Swinburne University found that after one year of Vanguard's operation, workers were much less likely to rely on welfare; a quarter had stopped receiving Centrelink payments altogether; they were less likely to present at the Toowoomba Hospital; smoking rates had dropped; and wellness had improved. They simply felt better.

Creating employment opportunities also forms a vital part of an inclusive and empowering community for people living with a disability. Statistics show that 70 per cent of refugees struggle to find a job in their first year of living in Australia and 70 per cent of ex-criminal offenders will never find work. We can do more to support job opportunities for young people at risk to minimise contact with state services like youth justice, mental health and community development programs. That is why the leader and I are announcing today that a future LNP government will introduce the largest social enterprise scheme in Queensland's history.

The LNP's social entrepreneurs loans scheme will invest \$20 million every year to empower social enterprises to change the lives of Queenslanders who need it most. Loans will be capped at \$500,000 and applicants will be required to meet certain conditions to access the scheme. The interest-free loans will offer catalytic capital to Queensland's brightest and most innovative social entrepreneurs, and it will be supported and administered by QIC.

Currently in Queensland there are no large-scale, jobs focused loan funds that help proven social entrepreneurs scale and grow into new markets and opportunities. From Cooktown to Coolangatta, there are opportunities right now that could be scaled to move our unemployment numbers to where they need to be. I want the Queensland economy to work for everyone—jobs policy with heart and capitalism with a conscience. This kind of investment from government could also activate philanthropic sources, and the impact investment market could be leveraged to expand our scheme and, as the leader said, create hundreds of new jobs. In fact, I believe the policy can create thousands of new jobs.

In conclusion, what does this budget tell us about this government? It proves that this government knows the price of everything but the value of nothing; that Labor's marketing becomes slicker in direct proportion to the mismanagement they need to cover up; that the government might announce a record health spend but they do not understand the value of our frontline workers dealing every day with ambulance ramping, waiting lists and system pressures; that the government have tried nothing and yet they are still out of ideas; that they do not understand the value that businesses play in a functioning society; and that they see nothing deceptive about renaming old government programs and claiming them as new money.

It is also time for accountability and integrity in our public finances. That is what a parliamentary budget office will deliver, and we will deliver it in government. A parliamentary budget office will restore trust, and Queenslanders will never again have to doubt the integrity of public finances prior to an election. We should never see circumstances where a \$4 billion debt commitment at an election becomes \$28 billion a mere few weeks afterwards.

Honest Queenslanders deserve better than yet another term of Labor budgets full of funds without funding and accounting without principles. It is time for this government to become serious about our budget and back the Queensland public who work hard and sacrifice plenty of their pay cheque to fund this government's operations.



Hon. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (12.32 pm): It is interesting to listen to the speeches in response to the budget. We have just heard from the shadow Treasurer, who presumably wants to be Treasurer of this state. All week, all we have seen from the LNP is gimmicks, cliches and one-liners and nothing—and I mean nothing—of substance.

We are in the middle of a world health pandemic. Some areas of New South Wales have just been declared hotspots because there is an outbreak, and Victoria is just coming out of lockdown. We are not out of the woods yet. Our economic recovery sees Queensland leading the nation for jobs and growth, yet there is nothing from those opposite but whingeing.

The budget strengthens the core pillars of the Palaszczuk Labor government: health care, education, infrastructure, renewables and jobs, jobs, jobs. We have just seen the labour force statistics for Queensland—and what a beautiful set of figures they are. I think they are worth repeating. We can have all the social justice funds in the world, but the best fund is one that delivers jobs. Where are we now? Unemployment is at 5.4 per cent. We are leading the nation on every economic indicator. That is the reality. Those opposite can talk about anything they want, but the latest figures do not back up what they are saying. Our participation rate is going up, yet our unemployment rate is going down. That is an incredible feat in the middle of a world health pandemic.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms GRACE: We hear the deniers opposite. As soon as you mention COVID, as soon as you mention the world health pandemic, those opposite deny. They are living under a rock. They say it is a conspiracy and it is not happening. As we know, those opposite can get nothing right. The federal government cannot even get it right when it comes to vaccinating Australians. They cannot get it right in terms of international borders. They make a Biloela family suffer. At the same time, they cannot do anything when it comes to quarantine in this state. They washed their hands of it. If it were not for the states, we would be in dire straits in this country. Nobody can dispute that.

This government has created 337,400 jobs since it came to office. We have recouped all of the jobs lost due to the pandemic. In fact, we are ahead by 84,000. That is an extraordinary feat. Employers are still calling for more jobs, and our excellent Minister for Small Business is working to ensure we have the skills and training in place to meet those demands.

When it comes to infrastructure, I wish those opposite could just read budget papers. First they said there are cuts in infrastructure spending. Then they said there are reductions in infrastructure spending. Then they talked about shrinkage in infrastructure spending. We on this side of the House know that the people of Queensland had a choice in October. They chose a government that would keep Queenslanders safe. They endorsed our recovery plan, our jobs plan and our plan to provide health services to support them through a world health pandemic. They elected Labor members in spades. Here we are on this side of the House for four more years. Why would people not do that? Those opposite have not one new idea and not one solution and they do nothing but whinge.

I said to my staff, 'When the opposition leader makes his budget reply speech, can you let me know if he says anything about the education budget that I can refer to?' My staff waited and waited but, unfortunately, they heard not one alternative education policy. It did not take them long to realise that they had no plans for education in the state. There was not one mention of one of the fundamental, core skills we want to give young people in this state. So far in this budget week—I know there is still a short question time to come tomorrow—I have not been asked one question about education, one of the most important pillars of this year's budget.

It is an absolute disgrace when you consider that those opposite talk about health, yet there was nothing in the opposition leader's reply speech about how they hope to fix the malaise they keep talking about. Perhaps those opposite should spend less time whingeing, spinning wheels and opening stupid cupboards and more time developing policy alternatives.

I agree with some of the interjections that were made when the shadow Treasurer talked about principles. What are their principles when it comes to cutting, sacking and selling? There was a bit of a hint: only if they are not savage. They must not reach the 'savage' point on the indicator, whatever that means.

The Deputy Premier went through a number of alternatives about what savage means, but we know one thing: the Queensland people are not going to give those opposite any chance to savage them again, yet that reply speech was exactly that. The only idea the LNP has is loans to social enterprises, but unfortunately we beat those opposite to it in the last budget. We actually have a Social Enterprise Jobs Fund. Oops! They did not realise we have one already.

When it comes to giving those in the social sector jobs, those opposite were the ones who cut Skilling Queenslanders for Work. If there is one group that benefits from Skilling Queenslanders for Work, it is those in the social enterprise area and we have now locked in \$320 million over four years with permanent funding for a program that delivers in spades for those unemployed people to get the skills they need to get jobs. I have had texts from people in the social sector saying, 'Thank you so much for locking in that funding.' The job rate for those participants is at 90 per cent—that is, 90 per cent of the participants in Skilling Queenslanders for Work got jobs in that particular social enterprise. So the LNP has this new idea that we announced in the last budget!

The LNP has a shocking record when it comes to the communities sector. Can members imagine for one second that sector trusting those opposite? They axed \$368 million in community grants to support Queenslanders in need of assistance. That is what they did when they were in government and the communities sector will not forget it. But worst of all, they gagged community groups from speaking up on behalf of the people that they represent. In a free world there is nothing more shocking than gagging a whole sector from speaking up and threatening their livelihoods. That sector was gagged because if it spoke up those opposite would take away its funding, and those opposite now expect this sector to trust them with their one idea that came out of the reply speech. It is a joke, they are a joke and that is why they are over there. What strings will be attached to these loans? I will tell members: 'You can't say anything. Never complain. We'll gag you again. We'll give you the money, but don't you dare come out and represent your constituents because we'll gag you. We're going to use this money.' Members can bet their bottom dollar that that is exactly what those opposite will do. Will these social enterprises, as I said, just have to shut up and put up while the LNP cuts programs like Skilling Queenslanders for Work again? That is what those opposite are looking forward to with their idea—an idea that we announced in the last budget! That is a great idea and the only one that came out.

When it comes to the education budget, it is an honour to be the Minister for Education in this state, and the Leader of the Opposition was right: I do listen to everyone in this House when it comes to their needs and we do not play politics with it. When it comes to meeting growth and the schooling requirements of our students, I put that first before any other consideration. I was very grateful that the Leader of the Opposition acknowledged that and that infrastructure is being spread and we are meeting those requirements where the demands are. There is no doubt about that. It is an honour to work with everyone in this House to deliver that, because education is a core in this state. I look forward to working with everyone to deliver the infrastructure that we need, the teachers that we need, the teacher aides and the cleaners, who have done an outstanding job during COVID, to implement our record \$15.3 billion budget.

We want to deliver the 10 schools in those fast growing areas. As I have mentioned all week, we want to deliver the new classrooms that we need in various areas of the state. No-one is missing out. There is an incredible amount going into the regions and everywhere throughout the state. I look forward to delivering the local jobs and all of those local facilities and amenities. There is maintenance renewal. There will be an expansion in outside school hours care at around 50 school sites because we know that balancing school and vacation care is important. We are working with schools in Ipswich, Victoria Point State School in Redlands, Ormiston State School in Oodgeroo and others right around the state. With regard to halls, I cannot believe that I am still building halls, but I am and there is money there for halls right across the state.


Our air-conditioning program is fully funded. It is incredible and on track in terms of air conditioning every classroom, every staff room and every library. We are doing an incredible job in rolling that out. New South Wales is now coming to us and asking, 'Please tell us how you're doing it because we can't deliver it. What are you doing? How are you doing it?' New South Wales is so far behind that it is not funny and it is now coming here asking us what we are doing and how we are doing it. We have our ACES program. We have local schools and local jobs. We have school employment. We have our election commitments that we are rolling out. It is an honour to be part of delivering this budget—an education budget and a health budget in a world health pandemic.

Industrial relations is being funded for our signature new laws. When it comes to labour hire licensing, we have one of the most successful laws in the nation. When it comes to wage theft laws, we have extra inspectors to ensure that workers across the nation are not exploited. Racing can look forward to an additional at least \$41.3 million from our 35 per cent point-of-consumption tax. The member for Mermaid Beach would be very happy in relation to that. He loves his racing and I actually like going to the races with him as well.

In the electorate of McConnel the highlights are \$15 million for Brisbane Central classrooms in a growth area, Fortitude Valley at second stage and \$11 million for New Farm State School out of \$20.6 million that will continue to build the classrooms. There is \$15 million allocated for the Ballymore

redevelopment. That is going to be fantastic and will see Ballymore reshaped into a national Rugby training centre which will be the new headquarters for the Wallaroos and the Queensland Reds men's and women's squads. Newstead House, one of the oldest surviving European homes in Brisbane, is gearing up for a nearly \$4 million major restoration and refurbishment to ensure that the future of this beautiful and iconic landmark is maintained.

I could go on, but one of the most significant things that I am very happy about is the \$7 million in support for the live music industry. There is no doubt that it has been hard hit by COVID and I want to roll that out as we have rolled out funds already for the live music industry worth \$1.3 million. I have visited some live music spots. Last week I was at the Tivoli and at the Woolly Mammoth not too long ago and The Triffid. We want to make sure that they survive COVID because it and its impacts are real and this government recognises that and is doing something about it. It is an honour to be involved in this budget, and I endorse it. I congratulate the Treasurer and my colleagues. Under the Premier's leadership, we kept this state safe. We can now implement our economic plan and create the jobs that Queenslanders deserve.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (12.47 pm): On Monday I launched the 'Labor's blame game spinning wheel', because we knew and anticipated that this week Labor would blame everyone but itself. It would blame someone else for the debt. It would blame it on education or health. It is everyone else's fault! We had Canberra and we had COVID. That was on the wheel a couple of times, but I had to adjust the wheel in the last couple of weeks. Never would I have thought that I would have to add the word 'canine', because the reason the Premier did not get a COVID jab was not because of COVID hesitancy but because she got attacked by Winton, her fluffy little pooch! I added 'canine' to the wheel because that was the excuse for the Premier delaying her COVID jab despite the fact that she told everyone else to get their COVID jab.

So we did that and, just as I anticipated, the Treasurer stood up this week and blamed everyone for all of the debt, the blowouts and the reason the budget is full of holes—and it is full of holes which I will get into and as was set out by the opposition leader and the shadow Treasurer. Yesterday we also launched the cupboard. The cupboard is bare, because that is what the budget is. On Tuesday when the budget was delivered the Treasurer released all of these glossy brochures, but after our shadow ministers went through the budget papers and after the media went through the budget papers we realised that a lot of these funds actually had no funding. There were lots of names and lots of titles like the 'building hospital fund' worth \$2 billion but there is not a cent going to the building hospital fund, not an additional dollar. It is basically just packaging up a lot of things in the budget and putting a new headline under it saying that it is a new item in the budget.

On Tuesday they announced they were investing \$2 billion into the Hospital Building Fund. There is not a dollar—zero dollars—in the Hospital Building Fund. It will not build new hospitals. It will not build new infrastructure to existing hospitals. It will not fix the Sunshine Coast University Hospital ramping that we are experiencing at the moment.

What we have got to know with this Treasurer—not just when he has been Treasurer, but in all his portfolios: Attorney-General, Education and Health—is that he is all glitz and glamour and no substance. We see that with the glossy brochures he holds up as far as he can, such as his economic recovery plan. What is missing from this budget is the amount the Treasurer has spent on personal PR. I urge the Treasurer to stop taking advice from whoever he is paying to get this advice from.

The Treasurer is doing this weird, creepy, fake smile, trying to be loved by everyone in Queensland. In his live crosses on TV the other night, the Treasurer did this creepy smile that he has been told by the PR company to do, it will make him look human. It does not. Every time I see it on TV it has the opposite effect. It is a mix between the clowns you see at the Ekka that keep going around with their mouth open and Chucky doll. It is this creepy, weird, Chucky doll, Ekka clown smile. I say to the Treasurer, mate, whatever you are spending on PR to make yourself look human, stop it. Be natural. Get rid of it. The other night on the Treasurer's live cross on Channel 7 he had even practised the big turn with the big creepy smile and the camera had already lost him by that stage and he did not get his weird, creepy smile on TV. Cut it out, Treasurer, it is not good and it does not look good on TV.

The budget handed down by the Treasurer is full of holes. Those opposite stood up here with this capital budget expenditure, but as shadow ministers will indicate during this budget reply there are line items missing, there is funding missing. We have got to know that about this Treasurer. I note that in the Treasurer's response and in responses from those ministers who have responded, including the

Deputy Premier, there has been no mention of JobKeeper propping up the economy. The federal government threw \$90 billion into JobKeeper. That is on top of the over \$60 billion for JobSeeker. It did not rate a mention.

Those opposite claim the unemployment rate has come down because of their policies. What? Because of a little tourism voucher? A voucher that the Deputy Premier could not even take advantage of because they were not offering it in Byron Bay? This is the reality: JobKeeper and JobSeeker propped up the economy in the state. When one looks at the statistics around what the federal government did per person in Queensland compared to what the state government did it highlights a shameful exercise in government expenditure. The state government did nothing in comparison to what the federal government did. They will claim credit now for the Australian economy rebounding, but it was because of the federal leadership of the Scott Morrison government that we now see the federal economy rebounding, including the economy of Queensland, not to mention the effort that Queenslanders put in to assist as well.

Turning to the issues in Kawana and on the Sunshine Coast, I see funding for the stadium is in the budget in the amount of \$20 million. That was my funding commitment in the election. It is good those opposite have copied it. Now I see they have put a sneaky little 'subject to federal government matching it' line in. If the federal government is not going to fund the \$20 million yet, give it to the council and they will add it to the private sector investment and what the council has and we will have a better stadium than what is there now. I call on the government to scrap the condition. I know this is so the state government can get out of that commitment. We now see the Mooloolah River interchange. They have finally found funding for the Mooloolah River interchange—

A government member interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE:—despite the fact the federal government—I take the interjection from the Minister for Transport.

A government member interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the second interjection. If I can take a point of order on myself, I have taken the interjections from the minister who is on a warning. He is disrupting my speech and I ask that he be kicked out of the parliament because he is on a warning.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Gerber): Member for Kawana, take your seat. Thank you for your guidance. The member for Miller is on a warning. Your interjection has been taken. You can leave the chamber for the rest of the session. You get an early mark for lunch.

Mr BAILEY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I did not interject.

Mr BLEIJIE: You did. I took your interjection.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sit down, member for Kawana. Member for Miller, I have made a ruling. Are you reflecting on the chair or are you raising a point of order?

Mr BAILEY: I am just raising a point of order. I do not believe that I interjected on the member.

Mr BLEIJIE: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. When a member of this House has been asked to leave the chamber—

Mr BAILEY: I am happy to take your ruling.

Mr BLEIJIE:—him taking a point of order is a reflection on the chair.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have made a ruling, member for Miller. You will leave the chamber for the remainder of the morning session.

Whereupon the honourable member for Miller withdrew from the chamber at 12.55 pm.

Mr BLEIJIE: That is exciting in a budget reply, is it not? It is the best thing I could have achieved in a budget reply speech. To continue to talk about Kawana and the lack of investment, the government finally found money for the Mooloolah River interchange. The federal government will be putting in \$160 million and now the state government has come to the party, without any fanfare I might add. They are so embarrassed by it there is no fanfare. There is \$4 million in the budget for it.

An opposition member: They should be embarrassed.

Mr BLEIJIE: They should be embarrassed. I take the interjection. Just get on with the program! Those opposite have been embarrassed into coming to the table. The federal government is delivering a state road when the state should have done it. There is more money allocated for the Sunshine Coast University Hospital. This is about built bed capacity. There are no additional beds into the Sunshine

Coast University Hospital. The hospital was meant to have 738 beds by January 2021 and where are we? We still have not had any additional beds since the hospital opened. Again the government is saying they will throw a bit of money into the hospital, but that is to build a building without beds. There is no extra funding for extra beds at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital so our 40 per cent ambulance ramping crisis which is happening at the moment will continue and the people on the Sunshine Coast will suffer because of that.

In relation to the issue of the mass transit personal program that Mayor Jamieson is trying to inflict on everyone on the Sunshine Coast, I say to the state government and the Sunshine Coast council abandon the glorified light rail tram down Nicklin Way; protect our beachside communities; protect the environment on the Sunshine Coast. We do not want the mass transit tram down Nicklin Way. We want to protect the lifestyles of the Sunshine Coast community. When Mayor Jamieson says to me what is the alternative, there is an alternative and here it is: one, build the Mooloolah River interchange to ease congestion. Tick, we will do that. Second, build the passenger heavy rail on the CAMCOS corridor. The corridor is there. It is set.

The state government can invest and get heavy passenger rail to connect the Sunshine Coast community to Brisbane and to Gympie. It is ready so invest in the CAMCOS corridor. Bring the heavy rail from Beerwah to Caloundra to Kawana to Maroochydore. Thirdly—here is an idea: how about we provide buses that go to where people want them to go, like to Kawana Forest. The people of Kawana Forest do not have any bus service. They want it, they demand it and we need to have it. Let us make buses more available. Let us provide more buses so we do not have to wait. If someone wants to go from Kawana to Buderim it takes an hour and a half. They can get in their car and do it in 10 minutes. Why on Earth would they catch a bus at the moment on the Sunshine Coast when they can do it in their car in a lot less time? That is the issue.

I say to Mayor Jamieson, who is still pushing this light rail fantasy on the Sunshine Coast community, there are alternatives and they are far better than a glorified tram wrecking our beachside communities. We need to protect the environment. We need to protect the lifestyle and livelihoods of the Sunshine Coast community. We do not want density down Nicklin Way or the beachside communities. We will have density on the Sunshine Coast, but there are places to put more density and more people. Let us have new railway communities on the Sunshine Coast. Let us build them from scratch. People love the Sunshine Coast. We want people to move to the Sunshine Coast.

In terms of the industrial relations portfolio that I am shadow minister for, yesterday I met with another business in Queensland that is being attacked daily by the thugs in the CFMEU. Three times a day the CFMEU are turning up at this business because they are a non-unionised worksite and the CFMEU is trying to bully them and force them to do an EBA. This business, to their credit, has said, 'No, get stuffed!' That is what they have said to the CFMEU.

Government members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw.

Government members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I see the CFMEU sympathiser waving his hands. They say to the CFMEU, 'Get lost'. They are not going to sign the EBA. This is the reality.

Ms RICHARDS: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. That was unparliamentary language and I ask you to—

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdrew.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sit down. He withdrew.

Mr BLEIJIE: The CFMEU are trying to strongarm and bully businesses to sign EBAs. I am going to refer this matter, as I have with others, to the Crime and Corruption Commission. It is about time the Crime and Corruption Commission had a commission of inquiry into the CFMEU and their bullying tactics.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.



Mr BLEIJIE: As I was saying, there is no money in the state budget for the CAMCOS heavy rail corridor on the Sunshine Coast. There is no money for the Meridan Way connector road to reduce congestion around Parklands Boulevard and Meridan State College. There is no money for additional police at the Kawana Waters Police Station or the Caloundra Police Station, despite the fact that we

have huge crime issues in Kawana and Caloundra. The police minister did not talk about that this morning. Despite the population growth in Kawana and Caloundra over the past five years, police resources have not kept pace.

Minister Grace talked about the live music industry. How dare she talk about the live music industry and the piddly \$7 million that the government committed in this budget considering that three days ago they closed down NightQuarter. NightQuarter is a small business community in my electorate. Police and Queensland Health staff stormed the gates of NightQuarter and closed them down.

A government member interjected.


Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. Guess what? Queensland Health has just reneged on the revocation order so now they can open up again! Businesses have suffered a financial loss over the past few days so you cannot tell me that this government is supporting the live music industry. The band San Cisco was due to play that night but could not play because of the shutdown by Queensland Health. I have seen reports that they are asking for \$60,000 in compensation from the state government. Do members know what? I agree! The state government should compensate them.

The state government should also compensate the charity Youturn, which was due to hold an event this weekend at NightQuarter. That cannot happen because of the closure. The state government should provide refunds and help that charity and the Aitken family who were going to put on a music festival to help young people dealing with mental health, youth suicide and youth homelessness issues. Because of Queensland Health's heavy-handed approach to this restriction issue, closing down NightQuarter has meant that that charity festival cannot be held this weekend.

There is no support for the live music industry and there is a double standard when you can hold a State of Origin game at an over-capacity stadium in Townsville with 40,000 people singing and dancing in front of their chairs, but on the Sunshine Coast NightQuarter cannot run in an open-air environment. The breeze comes in, the sun comes in and occasionally a bit of water comes in with the rain, but the health minister says that it is an indoor venue. It is not. If they want to show real leadership they should put real money into the live music industry.

I turn to the housing crisis. The government says that it is committing \$2 billion to housing, but again the money is not in the budget. On the Sunshine Coast there are people sleeping in their cars. There are people who can afford rent but cannot find accommodation or rental facilities. Over 50 applications per house are being made on the Sunshine Coast. We need to think outside the box. Recently I met a young couple who have built portable emergency accommodation that we could put on blocks of vacant land across the Sunshine Coast to house people immediately and get them out their cars. We need to think outside the box because the homelessness issue on the Sunshine Coast is terrible.

I conclude by thanking the government on behalf of the Currimundi State School for \$283,000 to refurbish classrooms, Kawana Waters State College for \$6½ million and Talara Primary College for \$150,000 for a tuckshop extension. The Currimundi State School needs a tuckshop extension and I call on the state government to immediately provide funding to the Currimundi State School for their tuckshop upgrade.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (2.03 pm): I listened with interest to the speech of the member for Kawana, both before and after the lunch break, and I had a mental picture of game shows back in the eighties that had big spinning wheels with gold and silver sequins. There was always a character—a bit like the member for Kawana—who would be dressed up and would spin the wheel. In this case, instead of having prizes such as we had in the eighties like a washing machine or a 24-inch television—

Mr Healy: Or a Toyota Celica.

Mr POWER: Or sometimes a Toyota Celica. However, each time this game show wheel was spun, between the gold and silver sequins all the answers were, 'Look at me!', 'Look at me!', 'Look at me!' Frankly, that is all the member for Kawana has with his stunts on this budget. It is disappointing that despite a once-in-a-generation social, health and economic event he cannot take these concerns seriously. Instead, he has to play silly politics and, of course, silly games such as that.

We are incredibly encouraged that we have a 5.4 per cent unemployment rate. We are incredibly encouraged that since May last year the state has created 86,000 jobs. I ask those around the parliament: what was the most important date in relation to this budget? I ask that through the chair, Madam Deputy Speaker; I am asking rhetorically. Some people would say that it was when the Treasurer made his speech. Others would say that it was in the months of preparation and hard work

beforehand. Some in the opposition might say that it was this morning when the opposition leader gave his speech. I argue that the most important date in relation to this budget was actually—and I ask members to cast their minds back—31 January 2020.

I know that date well because that was the date that we were to hold the Labor caucus to consider what we were going to be doing into the future. Instead, on that day, as we were driving to our annual retreat, we heard that the whole ministerial team was not going to come. Instead, they were going to have a series of special meetings to activate emergency health, police and other services. That was in January.

Mr Stevens: 2020.

Mr POWER: You are right: January 2020. Unlike the federal government, we did not wait to see what would happen. We did not go to the football that weekend, unlike a federal government minister. We did not wait a week until ministerial diaries cleared. This government acted early, decisively and firmly because this is a government that protects Queenslanders and protects their economy. This government was probably alone in taking that whole-of-government action on 31 January—perhaps alone in the whole world. I recognise that this government has continued to make the best decisions to protect Queenslanders through the pandemic.

Of course, we have protected the lives of senior Queenslanders and the health of all Queenslanders and we know that those actions were vital to protect the industries, jobs and economy of Queensland. Through the pandemic some have mistakenly said that we had a simple choice: a healthy population or a growing healthy economy. That was a false choice. We needed both options. We could have had a situation where the pandemic was killing senior Queenslanders and weakening the Queensland economy but we chose to have a healthy population that would lead to confident Queenslanders working productively and a stronger economy. It was one or the other and we know we need a healthy population for a healthy economy.

At this stage in my speech nothing would give me greater pleasure than to inform the House that throughout the history of this event we have had bipartisan support from those across the aisle. Of course, I am not talking about the anti-vaccine conspiracy theorists of Pauline Hanson's One Nation but their fellow travellers in the LNP. In some ways they were more dangerous than Pauline Hanson because they would have damaged the economy by prematurely opening up the borders to infected southern states. That was the policy of the LNP. They called for it 64 times. All of their members supported it.

We know that instead of having shadow cabinet meetings to support the government's health response they were having meetings to undermine it. We also know that they secretly talked with both the Premier of New South Wales and the Prime Minister, attacking the health responses of Queensland.

Ms Bates: Do you know that?

Mr POWER: I do. I take the interjection.

Ms Bates: You were on the phone? You were in the meetings?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Through the chair. Comments will come through the chair.

Mr POWER: The member asked how I know. I do know about it and I will give the reasons for that. We found out about this because at that point it was beginning to become obvious that the policy of the LNP was a failure. In an interview with Gladys Berejiklian, Karl Stefanovic asked, 'The state election is this Saturday. Have you spoken with the opposition leader in Queensland'—at that time it was the member for Nanango—'about the possibility of her becoming premier and those borders coming down?' Referring to the member for Nanango, Gladys Berejiklian said, 'Oh look, Deb and I have a wonderful working relationship. We are in touch with each other all the time.' It was rather cute. It was very affectionate.

She goes on, '... so I know if she was elected Premier'—and this point is talking about the member for Nanango—'she would definitely open up the border and'—this is the important part—'she would have done it months ago because that's the way Deb and the LNP are up there.' 'That's the way Deb and the LNP are up there'—we know now because the Premier of New South Wales outed it.

We saw constantly the weakness of the former leader of the opposition going on Sky and saying one thing there and then saying another thing to the people of Queensland. It seems this has been continued by the next Leader of the Opposition, the member for Broadwater. Recently when he was asked, 'Are you ruling out cuts?' he said, 'I'm ruling out being savage.' Well, there is a long way to go before you go to the member's definition of 'savage cuts'.

I looked up a thesaurus and there are a lot of words around the definition of 'savage'. I found 'barbaric'. Barbaric cuts are not ruled out. The member for Broadwater could have, in his speech, ruled out barbaric cuts. 'Brutal' is also in the thesaurus—brutal cuts are not ruled out. Harsh cuts—those are loved by the member for Broadwater. Vicious cuts—well, that is what he is all about.

In trying to impress his mates on Sky, he has really let the cat out of the bag. He will not tell Queenslanders, but he will Sky News: there will be cuts; they will be barbaric, they will be brutal, crude, fierce, harsh and vicious. Queenslanders know now that cuts are what define the LNP because the member for Broadwater has told us so.

One of the things unfortunately they have spoken about is our securing the future of the Queensland titles office and taking it out of their privatising hands and putting it into the Debt Reduction Fund. They have now entered into a QAnon-style conspiracy about the valuation. Of course, this was completely transparent. We know that members of the committee will not engage in this QAnon-style conspiracy because they know; they were told at the committee hearing by the Under Treasurer that in relation to the valuations they would be developed by independent valuers on due diligence based on Treasury and QIC. The final values will be informed by the independent advisers of Queensland Treasury and the QIC. They will include the earnings, duration and calculations undertaken. There are a number of valuations that will go into the final valuation.


I had hoped the shadow Treasurer who should be following the committee should have absolutely known about that discussion. But they are going into their little conspiracy theories. Who would be involved in this conspiracy theory? The allegation from those on the committee, if they do deem to say this, but certainly the shadow Treasurer, the member for Toowoomba South, seems to say that there is a conspiracy between PwC, EY—Ernst & Young they used to be called—and BIS Oxford Economics, Deloitte and Allens-Linklaters. The Deputy Treasurer challenged it to go out and say that Tom Seymour, the CEO of PwC Queensland, was involved in this little conspiracy that they allege. Of course they will not say that because this is simple and silly politics.

We talked a lot about individual Queensland stories and names. We need to recognise, though, that one of the great and heartening things is, as the Premier says, there is nothing that gives Queenslanders greater dignity than having a job. We have reduced our unemployment down to 5.4 per cent. In the last month, the greatest fall in unemployment of any of the states has been in Queensland. It is the biggest monthly drop across the country. Behind that, though, is all of the names of the 86,400 individual people—all of those families, all of those households—all genuine Queenslanders who were nervous during the pandemic and they wanted the support of government to go on and do things.

The opposition know what I am going to say here. At this point there is normally a call-out about Scott Morrison around this. No-one is going to venture into that? Well they shouldn't because we know that Scott Morrison has failed his own home state of New South Wales because New South Wales has 33,000 less jobs than before the pandemic. So unless you are alleging that somehow not just PwC, Ernst & Young and Allens—the other conspirators—but the very Prime Minister is conspiring for Queensland against New South Wales.

We have serious challenges ahead of us—serious challenges to deal with the health of Queenslanders, serious challenges in growing unemployment as thousands of southerners flock to our state. We will continue to fight against these challenges. We have a strong record, we have a strong budget that backs Queenslanders, but we will not do it with all of the silly theories that do not address the reality of the situation we face.

There is a voice we will not hear at this budget time, and we will miss that voice. I endorse the bill to the House, thank you.

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.15 pm): I rise today to offer a response to the government's 2021-22 budget. Those on the benches opposite have exclaimed that this budget is a typical Labor budget, and right they are. This is a typical Labor budget, and I say that because it is a budget which has more holes than you can poke a stick at. It is a budget which, on the surface, might sound alright, but once you look beyond the glossy brochure, you begin to wonder, 'Where is the money?' A typical Labor budget, indeed.

There are line items in this budget which have no allocations against them. It beggars belief. In his budget speech, the Treasurer was quick to make a billion dollar promise here, a \$2 billion promise there, but when you look in the budget papers, there is nothing—not a cent allocated to some of the funds he mentioned.

The opposition highlighted this yesterday and we will continue to do so. Those on this side of the House will back sensible and honest measures, and that is a fact. However, what we will not do is stand idly by and let those opposite get away with sneaky accounting and empty words.

Members in this chamber understand my passion and desire to improve health care here in Queensland. Every last Queenslander, to a man, woman and child, deserves quality health care. Our incredible doctors, nurses and paramedics and all of our other amazing clinicians strive every day to make that a reality. Their tireless and selfless work is truly remarkable, and I commend them all for it. It is a tough but rewarding job.

As a registered nurse myself, I know what it is like on the front line. What we in this place cannot and should not do is make their already tough job any tougher. That should not happen, but I fear that it is. With no vision to end the crisis which has beset Queensland Health, this budget leaves Queenslanders wanting. When it comes to empty words and empty promises, there is no more obvious example in this budget than the \$2 billion Hospital Building Fund. So flimsy is the Hospital Building Fund that it is not even given a line item. That is right; the \$2 billion Hospital Building Fund, the centrepiece of the Labor Party's health policy, is not even given a line in the government's own budget documents. How can that be? How is that right? It is an empty promise, an empty line item and it should leave every Queenslander feeling empty. This government's plan to improve our health crisis is truly an empty one. It is little wonder then that this government is losing control of our health system.

The opposition welcomes any effort made to increase capacity within our health care system. It is desperately needed, we know this and it is what the experts tell us. But by the government's own admission under the non-existent Hospital Building Fund, we will not see further commitments until 2024-25.

We need a solution to this problem now. It is not a problem for tomorrow, next month, next year or in four years time. This is a problem right now. Queensland Health is in crisis right now. The government is losing control of the public health system right now. We need a solution to this problem and, sadly, with this budget I do not believe we have it.

Where is the vision? Where is the genuine plan to fix the crisis? I said yesterday that it is incumbent on those governing a state jurisdiction to effectively resource and manage a healthcare system because, after all, one of the core functions of a state government is to run our public hospitals. Those opposite are the only ones in this chamber who hold the position to fix the mess. The budget offered a perfect opportunity to do so.

Instead of getting on with the job they are only interested in blaming others. They have blamed the Commonwealth. They have blamed elderly patients. They have blamed honest Queenslanders for showing up to emergency departments. It is now time to hold a mirror up because this is what it would reflect. It would show that ambulance ramping across the state is the highest in a generation—it is at 40 per cent. Even in the darkest days of the Bligh government, the number never climbed that high. In fact it is 10 per cent more. The reflection would also show we have an elective surgery waiting list of 55,000 people. That number has increased by nearly 25,000 Queenslanders in six years. Let us not forget the waiting list for the waiting list. There are 220,000 people languishing there.

That is what those opposite would see if they were brave enough to own up to their own problems. Sadly, it is not a record to be proud of. It is a record that I fear will only worsen in the months and years ahead. Queenslanders ought to be able to see these numbers. They should know how long it takes to be seen when they arrive by ambulance at a hospital. They should know how many people are waiting to have surgery. They should know how our emergency departments are performing. It is important that this information be open and transparent. After all, these figures effectively take the temperature of how our public health system is performing. Those opposite are now refusing to release that information. Most of the data available on the government's own website is from 2020.

I have already referenced the statewide ambulance ramping figure today—the figure of 40 per cent. The people behind that number have spoken up. These Queenslanders depend on our paramedics to arrive promptly to an emergency in their hour of need. At the moment, through no fault of their own, our paramedics are stuck on hospital ramps, waiting to off-load patients. It is happening because our system is being mismanaged. Compared to data from around the country from February, which was the last time Queensland's ramping figures were released, we sit last. Forty per cent is as bad as it gets.

Remember that that number is higher at some of our hospitals which are most under the pump. There are now six hospitals across our state which have ramping numbers of 50 per cent or higher. That means at some of these facilities Queenslanders are more likely to wait on an ambulance stretcher for longer than clinically recommended than they are not. That is a frightening realisation.

Whilst it might be lost on those opposite, it is not lost on the clinical fraternity. We know today that the AMAQ called a secret crisis meeting last night to address the ramping issue. I will not speak for them, but to me that sounds like some of our most trusted doctors across the state are not confident that those opposite can fix the ramping crisis. In fact, the AMAQ called this ramping conundrum a 'vicious cycle of crisis upon crisis'. I could not think of a more apt description.

Some hospital and health services across Queensland are budgeted to receive less funding this coming financial year than they spent in this one. Take the Gold Coast HHS for instance. This financial year the HHS spent \$1.82 billion in providing health services for Gold Coasters. This coming financial year Labor has budgeted \$1.77 billion. We are expecting them to do more with less.

Earlier this year the Auditor-General identified that 11 of the state's 16 HHSs recorded an operating loss last year. When the state is handing out less to some HHSs than they spent last year, how could the minister possibly expect these local health services to improve their financial position? My concern is that this government is setting up some of our HHSs to fail. Right now, more than ever, we need these organisations to work.

Together with this, some of our HHSs are also budgeted for a reduction in staff. Central Queensland HHS, Children's Health Queensland HHS, Metro South HHS and Torres and Cape HHS are all staring down the barrel of fewer staff. That means fewer hands on deck for those who deliver care. Metro South HHS and Central Queensland HHS can ill afford that. Some of their ramping figures are the worst in the state at the likes of Logan and Ipswich hospitals. Of course, Rockhampton Base Hospital is ground zero for regional ramping—49 per cent of patients are ramped there.

The LNP has made some responsible and meaningful suggestions to improve our public hospital system. Our plan to make emergency room data available to the public in real time, improve and better resource triaging practices in our emergency departments and to be honest and open about bed resourcing in our hospitals are sensible suggestions.

Access to good health care should not just be about those in our major centres. Regardless of one's postcode, Queenslanders deserve quality care. We want to ensure that, where it is practicable and safe, our doctors and nurses in the bush should be better equipped to treat people locally. They should be better equipped so that they are able to care for the patients in their local communities and ease pressure on our larger hospitals in major centres.

We know what a record health budget means to Queenslanders under Labor. Those opposite cannot hide behind the three words—record health budget—any longer. Those words are meaningless. They are meaningless to Queenslanders whose grandmother has had a fall or whose father has had a stroke or whose daughter is having an asthma attack. Queenslanders are realising that their health outcomes are being compromised by a mismanaged system, and Queenslanders will not stand for it. Labor is losing control of our public health system and this budget does nothing to stop the crisis from further unfolding.

When it comes to the government's election commitments, we will hold the government to account for each and every promise and on behalf of every community they impact. That includes mine—the best electorate in Queensland. Once again, the residents of Mudgeeraba have been left behind by Labor, and I am furious. As a community, we have been working together as we recover from the worst of the pandemic. Our residents have put in an incredible effort, doing the right thing so our lives can return to normal. It has still been a tough year for many in my electorate, with many businesses impacted by the on-again off-again lockdowns throughout the country. Families remain separated, including my own, with inconsistencies over travel and quarantine exemptions continuing for many who are facing difficult times with their loved ones. We support following the health advice, but we also support transparency and openness about the decisions. Labor continues the spin and trickery.

This year's budget was again reannouncements and rebadging. There is really nothing new for Mudgeeraba. Let me take the House through some of the projects Mudgeeraba locals fought for, but missed out on again in Labor's budget. We missed out on vital funding to keep My Community Legal in Robina afloat. My Community Legal provides free legal advice to those who cannot afford a lawyer, including some of our most vulnerable residents—women and children fleeing domestic violence; families at risk of becoming homeless. My Community Legal does so much for our community, but they do not receive funding from the state government to deliver these important services.

We also missed out on more female changing facilities for grassroots sports clubs. They have tried to pull the wool over our eyes by reannouncing the Robina Raptors Rugby League Club female change rooms. Let me tell members, not one nail has been hammered. As we know, the sports rorts scandal exposed the heinous truth about Labor's funding for sports clubs in Queensland. If you are not

in a Labor electorate you are not worth it. Do not worry, I will keep fighting for the sporting clubs of Mudgeeraba to get their fair share. It is 2021. Female players deserve the same facilities as the blokes. For all their words, there is not much action from those opposite when it comes to equity in participation.

Lucky we were not holding our breath waiting for the train at Merrimac. Yes, there is a station promised, which was promised two elections ago, but there is no time line or details about the process. We need better public transport to take pressure off our roads. Speaking of which, we have missed out again on so many vital road infrastructure projects in this budget of smoke and mirrors. I am fighting for road improvements for safety sake in my electorate.

We need vital intersection upgrades at Mudgeeraba and Tallai roads. We need signals at the Gooding Drive roundabout to stop accidents and keep people safe. We need \$1.5 million to raise the Austinville Causeway so more drivers are not swept off the road in floods and communities remain connected in times of natural disasters. We need proper upgrades to Worongary Road and other main thoroughfares, not just the patchwork of pothole repairs that locals are struggling with.

While I am talking about safety, let us talk about combatting the scourge of hooning. I cannot tell members how often I have written to the minister and his department pleading for CCTV cameras in hooning hotspots in Worongary, Gilston and Tallai. If we have this investment in infrastructure, our hardworking police officers would have a chance of catching and locking up these offenders.

I will also keep fighting for the future of our community—our children. I am thrilled that the Numinbah Valley State School and the Mudgeeraba Special School, which does such wonderful work with a very special cohort of students, will get \$6 million for new classrooms, but we need so much more.

Our community desperately needs a new state high school west of the M1. Enrolments at our local schools are booming. Local high schools are reaching capacity, and there is no scope for any future development. Local families want to stay in the area from prep to their final exams. Labor likes to talk big about tourism and the environment. There is nothing to boost those things in Mudgeeraba in this budget. We desperately need better signage for tourists at Springbrook. We need better facilities and parking so that more people can explore our fabulous hinterland.

We need the funds to protect the World Heritage listed wilderness and the greenspaces closer to communities. Years ago the Mudgeeraba Creek was a thriving ecosystem and where it was possible to spot platypus. We need the government to fund the reinvigoration of Mudgeeraba Creek so that locals and wildlife can enjoy the area once again.

I want to put on the record my determination to keep fighting for Mudgeeraba, so the residents can have the roads, schools and education they deserve.



Hon. SJ STEWART (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (2.29 pm): I rise today in support of the Palaszczuk government's 2021-22 state budget. This budget will help us continue to deliver our plan for economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and the resources sector will continue to be a key part of this moving forward. Already in the past 12 months we have seen how important this traditional industry is to Queensland, and it has been able to continue operating, keeping thousands of people in jobs throughout the global pandemic. The resources sector is incredibly important for all of Queensland but particularly so in the regions in places like Townsville, which I am proud to represent.

As our government has said since the beginning of this pandemic, we will continue to invest in Queensland's traditional strengths such as the resources sector to help us come back stronger from this pandemic. In this budget more than \$42 million will be invested in the Queensland's resources sector and land programs as part of the 2021-22 state budget.

This latest budget will allow Queensland to continue its resources-led recovery through exploration grants, initiatives and mine rehabilitation programs. These investments are crucial to making sure our exploration and resources sector remains strong and we continue to drive new discoveries as we transition to a low-carbon economy. The resources sector has continued operating during the COVID-19 pandemic, supporting 71,000 jobs. I would like to take this time to again thank everyone in the resources sector—not one single case of COVID-19 in 71,000 jobs.

As part of this strategy, the Palaszczuk government will continue to help explorers discover new economy minerals, which are crucial for renewable technology such as electric vehicles and batteries. We will do this with \$2.5 million towards Collaborative Exploration Initiative grants and a further \$2.2 million to facilitate the development and expansion of the new economy minerals industry. Exploration investment is critical for finding new deposits and developing potential new projects, which

means more royalties, more exports and more jobs for Queenslanders. The latest statistics from the ABS show that exploration in Queensland is up 22.5 per cent to \$705 million in 12 months. Investment in exploration today is what will lead to the next generation of projects, which is why this budget is backing the sector.

There are even more opportunities for the resources industry to grow, with the announcement of the \$2 billion Queensland Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund as part of this budget. You cannot have a renewables industry without a strong resources industry, and Queensland has a real opportunity to take advantage of this moving forward thanks to the world-class North West Minerals Province. There is a world-class minerals deposit on our doorstep which the world will increasingly look to in the future. Minerals like vanadium, cobalt, copper and rare earth elements will be in demand. That is why we are investing \$13.8 million in our new economy minerals initiative to help explorers discover new economy minerals and future jobs across North Queensland.

In this budget, we will invest \$15.5 million to address rehabilitation of abandoned mines across Queensland. This package will include continued management of the Linc Energy site. On this site 50 wells have been identified as high priority for decommissioning due to the associated contamination risks. I am pleased to report to the House that this work is already underway, and in the coming year this funding will be focused on those wells. Another priority site is the abandoned Collingwood tin mine, which was disclaimed in 2015. Given its proximity to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and the Great Barrier Reef catchment, my department will be focusing on decommissioning the tailings dam. Additional works include site works at the abandoned Wolfram Camp mine and make safe works associated with historic mine shafts on the Atherton Tablelands.

The state budget also delivered for our gas industry. The state budget delivered a \$222 million investment in publicly owned clean energy operator CleanCo. This included \$24.6 million to develop the Kogan North gas fields in a joint venture with Arrow Energy. Gas will play an increasingly critical role in our energy mix as we move towards this government's commitment to net zero emissions by 2050. With CleanCo investing in additional gas supply, this will also assist Queensland's push to deliver our commitment to a 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030. This commitment builds on our already announced \$5 million Bowen Basin Gas Pipeline Feasibility Study.

I am also proud that this government is leading the development of the Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan. Work is already underway on the plan, having attended multiple workshops across regional Queensland. This is going to be a great success. As I said earlier, the resources sector will continue to be a key part of Queensland's economic recovery plan from COVID-19, which is why the Palaszczuk government will continue to back it in with real investment.

In this budget another \$11 million will be invested to continue strategic programs that improve and restore rangelands, soil and vegetation catchments through the Queensland Natural Resources Investment Program. Also, as part of the Natural Resources Investment Program, a further \$500,000 will explore ways to improve partnerships and innovative ways to deliver grant programs.

Additionally, my department will be investing \$7.7 million to continue protection of the Great Barrier Reef as part of the \$270 million Reef Water Quality Program being led by Minister Scanlon. This investment is in addition to the \$400 million already invested into the reef by the Palaszczuk government.

We must not forget that 65 per cent of Queensland is still affected by drought, and we need to do all we can to help our drought-affected farmers however we can. That is why we will be delivering \$3.2 million in land rent rebates for landholders in drought-declared areas. In addition to this rebate, drought-declared landholders will be granted a hardship deferral for required rent payments.

Through this budget, the Palaszczuk government is doing what it can to help keep businesses operating and thriving, people employed and our resources sector going strong. It is not just the resources industry that will benefit from this budget. In Townsville we are continuing to back job-creating projects with millions of dollars being invested into the city. Essential infrastructure in North Queensland, like the \$193 million channel upgrade at the Port of Townsville, is incredibly important. This will position the city well into the future and will also support our growing resources sector which Townsville is a key part of.

Mr Deputy Speaker Kelly, you have reviewed and approved my speech on the budget for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

We are continuing to invest in maintenance and upgrades of the Mt Isa to Townsville rail lines which is a key link for companies getting their resources to Townsville's port.

Let's not forget there were for sale signs up at both places under the Newman Government.

Mr Speaker we all know water security is vital for all communities to continue their growth in the future, which is why under this budget, the Palaszczuk Government is funding stage two of the Haughton Pipeline after we flushed the Feds out because they were trying to rip off Queensland.

It's now been 318 days since that happened and we're still waiting to see where or even if the Federal member for Herbert will do with that money which he promised would stay in Townsville.

Water security is key for Townsville's growth into the future and so is tourism which is why we're backing Magnetic Island with real investment.

As part of this budget, we are investing \$4.9 million in 2021-22 out of a \$7 million total spend to upgrade Magnetic Island roads as we know it's the jewel in Townsville's crown.

We're backing stage three of the Museum of Underwater Art off Magnetic Island with a substantial investment after funding the first two stages which have been a great drawcard for visitors to North Queensland and we are also investing in the world-class Magnetic Island National Park visitor trails network.

It's real investment from this budget that makes Townsville a great place to live, work and visit.

Mr Speaker another huge investment as part of the 2021-22 State Budget is in our schools.

Being a former teacher and principal, I know how important the right learning environment is and I'm proud to be part of a government that has a record education budget.

In Townsville alone there are more than 30 different projects at schools throughout the city which will benefit from this budget.

There are millions of dollars in funding for school upgrades throughout the city which will not only benefit students but will create jobs too.

School halls, refurbished learning facility, new playgrounds and so much more is what this government is backing though this record \$15.3 billion State Budget investment in school and early childhood education.

Mr Speaker throughout Queensland we are backing the health system with this budget too.

There is a record health investment of \$22.2 billion which will continue to provide a world-class health system, which is also critical to continuing managing the ongoing risks of COVID-19.

In my hometown we are investing in the Townsville Hospital and Health Service with \$17.8 million this financial year for construction projects to improve facilities at the hospital, including the expansion of the Outpatients Department.

Just this month as the Minister for Health, the member for Mundingburra and the Member for Thuringowa know we opened an expanded and refurbished paediatric treatment area in Townsville University Hospital's emergency department.

We also announced we are funding a paediatric cardiology service for North Queensland which will be based at the Townsville University Hospital.

There is an exception hospital on Townsville's doorstep with exceptional staff and this is possible because it's this government that backs our workers and health system with real investment as is clear in this budget.

From March 2015 to March this year this government is backing our frontline health staff putting on an extra 249 nurses and an extra 182 doctors.

The Palaszczuk Government has made no secret that our focus is on creating jobs and that's what this budget is all about.

As part of this budget we are putting in the largest investment in social housing in Queensland's history with a new housing plan backed by \$1.9 billion investment over four years and a new \$1 billion Housing Investment Fund to boost housing supply and increase housing and homelessness support across Queensland.

This will help support vulnerable people and ease stress on those looking to move to places like Townsville.

It will also help continue our economic plan for recovery as it will create and keep tradies in work.

Conclusion

Mr Speaker, this budget is about backing all of Queensland and backing our plan for economic recovery from the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The resources industry is a traditional strength of Queensland's and it has shown how vital it is in the past 12 months.

We continue to back all parts of the economy and we continue to back the regions like Townsville.

Investing in major infrastructure like stage two of the Haughton Pipeline, the Port of Townsville upgrade and the Mt Isa to Townsville rail line will continue to create jobs and support our economy.

That's how you keep Queensland on the road to economic recovery.



Mr STEVENS (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (2.37 pm): Debt, debt, debt. Borrow, borrow, borrow. Promises, promises, promises. These are the hallmarks of another Labor debt-driven budget, another failed attempt by the Treasurer to look after Queenslanders' long-term interests and another cop-out from proper job-creating infrastructure spending by a government so addicted to sugar-hit spending that it uses the COVID excuse to mask its profligate, voracious debt appetite, condemning Queenslanders to a future of higher taxes and lower services.

When borrowings are used to fund recurrent expenditure rather than long-term investments, you know the institution is in diabolical fiscal meltdown. This government has copped an estimated \$4,000 million wage rise for the Public Service alone through the 7.5 per cent wage rise—and that is just the tip of the iceberg of their financial mismanagement of Queensland's finances.

The Treasurer is aware of his government's precarious financial position. The last thing he wants is another ratings agency downgrade, as his predecessor Andrew Fraser famously achieved, for the political damage it would do to his leadership ambitions. I am sure after his conversations with the rating agencies—who would have nominated a figure that would avoid a ratings agency downgrade in relation to the government's debt position—that is how he came up with the fairytale valuation of the Titles Registry at, firstly, \$4.2 billion three weeks ago and now \$7.8 billion, shifted in a pea-and-thimble trick off the government's debt ledger to enhance this deceitful Labor government's debt position.

The Economics and Governance Committee was advised that the debt reduction bill passed three weeks ago would save nine per cent off the government's balance sheet, so I assume that \$7.8 billion will save 16.65 per cent off the government's debt ratio, which will conveniently dodge a ratings agency downgrade. No-one with any financial capacity believes the Treasurer's assurances to the House of statements made by different financial observers because the Treasurer is hiding the valuation of the Titles Registry from public scrutiny.

If the Treasurer will not release the valuation under spurious protection reasoning, then it is obvious he has something to hide. This phoney, dodgy, hidden valuation is proof this government will say anything, do anything and dream up any trickery to hide the real financial position of Queensland's taxpayers to the great detriment of our children and our children's children's future. I do not know how this Treasurer sleeps at night knowing he is deliberately deceiving the people of Queensland.

The grinning straight face with which he delivered this false reality budget gives testament to the character of the man who aspires to be premier of Queensland. Either his incompetence leads him to actually believe this fairytale valuation of an asset that can never be sold to prove its real worth, or he is deliberately deluding himself to save his private political ambition at all costs. No-one wants a premier who oversaw a fiscal downgrade for Queensland while he was in the position of treasurer.

If this dodgy accounting practice was not the highlight of this underwhelming Queensland budget, the sad admission that there will be a \$4 billion decrease over forward estimates of the government infrastructure spend tells you that this government is comfortable spending debt borrowings on recurrent expenditure, and it probably will not be long before they will have to borrow to pay the interest bill.

Borrowing for infrastructure spend is a reasonable strategy for governments to follow, given that good infrastructure will be shared by future generations who will share in the repayment of the cost of that infrastructure; however, increasing borrowings and decreasing infrastructure spend is a flashing red light warning that the entity is engaging in this fiscally irresponsible activity and is actually under heavy financial pressure. But for the side shuffle Titles Registry fairytale trick, I am certain the ratings agencies would be forced to lower the government's credit rating, which would have meant added interest costs to the Queensland taxpayer because of this Treasurer's mismanagement.

Moving on to local issues in the extremely important part of the state that is the fabulous Gold Coast city, I note there is nothing—diddly squat, zero—in the budget for the upgrade and expansion of the Gold Coast Convention Centre. Obviously, the state owned facility is an icon of Gold Coast tourism, and blind Freddy could tell you that conventions and conferences are an integral part of any tourism recovery package. This was a golden opportunity to put tourism recovery on the Gold Coast front and centre, but there is not even one dollar for a study, a talkfest, a business case, or whatever the Labor Party is famous for, to ensure this much needed facility is on the agenda for Gold Coast tourism recovery.

When one reflects on the opportunity lost by the Palaszczuk Labor government—while pursuing the so-called global tourism hub—to collect \$100 million from the Star Casino for an upgrade of the Gold Coast Convention Centre—which they manage in return—for a 20-year moratorium on any further casinos on the Gold Coast, it makes a laughing stock of their decision-makers over this lost opportunity

when the global tourism hub was only ever a pie-in-the-sky Labor thought bubble. There is no need now for Star to require an exclusivity deal, as there is no new casino operator threat on the horizon and there probably will not be for the next 20 years anyway.

Speaking of Star Casino, they are forging ahead very successfully with their real estate development on the tiny island. Eventually, when all five high-rises are completed you will get that real Hong Kong feeling by just visiting Star on the Gold Coast as well as saving on an airfare to Hong Kong. Instead of a ferry ride to Macao, you can just walk downstairs to the Star Casino to get a bet on. Again, the Goldie has it all.

I tried to find the \$3 million that the state government—I am told by the Gold Coast City Council—has committed for its half share of the Gold Coast Oceanway project for the first stage from Surfers Paradise to Broadbeach, but with no luck. This is a sacrificial infrastructure project through the sand dunes and much heralded sand grasses of Gold Coast city beaches. One would question the logic of concreting a four-metre path over our magnificent Gold Coast beaches, knowing that perhaps this Christmas or the next it will be washed away in a big storm. I hear the cries of many who would like this infrastructure to ride their bike on, push their pram on, or generally not get their Nike shoes dirty on the beach sand. However, it is responsible governments who should resist these Christmas wish calls to Santa in the name of responsible spending of ratepayers' and taxpayers' money. The beach is a beautiful place to walk, and other pathways that are not sacrificial infrastructure are better placed to provide mobility access. I understand that many folk are rallying against this project through legal avenues, and I wish them well in their endeavours.

For the umpteenth time I am calling on the government to fast-track the alternative M1 connector, as daily I see congestion growing on the M1 to the point of gridlock. I fear that before too long any minor accident occurring on the M1 will shut down the main arterial between Australia's third-largest city, Brisbane, and Australia's six-largest city, the Gold Coast. The Gold Coast is bigger than Tasmania already, and that could be shut down for hours and days in the years ahead. The prevarication over the start of the alternative M1 reminds me greatly of the 1994 recognition by the Goss Labor government of the need to upgrade the then four-lane highway by the provision of an alternative route. As the then boss of the AWU, 'Big Bill' Ludwig told me, instead of the Labor government doing a \$2 million study on whether it was needed or not, you could have asked any mum with a child in the back seat of a car stuck in the gridlocked traffic and you would have got the correct answer. Bring back 'Big Bill' Ludwig, I say, for some common sense to apply to this out-of-touch left-wing loony Labor government.

On another note, I see there is \$113 million allocated this financial year for the start of Light Rail Stage 3, 85 per cent of which is in my patch of Mermaid Beach. Already the cries of despair are reverberating in Nobby Beach over two 12-storey high-rises proposed to accommodate more passengers for the light rail.

As I have said on numerous occasions before, the light rail is predominantly a development enabler, with increased densities already being utilised along earlier stages. Department of Transport facts are that a maximum 7.7 per cent of commuters will use public transport, which means that 92.3 per cent of commuters around the light rail will use a car. With the increased high-rise density associated with beachside living, it means an enormous increase in traffic and parking problems in the suburbs around the light rail while there is only one north-south highway—being the Gold Coast Highway—in what is a totally linear city.


The light rail as public transport would be a great addition if it was only used for improving public transport accessibility. But it is being used as a Trojan Horse for high-rise development along the light rail beachfront route, and it will only lead to further gridlock on the Gold Coast Highway as 15,000 people a year move into high-rises on the Gold Coast along the light rail passageway. Parking will be a nightmare around those beachside suburbs, with two and three cars owned by tenants in the high-rise units rented out for investment. Again I say that light rail is a good public transport acquisition if it is used for current densities; however, it is fool's gold if it is used, as it has previously been used by state and local governments, as a development enabler.

On the subject of Gold Coast Light Rail stage 3, I cannot believe the federal Morrison government stumped up another \$126 million for the project to address outrageous union backed labour payment claims that the project's private operators were not prepared to pay. When will the federal government learn that they get no credit for bankrolling this out-of-funds Labor state government's projects and that the kudos will remain fairly and squarely with the Palaszczuk Labor government? If they want proof of my assertions, just take a look at the Townsville football stadium where they bailed out the state Labor government with half the cost of the stadium, and see how popular that has made Premier Palaszczuk

as opposed to the business whiz-kid and failed politician Malcolm Turnbull. There you will find the real political benefit in bailing out a Labor state government with federal cash, and the lesson to be learned is to stay out of state responsibilities.

Another issue I would like to raise is the commitment by the government—which I congratulate them on—of \$41 million to upgrade the Annexe in the parliamentary precinct. This is a matter that was raised in statements last year when the Manager of Opposition Business highlighted the fact that the building was actually falling apart. To the government's credit—even though the Treasurer of the day was adamant that it was not money well spent—they have actually agreed to put \$41 million into upgrading the parliamentary precinct before it actually falls down. I congratulate the government on making that decision and I look forward to that taking effect for the betterment of the parliamentary services and staff working in this dinosaur of the 1970s so it is upgraded for today's use.

Mr Deputy Speaker, with your indulgence and on a concluding note, may I also add my deepest sympathy to the family of Duncan Pegg today. I know there will be many speakers when the House recognises Duncan's service at a later date. I served with Duncan on portfolio committees and he was, in what could best be described as the ultimate compliment, a good bloke. Perhaps a legacy parliamentary program named after Duncan Pegg might be a fitting recognition of a life well lived and a parliamentary career well served.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (2.51 pm): I rise to speak in favour of the appropriation bills and the budget we have before us. When I sat here earlier today, I listened to the opposition leader's contribution and I did not hear him mention COVID-19 once—not once. He mentioned vaccines 31 minutes in. I may have missed it but not once did he talk about COVID-19. Over 20 minutes in, he mentioned the Olympics very briefly regarding transport. My question is: how can he talk for nearly an hour on a budget and not mention the two biggest impacts on future budgets in Queensland—COVID-19 and the Olympics? It beggars belief.

If you want to talk about how we grow the economy through growing productivity, you have got to talk about these two things that are affecting how we cast our budget. It is absolutely crucial. I am a bit staggered by those oversights but perhaps I should not be so surprised. What did not surprise me was when they used the words 'trickery' and 'confusion', which is code to me for saying, 'We don't understand this budget stuff.' That is a shame but once again—

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr WHITING: If I explained it to you, I would have to speak very slowly.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! Put your comments through the chair.

Mr Crawford: Little words, Chris.


Mr WHITING: Yes, little words, thank you. The question is: what is their policy? What we are seeing at the moment is that the policy they are bringing forward to the people is to tell them that they are victims. They are not giving people hope; they are appealing to their fear. That is how the LNP harvest votes time after time. They are harvesting votes through amplifying fears. Can I say to all of these people whose stories they have harvested, with the greatest of respect, that the LNP will not help you; they will use you and they will drop you. I have seen that in my area when child safety stories came up I would say to these people that if they ever got into power things would get drastically worse and their problems would certainly not be solved.

When the opposition leader spoke about any problem during his budget reply speech, I found it very hard not to interject and say, 'We're onto it. We're already solving it. There's already a solution on the way.' For example, one policy that they did come up with—and they do have a policy now; let us give them kudos for that because that is good—is the social entrepreneur loan scheme, but the problem is that we already have a Social Enterprise Jobs Fund. We already have one and the applications are already open for it. I am worried that they did not do their homework on this. Not only that, we have Skilling Queenslanders for Work, with \$431 million having been spent in Queensland since 2015 on this program. That money can go to social enterprises to train people and to get people into work and training. I know in my area that the Deception Bay Community Youth Programs has used some of that funding to support and create a social enterprise that trains people. If this is their only policy, it really is a clanger.

Hang on, there is another one which I nearly forgot—the parliamentary budget office. I have a job for them; they should analyse their Bradfield scheme. How about that for a first job for the parliamentary budget office? That would keep them busy for at least a day or two. After that, they could go to the Bruce Highway. Wow, that would be a great job for the parliamentary budget office. The

member for Jordan said yesterday that the LNP had promised to build a Springfield hospital, but when we got down to it and saw the letter, it was a promise to get a briefing on possibly doing a hospital. I would love to see that go to the parliamentary budget office as well.

I spent an hour of my life listening to this budget reply today—as we all did—and I am not illuminated too much more on what is going on in Queensland. What is very clear is that the ALP has taken the mantle as the better economic managers in Queensland. That is absolutely true. Our growth is predicted to reach 3¼ per cent, we have created 337,000 jobs since we came to office, with 32,000 jobs in the last month, and we have an unemployment rate that will be down to about 5.4 per cent. I have said all I need to say. I commend this bill and the budget to the House.

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (2.57 pm): I rise to make my budget reply speech. Firstly, I wish to mention the sad loss of the member for Stretton, Duncan Pegg, or Peggy as he was known by all and sundry. My condolences to his family and his community. He will be missed but he will live on in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

We have had some successes with all of the lobbying that has been going on over the last 12 years that I have been the member. We have constantly pushed hard to get the services for the northern Gold Coast. Exit 54 was one that we managed to get over the line funding wise and planning wise whilst we were in government, and then it was delivered to the northern Gold Coast. That then saw the Coomera Town Centre built and a massive amount of additional growth in and around that area.

We have had other positives, and education is one of those. As I have said many times in this House and right around my community, Education Queensland is doing and has always done in all of the time I have been in this role an excellent job when it comes to delivering for the education needs of those on the northern Gold Coast. They recognise that we have the fastest-growing region in Queensland. One of the very up-to-date measures for establishing that we are the fastest-growing region is the enrolment figures that are updated monthly. As at 28 May 2021, just three weeks ago, there were 47,240 voters in the state seat of Coomera, which is 28.55 per cent above the average. Indeed, it is the fastest-growing number of voters in any electorate in the state. All of those electorates that surround it are around the average or slightly below the average. I will table that for the benefit of members so they can have a look at how fast things are growing.

Tabled paper: Document from Electoral Commission Queensland website, undated, titled 'Current Enrolment Figures' [\[896\]](#).

On the education front, I do have to say that although we have been doing a fantastic job, one small school has been missed out of the equation. It is a lovely little school and the member for Logan's electorate also has students from the school, Cedar Creek, as does the member for Scenic Rim. What a lovely little school it is with 275 students. It is a great part of the world. After some of the work that has been done by Education Queensland in covering undercrofts et cetera there is no longer a waterproof area for the students and the families to meet. I would ask—and I did ask this in the last budget—for some funding to enclose Albert hall. It would probably run to about \$350,000, certainly far less than it costs to build a new school hall in some of the other faster growing or bigger schools in the area. I note the minister mentioned she cannot believe she is still building school halls. Little Cedar Creek State School has missed out and it deserves to have serious consideration given to building in Albert hall.

In the area of police and emergency services, once again we have had a win. We now have the Fire and Emergency Services station at Pimpama and a full crew of 19. That gives us a full 24-hour, seven-day-a-week service to the area. Of course, the big win for us is the Pimpama police station, which is now being fast-tracked and will be completed sometime late this year, weather permitting. The biggest win of all is the 36 additional police for the northern Gold Coast without any impact on any of the stations around it. It has been hard fought for and I thank Katarina Carroll for her foresight in delivering that station within six weeks of coming into the role and recently announcing those additional police for us.

On the other hand, in the area of transport and main roads, unfortunately, we have some issues. 'The government is fast and loose with the truth' is a term I have often heard used by others about the Labor government, and I could not agree more. A case in point is the second M1, which is years away. My question to the Premier on Tuesday morning was fobbed off. I asked the Premier when we would be driving on the second M1 and her response was, 'We are going to start building it this year.' That was not the question. We want to know when it will be available for us to drive on. Here are the figures from QTRIP. The construction time line for the Coomera to Nerang stretch is about eight years. Where did I get that from? There is \$115 million being spent in 2021-22, \$250 million in 2022-23 and

\$507 million in the two years after that—this is all fifty-fifty with the federal government. Then there is the balance of the money from 2026 onwards, \$628 million. It is about an eight-year time line as a minimum just to build that 16-kilometre stretch. That does not go anywhere near the northern part of the second M1, the point being that it does get worse.

In order to build by the Olympic games the stretch from Loganholme in the north to Coomera, which will connect with the stretch that is about to start, which is stage 1 of stage 1—there are three stages in stage 1 and I cannot quite work how or why—we will have to get moving. What has been committed over the next four years for the stretch between Coomera and Loganholme? There is \$11 million and nothing out past the forward estimates. Unless something magical happens in the not-too-distant future we will not see the second M1 built by 2032. We have plenty to do in that space.

Also in the transport and main roads area the fast-tracking of Pimpama railway station is desperately needed. I met with people from Cross River Rail just last week to talk about that. They gave me a bit of a run-down. I pointed out all of those stats that I spoke about earlier. The Pimpama railway station needs to be built faster than the delivery of Cross River Rail. That is not being delivered until 2025. The fastest growing region in Queensland centred on Pimpama needs to have that train station built faster. I would suggest we could start construction early next year after the planning has been completed and deliver it by the end of 2022.

We need to fast-track the upgrade of exit 49 as well. Once again, we are not seeing anything as far as delivery is concerned for that particular project until 2024 at the earliest. We need funding for the upgrade of exit 38. There has been a business case in place since 2018. The figures were indicated as something in the order of \$81 million or \$87 million—do not hold me to that, but certainly there has been not a cracker. The business case for exit 38 has been in place since 2018 but there is not one dollar in this budget for that upgrade. On a similar subject, funding for the full upgrade of exit 45, there is \$10 million from the government to upgrade exit 45. Somehow they convinced the federal government to give them \$10 million for a slip lane. Do not ask me what they are going to spend \$20 million on for a slip lane coming off the M1 heading south because that sounds over the top. We need full funding in the order of \$130 million to duplicate exit 45.

I was hoping to see more buses between Beenleigh and Ormeau. The Gold Coast city council has committed \$11 million over the next four years for 50 per cent of the cost to run more buses between Beenleigh and Ormeau stations and between Ormeau and Coomera stations with more frequency as well as more bus routes or a new bus service out to Jacobs Well. Unfortunately, I cannot find anything in the budget papers to provide support for that 50 per cent funding from the Gold Coast city council. The state needs to put \$11 million on the table to make that a reality.

Another one is the Police Citizens Youth Club. We have been trying for up to seven years to get some funding happening for the Police Citizens Youth Club in Pimpama. We have full support from the local community. We have a coalition of the willing, if you like, in that regard. The only people that are not on board are the state government. I have put in petitions and I have been knocked back on two occasions in relation to funding. I am going to write to the minister and ask him to please give consideration to that. It is the fastest growing region with the highest number of youth. We have the youngest population in the state; the average age in the electorate is 30.2 years. Forty-two per cent of our population is under 25 years of age, which just happens to fit in with the PCYC target age group. Something like 28 per cent of our population is under 15 years of age. This is desperately needed.

On the subject of education, I mentioned the commitment to Albert hall a moment ago. In health \$10 million is needed for a master plan. This government promised \$3 million, leaving us \$7 million short. I cannot understand why it is not in the budget papers. We cannot find it anywhere in the budget papers. We need \$10 million for the master plan. Then we need a commitment. When is it going to be built? It is not a matter of saying, 'Okay, let's put \$10 million in. Let's do some planning.' We are talking about a significant funding requirement here. We see \$177 million, including 174 beds, for Springfield, and good on the government in that regard. However, we do not even have a private hospital in the northern Gold Coast. It is the fastest growing region in Queensland but does not even have a private hospital, let alone any consideration in the short to medium term for a hospital. Let's get one of those PPPs going—a public-private partnership. Let's get something happening quickly as far as the health needs of the northern Gold Coast are concerned. I have here a wish list that I table for the benefit of all members.


Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'My budget wishlist is:' [897].

Construction of the northern section of the M1 needs to be seriously considered. \$11 million just does not cut it. By the way, that \$11 million is not just for this year; it is being divided over the forward estimates. It is not like it is there and available to review again in six months time.

We need fast-tracking and duplication of exit 49. There needs to be funding for the upgrade and duplication of exit 38, which I have given detail on. In terms of exit 45, it is absolute madness that we cannot see an upgrade, given the massive amount of traffic congestion that we have. It goes for kilometres in every direction every morning and every afternoon.

One thing I have not mentioned with regard to health is the ambulance station that is now being committed to be built in the wrong place. We need an ambulance station in Ormeau—there is no doubt about that—but it should not be built in the wrong place. It is being built on the corner of a residential estate, nowhere near the M1. All of the roads from that ambulance station end up heavily congested every morning and every afternoon. It is the craziest place to build it. When they gave me the briefing on it, the people from the Ambulance Service explained to me that TMR told them they had no land available on the M1 corridor. That is ludicrous. The M1 is owned by the state government and there is land on both sides of it.

We need fast-tracking of the Pimpama station. We need \$10 million for the master plan for the hospital. We need money to build a PCYC. We desperately need bus services between Beenleigh and Ormeau—that is 50 per cent funded by the Gold Coast city council—between Ormeau and Pimpama and out to Jacobs Well. Those services are desperately needed by the Jacobs Well community. I remind everybody that Albert Hall at Cedar Creek State School needs to be done sooner rather than later.

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (3.11 pm): I rise to speak in support of the appropriation bills for 2021-22. 2020 was a year like no other. The COVID-19 global pandemic wreaked havoc on all aspects of our way of life. The pandemic is not over, as we all know. That message has been made especially clear in the last few weeks, with the recent COVID-19 outbreak in Victoria. While the vaccine rollout continues, there is much uncertainty about what lies ahead for Queenslanders. That is why the budget handed down this week by the Treasurer is so important. It provides more certainty in uncertain times.

The state budget shows the Palaszczuk Labor government's unwavering commitment to regional Queensland. There is renewed investment in the Bruce Highway. There is joint funding for the inland freight route between Charters Towers and New South Wales. Some 61 per cent of our \$14.7 billion capital program next financial year will be spent in the regions of Queensland. There will be strategic investments in skills, with more than \$7 million for agricultural training centres in TAFEs in Toowoomba, Bundaberg, Cannonvale and Bowen. There will be \$70 million for local water supplies through Building our Regions. These investments look well beyond the headlines of today to make a meaningful difference to our future economy and our future capabilities.

Let's compare that to the opposition. They say that they are the party of the bush. Their track record speaks for itself. Their time on the government benches saw widespread cuts to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. More than 600 positions were cut. The people of the Queensland bush were bushwhacked by the LNP—and they have never forgotten.

I see that scientists have recently discovered dinosaur bones at Eromanga. They are really the bones left over from the Nationals, the party that used to stand up for the bush.

Ms Camm: We're still here. We're not going anywhere!

Mr FURNER: Some dinosaurs are still there opposite! Queenslanders know that Labor is the true party for the bush. After all, Barcaldine—or Barky, as most of us on this side know it as—is the birthplace of the Australian Labor Party.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr FURNER: Working for and backing the people of the bush is in our DNA. I am pleased that those opposite have finally woken up. The Palaszczuk government has a proud record of investment—

Mr Saunders interjected.

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order! Pause the clock. Member for Maryborough and member for Gregory, cease your quarrelling.

Mr FURNER: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for your protection. The Palaszczuk government has a proud record of investing in the portfolios of agricultural industry development and fisheries and rural communities. There is a \$523 million budget for my portfolio—another half a billion dollars allocated for Agriculture and Fisheries—the third in a row from the Palaszczuk government.

I note that already AgForce president Georgie Somerset, a great advocate and good friend of the Palaszczuk government, has welcomed our commitment to improving, expanding and reforming our drought support program. I also want to acknowledge a very close of mine Will Wilson, AgForce cattle board president. He has also acknowledged how closely this government works with industry to grow our agriculture sector. It is little wonder that when I travel the thousands of kilometres throughout the regions of this magnificent state I am called 'Furner the farmers' friend'.

When it comes to jobs in regional Queensland and for the agriculture industry, this budget delivers in spades. This government will deliver a fourth round of our Rural Economic Development Grants. RED Grants offer co-contribution grants to agribusiness projects to strengthen primary production sectors and bolster rural communities. In the three rounds so far we have backed 45 businesses the length and breadth of this great state. That has created 1,800 jobs in our regions—meaningful jobs. The grants assist businesses like Marto's Mangoes in Bowen which created 62 jobs with its expansion that allows it to measure the maturity of each fruit, ensuring each mango sent to market is at its peak. Kenilworth Dairies is another RED Grants recipient and agribusiness success. The Palaszczuk government backed them to establish their own bottling plant, and in the process another 24 jobs have been created. The member for Nicklin is very supportive of this. It is clear that ag businesses want this scheme to continue. That is why we will deliver another round to create at least 600 jobs across Queensland.

The Palaszczuk government has delivered in spades in my electorate of Ferny Grove since 2015. From minor works to major transformational infrastructure projects, this government continues to invest in my electorate. I am pleased to confirm that the government's investment in the future of Ferny Grove will continue. Some \$9.76 million will be invested in schools across the electorate, for new construction and refurbishment. This is investment in our future generations, giving our kids the best chance to grow and learn in quality schools. I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated. It has been provided to and approved by the Deputy Speaker.

Mr Millar interjected.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Member for Gregory, you are warned. Attorney-General, you are not far off it.

Mr FURNER: I concur with the comments made by other speakers about Peggy. Peggy was a very close friend of mine. He is missed.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: In accordance with standing orders, I note that your speech has been reviewed by the Speaker's office for incorporation.

The speech read as follows—

But this budget also builds on significant investment in road and transport infrastructure.

Funding has been confirmed for intersection upgrades and safety improvements along Samford Road.

And we have confirmed our significant investment in Ferny Grove Transit Oriented Development, or TOD.

Like my constituents I cannot wait for work to start in coming weeks on the TOD.

This project will create 700 jobs during the construction phase, and another 700 ongoing jobs once it is complete.

That's 1400 jobs being created in my electorate which is going to contribute to the prosperity of Ferny Grove for years to come.

That's what the Palaszczuk Government does. We get on with the job of delivering for the people of Queensland and the State Budget once again delivers for Ferny Grove.

Ferny Grove is a vibrant community, and it continues to be my honour to serve its people and to deliver these outcomes for them.

Portfolio

Speaker, our fisheries and agriculture businesses did it tough in 2020.

But the Palaszczuk Government stood by producers.

We were the first state to declare agriculture an essential industry and we backed them to keep supply chains open.

Our Plan for Economic Recovery included support to help businesses diversify into other markets; to embrace digital innovation and to reinvigorize trade relationships through virtual missions to some of our biggest trading partners like Japan

Speaker, what this Budget does is give our producers more certainty in a post-COVID world.

We are backing our farmers and fishers to do what they do best—to grow the food and fibre we need.

To expand and be more productive and to create the many thousands of jobs that rely on Queensland agriculture.

The supply chain and transport industry jobs. The manufacturing jobs. The export jobs. The retail and restaurant jobs.

All of them rely in part on our food and fibre producers either in full or in part to support their businesses and their jobs.

And when it comes to jobs in regional Queensland and for the agriculture industry this Budget delivers.

One of the things that the Palaszczuk Government is proud of is our support of the sheep industry in Queensland.

Multiple investments in cluster fencing to support producers in keeping wild dogs out of their properties are reaping the benefits.

We have seen lambing rates in Western Queensland rising by as much as 90 per cent.

And we are not done supporting this industry yet.

The State Budget includes a further \$4 million to be provided in Rural Agricultural Development Grants to fund more cluster fencing and other measures to help grow the sheep industry in Western and Southern Queensland.

On my visits to rural areas, I've seen firsthand the massive difference wild dog fencing makes for sheep.

It instils confidence and security, increases productivity, and creates employment in our rural communities.

It was only last month that I caught up with Jed Marks from Savages Butchers in Longreach who told me that because of this government's investment in cluster fencing that he's been able to put on extra workers.

That is real investment, real support for the sheep industry because the Palaszczuk Government is backing them to succeed.

Speaker, unlike the Commonwealth, the Palaszczuk Government's commitment to good biosecurity is rock solid.

We know that Queensland bears the brunt of plant and animal biosecurity threats and we have not shied away from our responsibility.

This budget commits additional investment in Biosecurity Queensland of \$8.8 million over four years.

There's support too for our pork industry—African Swine Fever is still a very real threat and we don't want to see this disease in Queensland.

That's why there'll be additional future funding for prevention and preparedness on top of our current commitments.

There's a further \$3 million over two years to support the response to Fall Armyworm threats.

While the LNP in Canberra dithers on biosecurity, the Palaszczuk Government is giving our farmers certainty on biosecurity.

Speaker, the Palaszczuk Government has done important work to ensure we leave a legacy of a sustainable fishery for our children and our grandchildren.

We have delivered on significant reforms to the sector, in close consultation with commercial and recreational fishers along the way.

But the work is not over yet—that is why this budget provides an increased investment of \$42.5 million over the next four years to continue the Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy.

This is helping build a world-class fisheries management system.

Over recent years we have invested to ensure recreational fishing groups, who support our fisheries and help to teach the next generation of recreational fishers how to enjoy this pastime sustainably.

For several years we had \$100,000 annually in recreational fishing grants for these organisations.

We are now offering \$250,000 in Recreational Fishing Grants over the next four years.

We said we would boost our support for recreational fishing groups and that is exactly what we have done.

With over 900,000 thousand of recreational fishers in Queensland, it's no surprise the program attracts so much interest.

Speaker, the vast majority of Queenslanders—support our efforts to ensure animal welfare in this state.

Queensland has the most robust animal welfare laws in the nation, and that is something we should all be proud of.

But we know community expectations change and that's why we are reviewing the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001.

We have had over 2,000 submissions and I am sure that the new Act will again be nation-leading.

Speaker, the COVID-19 pandemic has been tough for everyone to deal with.

Because of the strong leadership of our Premier and the Treasurer, Queensland is emerging from the pandemic in a strong position.

This budget will give Queenslanders confidence that their Government is getting on with the job of delivering for them.

Whether it is jobs, certainty for business, education facilities, support for agriculture and fisheries, or ensuring our regional communities have a strong voice in Government, this State Budget gives Queenslanders more certainty in uncertain times.

I commend the Budget to the House.



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (3.18 pm): I rise to address the appropriation bills for 2021-22. The Palaszczuk state Labor government's budget for 2021-22 is a budget that is deep in deception and one that is full of trickery. Labor's budget relies on what can only be described as some very ambitious assumptions, not to mention dubious accounting. Important fiscal principles have been abandoned by the current Labor Treasurer, the member for Woodridge. Further, Labor's current Treasurer has exhibited perhaps the best example of 'Labornomics' that our state has ever seen after accepting that the state Titles Registry could now be valued at nearly \$8 billion, which is almost double what it was valued at a year ago, not to mention the fact that the Labor government appeared to indicate that it was worth \$4.2 billion just two weeks ago.

Only Labor could deliver a state budget in which there are building and investment funds without funding. There is a so-called \$2 billion Hospitals Building Fund, a \$1 billion Housing Investment Fund, a \$300 million Path to Treaty Fund and a \$500 million Carbon Reduction Investment Fund. All of these are announced as so-called funds and yet not a single dollar has been allocated by Labor in this state budget. After more than six years, the Palaszczuk state Labor government has failed to learn any lessons from its own economic mismanagement and incompetence as the state budget for 2021-22 has revealed yet again. This year's state budget continues the long tradition of 'Labornomics' under this state Labor government—that is, using voodoo economics coupled with the blatant attempt of smoke and mirrors as a means of distracting Queenslanders from years of Labor's gross economic failings and trying to pretend that Labor has a sound economic plan.

Despite the tricks and despite the spin, the Liberal National Party does not forget and, as with every previous Labor state government and the current Labor budget that has been handed down this week, the Liberal National Party will continue to remind all Queenslanders of Labor's track record of failing to deliver and the Liberal National Party will again show that Labor cannot be trusted to manage our finances and our economy. Under Labor, transparency and accountability with Queensland's budgetary processes have been sorely lacking, and that is why the Liberal National Party has announced our plan to introduce a new Parliamentary Budget Office to provide independent budget costings available to all parties. I join with the Leader of the Opposition and call on the state Labor government to implement this office before the next election.

Labor's track record with Queensland state budgets has seen \$3.4 billion raided from the entitlements of Queensland public servants and billions of dollars withheld from public servant superannuation. It is a track record that shamefully now means that Queensland's defined benefit fund for our public servants is in fact technically insolvent. Labor's track record is also one which includes the loading of billions of dollars of debt onto our state's government owned corporations and power companies to the point that they have now been placed in financial jeopardy given the sheer weight of debt that has been loaded onto them by the state Labor government.

The Palaszczuk state Labor government's track record can best be described as one of constant failure and missed opportunities. Sadly, with Labor's 2021-22 state budget, the missed opportunities for our state of Queensland will be felt nowhere more harshly than in my own electorate of Moggill and across the western suburbs of Brisbane.

Mr Nicholls: Clayfield.

Dr ROWAN: I take the interjection from the member for Clayfield; they will also be felt in the state seat of Clayfield. In the lead-up to this year's state budget, just as I have continued to do so since I was first elected as the local state member for Moggill, I have made it absolutely clear that the Palaszczuk state Labor government must deliver the critical infrastructure and services that residents of the electorate of Moggill deserve. Despite my voluminous correspondence to Labor state ministers and their departments, various meetings as well as countless speeches and questions in the Queensland parliament, the Labor state government has failed to act.

The many services and key infrastructure requirements for my local community that Labor has failed to deliver include an integrated road and public transport plan with funded solutions to ease traffic congestion and improve public and active transport services. Labor has failed to provide an extension of the 444 bus service to the Moggill District Sports Park and Labor has failed to increase public transport service timetables and extend public transport routes to service residents of Anstead, Karana Downs and Mount Crosby. Labor has failed again to fund a new school hall at Kenmore State High School as well as other key capital projects for this important high school. Labor has abandoned families in Karana Downs, Mount Crosby, Karalee and surrounding suburbs by failing to deliver a desperately needed new high school. Labor has again failed to fully fund school infrastructure for every local state

school in the electorate of Moggill according to their school strategic infrastructure plans. Specifically at Chapel Hill State School, four additional classrooms are needed at the beginning of 2022 and the school also has multiple demountable classrooms that need a long-term and permanent solution.

Local community organisations have again been let down by this Labor government after Labor failed to provide a new community and neighbourhood centre to support the vital work of local community and not-for-profit organisations including the Kenmore Bridge Club, Shed West Community Men's Shed and eWaste Connection. Residents will have to wait even longer for enhanced footpath and pedestrian infrastructure along Moggill Road and Mount Crosby Road, including key pedestrian travel points through Pullenvale, Pinjarra Hills, Mount Crosby, and a dedicated footpath to the Moggill District Sports Park, with no specific funding allocated by the Palaszczuk state Labor government.

Similarly, despite constant pleas and even petitioning from local residents, Labor will not increase the vegetation maintenance schedule to ensure overgrown weeds and other debris is removed and that these state roads are maintained to a high standard in order to eliminate serious safety and visibility concerns. Sadly, there is no dedicated new funding for local environment and creek catchment groups to support the ongoing and vitally important efforts to preserve, maintain and rehabilitate our local environment and creek catchments, including for the Moggill Creek Catchment Group, Pullen Pullen Catchments Group, The Hut Environmental & Community Association, Cubberla-Witton Catchments Network and the Rural Environmental Planning Association.

The electorate of Moggill and the western suburbs of Brisbane have quite literally been left off the map. In both Labor's online map and in Labor's glossy brochures, when local residents look at the Palaszczuk state Labor government's regional action plan for Brisbane, they see not one budget highlight or action item for a single suburb in the electorate of Moggill that will improve our roads and public transport, enhance our schools or invest in our important community groups, such is the disdain that this state Labor government has for our local community. With the one and only traffic and transport item that is listed for the greater western suburbs of Brisbane, the upgrade of the Centenary Highway bridge, Labor has now pushed back vital funding into future years and I note how disappointed the RACQ was with this sleight of hand, not to mention the fact that there is no new funding for the Centenary Highway and Western Freeway from Darra through to Toowong. I table a copy of that map for the benefit of the House which clearly shows this lack of infrastructure spending.

Tabled paper: Map, undated, titled 'Queensland Budget: Regional Action Plans Map' depicting the Moggill electorate [898].

Just as the Palaszczuk state Labor government is content with providing nothing for local residents in the electorate of Moggill, it is similarly more than happy to impose a new wheelie bin tax of at least \$88 on every single household. Local residents simply cannot trust Labor and local residents simply cannot afford Labor.

As the Liberal National Party's shadow minister for education, I now wish to turn to the \$15.3 billion in funding that has been allocated in the 2021-22 Queensland state budget for education in Queensland. The Palaszczuk state Labor government wants Queenslanders to believe that it should be given credit for handing down a 'record education budget'. Labor is seeking accolades for merely doing its job. With an increasing population, coupled with substantial failings by Labor in delivering a world-class education system that all Queenslanders deserve, a significant spend on education is entirely needed to fix Labor's ongoing neglect of our state schools and associated school infrastructure. Even before this week's state budget, the last six months alone has been nothing short of a disgrace when it comes to the service delivery of education and school infrastructure in Queensland by the state Labor government.

Our hardworking and dedicated principals, teachers and staff at state schools across Queensland are entrusted with ensuring the education of our youngest Queenslanders, yet under the Palaszczuk state Labor government many of our principals and teachers are forced to endure workplaces that are harmful, unsafe and detrimental to their own health and wellbeing, and this is something I have heard from representatives of the Queensland Teachers' Union and the Teachers Professional Association of Queensland. It is simply a fact that, when it comes to the provision of education in Queensland, Labor cannot get the basics right. Critical and fundamental existing infrastructure has been neglected for far too long under Labor. It is an absolute fundamental human right and basic expectation that students and staff in our state schools be provided access to clean and functioning bathroom facilities. What is more, it should not have taken the advocacy of important groups like the Isolated Children's Parents' Association to highlight the absurd situation of private companies being used to literally truck in clean and usable drinking water for students and staff in our school communities in rural and regional Queensland.

I note that the Palaszczuk state Labor government is desperately trying to convince Queenslanders and Queensland families that it is genuine about early childhood education, but those on the front line know that this is not the case. I have been in constant contact with our early childhood education sector, and it is disappointed. It is disappointed because, despite the glossy brochures, despite the media releases and despite the spin, what it has seen from this state budget is nothing new by way of additional funding and certainly there is nothing in this budget that is comprehensive or targeted to address critical workforce issues in this sector. This is once again another missed opportunity. It is a missed opportunity because, if Labor were serious about early childhood education, it would genuinely work to improve the quality and number of early childhood educators. But Labor just does not care and, worse still, it just does not understand this.

More broadly, we have seen the educational outcomes of students directly jeopardised with significant evidence that the Palaszczuk state Labor government has failed to deliver on its own commitments to improve teacher readiness in STEM subjects and provide crucial support to principals and teachers in STEM development. It is a hallmark of the Palaszczuk state Labor government and the current Labor Minister for Education to not be open, transparent and accountable with the parents, teachers and staff of our school communities in Queensland. Again, the last six months alone since the 2020-21 Labor budget has seen a litany of failings from the Labor government. We had 24,000 year 12 students incorrectly advised that they were not eligible for an ATAR score, with the minister going into hiding and taking no responsibility. Without warning, Labor scrapped the year 12 outcomes reports, a crucial resource for schools, parents and staff and for further policy development and sound educational decision-making in Queensland. Queensland parents and state school communities have continued to grapple with school catchment allocations that are bursting at the seams and applied inconsistently.

Similarly, schools in Queensland have had to cope with Labor's botched rollout of its air-conditioning program. With just 12 months to go to complete this rollout, the Liberal National Party will be watching to ensure that every single school receives its air conditioning on time and on budget. There are also significant public health safety matters related to the potential exposure and management of asbestos in our state schools. In the western suburbs of Brisbane, Labor's consultation and implementation of a proposed new Brisbane inner-west state primary school has been shambolic at best, with a location seemingly hand-picked before any consultation with the local community and a consultation process that has had to be extended simply because Labor cannot get the basics right.

I would like to take time to address Labor's allocation of funding for the health portfolio. Despite boasting of another record health budget, a simple reading of Labor's budget papers reveal that nothing meaningful will be done to fix the state Labor government's health crisis. We continue to see code yellows across our public hospitals, we have 40 per cent of ambulances in Queensland being ramped, and 55,000 Queenslanders are sitting on the elective surgery waitlist, with a further 220,000 Queenslanders sitting on waiting lists to get on the waitlist.

Government members interjected.

Dr ROWAN: I hear those members opposite interjecting. I know that they are disappointed with their own track record when it comes to health here in Queensland. Local residents continue to share with me their terrible experiences of Labor's management of Queensland Health. It is not just patients who are regularly calling and contacting me about the perilous state of our public hospital system under Labor. Each and every week I have frontline health professionals contacting me, including medical specialists, general practitioners, visiting medical officers, registrars, resident medical officers, nurses, allied health professionals and ambulance officers about the problematic issues they are experiencing. In a few weeks it will be AMA Queensland's past presidents meeting. There is also the upcoming annual Rural Doctors Association of Queensland Conference at which former presidents of this association will also be present. One of the main topics will be the complete and utter lack of confidence that health and medical specialists have in the ability of the Palaszczuk state Labor government to manage and provide a well-functioning health and public hospital system.


Mr Harper interjected.

Dr ROWAN: I hear the member for Thuringowa interjecting. He knows that his former colleagues in the Ambulance Service are very unhappy with the performance of the Palaszczuk state Labor government.

In my remaining time I would like to address the arts portfolio. As the Liberal National Party's shadow minister for the arts I note the Palaszczuk state Labor government's announcement of \$90 million in allocated funding for the arts sector. I note the inclusion of \$7 million in funding to support the sustainability of Queensland's live music venues. I must say that on this front the state Labor

government has been found absolutely wanting when it comes to supporting these venues and operators when they needed it the most over the last 12 months. We know what a debacle Labor's management of the NightQuarter on the Sunshine Coast has been. The LNP's member for Kawana, who I acknowledge here in the chamber, outlined all of the relevant circumstances earlier and Labor's complete debacle in managing that circumstance and also supporting our live music sector here in Queensland.

In conclusion, Labor has recklessly abandoned local residents of the electorate of Moggill and the western suburbs of Brisbane. Local residents of the electorate of Moggill deserve better than this current Palaszczuk state Labor government.

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (3.32 pm): I rise to speak on the 2021-22 state budget. I start by acknowledging the Treasurer for this his second budget and by thanking him, the Premier and my colleagues for the investments contained in this budget that will improve the lives of people in my electorate and across my portfolio. These are some of the most vulnerable children, young people and families across Queensland.

I also acknowledge Duncan Pegg, our colleague, like so many others have. Budget week was always his favourite. We always enjoyed his contribution. He took particular pleasure in having a spar in the chamber with the member for Clayfield. I am sure the member will equally miss him this budget sitting, as we all do. Duncan, we think of you and your family at this time.

This is a budget with record investment in the areas that touch on the lives of nearly every Queenslanders. This is a budget that puts Queenslanders first: in health, in housing, in education, in small business, in skills, training and employment. This government is investing a record \$22.2 billion into health services for extra frontline staff, new health infrastructure, cutting back waiting times for emergency and surgical services and continuing the wonderful work that has been done in the past 18 months to protect Queensland from COVID-19. Our commitment also means thousands more nurses, hundreds more doctors and again hundreds more allied health professionals. A record \$15.3 billion investment in the education budget will deliver not just for our children but for the tradies who will maintain and improve our schools and other education facilities. Ten new schools will be delivered for Queensland families and more than 4,100 jobs across the state. It is not the first time that we have cracked the record in education funding, or the second time, or the third time. This is the seventh record investment in education under our government.

As the Premier said on Tuesday, this budget is a downpayment on Queensland's future. We all know small business is the engine room of our state and a major employer. My electorate of Nudgee has a wealth of small businesses and I know firsthand that our small business owners have been hit hard by the pandemic. They have told us what they need to continue their economic recovery and we have listened. On the weekend we launched the \$140 million Big Plans for Small Business Strategy, which includes a business investment fund of \$30 million to increase the skills and capacity of our small businesses and making the role of the Queensland Small Business Commissioner permanent. We are also investing more than \$31 million to extend the 50 per cent payroll tax rebate for apprentices and trainees to June next year. Our state budget has allocated \$460 million for job skills, training and a program to help businesses hire the unemployed. That includes funding for our highly successful Skilling Queenslanders for Work program and our Back to Work program. It was a great pleasure to have the Treasurer and the minister in my electorate of Nudgee at the North Star Football Club to make those announcements.

It is at the grassroots level where I am always proud to deliver and that is in my wonderful electorate of Nudgee. For my community education is the big-ticket item and I am absolutely thrilled to be able to announce some great news for our schools. Earnshaw State College will receive \$87,000 to upgrade its tuckshop; Boondall State School will receive \$388,000 of \$500,000 to increase its outside school hours care capacity; while Virginia State School will receive \$10,000 of \$150,000 to complete its new preppie playground. In addition to education, it is wonderful to see the Banyo train station accessibility upgrade I committed to at the election included in this budget, with an allocation of \$2.4 million.

In respect of my portfolio areas of children, youth justice and multicultural affairs, this year's budget recognises two of the most important jobs that our government has: protecting the community and keeping vulnerable children safe. This year's budget continues to place a heavy focus on programs and services to keep children safe and to keep the community safe. The \$1.86 billion budget for the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs represents increased funding across all

three of my portfolio responsibilities and includes an extra 154 frontline child safety workers; an additional \$282.6 million for out-of-home care; a new 10-bed residential drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility for young people in partnership with the Noffs Foundation; \$5 million to establish a short-term remand centre; \$5.7 million for a business case to investigate additional long-term youth detention capacity; and \$2 million annually for the asylum seeker and refugee assistance program to continue providing the basic necessities of food and housing as well as other support services for asylum seekers and temporary protection visa holders. We will always invest in our frontline workers across child safety and youth justice, we will always invest in the programs, services and infrastructure needed to reduce offending and reoffending to keep our communities safe and we will always champion a Queensland that is united, harmonious and inclusive.

The Speaker has reviewed and approved my budget speech for incorporation and as such I ask that the remainder of my speech is incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Having had that reviewed by the Speaker's office and indicating that it be incorporated, that will be so.

The speech read as follows—

There is no doubt the past 18 months have been tough for most of us—but particularly for those families already facing difficult and vulnerable times before the onset of COVID-19.

We also know that as a result of the pandemic more families are under more pressure, which, in turn requires our Government to respond and support them.

We have ... and we are.

Next financial year, we will spend a record \$1.55 billion on the delivery of child protection services, in recognition of the increasing pressure and demand in the system.

This record spend will see the continued delivery of early intervention programs and support to help prevent families coming into the child safety system.

Importantly, it will also see greater support for our workers who are at the coalface protecting and supporting Queensland's most vulnerable children and families.

We have committed \$76.6 million for the next four years to recruit an extra 154 frontline child safety workers over the next two years.

These new jobs will support the 4600 frontline child safety workers we now have who are doing a wonderful job across the state—from Cooktown to Kowanyama, down to Burketown and Birdsville and across to Brisbane and the border.

It means our child safety officers are keeping more children safe from abuse and neglect, and have the ability to work even more intensively with families who need it the most.

Every day our child safety officers are facing increasingly complex cases.

Mr Speaker

Sadly, almost three out of every four children coming to our attention live in families with multiple risk factors, including mental health issues, domestic and family violence, and drug and alcohol abuse.

When a child or young person needs out of home care, no matter how great the demand on the system, we will always rise to the challenge.

This budget will provide an additional \$282.6 million over two years for out-of-home care.

That's a significant number but what it really means is a safe roof over vulnerable heads.

Mr Speaker

Community confidence in our youth justice system is essential and public safety is paramount.

The budget delivers a total of \$290.6 million for youth justice services to reduce offending and re-offending by young people.

We want to hold young offenders to account—but we also know the community wants programs to get young people back to school and into jobs and for them to turn their lives around.

That's why we're working hard to tackle the causes—not just the symptoms—whether it be disengagement from education, mental health issues, homelessness, family conflict, or alcohol and substance misuse.

Our support for vulnerable young people will be extended through the establishment of a new 10-bed drug and alcohol residential treatment program in partnership with the Noffs Foundation, with funding of \$7.7 million over four years.

This program provides young people with three months residential treatment, followed by three to five years follow-up treatment to prevent relapse.

Our youth justice investment also includes an extra \$92 million in funding over four years to fund practical actions to deal with serious repeat offenders and continue existing programs and services established under the Youth Justice Strategy to tackle youth offending.

It means the fantastic work of our co-responder teams, made up of police and youth justice workers, will continue in eight locations throughout Queensland.

It will also fund extended hours of supervision on weekends and at night to intensively monitor high-risk repeat offenders and deliver intensive support to their families.

Unfortunately, we still have a small number of persistent and serious repeat offenders, with 10 per cent of young offenders committing nearly half the youth crime in this state.

To complement our substantial legislative reforms this year, we will provide \$5 million in infrastructure funding for a short-term remand centre and up to \$11.4 million over four years for operations.

In addition, we are allocating \$5.7 million for a detailed business case to investigate long-term options for additional detention centre capacity.

Our investment in youth justice is important both to support our young people in making the right choices and get their lives back on track and to also maintain community safety.

Our communities deserve the right to feel safe and our young people deserve the right to be supported.

But there must also be accountable for their actions and this government has never shied away from that.

While safe communities is one of our key priorities we are also committed to building united, harmonious and inclusive communities right across Queensland.

As Queenslanders we are proud to celebrate our diversity. We are a vast state of people drawn from more than 220 countries, speaking more than 180 languages and practising more than 110 faiths.

We also know we have a responsibility to the generations who come after us to explain why this diversity is such a strength.

As part of our commitment to a united, harmonious and inclusive Queensland, we will contribute \$3.5 million to establish a new Holocaust Museum and Education Centre in Brisbane—it will not only honour victims of the Holocaust, but also enable students and the broader community to explore and understand the impact of racism.

We are also supporting refugees and people seeking asylum to fully participate and contribute to all aspects of our society.

By reducing barriers and creating opportunities for refugee and asylum seekers we not only make them feel welcomed and support but we give them the chance to more actively contribute and feel part of their communities.

Vitality, across four years, \$8.3 million will go to Our Asylum Seeker and Refugee Assistance (ASRA) Program.

This program helps provides the basic necessities of food, housing and essential medication, as well as case management and service coordination support that is so desperately needed by our asylum seekers and refugees.

We have also allocated \$2.5 million annually for the Community Action for a Multicultural Society program and \$2 million annually for the Celebrating Multicultural Program, both of which build economic and social inclusion at a grass roots level.

And that brings me back to the total budget for my Department, which is more than \$1.8 billion (actual—\$1.86 billion).

This dollar figure represents assistance, support and care for thousands of children, young people and their families.

Hundreds of young people given the chance to turn their lives around and pursue education and employment opportunities.

And many refugees, asylum seekers and migrants being supported to establish themselves in communities across Queensland.

I'm proud of the work my department does especially the work of the frontline workers who deal with so much trauma and hurt from the clients they support.

They do so much of their work quietly and respectfully behind closed doors, in other people's homes.

I'm extremely pleased there will be more frontline workers.

I commend the Premier, Deputy Premier and Treasurer for such a great budget that supports our most vulnerable.

I thank them for delivering a budget for all Queenslanders.



Mr KNUTH (Hill—KAP) (3.38 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the 2021-22 budget. Before I do, like others before me, I wish to note that there is one person that will be missing from the debate. I wish to extend my deepest condolence to family and friends of Duncan Pegg. I admired his humility and the way he conducted himself during his time as an MP. There is no doubt that he will be sorely missed.

On the surface this budget appears to have all the bells and whistles with promises of big spending and jobs, particularly in regional Queensland, but it is lacking in detail. There is also confusion about the statement that 61 per cent of the \$14.7 billion capital program will be spent in regional Queensland because those living in Mount Isa, Atherton or Ingham certainly would not classify the Gold

Coast, the Sunshine Coast and Logan as regional centres. The true regional Queensland spend is 40 per cent, with 60 per cent being spent in Brisbane and the south-east corner, which will not surprise regional Queenslanders.

When I was elected in 2004 there was a lot of excitement that the Galilee Basin would be opened up and most of the Galilee Basin was in my electorate. It is 17 years later and still there is nothing. There was a perception that coal would be exported right across the world. However, I note the budget states that coal royalties will increase to boost the Queensland economy. Can members imagine the massive return if the government built and owned a railway track in the Galilee Basin? However, there is still no railway track and the Bligh government sold the coal component of Queensland Rail—that is \$1.7 billion or \$1.8 billion a year that could have been coming back in revenue to Queensland. If we build a railway track in the Galilee Basin we could get another \$2 billion or \$3 billion in royalties, plus all the money we would receive through transport haulage. That is good budget economics.

There is also a lack of vision when it comes to nation-building projects. For the North Johnstone Transfer there is nothing in the budget. For Ootann Road there is nothing in the budget. For Big Rocks Weir there is nothing in the budget. For Hells Gates there is nothing in the budget. For the Hughenden irrigation project there is nothing in the budget. It is projects such as those that build economies and create jobs. If we cast our minds back to when the Burdekin Dam was constructed, we had the October stock market crash and Australia was struggling but North Queensland was thriving because we had just finished the construction of the Burdekin Dam. Funding to upgrade Ootann Road would allow access for road trains, opening up the cattle industry, improving the provision of supply and reducing costs to the cape, inland and gulf regions. Trucks would bypass the Atherton Tableland, reducing wear and tear on the roads and boosting the local economy.

There are some bright spots in the budget that my electorate expresses appreciation for. For Malanda State High School there is \$11.5 million for the expansion of classrooms and other infrastructure. That is great to see because that school has been growing in the past five years. They are rapt that they will be able to expand their classrooms to cater for students. There is \$500,000 for the Atherton State High School and \$100,000 for the Atherton State School. For Malanda State School there is \$542,000 to enclose and cover the basketball court, which is good news because they use that court for their assemblies. Even in the rain they will be able to hold their assemblies, parades and sports activities. That is really good news for Malanda State School. For the Innisfail State School there is \$200,000. I have been working with the Goondi State School, which will receive half a million dollars in funding to upgrade their classrooms. They are over the moon because early last year the school suffered \$500,000 worth of damage as a result of crime. They are still getting over that and it is great to see that \$500,000 will go to that school.

The good news is that stage 1 of the Atherton Hospital upgrade is complete and stage 2 is underway with a total investment of \$18 million. The other day I ran into electricians from Babinda who are working on stage 2 of the project. As a result of the construction of stage 2 of the hospital, 30 Atherton concreters have jobs, as do local decorators. The upgraded hospital will also improve health care for the region. That is good news.

I note that \$40 million has been allocated to hospital parking projects in the state. I look forward to progress on that issue in terms of the upgrade of the Innisfail Hospital. Parking at the hospital has been an ongoing issue for years. I cannot walk down the street without meeting an elderly person who says that the biggest hassle they have now is not about the hospital but trying to get into the hospital. They have to walk 300 metres uphill, which is difficult if you are sick and frail. We want to continue those discussions with the minister and work with council. We have made some progress and even tabled a petition in parliament. We really want to progress that.

I will continue to push for funding for car parking, lighting and facilities upgrades to Castor Park at Mourilyan, near Innisfail. Castor Park has become a hub for soccer throughout the region. However, if you want to get to a soccer game at that hub you cannot get a car park. That definitely needs to be a priority so that parents and kids can be active and play their sports. That is definitely something that we will be pushing for.

There is \$4.2 million to upgrade the Kareeya Hydro Power Station, which is good news in regards to hydropower. It is also good news because the Kareeya Hydro Power Station is only 400 metres from Cardstone village where I was brought up. I know that funding means a lot to the people in the region and to myself. Well done for that funding.

The budget contains some positives for my electorate in terms of funding for road upgrades that are finishing and starting. The Henrietta Creek project has just finished. The great news about that project was that local contractors were given the jobs, not southerners who would not have a clue about

the weather conditions and would have done a cheap job. In the Henrietta Creek area, in the last four years a project had to be done three times because they just did a quick fix. I fought three times to get funding for that project, but in good news local contractors have built a solid surface that has held up very well. There is \$7 million in funding for the East Feluga intersection upgrade. We have lobbied for that for years. It is good news because there have been a number of young deaths at that intersection and families are suffering. That project is just starting.

There is still very little funding provided for the upgrade of Innisfail Japoon Road and Silkwood Japoon Road. There is a bit of funding for the Innisfail to Wangan section, which is great news. However, that road is home to Paronella Park, which is the biggest tourist attraction in Queensland. If you are trying to get to the biggest tourist attraction in Queensland you have to drive on a pathetic and dangerous road. On Saturday in that same spot we will be celebrating the Mena Creek State School centenary. Funding is urgently needed to upgrade Innisfail Japoon Road and Silkwood Japoon Road, which are the access roads for the biggest tourist attraction in Queensland.

The Building our Regions program is a great initiative. I welcome the additional \$70 million investment, which will take the total investment for local government infrastructure to \$418,000. That is a good thing. My region has had a few wins in regards to the Building our Regions program. I believe it will be a win-win for council, particularly in terms of projects that are desperately needed and can be provided and supported by state government but initiated by local community and sporting groups. State members of parliament and councils can work together. That is good news.


Before I finish I would like to talk about social housing, health, the waste levy and youth detention. A sum of \$1.9 billion has been allocated to social housing but only 14 per cent of that is being delivered this year to build social housing dwellings, with the balance spread over a four-year period. In regional Queensland we are already beyond desperate with long waitlists and families living on the streets. We cannot wait four years for the delivery of more accommodation. I urge the minister to bring forward expenditure to deliver more emergency transitional and long-term housing to our fellow Queenslanders who are struggling.

Despite the announcement of big spending on health, the reality is that in regional Queensland we are losing our medical services. We are experiencing long waitlists and a severe lack of dialysis treatment. People have to travel long distances to get dialysis or even a doctor's script. Overall, I cannot see anything in this budget that will help improve health services in regional Queensland or stop the loss of medical services.

Only \$34 million per year over five years has been budgeted for palliative care. This is a disgrace. It is far short of the \$275 million required yearly which Palliative Care Queensland and AMA Queensland insist is required to meet basic care and protect our most vulnerable in our society. I have to question and wonder why the government is ignoring this advice and is drastically underfunding palliative care over the next five years.

I also note the Treasurer talked about the successful introduction of the state waste levy legislation in 2020. I doubt he would find anyone outside the south-east corner who agrees with him. This might have stopped the interstate trucks using Southern Queensland as a dumping ground; however, in the north of the state, which it does not affect, it is a ridiculous piece of legislation which has done nothing but increase the costs to struggling businesses and local councils which is passed on to the ratepayers. I know of one recycling business in my electorate who are at the point of closing their business because of the legislation, and others are just holding on.

I note the government has again ignored funding towards youth relocation sentencing and continues to pour millions of dollars into youth detention centres. Youth detention is not working as every day we see juvenile crime reports in the media. According to the government's Youth Justice Strategy's own figures, it costs \$1,500 per youth per day in detention. That is \$1,500 per youth per day in youth detention. Relocation sentencing could be delivered at a fraction of the cost and will actually reform repeat offenders. I wanted to bring this to the attention of the House.

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (3.51 pm): I rise proudly in this House today to support the 2021-22 Palaszczuk government budget. It is a budget that Duncan Pegg would have been extraordinarily proud of. I will miss hearing his contribution. He will be deeply missed in this parliament and he will be deeply missed within his community of Stretton.

This is another great budget for Queensland and another great budget for Redlanders. In fact, it is a record budget for our Redlands Coast. I have said it before and I will say it again: a measure of success in this place is determined by the legacy ultimately left behind for our communities today and those of the future, and that is what this budget does for my Redlands community.

I really hope that our Redland City Council LNP mayor and the federal LNP member for Bowman and the Leader of the Opposition are listening and paying attention when I take them through what this means for my Redlands electorate, particularly given some of the disappointing, but not surprising, commentary over the past few days from our mayor, in particular on a Facebook post yesterday. As I said, it is disappointing but not surprising, given her new membership of the LNP and her potential to be the candidate for the federal seat of Bowman. What she put out yesterday was the same old LNP rhetoric.

If a picture paints a thousand words for her, let me show honourable members a picture that paints the millions of dollars of investment across our Redlands Coast, and I will table that for the benefit of both the mayor and the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Please table it and stop using it as a prop.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Queensland Budget Highlights Delivering for Redlands Coast' [899].

Ms RICHARDS: I will also put our government's \$130 million-plus investment this year in Redlands Coast roads next to the council's year-on-year diminishing annual roads budget any day of the week. I will also put our capital investment into the Redlands region side by side that of the federal government and the local council. In Redland Bay alone, our new state primary school and new satellite hospital alone, somewhere in the vicinity of \$100 million-plus, is a significant contribution.

I also table the member for Bowman's budget flyer that came out last week. I table it for the benefit of the House and my community to demonstrate just how little there was in that federal budget for our Redlands community. In fact, you would go pretty close to saying zip, zero, nada and nothing.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Budget 2021: Family Home Guarantee' [900].

Quite frankly, it is extraordinarily disappointing that the mayor has said nothing about the fact that the federal government are committing nothing in infrastructure for our Redlands community. There has been absolute silence; it has been crickets. Again, as I said, no surprises there. I really do hope that they are listening.

Our strong health response to COVID has meant that economically we are bouncing back better than anywhere else in the country—in fact, better than anywhere else in the world. As we have heard from this side of the House today, there has been little heard from those on the other side of the House about the impact of COVID-19 on our state, on our country and what we have seen around the world and what that means in a budgetary sense. It is quite astounding that that seems to have been totally overlooked.

This budget means a lot for Redlanders and it means a lot for future growth. We have a vision and we have a plan for that future growth in our region. As the Premier says, our best days are ahead, and this budget is positioning us for the needs of both today and tomorrow. Our Chamber of Commerce also says that Redlands Coast has a bright future ahead. Here goes with some of the highlights.

In jobs and economic opportunity, there is great news today with unemployment at 5.4 per cent, less than before COVID-19, and that speaks to what our Palaszczuk government is delivering for all Queenslanders. It is supported by programs like our Regional Jobs Committee that we have on the Redlands Coast being conducted by our Chamber of Commerce.

The Skilling Queenslanders for Work program is absolutely incredible. It is a signature piece of this government. I have spoken about it endlessly in this place. It continues to deliver for my community and will continue to deliver into the future. We are investing in Big Plans for Small Business. We are investing in renewables and hydrogen.

There is \$71 million for the film and screen industry and that is also looking at how we develop that industry and look at post production. It is fantastic news on jobs and economic opportunity.

In roads and infrastructure, we continue to invest in Cleveland Redland Bay Road, a project that was not going to be looked at by the LNP government until 2024. This is fantastic news for my community in regards to roads—the Beenleigh Redland Bay Road, the Eastern Transitway, a new \$1.3 million business case to look at the planning work for the Redland subarterial road from Mount Gravatt Capalaba Road to Tingalpa Creek, an important arterial heading out of the Redlands.

There is \$37.1 million for the Southern Moreton Bay Islands ferry terminals in partnership with the Redland City Council—another fantastic project that is creating jobs in my local community, like Aluminium Marine that will be helping deliver that infrastructure.

There is an absolute bonanza in education with record funding across that area for air conditioning and solar; KindyLinQ program for my island communities; \$1.9 million in shovel-ready projects for Macleay Island, Russell Island, Victoria Point State School, Victoria Point State High School

and Redland Bay State School; \$9 million for Redland District Special School; \$8.6 million for a new learning precinct for Victoria Point State High School; and approximately \$60 million for a brand new state school for Redland Bay. Huge!

In the hospital space: \$50 million for a seven-level car park and \$83 million for Redland Hospital stage 1 expansion with a new ICU and beds. Our government is about backing in health services and making sure that we deliver for our communities. There is so much more that I could talk about; the list goes on and on.

Again, I want to highlight for my Redlands community that I will continue to be tenacious and unwavering in delivering for Redlanders. As our chamber said, we have a bright future ahead. I know there will always be more to do and I will continue to work hard every day on behalf of my amazing community.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Speaker has reviewed and approved my budget speech for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Thank you, member for Redlands, for indicating your speech has been reviewed for incorporation. In accordance with standing and sessional orders, your speech shall be incorporated.

The speech read as follows—

Following is a detailed outline of our Palaszczuk Government's and my track record in delivering for Redlands and the works we will continue to deliver on.

Education

A New State School Redland Bay in our southern Redland Bay

Airconditioning and Solar for all our Redlands Schools

Macleay and Russell Island KindyLinQ program

\$500K OSHC Redland Bay State School + \$100k new shade structure

\$500K OSHC Victoria Point State School

\$125K Russell Island State School Playground

\$125K Macleay Island State School Playground

\$9M Redlands District Special School New Learning Precinct

\$12M Victoria Point State High School new STEM and Hospitality Precinct

\$15M Redlands TAFE Revitalisation—nursing and trades

Free TAFE for Year 12 Graduates

Free Apprenticeship and Traineeship Costs across 139 trades

Completed

\$500k Macleay Island State School Admin and Library Refurbishment

\$400K Russell Island State School Landscape works

\$1.2M Russell Island State School Classroom Refurbishments

\$1M Victoria Point State High School Library Upgrade

\$2M Victoria Point State High School Hall Expansion

\$1M Victoria Point State High School New School Fence

\$600K Thornlands State School Refurbished Administration Building

\$100k Thornlands State School Multipurpose Court Resurfacing

\$1.6M Redland Bay State School New Buildings

\$700k Bayview State School New Buildings

\$400k Redlands District Special School New Buildings

\$6M Cleveland District State High School new multi purpose hall

\$3M Cleveland District State High School new manual arts building

\$9M Cleveland District State High School new classrooms

\$2.4M YMCA new Vocational School and Youth Hub

\$3.9M Carmel College New Admin Building

New School Crossings—Bayview, Macleay Island, Russell Island, Carmel College, Victoria Pt, Faith Lutheran Redlands College
Transport and Roads

\$110M Stage 1 Cleveland Redland Bay Road Upgrade

\$37M SMI Ferry Terminal Upgrades with Redland City Council

\$1.3M Business Case for upgrade to Redland Sub-Arterial Road (U91) from Mt Gravatt Capalaba Road to Tingalpa Creek

\$5M Old Cleveland Road Gateway Onramp Upgrade

\$30M Eastern Transitway

\$495K Redlands Transport Study

Free SMI Inter-island Travel

Complete

\$9M Victoria Point Bus Terminal

\$9M Redland Bay Marina

\$1M Moreton Cycleway Stage 1

Jobs

Skilling Queenslanders for Work

Small Business Grants

Redlands Regional Jobs Committee

Partnership with QUT and investors for a new Hydrogen Pilot Plant

Health

\$50M new 7 Level Hospital Car Park

\$62M Stage 1 Hospital Expansion that includes new ICU

\$6M Full Hospital Expansion—Detailed Business Case following on from Prelim + Master Plan

\$40M new Satellite Hospital

Complete

\$1.7M Redlands Hospital Emergency and Birthing Expansion

Hospital Expansion Master Plan

\$1.5M Hospital Expansion Preliminary Business Case

SMI QAS Additional Paramedic Resource

Redlands Hospital—Mental Health Living Edge Pilot

Redlands Hospital—SLAM Skin Cancer Facility

Community + Tourism

Over \$2.1M to support our community organisations from Meals on Wheels through to our Neighbourhood Centres.

In Social Housing over \$3M—this is a boon for our local tradies.

Gambling Community Benefit Fund—opportunities

Redlands Rugby League \$150K for new change rooms

Victoria Point Sharks Club \$150K for new change rooms

New Fire Station for Mt Cotton and serving communities in the west of my electorate

Completed

\$100K Donald Simpson Centre support

\$1.5M+ Community Benefit Fund Delivery—kayaks, ride on's, storage sheds, club equipment, facility upgrades, sports lighting, turf and so much more.

\$1M+ New Maybanke Crisis Accommodation

Maybanke Additional Child Support Worker

\$2M Indigscapes Upgrade

\$175k Macleay Island Bowls Upgrade

\$160k Victoria Point Sharks + VPSH Oval Upgrade

\$20K Redfest Sponsorship

2 x new Police Officers Russell Island

2 x new vessels—Police Barge and High Speed Jet Boat

New Stingray Police Vehicles

New Police QLite Equipment

4 x Fisheries Patrol Officers

2 x New Fire Appliance—Russell Island and Lamb Island

Redlands Rapid Response Team—Homelessness

\$500k Centre for Women & Co. Domestic Violence Program Funding (including on island personnel)

Regional Arts Development Funding for local arts programs

War on Wreck Program 800+ vessels removed—significant number in Moreton Bay

New Maritime Enforcement Team—operating across Moreton Bay

Jetboats for tourism development

Coastal Erosion Funding to Redland City Council

Containers 4 Change—Victoria Point, Redland Bay, Russell Island, Macleay Island and soon Lamb Island



Mr MILLAR (Gregory—LNP) (3.57 pm): In a week of widespread fogs across Queensland, I bet one of the foggiest places to be was the media budget lock-up on Tuesday, and trapped in the fog were those poor journalists trying to make sense of Labor's budget.

As *InQueensland* reported, this year's budget papers have changed so much it is difficult to compare years, let alone compare Queensland to other states. You cannot see what is new money and what are recycled announcements. You cannot see where the money previously allocated has been fully expended. Despite being designed to confuse, the Treasurer's budget certainly finished with a theatrical flourish—a surprise surplus just in time for the next election.

Of course, the fog lifts and the Treasurer's fog clears. Journalists have started to see an awful lot of ducks that have to line up for that slim surplus to happen. For instance, in a state famous for its extreme weather events, we need to have three consecutive years of good, calm weather. I do not think any grazier or farmer would take that bet.

In addition, we cannot have any serious COVID-19 outbreaks, lockdowns or border closures. No-one controls this as long as there is a single country that has not achieved full vaccination. That is a long way off. For the foreseeable future, COVID-19 will continue to circulate around the globe, mutating from time to time. We will be living with the coronavirus for some years yet.

The surplus miracle we will need is for the Labor government to restrain its spending in a way that does not affect growth but achieves the Treasurer's targets. Sadly for us, the *Courier-Mail* reports this morning that the only year the Palaszczuk government has achieved this was last year when everyone was periodically locked down or restricted.

The return to surplus is not just a surprise, it is a fairytale. The surplus was not even the most surprising aspect of the budget. That would be the magic beanstalk school of accounting that found the value of the Queensland titles office to be a whopping \$7.8 billion. When I write my report to my constituents this week they will be very surprised because they already know that last sitting week it was only valued at \$4.2 billion. This itself was a surprise because New South Wales has a bigger economy and its Titles Registry was only valued at \$2.86 billion. The new valuation of nearly \$8 billion

will really knock their socks off. If we look at the value of the companies listed on the Australian Stock Exchange, the humble Queensland titles office now ranks safely in the top 50 biggest companies in Australia.

Using this figure, the Queensland government has now sold the titles office to itself. Not a real dollar was harmed in that transaction because no real money changed hands. Through this accounting magic the Treasurer reduced Queensland's debt figure without actually reducing the amount of debt Queenslanders must repay. It is a hoax, plain and simple. It has been played on Queenslanders by this shameless Labor government.

The budget magic did not stop there. The Treasurer had swiped \$2 billion of the imaginary money and put it into a fund for social housing and another \$2 billion of the imaginary money into a fund for hospital infrastructure. These funds are supposed to be going to deliver all this money but sometime in the never-never. Today, and in the here and now, there is not a single dollar in the budget against either of these funds.

That is hospital buildings taken care of, but what about the money for funding health services—the urgently needed money to fund the actual treatment and care of our sick and injured, our new mums and bubs and our frail elderly. We came into this budget with Queensland Health in crisis across the state, from the hospital boards to the hospital beds. The LNP has brought case after case to question time and the Treasurer described this as bleating. These are real Queenslanders telling him the truth. As the member for Mudgeeraba asked: where else in the modern world are people left on stretchers for hours crying for help?

My constituent in the seat of Gregory, Rob from Dingo, told how he had to drive himself to the Rockhampton Hospital because his GP said he was suffering a heart attack. That is a two-hour drive while having a heart attack. Just think about that for a moment. Having got himself there, Rob parked the car and went into the ED where he was ramped for three hours. Watching the frantic and frazzled staff, he had nothing but praise for them, but he thought to himself, 'This might not end well for me.'

Make no mistake, this health crisis is not just in the south-east corner, it is right across the state. In my neck of the woods, the health minister put an administrator into the North West Hospital and Health Service. They know it is not the hospital and health board's mismanagement, it is that they are chronically underfunded. The Palaszczuk Labor government sets its budgets and the budgets are not sufficient to provide the services expected of them.

The crisis is not just in the emergency rooms. It is in every department—surgery, outpatient treatments like renal dialysis, radiology, mental health and palliative care. Talking about renal dialysis, we still do not have renal dialysis for a town the size of Emerald. Emerald has a population of 15,000 people. If someone needs renal dialysis they have to travel three hours to Rockhampton to receive it. That is simply not good enough. For a region which provides so much in coal royalties and so much in agricultural exports, it is not good enough that we cannot get renal dialysis in a town like Emerald.

The Queensland AMA has said that 1,500 beds are needed to fix what is a \$3 billion problem. Tuesday's budget gave Queensland Health no new money. This morning the *Courier-Mail* reported that the AMAQ is so devastated by this Labor budget that it is convening secret round tables of doctors, nurses and hospital administrators to generate a five-year plan that would rescue Queensland Health. This shows how desperate the situation is. It also shows how disfranchised our medical insiders feel. The Minister for Health, the Treasurer and the Premier should feel mortified by this. These good Queenslanders are having to do their job for them.

Why do the participants want their names and identities kept secret? They fear government retribution. They fear personal payback because their participation could be seen as criticism of the Minister for Health, the Treasurer and the Premier. These are good Queenslanders bravely attempting to save our free public hospital system. They deserve our gratitude and our admiration. They deserve our moral and financial support. No doubt the Premier and the Treasurer believe that these health workers should be grateful for this budget—after all they were intending to impose \$550 million in cuts to health. The Treasurer calls these cuts efficiency and productivity dividends, but they are cuts. Remember, Queensland Health still has to find the efficiency dividends imposed on it in the budget last November. We all know the Treasurer is a great showman. He has tried to quiet this health revolt by saying the budget is a record health budget. The truth is that Queensland's health budget only increased by the extra amount Canberra gave them in this year's federal budget—\$400 million.

I am running short of time, but I briefly want to touch on the complete disregard shown in this budget for the department of agriculture. The operating budget for the department of agriculture has been cut by 10 per cent and there are fewer staff. There is barely a mention of pest and weed management or biosecurity preparation and management.

As members of this House would know, the electorate of Gregory has suffered nearly a decade of drought and is still drought declared today. Queensland is party to an agreement with the federal government to move drought policy from one of reactive assistance to one of active drought preparation and resilience. This budget has no new investment in rural training, education or research to help agriculture rise to the challenge. This budget has completely failed to address the pressing need for Queensland's farmers to have better crop insurance options as a part of dealing with climate change. There is not even any funding for new water infrastructure.

In his speech the Treasurer boasted he had achieved a projected surplus without asset sales. Pull the other one! Just over two weeks ago, he sold the Emerald Agricultural College's beef property, Berrigurra, for \$32.5 million. I assume that money is funding the \$10.9 million over five years to finalise the so-called long-term decisions on the rest of the assets and their sale.

Minister Furner likes to call himself the farmers' friend. Here is my challenge to Minister Furner. On Saturday, 26 June, which is during Ag-Grow, I invite the minister to come to Ag-Grow, walk around with me and see how much friendship he experiences at Ag-Grow. Also on Saturday, 26 June the Emerald Agriculture College's past students are having a 50-year anniversary of the opening of the Emerald Agricultural College. In 1971 they opened the Emerald Agricultural College. I reckon they would love to see Minister Furner at that event. I reckon he would find so many friends! They would absolutely enjoy his company. I can tell members what they will be asking him. They will be asking, 'Why did you close down what is essential agricultural skill training in Queensland? Why did you close down the Longreach Pastoral College which had been going for well over 52 years?' Why did the minister close that down? Why did he close down the Emerald Agricultural College? Lock the gates.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr MILLAR: They do not care. He is not the farmers' friend. I feel that the minister could be misleading this parliament. There was an agriculture minister who was called the farmers' friend and that was Henry Palaszczuk, but he earned that title from the agriculture industry. He understood agriculture. He could not always deliver for agriculture, but he gave his best to agriculture. He was well respected around Queensland. I can tell members that Mark Furner is not the farmers' friend in Queensland. We have seen agriculture close down. We have seen the department of agriculture cut by 10 per cent in this budget. We have seen fewer staff for the department of agriculture. He is not the farmers' friend.

While the Minister for Resources is in the chamber, I would like to note that this budget provides not one extra dollar for the Mines Inspectorate despite the scathing findings regarding the explosion at the Grosvenor mine in Central Queensland. I ask the minister to look at that.

I thank the Minister for Resources for his support, along with the resources industry, for the commitment for a new hospital for Blackwater. As many members would know, Blackwater is the beating heart of the coal industry right throughout Queensland. It was formed back in 1960 by a company called Utah. The town has grown significantly over that time. The hospital in Blackwater was built when Utah owned the town and were an important part of the town. Blackwater has a population of 6,000 people, but it actually services a population of around 12,000 people through fly-in fly-out and drive-in drive-out.


A new hospital has been a long time coming. I have been working with the Chair of the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service, Paul Bell, along with the CEO, and the resources industry through the Queensland Resources Council with Ian Macfarlane and Kirby Anderson. We have managed to collectively come together to get this hospital for Blackwater. I thank the people of Blackwater for getting behind this new hospital for Blackwater. I think it is very important.

When it comes to education, one of the disappointing things in this budget was something that was raised at the Isolated Children's Parents' Association conference in Cunnamulla, and it is something for which I have been campaigning for a long time. It is the accommodation facilities at the Longreach School of Distance Education and the Capricornia School of Distance Education in Emerald. That accommodation was built and funded by the P&Cs, by the graziers and farmers, in Central Queensland to accommodate children coming to those schools of distance education four times a year for what we call mini schools. That accommodation has been shut down by this government. That is disgraceful because these children need to get together. They need to have that interaction throughout the year with other children, parents and teachers that they hear through their computer. Also, once a year they have their annual play. These children are isolated. They live 500 or 600 kilometres away from each other. They need to come together. The situation of the accommodation facilities needs to be corrected.

The Minister for Education talked this morning about the magnificent amount of money they are putting into schools and classrooms. How about putting some of that money into the accommodation facilities that the government has shut down and bring them up to standard so children as young as five can come into Longreach and Emerald to participate? What you are asking them to do now is find accommodation for five days in Emerald and Longreach when we know it is high season. Those parents have to spend over \$1,500 a week just to come in and participate in their mini schools. This is incredibly important.

Finally, it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the sad passing of Duncan Pegg. Duncan was a great bloke and I enjoyed his company. Duncan and I did not agree on everything but that did not get in the way of our friendship and respect for each other—and our love for cricket. That is one thing Duncan and I shared. The only difference was that Duncan could actually play cricket; I am a hopeless cricketer but I absolutely love the game. Rest in peace, Duncan. You will be missed but you will never be forgotten. I extend my condolences to the family.

(Time expired)

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (4.12 pm): I rise to support the appropriation bills. It is timely to mention that I used to sit behind Duncan. He loved giving his speech on the budget. He would always insert a bit of humour. Peggy, we miss you, mate. This one is for you.

From the start I thank the Treasurer for the great, big budget for regional Queensland, the city of Townsville and my electorate of Thuringowa! What can I say? It is a good budget and I am proud to share it with the people of Thuringowa. If the result had gone to the LNP—God help us—Thuringowa would have missed out on \$100 million in infrastructure that will support local jobs.

First, I want to address the Leader of the Opposition, who gave his budget reply speech today—yes, the member for Broadwater, David ‘Fusilli’ Crisafulli. For anyone with a knowledge of pasta, fusilli is a thin, weak, tightly spun pasta that does not hold much flavour. That is what the leader—

Mr Madden interjected.

Mr HARPER: This is what happens. He amounts to nothing. He has nothing. He is a running a show about nothing over there. What a joke—attacking our record on health, housing and crime and attacking infrastructure that is creating jobs! We are going to belt that budget right out the back row! There was no mention of the 5.4 per cent unemployment rate announced today or the 33,000 jobs created last month—nothing. He has nothing! There was no mention of the 900 surgeries cut under Scott Morrison and the attack on Medicare and our health system that will leave people waiting for their orthopaedic or heart surgeries—nothing. He talked about nothing!

He talked about our ageing population. He should know that the federal government is responsible for aged care. There was not one word about the 100,000 people on the waitlist who, as we heard, are dying waiting for their home care packages—nothing. There was not one word about the fact that we do not have a GP in Townsville who bulk-bills in the residential aged-care facilities, so residents require an ambulance, putting more pressure on our public health system. It is all about Medicare. There was not one word to address that.

Then he went on about housing. There was not one word about the federal LNP who absolved themselves and walked away from social housing and rural and remote Indigenous housing—nothing. Under Labor, we have record funding for housing—\$2.9 billion for housing. We will continue to support those people.

There was this continued rubbish about breach of bail. He knows breach of bail failed—90 per cent reoffended. Leave it alone. It failed. Move on!

He then went on to talk about our \$30 million funding commitment, which I know will be delivered in full, to build a new police station at Kirwan. Yet his own charge—the LNP candidate in Thuringowa in 2020—did not even have a commitment to rebuild or replace the Kirwan Police Station—nothing.

Mr Smith: No commitment.

Mr HARPER: No commitment—nothing! There was nothing for the police station. There was nothing for Riverway Drive. There was nothing like the \$1 million that I got in this budget for the Weir school. Sorry, member for Pine Rivers. She is going. I am starting to yell—nothing, nothing! There was nothing like the \$1 million for the new catering hall at Heatley or the \$2.4 million for Kirwan school upgrades or the \$350,000 for Kelso primary—nothing. I have a theory: he is Newman. Under all of that, it is Newman. He is back! He is Newman mark 2.

Seriously, \$913 million in infrastructure for Townsville signals that we have not been forgotten in the regions. We have already spent over \$1 billion in infrastructure such as the Houghton pipeline stage 1. On the front page of the budget paper there is \$195 million for stage 2. We know that the LNP member for Herbert—the member for Townsville knows this well—completely failed the people of North Queensland after promising to fully fund stage 2 if he got elected. He pulled the wool over the eyes of the people of Townsville. I hope they repay him in spades by not forgetting that fact when it comes to the federal election.

I say to the member for Herbert—I hope he is listening, which I doubt, because he certainly has not been listening to the people of Townsville: please change your logo to ‘not fighting for Townsville’, because in the federal election there was not one infrastructure project announced. There was nothing. Nothing was announced. The \$195 million that the federal member promised and never delivered has suddenly disappeared. He never had it. In stark contrast, our budget delivers in spades for the people of Thuringowa.

Following our excellent health response, we again back our health team in North Queensland by funding \$1.1 billion for our hospital and health service. I love our doctors and nurses. We have 182 more doctors, 249 more nurses and, for my friends in the Ambulance Service—and for the smart remark the member for Moggill made—46 more ambulance officers and a new ambulance station. We back our health service, while those on the other side sack health workers.

I thank the health minister for allocating planning funds for the Kirwan Health Campus expansion. This is a total commitment of \$40 million, which I know we will deliver over this term of government. I am very proud of our Townsville University Hospital, but I want to shine a light on the Kirwan Health Campus and why it is so important to support and modernise this 37-year-old campus. They have four community health facilities. They have the Parklands aged-care facility, the Townsville Community Care and Acquired Brain Injury Unit and the Josephine Sailor Adolescent Inpatient Unit. They deserve this funding. This again signals that local jobs will be created when we move to build the new Kirwan Health Campus.

Let me move to schools. Out of the \$37 million for schools in Townsville, we have \$12 million for schools in Thuringowa. I am rapt. Thank you very much.

When it comes to road projects—members think I am going to talk about Riverway Drive, not yet! There is \$65 million for the Townsville Ring Road stage 5, supporting 400 jobs. We are doing it. We are getting on with it. Then, of course, there is Riverway Drive stage 2. What can I say? Next year they start digging. There is \$2 million allocated for that.

We have a Treasurer who is backing the people of Townsville with a great Labor budget. Thank you very much, Treasurer. Thank you, Premier. I am done!



Mr MANDER (Everton—LNP) (4.18 pm): One of the Labor Party’s policies that I do agree with is their policy to incorporate their speeches. It is one of the small mercies, but it is something that I really do appreciate.

I want to begin where the Leader of the Opposition finished in his very good budget reply speech. I only agree with one thing the Treasurer said in his budget reply speech, and that is when he said, ‘This is a typical Labor government budget.’ He could not have said a truer word, because Labor budgets are all about spending. They are not about substance; they are all about smoke and mirrors. They are all about repackaging, reannouncing and reneging on promises and commitments, all delivered by a Treasurer who is totally obsessed with himself and who has an ego that cannot be matched in this place. The Treasurer has one thing on his mind, and that is to become the next premier of this state. That is all he is obsessed with, so everything he does is an audition to his colleagues ‘pick me, pick me’ to be the next premier of this state. If he is not taking credit for recovering the Binna Burra bell from the bushfires, he is working on the next photo opportunity to satisfy his obsession to be viewed at the same level as past presidents of the United States. It is rumoured that Treasurer Cameron Robert Dick is demanding that his colleagues refer to him as CRD, and I would believe that.

Mr Bleijie: What does that stand for?

Mr MANDER: I will take that interjection from the member for Kawana. I think it stands for Cameron Robert Dick.

Mr Bleijie: Oh, like JFK.

Mr MANDER: That is exactly right, like JFK. That big cheesy grin will not hide the sham that this budget is—and what a sham it is! This is a Treasurer who, before the election, said that increased borrowings by the Queensland government would be \$4 billion. After the election we learned that figure

was going to be \$28 billion. He did not have the courage or integrity to be up-front with Queenslanders before the election took place. After increasing the deficit to \$28 billion, this week he comes in here and wants us to pat him on the back because it is now going to be \$2 billion less. Thank you so much, Mr Treasurer, for your outstanding financial management in bringing that \$28 billion down to \$26 billion!

This budget is a sham. It is all about trickery and hiding the facts from the Queensland public. There can be no greater example of that than in the housing portfolio. When we left government in 2015, the waiting list for social housing had been brought down to 17,000 households. As at September last year—so this figure is now nearly nine months old—that figure had blown out to 26,000 households. The very disturbing thing which the opposition leader spoke about is that, out of that 26,000, around 16,500 people are in very high need. An even more disturbing figure is that 16,000 is an increase of 82 per cent in the 18 months leading up to September last year. I can only imagine what that figure is now nine months later. We have some questions on notice to find out what that figure is.

Do not be surprised, Mr Deputy Speaker, if the Labor Party decide to no longer publish the housing waiting list. That is what they have done with every other key performance indicator that embarrasses them: they do not report them anymore. They are already trying to hide it. They do not call it a waiting list anymore. They call it the 'registry of need' because they do not want Queenslanders to know how inefficient they have been in ensuring our most vulnerable people receive housing. Social property housing numbers have increased over the last five years by 0.6 per cent. If they kept up with population growth there would be another 6,000 extra social housing properties. These things do not happen over a short period of time, although they have accelerated in the last six years. This is because we have had a Labor government for 27 of the last 30 years. These things build, these inefficiencies build and these waiting lists build because of that. This has occurred through a total lack of planning.

We need innovative thinking to solve the housing crisis we have at the moment. It was so ironic yesterday when the member for Logan asked a question of the housing minister about social housing. If the Logan renewable initiative had been implemented, right now we would see new homes, additional homes, refurbished homes and better wraparound services. When the minister came into government in 2015 and saw the Logan renewal initiative, she agreed with it. She thought it was a great idea. It was not until Minister de Brenni took over the portfolio that they scrapped it and tore up contracts that took two years to bring about.

What we need is innovative thinking, and that is what the Logan initiative was. That was about being serious about partnerships with the community housing sector and not-for-profit development companies. But no, that is too innovative. That goes against their philosophy. It meant they may have lost the union memberships of the 42 people who worked at the Woodridge Housing Service Centre. That is the type of thing that dictates this government's decisions. That was a disgraceful decision. Why would you do business in this state when, after two years negotiating with a government and coming up with one of the biggest contracts ever entered into, they just tore it up.

Then they come here with a cruel hoax talking about a \$2.9 billion investment in social housing. That is incorrect; it is not. A billion dollars of that is the Queensland Housing Investment Fund, which as we know has been conjured out of the re-evaluation of the titles office. There are no figures in the budget papers with regard to the revenue that is being forecast in relation to this. This is a cruel hoax. What we need at the moment are better partnerships with the community housing sector to unleash them. There are billions of dollars available at the moment—and I mean billions of dollars—through the National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation which every other state in Australia is accessing. Queensland is missing out because our community housing providers have not been able to grow and leverage access to this money. The people from NHFIC are dying to give money to Queensland, billions of dollars, so we can build the community and affordable housing that is so desperately needed.

One of my other shadow portfolios is sport. I would have thought that with an Olympic decision imminent—and it is looking pretty good for us—the government would make a serious investment in sporting infrastructure, particularly for our junior sporting clubs who are preparing our future athletes for the Olympic Games. The minister may be able to correct me, but I think I can see \$26 million, and it is a bit vague as to what that may be for. It would seem that the infrastructure grants sporting clubs have been used to receiving over a whole long period of time from both sides of government has shrunk. There appears to be shrinkage involved with that funding.

I cannot understand that decision because I know that in my electorate, for example: the Albany Creek Excelsior Football Club wants a couple of hundred grand to upgrade some of their clubhouse facilities; the Mitchelton Football Club needs around \$400,000 for dressing rooms for their female players; the Everton Wolves AFL club wants some ground alterations; the Wantima Golf Club wants to

improve irrigation; the Everton Park Bowls Club wants money to put shade over their artificial turf green; and the Pine Hills Football Club wants money to enhance their lighting. These things are important to increase participation in sport for our junior sportspeople. What are we getting? We seem to be getting nothing, and that is a real concern. It shows a lack of confidence with regard to preparing ourselves for the Olympics and hopefully a successful Olympic bid.

I have already touched on a couple of things in my electorate with regards to sporting clubs, but the No. 1 thing in my electorate that has not been addressed is the direct upgrade of the intersection of South Pine Road and Stafford Road. There is an interesting history here, and I will give credit to my predecessor and now senator, Murray Watt, who actually got the plans together for the intersection upgrade that was required, but they have now been sitting there for the last six or seven years not funded. In the 2017 election campaign, I made a commitment to build stage 1 of the upgrade, which is the Everton Park Link Road, and miraculously three hours later the Main Roads minister made the same announcement. It was a miracle that he made that announcement, but I am happy he did that because that meant the community was going to get that no matter what. That has just opened and we are hoping it will provide some improvement, but it will not bring the improvement to the level that will only come if we have—

Ms Boyd: It is stage 1.

Mr MANDER:—the direct major upgrade of the intersection, which is stage 2, and I take that interjection. We need \$122 million to bring about that. There is nothing at all about that in the forward figures, so there is nothing over the next four years and we will still have this congestion outside my office. The only good thing about it is that it gives people a chance to look at my big billboard a bit longer, which is at that intersection. It is a pretty good billboard and it is a very good picture. It is a little bit dated. My hair was a bit darker. I hope the government does not bring truth in advertising laws in, but at the moment we are going to keep that.

We need this intersection upgrade. It is the biggest issue in my electorate. We have all of this traffic coming south on Old Northern Road from the northern suburbs in the Moreton Bay region and they have no other alternative. They can go out to Gympie Road or the Bruce Highway but that just makes that congestion even worse. Instead, they come right down the middle of my electorate and we need to do something about it. We need to spend that money. It is going to be money well spent because it will help people get home safer and quicker. It will also enable businesses to get around quicker to do their work. Everybody knows to avoid that intersection and that should not be the case.

I also want to mention a couple of community groups in my electorate. For the life of me, I just do not understand why this group called The Nest, which is a centre for women, do not get funding through the neighbourhood centre network. They do not fit the box, and because they do not fit the box they do not get funding. This is an unbelievable group of women who through creativity have intergenerational learning. They have survived over the last five or six years. When we were in government, I was able to provide some funding for the rent of the house they are now in. Any money at all that could go to The Nest would be greatly appreciated.

I also want to mention ORCA. They are a training group to prepare people with disability for employment. I know they have places at Mansfield and Albany Creek. We made a promise had we got into government of a couple of hundred grand, and that would go a long way to help people with disability get work.

In summary, the budget is disappointing. It is trickery. It is all about smoke and mirrors. It is all about reannouncing, repackaging and reneging on promises and commitments. The people of Queensland and the people of Everton deserve far better.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member for Everton, I wish to assure you that life can be full and meaningful with grey hair as well.



Mr TANTARI (Hervey Bay—ALP) (4.33 pm): As this is my first time on my feet since the passing of our comrade Duncan Pegg, the member for Stretton, I wish to add to the comments made by many members and pass on my condolences to his family. Whilst I did not know Duncan for long, I have been moved by the level of love shown in this place and by his community towards him. Vale Duncan.

I rise in support of the Appropriation Bill 2021. This budget continues to deliver the economic recovery that the people of Queensland and the electorate of Hervey Bay voted for last year. At that election, the electorate said they wanted a strong economic recovery coming off the back of a strong health response delivered by the Palaszczuk Labor government. On Tuesday we heard that the Queensland economy has bounced back stronger and faster than the rest of the country and is well on

its way, with a massive 3¼ per cent increase in state growth over this financial year. That is 13 times faster than was estimated in the last budget. The unemployment rate in Queensland posted the largest fall in the nation, falling to 5.4 per cent. That is now below its pre-COVID level. Employment increased by 32,000 alone in the last month. That is more than a thousand jobs created each and every day. With this budget, the Palaszczuk government has shown that its COVID economic recovery plan is working and it is delivering on its strong plan for growth and recovery by ensuring that our local economies rebound whilst the rest of the world must, unfortunately, still deal with the containment of the COVID virus.

As the honourable Treasurer said in his budget speech, the people of Queensland recognise the important things that matter, like better hospitals, smarter schools, safer roads and creating a pipeline of infrastructure that creates jobs for decades to come. The last budget spent big to keep jobs growth growing in Queensland, and this latest budget continues that trend by providing the funding for the many and varied programs and services needed to move us forward as a community. This budget continues to deliver on the promises made during the election to the people of the Hervey Bay electorate to build back better as we unite and recover.

Growth in jobs, health, education, infrastructure and housing is what this Labor budget is all about. One of the highlights included in this record budget was a record health spend across Queensland. In this there was further funding towards construction projects to improve facilities at the Hervey Bay Hospital, including the adult acute mental health inpatient unit. This new acute mental health inpatient unit is currently underway and will create more than 140 construction and health jobs. This is good news for jobs for our tradies, apprentices and nurses. This is a great outcome for the services needed in Hervey Bay, and I must congratulate the Palaszczuk government for showing the way in growing our local health services.

Sadly, in contrast, the Morrison LNP federal government has slashed the Medicare rebate on over 900 procedures, damaging the health of Hervey Bay residents. Anyone from the LNP in Hervey Bay who supports this ought to hang their heads in shame. The LNP federal budget is going to decimate Medicare, putting pressure on our local health system and making personal health care in Hervey Bay less affordable, particularly for the most vulnerable in our community like pensioners, seniors and mums and dads. Let us not talk about what the LNP has done in creating doctor shortages across our regions. It is just disgraceful.

At the last election, I said to the people of the Hervey Bay electorate that I would work to make the Hervey Bay electorate the centre of learning and skills excellence in the Wide Bay. In this budget, schools in the Hervey Bay electorate will receive additional and ongoing funding. With education, this budget provides: a further \$150,000 to the Hervey Bay Special School to refurbish the second stage of the trade training centre; continued funding for the new hall facilities being built at the Urangan State High School and the Urangan Point State School; the ongoing build at the Hervey Bay State High School; and a further \$343,000 towards the Urangan State High School canteen upgrade plus \$1 million towards new security fencing. We are keeping our students and teachers safe and their educational outcomes stronger with better facilities.

On top of the continuation of the highly successful free TAFE for those under 25—which, by the way, has an exceptional uptake in Hervey Bay—the Hervey Bay TAFE will receive upgrades to nursing and allied health infrastructure aligned to health and biomedical training, as well as further funding in training investment. This is on the back of the continuation of the highly successful Skilling Queenslanders for Work and Back to Work programs. This funding program provides Hervey Bay businesses with the confidence to employ local jobseekers who have experienced a period of unemployment and helps workers facing disadvantage in the labour market. These programs are giving people the skills they need to be job ready and giving them further pathways back into work.

Again, this is in direct contrast to those opposite who have in the past tried to dismantle and privatise the TAFE system. They just hate a publicly owned and run TAFE system. This was never more evident than in the recent Morrison LNP federal government budget's disgraceful announcement—or, should I say, nonannouncement, because they are saying nothing—that the Morrison government are cutting funding to the TAFE sector, which is shameful. Reducing the funding to TAFE leaves the heavy lifting back on the state again. I suppose we are getting used to this from that mob on the other side.

This proves that those on the other side could not care less about uplifting people into better jobs. They only care about lining their own pockets. As always, we on this side are giving back and those on the other side are taking away.

Mr Speaker has reviewed and approved my budget speech for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

Speaker, the 2021 State budget continues to provide funding for the services required for people with a disability. By ensuring on going funding for advocacy services, for NDIS worker screening and funds towards support to assist ineligible NDIS clients. As a father of a son with a lifelong disability, I understand how important it is for NDIS clients and support workers to feel their supported and this budget provides these measures for our most needy group of people.

Another big win for Hervey Bay in this budget is the number of massive road upgrades coming online through this budget.

- \$800 000 towards the construction of the much-needed Maryborough—Hervey Bay Road and Pialba—Burrum Heads Road intersection which the Hervey Bay electorate shares with my learned colleague, the Assistant Minister Bruce Saunders Maryborough electorate—this is a major piece of infrastructure for our respective electorates and one that is needed right now. I thank the Assistant Minister for showing this leadership on this project and ensuring that the safety of our combined residents is put first, over the immature budget games, being played by the Federal Member for Hinkler. Yet again, another LNP member who can't read budget papers, and this time it his own Federal budget!—what a ruse he has tried to pull on the people!
- There is also \$2.5 million is being committed to assist in the construction of the Urraween to Boundary Road connector
- There will be new traffic lights installed at the Boundary Rd and Robert Street, intersection to ensure safety for the many thousands of school and community commuters, that pass through this intersection every day
- And there is many more new active transport, raised priority crossings and shared path along the length and breadth of Hervey Bay.

These new upgrades will make safer and more convenient roads, paths and transport networks, which will allow greater connectivity around the electorate for Hervey Bay's residents.

With Housing, I am proud to be part of a government that has invested in a record budget for spending on housing and homelessness services. \$1.9 billion dollars will be spent in the State over the next 4 years to increase the supply of social housing, upgrade the existing stock of dwellings, and deliver critical housing services to vulnerable people.

Across the Fraser Coast this means 10 units of accommodation will built costing \$2.8 million. The Palaszczuk Labor Government will also establish a \$1 billion Housing Investment Fund, with its returns being used to drive new housing supply to support housing needs across the state.

This contrasts with no new funding for social housing being announced at all by the Morrison LNP Federal Government in their budget, which is disgraceful.

The Morrison LNP Federal Government gives nothing, then say that the State Government is to blame for the housing stress being felt by decent hardworking battlers in Hervey Bay! They have not given a cent towards social housing in this year's federal budget, not a cent.

In the area of water safety, I am excited by the great announcement that the Palaszczuk Government is committing \$1 million towards the progress of a replacement water police facility at Hervey Bay.

This vessel will ensure that Police are equipped with the latest in technologies, so they can perform their duties to ensure water safety and compliance is maintained, particularly in our region where boat ownership per capita is one of the highest in the country.

Speaker, the Palaszczuk Government are doing what we promised, and with this budget we continue to build back better and are Keeping the Hervey Bay electorate Safe and Strong.

Speaker, it goes without saying that continuing growth in infrastructure is needed in Hervey Bay as the city grows faster because of the influx of new residents brought on by the move of residents from the big cities, post COVID shutdowns.

This 2021 budget has provided an increased spending in the infrastructure area. Spending in the infrastructure area, goes on to show that this Palaszczuk government, is interested in ensuring that we grow coming off the back of the pandemic and that we on this side will build back better.

We want to make sure that we build the infrastructure that creates the jobs, utilises the skills, grows the apprenticeships that are needed for the future of the Hervey Bay electorate to grow. Small businesses—Back to Work program with \$140 million to provide businesses with the confidence to employ Queenslanders who have experienced a period of unemployment and help workers facing disadvantage in the labour market.

With programs like Works for Queensland and Building our Regions the Palaszczuk Government continues to fund for many projects that go a long way to enhancing the livability of the Hervey Bay electorate.

Our great nature assets like Fraser Island (K'Gari) will receive further support to ensure that our environmental and cultural values are protected and upgrades are completed to support visitors and residents, like \$909 000 out of \$4.2 million for the Central Station day use area and the spending to commence construction of the additional dingo fencing around Orchid Beach township.

Mr Speaker, I said to the people of the Hervey Bay electorate, during the election, that I bring a new vigor and a new focus to our unique regional electorate, I said that the Palaszczuk Labor Government would build the infrastructure, build the programs and the services needed to create the jobs for our and our children's future.

My focused determination to get more jobs and have better infrastructure and to provide enhanced services for the Hervey Bay electorate is what my time in this place is all about.

As I have said in this place previously, I will do my best to ensure the people of the Hervey Bay electorate gets its fair share from our government and with this 2021 budget the Palaszczuk Labor Government has delivered on its promises and commitments made.

and in doing so is keeping the Hervey Bay electorate Safe and Strong.

I support the bill before the House.



Mr BENNETT (Burnett—LNP) (4.39 pm): As is customary, we give our budget reply speech in this place. We need to encourage long-term economic growth and small business with all Queenslanders, particularly in our part of the world. We need leadership but we need a plan. I cannot accept that we can celebrate applauding short-term creative economic numbers and statistics because it is not a serious fiscal plan.

I want to put on record my thanks for some of the efforts in the budget. The Minister for Education is in the House and I want to acknowledge the emails from her office consolidating the education delivery in the electorate. That is welcome and I thank the minister and her staff for being so forthright. Normally we do not get that support. I thank her very much. I think it is great we can celebrate education in this House a lot more together than we do apart. I think we all share that sentiment.

With that, I would like to acknowledge some of those projects that were announced: \$100,000 for Agnes Water State School block B; \$300,000 for Alloway State School main entrance; \$350,000 for Bargara State School; \$60,000 for Goodwood State School; \$100,000 for Kolan State School; \$500,000 for maintenance; \$300,000 for minor works; and we are delighted with the \$1.2 million for Miriam Vale State School for that amenities block that is desperately needed. We are very grateful for that. Oakwood State School picks up some money as well as Rosedale—\$350,000. We are very grateful for the work that is being done in education around the region.

I want to acknowledge something else in the budget, and the member for Hervey Bay did not mention the Fraser Island issue. However, I think it is important that we acknowledge the minister and the department of environment for putting \$1.2 million into fire mitigation on Fraser Island. I think we all share a passion in our hearts for these iconic national parks and none of us were happy with what happened. I am not apportioning blame; I am just acknowledging the fiscal investment into Fraser Island. It is not in my electorate but it is somewhere I visit on a regular basis. I am looking forward to going there shortly for another week. I thank the minister for that. I think it is important to put that on record.

I also want to acknowledge the money for Lady Elliot Island and their renewables push. It is a truly iconic spot. All honourable members should come and visit. We should all be proud of the Gashes, who have been completely off the grid over a number of years, working with the department; I know they have done some really good work out there. I will be heading there shortly as well.

Turning to our agricultural sector, it is important that I acknowledge the money that was put in for new agriculture and horticulture in the Bundaberg electorate. Of course, we all share agriculture as a key driver for the region. There is money for the five ways down at Childers at Doolbi; we want to make sure that is acknowledged. With all the criticism of Paradise Dam—and I will talk more about that—it is important to note that the money that is still in the budget for the original works and, more importantly, the other works, the \$32 million that was announced for the planning, all of that continues. Also I think the \$30 million to upgrade power out of Childers is important. Of course, I want to make sure we do acknowledge the importance of the Seasonal Worker Programme. The money that has come from both the federal and state government has to be recognised as important.

This is our seventh year of drought and I think it is really important that the Drought Assistance and Reform Package continues to be a very important issue. It keeps a lot of our farming families viable and robust. I also think that after so many years of fighting for the Bundaberg port, the money has not been taken out around the port conveyer belt, and I want to make sure we give credit where credit is due. That Drought Assistance and Reform Package across Queensland is \$70 million. We just hope we can get through the litany of paperwork that is needed to fill that out. There are some things in the budget that we certainly want to acknowledge but there is plenty to talk about in other areas.

Before I move to other areas, the domestic violence sector does need to be looked at. I want to put in a plug for Hearts of Purple based on the Gold Coast but who are now across the state. They are now in the Bundaberg and the Burnett electorates with their purple bins. I ask those who are coming to the promo night tonight to please have a chat to the team from Hearts of Purple. They are hoping to raise money by getting 10 cents a can to fund things like watches and other surveillance equipment and audits on people fleeing domestic violence. It is a success story, but I think it is a bit sad that we cannot provide more for them.

On the subject of Paradise Dam, we know the options paper will be out later this year and we know that Building Queensland have that before them. It is back in the department now. I have spoken about that before. I did want to express a bit of concern about an announcement. I want to make a point. I am not having a go because it was a Labor Party announcement. Our council has been pushing for an aquatic centre, so I will take them on so I do not get heckled from across the chamber. I cannot believe they want to spend \$45 million in Bundaberg in the middle of a seven-year drought considering Paradise Dam and water security in order to build a new swimming pool.

Mr Smith: That's the local council.

Mr BENNETT: I did acknowledge that; I take the member for Bundaberg's interjection. I did try to say I will take on the council and not make it something the member would want to interject on. I do say seriously that we do need to get our priorities right. We are in the middle of a drought yet here is a \$45 million swimming pool about to be built. I do think we need to reflect on what we need to do.

I also want to talk about how important the \$19 billion agriculture sector is to the Queensland economy. Of course, our farmers provide everything that is nutritious and safe in food and fibre but, more importantly, the wonderful green credentials that come with that. The agricultural sector is the one that delivers the food security, provides protection to the environment and provides so much to the economy and it is all low risk. We would have liked to have seen more targeted support for that industry. Why not abolish stamp duty on agricultural insurance? We need to establish a discretionary mutual fund for this crop insurance issue that has been kicked around for decades. Let's empower farmers with long-term industry owned tools for managing risk.

What are the problems with the budget? Some of the problems for me are: the Bargara and Hughes road intersection missed out as did the Moneys Creek Lagoon and the environmental catastrophe it is. We need to get on top of that. I need to raise a couple of issues and I will be very happy to be proved wrong. One of the things in the budget papers that concerns us—and it is in the Bundaberg electorate—is the Bundaberg flood levee. I will table last year's SDS statement, which details that the flood levee had \$5.5 million in this budget; \$17 million in next year's budget 2022-23; and \$17 million in the—

Tabled paper: Extract from 2020-21 Queensland State Budget—Service Delivery Statements, titled 'Table 1.1 Expense measures', p. 1-5 [\[901\]](#).

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr BENNETT: I will take the interjection from the member for Pine Rivers. Yes, it is about the Bundaberg electorate, but our electorates are unique in that my electorate surrounds his and we have a lot of common interests in terms of what a flood looks like. I thank the member for Pine Rivers for her interjection, but I suggest that those people in my electorate do not care what she has to say anyway.

I want to get back to our farmers. I want to make sure we talk about crop insurance. Let's empower our farmers with industry owned tools for managing risk.

I also want to raise the \$15 million line item to purchase land for the new hospital. I have several questions. This land that was announced is state land. I do not know why we need to put \$15 million into the budget to buy land from ourselves. If people have been to Bundy, they would know that paying \$15 million for a parcel of land of some hectares is astronomical. For that amount of money I could buy a thousand-acre macadamia farm with 15,000 trees. I am not sure how this parcel of land has been valued. Maybe we are going to sell it to ourselves and pay down debt. I am not sure.

A lot of my colleagues have talked about issues around the budget for Cross River Rail and the infrastructure spend. This new housing investment is also so important. No matter what we do, we have to deal with this housing crisis. We hope we can all work a bit more collaboratively in terms of what that looks like. As has been suggested with the private sector, let's empower the land bank and let's make sure that these people no longer have to live in their cars—and there are many of them. As has been said here today, there are many people in our own electorates who are moving towns just to find somewhere to live. It is not necessarily anyone's fault; the housing boom is something that has crept up on us all. We have not planned for it and we have not done well. I think we all need to acknowledge that we can do better.

I will never stop talking about the trajectory for debt of \$130 billion. I think it is important that we never take our eye off that. I may just be one of those LNP members who are fixated on debt, but for me it is important. It is serious. I certainly do not want to leave—

A government member: Leave him alone. He is trying his best.

Mr BENNETT: I am not sure what the interjection of the member for Logan was, but it was certainly intended to be disruptive. I did not want to take his interjection, but I have now. I do not want my grandchildren to have to somehow deal with the repayments of this trajectory of debt.

The week before last, Surf Life Saving Queensland came to town and talked to our council about a wonderful announcement on something we have been fighting for for a decade—that is, funding for a surf club at Moore Park that was wrecked by cyclones in 2010. The council made an announcement on the Wednesday. It appeared on social media that Surf Life Saving Queensland had briefed the council the week before. We just carried on with what we were doing. We were intending to celebrate with the club on the Friday morning. Then there was intervention from the minister's office. My concern is that the minister's office has tried to interfere with the public media in Bundaberg, asking them to take down stories about this announcement. I find the politicisation of this incredibly disturbing. I think there will be more to be said about this. This morning I heard the health minister talk many times about gagging. I am deeply disturbed by this eventuality whereby ministers' offices are trying to dictate to and influence our local media. I find that terrible.

The lack of tourism spending has been raised in this House numerous times today. I find it incredibly rewarding to work with our leader in the tourism space. From travelling around I know that there are a lot of disheartened operators and industry stakeholders out there. I take this opportunity to put on the record a call to members of the government who have influence. Why do we not open up rail travel from the south-east corner into Central Queensland? Hervey Bay, Maryborough, Gladstone, Bundaberg—all of us in that part of the world could certainly benefit from getting more of those tourists who do not necessarily drive or cannot afford to fly—

Mr Power: I love the tilt train.

Mr BENNETT: Thank you, member for Logan. We should encourage people from the south-east corner into our regions. From a tourism point of view, what a great opportunity that would be. On numerous occasions I have made contact with the minister. I acknowledge that this may not be easy to do, but I ask the minister to think about either free or half-price rail travel into our region so we can capitalise on getting heads on pillows—enjoying the wonderful opportunities and things we all have to offer.

I will not go back over the issues pertaining to the titles office. We certainly will be keeping an eye on that issue. I do not mind admitting that I have some confusion about funding of the housing program and Path to Treaty in this so-called budget. I do not know about others, but I think it is important to address the Leader of the Opposition's request for transparency in budgets. I have now read different budget papers over nine years. This year it is even more confusing. There is less information and there are more things being hidden.

That said, I will give members on the other side of the House the opportunity to explain to me the flood levee money. There was \$45 million promised prior to the election when they had not spoken to the federal government. It is not in this year's budget papers. I think it is really important for the Queensland government to explain why it made a promise for a \$45 million flood levee—

Mr Smith interjected.

Mr BENNETT: I take the interjection from the member for Bundaberg. I ask him to explain in his contribution where the \$45 million is. The state government's promise of \$45 million for the flood levee was in last year's budget papers but it is not there now. If the funding has been cut, it is important to say so. I have backed this Labor government on the flood levee every time—it needs to be done—but what I will not accept is when budgets are manipulated to remove the funding. If that is the case, I ask those opposite, who are responsible for that, to at least come clean and tell members of their communities. Before the election they promised \$45 million to build a flood levee and then decided to write to the federal government sometime later. I think that needs to be made transparent. I put those opposite on notice, if they feel comfortable or feel obligated, to at least be truthful about what happened with the flood levee money. If it is gone, they should fess up and let us know what is going on.

I think we now need to look forward and address the promises that were made during the election in relation to mental health services. I would like to see some tangible money in maybe next year's budget, because it is not in this year's budget. Mental health is becoming increasingly important in our regions because of the issues that confront us—things like the lowering of Paradise Dam, reef regulations and so on. There is a lot of pressure in our communities right across a lot of issues. Investment in mental health services is really important. I encourage everyone who has capacity to give our region its fair share.



Hon. MT RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (4.54 pm): The Palaszczuk government governs for all Queenslanders, no matter where they live. We govern for all Queenslanders by providing the services, the frontline staff and the infrastructure and, significantly, by supporting the jobs that all Queenslanders deserve. This budget is proudly a Labor budget. It invests in jobs, infrastructure and services. It provides opportunities for Queenslanders and it builds stronger, better, safer communities. It also provides big investments across police, corrective services and fire and emergency services. I will return to those investments in a moment.

First and foremost, this budget makes big investments in the Morayfield state electorate, the great community that I represent in this parliament. In relation to the provision of health and hospital services, the Palaszczuk government is delivering a \$400 million redevelopment of Caboolture Hospital, including the construction of a six-storey car park. In addition, the Palaszczuk government is progressing the delivery of the Caboolture satellite hospital and an additional \$4 million for a 24/7 ambulance station for the community which will be located at Morayfield. All of these investments will support the employment of more doctors, nurses, health professionals and paramedics in our community.

There is also significant investment in education facilities and resources in the Morayfield state electorate. Across the Moreton Bay region, almost \$1.7 million has been committed for minor works at local schools and over \$5.1 million is allocated for local school maintenance. I am excited to see that this budget will progress over \$13 million of new classrooms at Caboolture State High School; finalise the delivery of new classrooms and a joint hall facility at Lee Street State Special School and a new hall at Morayfield State High School; and build a new safety security fence at Morayfield State School.

There is also investment in transport infrastructure, justice services, community safety, employment and training opportunities and, importantly, jobs for local people. The people of the Morayfield state electorate are big winners out of this budget, and I am very proud of what this budget will deliver for them.

Turning to my portfolio responsibilities, as I mentioned earlier, this budget supports big investments across the portfolios of police, corrective services and fire and emergency services. At this point, I would like to note that the Speaker has reviewed and approved my budget speech for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech is incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

Corrective services

In the case of Corrective Services, this budget delivers big time.

More than \$1 billion is allocated to Queensland Corrective Services for 2021-22, an increase of \$32.2 million on the last financial year.

A critical element of that allocation is a \$320 million investment in the Palaszczuk Government's second biggest infrastructure project—the new, expanded 1,000-bed Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct near Gatton that will boost prison capacity across the State.

The 2021-22 budget funding is part of a bigger, broader investment in the new facility, that totals more than \$650 million.

Stage Two of the Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct will transform the Lockyer Valley and deliver:

- More than 400 construction jobs over the life of the project and support up to 900 jobs at peak construction
- Over 500 permanent jobs when the new facility is operational

Speaker, this is the government building the vital infrastructure and creating the jobs that make Queensland the best place to be.

This is Queensland's plan for economic recovery in action.

With construction underway, this project is already delivering an economic boost to the region's economy, supporting the jobs of hundreds of tradies and a large number of local businesses, such as office suppliers, hardware and electrical stores, caterers, supermarkets and waste management services, all keen to benefit from this major infrastructure project.

As Lockyer Valley Mayor, Cr Tanya Milligan says:

"The funding allocated in the State Budget to continue the expansion of the Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct is testament to the State Government's ongoing commitment to job creation and economic stimulation in our region.

"Lockyer Valley residents have been reaping the benefits of the opportunity a large-scale project, right here in our own backyard brings to our community and I look forward to hearing positive stories that continue to unfold as construction progresses.

"There is no doubt this project is, and will continue to change lives—not just for those who tap into the project during construction, but for the workers who will be able to pursue a meaningful career here and the inmates who will be able to access the rehabilitation and support they need to realign their lives and reduce reoffending."

In other major infrastructure projects, the 2021-22 State Budget delivers \$20.6 million to complete the expansion at the Capricornia Correctional Centre in Rockhampton with refurbishment of the medical centre, kitchen and prisoner processing facilities.

And capacity will be further boosted with \$8 million this financial year to install up to 500 additional bunk beds in high security correctional centres across Queensland.

This budget also allocates \$2.4 million for business cases to examine and explore options to meet future capacity needs. Speaker, this is an important initiative. It is only by planning for the future that we can ensure Queensland has a Corrective Services network that is fit for purpose in future years.

The initiatives we are implementing are about enhancing safety and security across Queensland's prison facilities and they couldn't have come at a better time.

We will have delivered an extra 4,500 beds by the end of 2023.

Speaker, history beckons.

Within a matter of weeks, the Southern Queensland Correctional Centre will revert from private to public ownership.

This milestone means that all Queensland prison facilities will be publicly-owned and publicly-run for the first time in more than three decades.

Police

Speaker, when it comes to police, this government has a proud record of delivering.

We have delivered many hundreds of extra police already, and now on top of that we are in the process of making the biggest investment in the Queensland Police Service in 30 years, an investment that will deliver an extra 2,025 personnel over five years.

This week, the government delivered a record \$2.86 billion Police Budget for 2021-22 to support police in keeping communities safe across Queensland.

The Queensland Police Service has a total estimated budget in 2021-22 of \$2.86 billion, an increase of \$180.6 million or 6.7% from the last financial year.

This includes an operating budget of \$2.7 billion and a capital budget of \$156 million.

The record budget will equip the Queensland Police Service with the resources they need to do what they do best—frontline, professional policing that protects communities right across the State.

This government has delivered yet another record budget for our hard-working police backed up by tough laws that will strengthen their capacity to prevent and disrupt crime wherever it happens, whenever it happens.

This budget backs our frontline police and backs in the good work they do—protecting the community from COVID-19, keeping our vast road network safe, supporting the victims of domestic and family violence and bringing perpetrators to justice, taking tough action on outlaw motorcycle gangs and working side-by-side with other government agencies to turn youth crime statistics around.

From the dedicated officers in Taskforce Argos who rescue children from the clutches of the darknet, to the officers who conduct roadside drug tests to prevent road trauma and the officers involved in trials of metal detecting wands on the Gold Coast to disrupt knife crimes, we owe them and their police colleagues a great debt of gratitude.

Speaker, the Police Budget highlights include:

- \$156 million for police facilities, police vehicles and vessels, and equipment. This amount includes:
 - \$10 million for minor capital works across the State to enhance and modernise police facilities
 - \$1.4 million for new and replacement police QLiTE tablets to enhance mobile capabilities
 - \$1.6 million towards the continuing roll out of 25 mobile police beats for a more visible police presence in communities
- Access to additional funding of up to \$68 million to support COVID-19 compliance activities to keep communities safe
- Extra funding of \$4.2 million over four years to expand and continue the Roadside Drug Testing Program to boost road safety;
- Funding to continue the electronic monitoring of adult offenders on bail;
- \$1 million for a trial of metal detecting wands on the Gold Coast to target knife crime;
- Increased funding of \$5.3 million over two years to support the tough new measures that build on the Five Point Action Plan and target the small cohort of hard-core recidivist youth offenders through the blitz on bail, the Youth Co-Responder teams and Community-based Crime Action Committees;
- \$4 million for new and replacement body worn video cameras; and
- \$4 million towards the purchase of integrated load-bearing ballistic vests for police officers—a first for Queensland.

Speaker, the \$156 million capital program will support quality frontline policing services across Queensland.

This program is important.

It's about building police infrastructure and that means jobs for workers at a time when jobs and job security are more important than ever.

Our Capital Program Highlights include:

- \$12.9 million to complete the replacement police facilities at Beaudesert, Biloela, Burketown, Nambour and Pimpuraaw;
- \$11.3 million to progress the upgrades of the Cairns, Dalby and Warwick police facilities;
- \$8.1 million to progress the new Cairns West and Ripley police facilities, complete the new Pimpama police facility and commence planning for the new Rosewood police facility;
- \$7.2 million to progress the replacement police facilities at Cooroy, Cunnamulla and Woree;
- \$6.5 million to complete the upgrade of the Aurukun police facility and commence the upgrades of the Mackay and Maryborough police facilities;
- \$1.7 million to progress the replacement police facilities at Clermont, Dayboro and Kirwan and the water police facility at Hervey Bay;
- \$40.6 million for new and replacement police vehicles;
- \$5.5 million for new and replacement police vessels;
- \$6 million for upgrades and replacements to air conditioning and closed circuit cameras at police facilities across the state;
- \$4 million for aircraft maintenance to provide aviation support for search and rescue, organ retrievals, natural disasters and police operations;
- \$10.5 million for Camera Detected Offence Program equipment; and
- \$11.3 million for information and communications technology.

Speaker, this is a significant investment in policing, an investment in community safety and an investment in the 12,000-plus police officers who work hard every day to protect us, no matter where we live in Queensland.

Fire and emergency services

This government backs all front-line emergency workers—the officers, the staff and the volunteers.

Fire and Emergency Services is being backed by \$800 million in funding.

This will underpin the disaster management capabilities of professional firefighters in the Fire and Rescue Service, Rural Fire Service volunteers and State Emergency Service volunteers.

Overall, a collective \$42.7 million over four years has been allocated towards bushfire mitigation, enhancing natural disaster predictive services, strengthening the planning, response and recovery from bushfires and disasters, along with land use and planning enhancements for bushfire management.

It's about keeping communities safe and nothing is more important than that.

Queensland experiences around 60 per cent of the nation's natural disasters and our first responders are being called on more and more to help Queenslanders when disasters strike.

Their hours are not nine to five, their job is often dangerous and for that we owe them our heartfelt gratitude.

The 2021-22 Budget includes more than double the funding from the last financial year for Rural Fire Service vehicles to provide volunteers with the state-of-the-art appliances.

Further, this budget delivers funding to provide more new vehicles for Fire and Rescue Service professional firefighters.

This marks the continuation of a six-year commitment that has delivered more than 620 Fire and Rescue Service and Rural Fire Service vehicles.

The SES will receive more than \$21 million, which is an almost 7% increase from last year and includes funding to assist with securing life-saving equipment, such as defibrillators, protective clothing and flares, and additional support for costs associated with purchasing and maintaining facilities and vehicles.

The additional \$1.4 million which is being provided to the SES will support a range of measures.

Every SES region will receive \$40,000 that can be used for operational purposes and incidentals, such as catering for volunteers and minor repairs, along with \$30,000 for SES Trainers and \$200,000 statewide for special training requirements.

\$350,000 has also been set aside for new and replacement defibrillators, with a priority roll out to ensure every SES group has a defibrillator in the first instance. Further, funding will be provided to equip every SES vehicle with a set of red and blue e-flares.

These budget initiatives are in recognition of the hard work and selfless dedication shown by SES volunteers across the State.

In addition, SES and Rural Fire Service volunteers will be further supported with the continuation of almost \$900,000 in grants.

These grants form part of the financial support volunteers receive to help them meet costs and secure the equipment they need to continue to keep communities safe.

When it comes to capital works, almost \$7 million has been allocated to complete the replacement of facilities at Gracemere, Longreach, Rainbow Beach and Rosewood, and at the new location in Mossman.

\$1.8 million will also go towards the completion of the new multi-agency complex at Maleny in the Sunshine Coast hinterland that will house Fire and Rescue Service professional firefighters, Rural Fire Service volunteers and SES personnel.


The new complex at Maleny will serve as an important hub for Sunshine Coast operations and to support swift responses to incidents.

More than \$13 million has been allocated to continue work on the construction of a new regional headquarters in Maryborough and Fire and Rescue Service facilities in Loganlea and Mt Cotton.

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services personnel will be supported with \$3.2 million in funding for operational hardware, including rescue equipment, protective clothing, communications technology and specialist tools to analyse hazardous materials.

The Palaszczuk Government backs our police, fire and emergency services, and correctives services personnel 100%. Labor Governments invest in these services and the people who deliver them on behalf of all Queenslanders. This budget does that. This budget is a very Labor budget.

I commend the Appropriation Bills and the 2021-22 Queensland State Budget to the House.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (4.57 pm): I rise to speak on the 2021 budget. This budget is an exercise in accounting trickery, spin and grand announcements that are not backed up, with missing budget allocations or lines. In Gympie it is full of reannouncements and recycling. This budget is glaring proof that, a month after trying to bask in reflected glory from Beef Week, the agriculture minister is failing to stand up for the industries he is supposed to represent.

The government sees the budget as merely a cynical PR exercise in political manipulation. The reality is: if it is not in the budget, it does not exist. Some \$4 billion has been cut from the infrastructure spend in whole dollars. Adjusted for inflation, the cut is closer to \$6 billion. Minimal new money is being invested, with most of the announced funds either repackaged or closed. The government has reduced, re-used and recycled. Queensland's infrastructure spend is way too low, at 12 per cent, compared to nearly 25 per cent in New South Wales and Victoria. The ministers have hung up their high-vis vests and helmets and ditched the Akubras and RM Williams. They have adopted the white shoe brigade look. They have pulled a rabbit out of the hat using dubious valuations and indulged in showy announcements with no substance.

The government sold the titles office to itself at an inflated price to wipe debt from the books. No money changed hands, only figures in columns. The debt figure was reduced without actually reducing the level of debt Queensland taxpayers must repay. Three weeks ago the Treasurer said the titles office was worth \$4.2 billion. He now says it is worth \$7.8 billion. In only three weeks it has miraculously risen by 85.7 per cent. An 85.7 per cent increase in less than a month is taking your cues from the white shoe brigade which shops for a valuation based on whether you are buying or selling. It has been described as like selling your car to yourself at four times its worth and going to the bank and asking to borrow more because your asset—the car—is supposed to be worth more.

The Treasurer made nearly \$6 billion in announcements that cannot be delivered in this term of the parliament. They cannot be delivered in the next 3½ years. There is nothing for the promised \$2 billion Hospital Building Fund, \$1 billion Housing Investment Fund, \$300 million Path to Treaty Fund or the \$500 million Carbon Reduction Investment Fund. The \$1.5 billion Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund is missing \$1 billion.

Following media reports two months ago about a proposed pumped hydro scheme at Borumba Dam in the Mary Valley, I requested a briefing from both the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and the Minister for Water. Despite numerous contacts with both offices, there is only silence. It is not silent in my community. Last week the Premier, the Treasurer and the minister for renewable energy announced in a press release \$22 million for a detailed design and cost analysis for the project. Constituents contact me asking what is happening. They will not be fobbed off with press releases and little detail. They are concerned it is cloaked in secrecy and a lack of transparency.

People still recall the last time a Labor government came to the Mary Valley. In a three-year fiasco, it wasted \$500 million—half a billion dollars—on the failed Traveston Dam project. The Premier, the Treasurer and the minister for tourism should remember. They sat around cabinet tables during those three years. We read about a pumped hydro scheme but nothing about numerous calls to start investigation works to raise the dam to provide water security for Gympie. The community needs genuine, up-front, honest consultation and transparency, not lip-service and secrecy.

Recycling and reannouncements are Gympie's share of the budget. The government has hitched a ride on federal or council projects. It has made an art form of recycling, rebadging and announcing projects primarily funded by the federal government or delivered by the Gympie Regional Council. I

welcome the return of the Rainbow Beach Auxiliary Fire and Rescue Station which has perennially bounced in and out of six state budgets. It has been in, out, in, out and now it is back. It was first promised in 2016 but then disappeared the next year. The funds were redirected to Bundaberg to prop up the disgraced state Labor member and former agriculture minister whose credentials were growing her own fruit and vegetables and owning a fish tank. It was appalling pork-barrelling at the expense of the Rainbow Beach community. The announcement reappeared two years ago in 2019, only to be taken away in last year's budget, which was delayed until after the state election. Six budgets later, it has been dusted off to reappear in the latest glossy brochure. It is a gold medal recycling commitment. I welcome its return and hope it is completed this time.

I welcome the \$500,000 commitment to improve water supply at the Mary Valley State College. The funds to start construction on the Cooloola Coast Esplanade Revitalisation will be delivered by the Gympie Regional Council. The state is making a part contribution to a council project. The funding for the Bruce Highway (Cooroy to Curra) section D is part of an ongoing commitment to deliver the project. The Gympie bypass must be one of the most recycled announcements ever made. They have been constructing it for ages. The federal government funds the bulk of this project, or 80 per cent of the total \$1 billion spend.

When existing projects become the highlight, you lack vision. Despite eye-watering borrowings and debt, there is no vision for Gympie's future. I frequently raise with ministers and the Premier and in the parliament local projects which need support. The government missed many opportunities like planning to build the new Gympie fire and rescue station, which has outgrown its current site, and planning for new high schools. Enrolments are almost at capacity at James Nash and Gympie state high schools, with private schools picking up the slack.

The government has thrown a net over business-as-usual health costs and called it a health building fund. There is no new money. As population grows and with inflation every budget should be a record. It is about what you deliver. Labor's health record is one of the longest surgery waitlists of 55,000 and highest ambulance ramping numbers in a generation at 40 per cent. It has not released the Sunshine Coast HHS's review of Gympie's health needs. It was due in February last year. Phase 1 of the clinical master plan was due in March last year. We were supposed to see the clinical plan in December, yet still nothing. Gympie's paediatric unit no longer takes care of sick children. There are no beds for sick kids. Families are forced to drive sick and injured children almost 100 kilometres to the Sunshine Coast. Constituents and the medical profession are constantly contacting me concerned about the declining services, and in some cases the removal of services altogether. A delegation of doctors came to me concerned about the reduction in surgeries at the Gympie Hospital and loss of specialist services. No-one finds out until they notice a change in what is provided or a loss of services. Whenever you ask questions, you meet secrecy, cover-ups or stalling. The government needs to upgrade Gympie Hospital or start planning for a new hospital. It is on a constrained site on top of a steep hill with poor parking.

Glenwood needs an ambulance station. More than 6,000 people from Glenwood and the surrounding towns wait up to 40 minutes for one to come from Gympie or Maryborough. The Cooloola Coast needs a new police station. The Imbil Police Station needs upgrading. We need improved train services from Gympie North to the Sunshine Coast and Brisbane, more public housing and a multipurpose facility. Road and bridge infrastructure needs upgrading, including overtaking lanes on Tin Can Bay and Rainbow Beach Road; bridges on Glastonbury Road, including Eel Creek Bridge; the Mary Valley Highway; and improved streetlighting at the intersection of Rainbow Beach and Queen Elizabeth Drive at Cooloola Cove.

Despite eye-watering borrowings and record debt, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, DAF, is going backwards in funding and staff. DAF's operating budget is cut by more than 10 per cent from \$586,733 million to \$522,630 million this year. That is a cut of more than \$64 million. DAF staff numbers are cut. DAF is losing staff while more than 30,000 extra Brisbane bureaucrats are on the government's payroll. DAF staff numbers have been falling year on year. This year they will fall by 10 and there will be one less in biosecurity. Other departments grow; DAF is declining. Front of counter services are cut, DAF offices are closed, extension services have all but disappeared and research and development is being left to others.

DAF's budget neglects to consider valuable innovation and technology advances in agriculture. There is no mention of capital funding for agtech and no mention of investment to incorporate world's best practice sustainability and technological development. Pest and weed management is barely mentioned. Most shamefully, DAF's assets are being sold. The agriculture minister says that he is

spending funds to finalise long-term decisions about agricultural education assets. He is working out what he is going to do after he shamefully closed Queensland's agricultural colleges. The government has already sold agricultural education assets. The spend is spread over five years. It equals about a third of what it has made from the recent asset fire sale of only one property, that being Berrigurra.

With 65 per cent of the state in drought, farmers continue to struggle with high power and water costs and an unlevel playing field for water costs. AgForce CEO Michael Guerin said—

... discrimination is alive ... when it comes to water use for farmers.

...

... the State Government ... has established what is essentially a first and second-class system for water use for farmers.

DAF has already identified a shortage of between 4,000 to 9,000 seasonal workers in horticulture across the state. The budget has no detail on assistance for quarantine costs for foreign workers who are desperately needed on farms. Growcom Chief Executive Stephen Barnard said—

... this shortage of workers ... didn't rate a mention by the Treasurer. The upbeat tone taken by both the Premier and Treasurer ... doesn't match the reality growers are living.

The only announcement relevant to seasonal labour was \$2.6 million for implementing the Australian government's Pacific labour programs. We expect this will be spent in head office and doubt it will directly result in one additional worker arriving in Queensland.

The budget has not delivered. The only thing that has been delivered is a press release with little detail. The Queensland Farmers' Federation called it underwhelming and said that it appears to be all style and not enough substance. CEO of the Queensland Farmers' Federation, Dr Georgina Davis, said that the budget's headline numbers could not disguise that it was again a missed opportunity to address some critical productivity issues and exciting growth opportunities. She said—

Without more targeted and deliberate action from government, agriculture will not fully capitalise on the exciting opportunities that are unquestionably available.

In today's *Queensland Country Life*, QFF President Allan Dingle said it lacked substance. The minister loves tabling the *Queensland Country Life* when his picture is on the front page. With 65 per cent of the state in drought for some years, *Queensland Country Life* noted the Treasurer mentioned agriculture and drought only once in the 40-minute speech, and it was not announcing specific commitments. Other than a passing mention that drought relief assistance was a concession, the Treasurer said—

... industries, like agriculture and mining, have been key to our economic recovery ... keeping Queenslanders working and our economy moving ...

It is a sign of sensitivity and desperation that the minister could only compare figures from seven years ago with DAF's current budget and to repeat the media spin of his press release. In today's Dorothy Dixier from the member for Mackay, the minister even admitted he has cut DAF's budget in the last three years, meanwhile other departments have record increases. It is clear agriculture is not on the government's radar. It is clear no-one is listening to the agriculture minister. DAF's budget has provided nothing and no vision. The only extra funding is for red and green tape—extra regulation that chokes industry. The minister has lost the confidence of the commercial fishers with the implementation of the onerous fishing reforms. There is no detail in the budget. The minister ignored the advice of the Queensland Productivity Commission which said a regulatory impact statement was needed into the fishing reforms. Instead, the minister supported the abolition of the Queensland Productivity Commission.

We have waited 19 months for the minister to appoint the Timber Advisory Panel. There is now little confidence that it will provide the answers for the security of the industry's future. The minister clearly is not and cannot stand up for the sectors he is supposed to represent around the cabinet table. DAF's budget is clear evidence Labor does not care about agriculture, fishing and forestry other than turning up for a photo opportunity. The minister talks a big game, but when it is time to deliver he has failed.



Mr O'ROURKE (Rockhampton—ALP) (5.12 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Appropriation Bill 2021-22 introduced by the Hon. Cameron Dick, Treasurer and Minister for Investment. This is another great Labor budget for Queensland and I am pleased to be able to respond to another great jobs budget for Central Queensland. I feel great pride in the wonderful outcomes that this budget will bring for all Queenslanders, none more so than my constituents in the Rockhampton electorate. It is

interesting that there was an article just a few weeks ago wherein the Brisbane Lord Mayor was complaining about the spend per head on infrastructure in Central Queensland. In Central Queensland we have been above the state average in terms of infrastructure spending for the past few years. A couple of years back it was about \$4,200 per person and now it is up to \$4,700, which is 66 per cent above the state average.

We are talking about a whole range of infrastructure projects here: Rookwood Weir, the Gracemere Highway duplication, the correctional centre, the Rocky art gallery, roads, roads and more roads, and the list goes on. This highlights the investment the Palaszczuk government is making in regional Queensland. I am pleased to say that 61.2 per cent of infrastructure spending is outside the Greater Brisbane area. This budget will be providing a \$973 million infrastructure spend for Central Queensland, supporting over 3,000 jobs. In the health budget we will see record funding of \$691 million, up \$30 million.

The staff of the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service have been working under very challenging times with the impact of COVID-19 and I thank them for the amazing work they do each and every day. There is \$11 million to progress the new drug rehabilitation centre, the cardiac hybrid theatre and the expansion of the mental health ward. I must again say thank you to the amazing staff of the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service who do a wonderful job in our community. There will be \$1 million towards the North Rockhampton ambulance replacement and \$5.5 million for the Rockhampton ambulance station and operation centre as part of a major refurbishment. I thank the staff there too. Whether they are the staff taking the calls or those responding in the field, they do an outstanding job.

We all know how important education is to securing better life outcomes. It is essential that our schools are maintained. There will be \$1.88 million for the schools in the Rockhampton local government area. There will be \$80,000 for the Allenstown State School for a shade structure over the playground. Glenmore State School will receive \$250,000 to refurbish the covered area. Gracemere State School will receive \$300,000 to upgrade their amenities, \$295,000 to provide the combined netball and tennis courts with a shade structure and also \$400,000 for perimeter fencing. North Rocky Special School will receive \$7.95 million for additional classrooms. One of my favourite schools, the Hall State School, will receive \$1.6 million towards their new hall. Rockhampton State High School will receive \$500,000 of \$2.5 million for the new skills development and training facilities—and the list goes on.

Our \$2.9 billion total housing investment is the largest concentrated investment in social housing in Queensland history. We are investing \$1.9 billion over four years and establishing a \$1 billion Housing Investment Fund to boost housing supply. We are increasing the supply of social and affordable housing by almost 10,000 homes over the life of our Housing Strategy and this will include 7,400 new builds over the next four years. In Central Queensland we are committed to commence 113 new social homes by 1 July 2025 through a planned investment of \$39.9 million over four years. This will support more than 125 jobs. This is in addition to the 48 social housing homes that have been already commenced in Central Queensland since 2017. Given my passion for the provision of housing services, it is also great to see ongoing funding of more than \$3 million for specialist homelessness services.

Across Rockhampton and Central Queensland we will continue to see investment of more than \$120 million in road infrastructure projects like the Bruce Highway between Rockhampton and St Lawrence; completion of the Northern Access Road; the Gracemere Highway duplication which is nearing completion; the Lawrie Street duplication; as well as the additional passing lanes on the Bruce and Capricorn highways. These projects are supporting approximately 1,300 jobs. Let us not forget the billion dollar Rockhampton ring-road that will be commencing next year.

The Speaker has reviewed and approved my budget speech for incorporation and as such I ask that the remainder of my speech is incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

We will see an infrastructure and upgrade spend of \$8.8 million on Bouldercombe substation and \$2.4 million for the Gracemere substation to ensure the continued reliability of electricity supply to the local areas.

There is assistance for our small businesses to help them enter new international markets or looking at opportunities to explore new export markets. This is good for business and good for jobs growth.

The Palaszczuk Government is serious about training and apprentices with Skilling Queenslanders for Work assisting up to 1119 people to get job ready skills through funding of \$5.9 million in the Central Queensland region

I enjoyed attending the graduations and saw participants had graduated with new skills, experience and qualifications that would help them break into jobs like Individual Support (Aged and Disability) care, horticulture, construction workforces or launch their own small business.

Each of these projects built up participants' self-esteem and motivation as well as the general everyday skills that are needed in any workplace. It is great to hear these projects are fostering new small businesses, green thumbs and builders who are looking to contribute to the local economy

At one of the recent graduations there were only a couple of participants there as more than 20 others weren't able to attend the graduation because they got a job.

The Back To Work, has provided \$34.4m to the Central Qld Region assisting 1308 employers to employ 2,937 previously unemployed jobseekers.

Palaszczuk Government's support of Local Government through the Works for Queensland has seen the Rockhampton Regional Council deliver projects like the Airport upgrade, pathways at the botanical gardens, upgrades to playground equipment, the replacement of the boardwalk along the Fitzroy and many other projects. We have seen hundreds of jobs supported through this very important program across Central Queensland communities.

There is so much more in the budget across other portfolios like our Police, Fire and Emergency services and Corrective Services areas and very importantly organisations that provide support for the residents of Rockhampton and Central Queensland. I am pleased to be delivering a good budget for the people of the Rockhampton Electorate.

I congratulate the Treasurer and Minister for Investment the Hon Cameron Dick on a budget for all Queenslanders.

I commend the bill to the House.



Ms CAMM (Whitsunday—LNP) (5.18 pm): I rise to contribute to the Appropriations Bill and in particular outline my concerns, which have been shared by my colleagues, around budget cuts to infrastructure spending of \$4 billion, the need for this government to borrow to pay wages just to keep the lights on and a government that sells an asset to itself. After the handing down of the budget, many across our state would be thinking that is nothing more than creative accounting. I would like to touch first on the portfolios that I am responsible for, including child safety and child protection.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. The Minister for Education and the member for Nanango will cease their quarrelling across the chamber.

Ms CAMM: First I would like to address the budget for child safety. I share the views of the Leader of the Opposition, who today expressed our support for the increase in the frontline workforce of child safety through the provision of an additional 154 frontline workers over the next two years. I encourage the minister to engage significantly across the child safety sector to ensure the culture and policy position are such that funding is utilised in a way that will protect children.

I also encourage the minister to consider greater additional funding to create frameworks and structures to help support those in our communities who want to engage in foster care. I know from speaking to foster-carers and those applying to become foster-carers that it can take over a year and a half to process applications. When it takes longer to fall pregnant and deliver a child than to become a foster-carer in this state there is room for improvement. We have willing and able community members who have much to give and we need to do a lot better in that space.

I will touch on the domestic violence portfolio. It is very pleasing to see that the government has released a statement for women. It is also pleasing to see that they have adopted the Morrison approach to economic security and safety for women. Earlier this year, the federal government delivered the most significant budget allocation for women. It is very pleasing to see the alignment of the Labor state government with the federal Liberal National Party, which is investing in women's security and safety. In the area of protection for women, in this state Labor budget it is disappointing to see a commitment of only \$7.5 million per year over the next four years. A commitment of \$30 million could bolster desperately needed and underfunded domestic violence services.

It is also disappointing to compare this state's contribution to that of Victoria, which has contributed significantly to domestic and family violence services. This government leaves the sector wanting. On the back of the \$25 million that was allocated by the Scott Morrison coalition government in response to COVID-19 and domestic and family violence, this state government has contributed only \$7.5 million, which is only 29 per cent of the federal government's contribution. In comparison, their Victorian counterparts committed \$20 million, which is 65 per cent. Those working across the sector would have been pleased if we had seen a similar percentage contribution from this state government.

I take this opportunity to advocate on behalf of the sector. Last month in Mount Isa I had the great privilege of attending a meeting of the Queensland Domestic Violence Services Network. It was disappointing that the minister was unable to attend a meeting with those stakeholders, but I certainly valued their time and the opportunity to speak with them about what they think is needed to ensure that their funding is sustainable into the long term.

COVID has had a number of impacts. In fact, we hear that from this government every single day in the House. However, there is no recognition that the funding allocated to domestic violence services only touches the surface. It really only makes up for the lack of funding that we already had. COVID has made that worse. We need an increase in core funding to support domestic violence services each and every year over four years so that those services can have certainty about retention, strategies for their staff, workforce development, upskilling and the ability to deal with the complex issues that they see day in, day out. I recognise the high-risk teams that take a coordinated approach and are working well across the state. However, with an increase in funding we would be able to help more women, children and others who come forward after experiencing trauma or domestic and family violence.

My electorate of Whitsunday starts in the Northern Beaches of Mackay, which is the fastest growing part of the Mackay local government area, and extends to north of Airlie Beach. We contribute significantly to this state's economy. Therefore, it is disappointing to see the lack of investment in infrastructure projects across regional Queensland and across the Whitsundays and Mackay in particular. The lack of economic infrastructure leaves regional Queensland wanting. I have heard many ministers in this House talk about the Bruce Highway. However, we see a \$4 billion cut to infrastructure funding at a time when the state government is already \$6 billion behind in maintenance funding for the Bruce Highway. I invite the ministers to drive my part of the Bruce Highway, as has our shadow minister, the member for Chatsworth.

Mr O'Connor: He might cycle it. Can he bring the lycra?

Ms CAMM: If the minister would like to cycle the Bruce Highway I would happily host him in my region. He would be risking his life but I encourage him to come along.

In my community we do not have a shortage of projects. We have a long list of projects that the government could have chosen to fund, but instead they have fallen short of the mark. We have a skills shortage across the Whitsundays community. We have a housing shortage. We have a health services shortage. It is disappointing that the Labor government chose to reannounce projects that have been under construction since Cyclone Debbie. No new projects have been announced for the Whitsunday electorate. In fact, most of our projects will be almost finished by the last quarter of this year. The budget contains reannouncements of the Mackay Ring Road and upgrades to the Bruce Highway that I can drive on. We can proudly announce that the ring-road is finished and has actually been opened, yet it is in the budget.

The feasibility studies for the Mackay Bucasia Road upgrades have been pushed out in the forward estimates to 2023-34. That is a critical road in and out of the Northern Beaches of Mackay. It is a critical road to transport children to and from school. It is a critical road for emergency services. It is a critical road for commuters. However, this state Labor government has no plan for that road. It has not allocated funding to build the duplication of that road.

There has not been an exclusive investment in social or community housing for the region. Recently the shadow minister for housing visited the region and the response that we received, through the media, from the member for Mackay was that there are 10 new social houses being built in Mackay. Isn't that fantastic for the 800 applicants awaiting social housing across Mackay and the Whitsundays!

I had the privilege of speaking to both local mayors in the past 24 hours. The Whitsunday and Mackay regional councils welcome the Works for Queensland program and as a former deputy mayor I see the value in that program.

An honourable member interjected.

Ms CAMM: I take that interjection. I will speak about George Christensen because he has delivered more in infrastructure funding for the seat of Mackay and the seat of Whitsunday than this state Labor government has in its entire term.

Mr O'Connor: What is his margin?

Ms CAMM: I take that interjection from the member for Bonney. I think his margin is sitting at about 13½ per cent across the safe Labor seat of Mackay.

The Labor government continue to ignore the Whitsunday region. They continue to ignore the health demands in a regional community. Recently I visited the Proserpine Hospital with the newly appointed chair and CEO. I was very pleased to engage with the local health service and I acknowledge the amazing work that they do. However, it is not pleasing that there is no funding for the renal dialysis unit, which the Labor government committed to during the election. A local resident in my community, Navio, has been fighting for a renal dialysis unit for a long time. He says—

We need facilities closer to the people who require this service. I can't see why the Queensland Government keeps talking about how good their health system is, but a centre like Proserpine doesn't have this service.

While I am all for an increase in services for people all across Queensland, nothing infuriates me more than seeing announcements for new satellite hospitals in South-East Queensland so that people can be closer to services when people in my community have to risk their lives driving on the goat track that is the Bruce Highway to access renal dialysis. People who are elderly have to make that trip twice a week. It is appalling.

I would also like to touch on the announcement that was made for the Resources Centre of Excellence that is outlined in the budget. It is a fantastic facility. It, too, is open.

The \$7 million that is outlined in the budget statements and the promotional material is inaccurate because the Mackay Regional Council co-contributed half of that funding on the back of the former leader, the member for Nanango, who made that commitment after the last election. It is fantastic and I thank and recognise Mackay Regional Council for their contribution.

This budget also delivered no water infrastructure. I see the minister there on the other side of the House. I have written to both the minister and the Deputy Prime Minister because Urannah Dam is ready to go. It is ready to go to deliver water security for the Whitsundays. It is ready to go to deliver renewable energy. It is also ready to go to ensure agriculture across our community is supported and expanded.

It is also disappointing to see no new tourism infrastructure. I would like to recognise the hard work of my RTO, the way in which they engage partnerships with Tourism and Events Queensland and the private sector.

I want to take this opportunity to also acknowledge a very successful event hosted by Kev Collins and Fish D'vine recently which was the White on Whitehaven, a fantastic event.

I would also like to take the opportunity to recognise the leadership of our Tourism Whitsundays CEO, Tash Wheeler, who tendered her resignation yesterday and will be finishing up with the organisation in September. Tash and Pete came to the Whitsundays in 2013. She has grown brand Whitsundays. Her family has grown during that time. She has demonstrated tremendous leadership on the back of COVID and the impacts on the tourism sector. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of everyone in the Whitsundays community and the broader state tourism community to recognise her efforts.

Today is the show holiday in Mackay. I know the member for Mackay would be, like me, wishing we were there, perhaps not sharing any fairy floss together, but certainly engaging with our local show community. Tomorrow it is the local show holiday in Proserpine which is a very exciting event. Cyclone Debbie caused significant disruption and destruction to the grounds, in particular to the pavilion. During the election, I committed to funding the final stage of the pavilion project upgrade. Unfortunately, the state Labor government decided not to fund our rural regional show.

An opposition member: That is just mean.

Ms CAMM: It is mean, but the member for Dawson was able to speak to Minister Littleproud and was able to meet that funding shortfall. They will be opening that on Friday.

I also want to take this opportunity to recognise Brooklyn Lade, India Lade, Georgia Camm, Grace McDonald and Meg Wilson who raised \$30,000 at the recent Proserpine Show Ball which will go a long way to upgrade those facilities. The night was a huge success. Those young women made an enormous contribution in fundraising and it is something which will now be locked into the annual calendar. With the Proserpine Show opening tomorrow, I would like to wish Donna Rogers and her committee all the best as well.

Overall, this budget was disappointing, to say the least, for the people of Whitsundays, but I will continue to fight for the priority projects that are important and continue to advocate for the fair share that we deserve in rural and regional Queensland.



Mr SAUNDERS (Maryborough—ALP) (5.33 pm): I rise to support the appropriation bill, the fantastic budget brought down on Tuesday by the Treasurer. This budget is a massive budget for the Maryborough electorate. We will start off talking trains. Everyone knows I love talking trains. There is \$600 million to start the first batch of trains for the Cross River Rail project. We hear those from across the other side saying, 'Cross River Rail is no good,' but when you talk about the Cross River Rail trains, there is a supply chain right throughout regional Queensland. There are jobs being created in regional Queensland—in Townsville, Rockhampton, Maryborough and Ipswich. That is what this train is all about. It is a Queensland train manufactured in Maryborough. Unfortunately, those opposite do not get it. They do not get that the Cross River Rail project is very good for regional Queensland. There is \$600 million to start it off and also a train manufacturing facility. The Palaszczuk government has made Maryborough the train-building capital of Australia. We build the best trains in Australia, if not the world. There is a great skill base in Maryborough to build the trains.

It is like the old Hedgehoppers Anonymous song, 'It's good news week ...'—

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Order!

Mr SAUNDERS: I will continue. I will talk about the new train station, a \$12.4 million investment at Maryborough West. This is brilliant for the whole of the Fraser Coast because when you come up on the tilt train, made in Maryborough, to go on holidays at the Fraser Coast, you will be able to get off at a brand new rail station which will be delivered by the Palaszczuk Labor government. That is what we are doing; we are reinvesting in regional Queensland. The whole of this budget is about making sure that we are keeping jobs in regional Queensland. It is all about jobs in regional Queensland.

The education minister could be the 'Queen of Maryborough' when we look at what is happening with education in Maryborough. Albert School is a very special school, being one of the oldest schools in Maryborough. The Governor went to the Albert School; his father was the principal there. The minister is giving money to upgrade Albert School. Aldridge State High School, Brooweena State School, Granville State School, Parke State School—these are all small schools. The minister has listened to me and we are investing money in these smaller schools, including Tiaro State School, St Helens State School and the Tinana State School.

We care about education on this side of the House, and we make sure that the facilities are up to standard. That is what this education minister has done. We are giving the teachers the wherewithal to turn out the children for the next jobs in this state; that is what we are doing. I would like to thank the minister on behalf of the Maryborough community and particularly the P&C associations I talk to, that are very happy with what is happening with education in the Maryborough electorate.

Then we talk roadworks. I might be here for the next hour because we are talking about a lot of roadworks—a lot of roadworks in the Maryborough electorate! You know when your government is good when people are pulling you up and saying, 'Hey, tell that minister to stop doing roadworks, please.' We have a lot of roadworks happening! The roadworks outlined in this budget are absolutely phenomenal for the electorate. We start with the Tiaro bypass. There is money there to start the consultation and the design work. The minister has listened. We had to drag, and I mean physically drag, the federal member to talk to the Deputy Prime Minister to get the money. We still do not know when the money is coming. We know they have promised it, but we do not have a date. We have put the money in this budget to start the planning and consultation about the four lanes around Tiaro, which is great.

We also have money for the Pialba-Burrum Heads Road intersection, an intersection that is probably the busiest in the Wide Bay. We will start working with the federal government. The federal member for Hinkler said to me, 'I am giving you the money—2024.' I said, 'No, come on, mate. We need that money a bit earlier. This intersection now is very busy.' He is thinking about bringing the money earlier for us, but at the moment it is in the 2024 federal government budget. Our money is there now to start work. I ask both federal members, while they are in Canberra, to go and knock on some doors and get some money and bring it forward for both the projects.


A record health budget once again with \$724 million for the Wide Bay Health and Hospital Service. As we have an ageing population, we thank very much the health minister for working with the member for Bundaberg to make sure we have adequate health services across the WBHHS. There is more good news today—

Ms Boyd: It doesn't stop!

Mr SAUNDERS: I will take that interjection from the member for Pine Rivers. It does not stop for the Maryborough electorate because this Palaszczuk government is delivering for regional Queensland in spades.

Minister de Brenni today announced energy rebates to support regional farmers and employers. The biggest foundry on the east coast of Australia is in the Maryborough electorate. I have worked well with the minister. He has done a fantastic job. I had meetings with him, he listened, he spoke to the foundry people, he spoke to the other stakeholders and the AMWU who represent the workers, and the result is a good result for Maryborough with 125 jobs to stay in the city. The foundry will stay. This is what this government does—we listen. The minister is in the House. The minister's door was open all the time for me. Every time I approached the minister, he sat me down, we talked and looked at it, and he understood the value of this foundry to my community. Thank you, Minister, I really appreciate the work you have done for the workers at the foundry.

Quite obviously, this is a great budget. It is very good for the Maryborough electorate. It is very good for Queenslanders. I hear those on the other side say that no-one in Queensland wanted it. They should get out of their rooms and start getting onto the streets. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (5.39 pm): I rise to speak in the debate on the budget. As many members have said tonight and the Treasurer said himself, this clearly is a Labor budget. It is because it is full of miscommunication and false finances, and it is trying to lead the people of Queensland astray. It is all smoke and mirrors, quite frankly.

I had a wish list for my electorate. This included more police for the southern Gold Coast, CCTV cameras to deter hooning in my electorate and a bus service for Old Burleigh Town. I have been harping on about this for a number of years. I have talked about this with the Minister for Transport. Funnily enough, the Minister for Transport tells me that buses cannot go into Old Burleigh Town. Yet, at the moment, while the M1 is being upgraded there are B-doubles going through there. A private bus runs through there, but apparently TransLink buses cannot go through there. Maybe if the minister came down and had a look he might figure out that in fact that could happen.

I also wanted to see planning and investment for rock barriers around the ocean view track to prevent future closures. That track is closed all the time. Every time there is heavy rain, cold or a fire, rocks fall down onto the track and destroy it and then it gets closed for a period of time. These problems happen in other parts of the world. This is not that hard to fix. We just need a viable solution and a bit of money spent on it. If the Minister for the Environment could think about that in the future that would be wonderful.

I was wanting more beds and frontline workers, better service delivery to cut hospital wait times and less ambulance ramping. We do not need bigger ramps at our hospitals; we need fewer ambulances waiting to get patients into beds. We have been talking about this for a long time. The Labor Party is terrible at managing the health system, and it is getting worse by the day.

On the wish list was the delivery of the promised classrooms and upgrades at the Palm Beach State School and the Palm Beach Currumbin State High School. I thank the Minister for Education for sending an email today outlining the expenditure in my schools. It is very nice to have a minister who talks to opposition members every now and then. We are getting that funding. Palm Beach State School is getting \$7.9 million out of the \$10.6 million for new classrooms. Palm Beach Currumbin State High School is getting \$5.1 million of the \$10 million for a new hall. I welcome those things. I welcome the \$500,000 in funding for general upgrades at the Burleigh Heads State School. I welcome the \$600,000 for Caningeraba State School's refurbishment of block 5.

I also wanted to see the fast-tracking of the M1 upgrades. Unfortunately, this budget has allocated only \$200 million out of a \$1 billion project. That is only 20 per cent of the upgrades that the people in my electorate can look forward to over the next 12 months. The federal government has contributed its money. Why is the state government not spending its money and bringing these projects forward?

We also see in the glossy brochure for the Gold Coast that a satellite hospital is going to be built somewhere on the Gold Coast, but we have no idea where it is going to be built. The last I saw, there was a pin on the Treasury website that showed this satellite hospital in the middle of where a brand new church has been built in Burleigh—the biggest church in Burleigh. I can tell members that the Catholic parish was not very happy at all that the government was telling them that it was going to build a hospital on the site of their brand new \$20 million church.

Light Rail stage 3—what a debacle. We see another \$113.8 million allocated to this project in this budget. That takes the total funding the state government has contributed to this project so far to \$191 million. The project has blown out to over \$1.044 billion because of the grubby deal this government has done with the CFMEU, the ETU and the plumbers union. The contract has not yet been signed with John Holland.

Would people not think that this government would reopen the tender given that the project has blown out by 50 per cent—a \$300 million blowout—because of the best practice industrial conditions the government has imposed on this particular project. They have not put it back out to tender. They are instead dealing with the one tenderer that is now in the position to say, 'I am going to get an extra \$330 million for this project. Great; bring it on.' In fact, it is a foreign tenderer. Unfortunately, the federal government fell for the plan that the state government put forward and gave \$126 million to this project without considering where its money was going to go. Its money is quite clearly going to go to the CFMEU, the ETU and the plumbers union.

I thought I would try to find a bit more out about these best practice industrial conditions. I put in a number of RTIs to the department of transport and the department of housing, which has responsibility for procurement. I wanted to see what sort of communication the Minister for Transport may have had with the Minister for Housing and what sort of communication Transport and Main Roads might have had with the ETU, the CFMEU and the plumbers union. I table the responses I received from the RTI section of TMR.

Tabled paper: Bundles of letters from the Department of Transport and Main Roads and the Department of Energy and Public Works, to the member for Burleigh, Mr Michael Hart MP, in regards to right to information applications [\[902\]](#).

They tell me that I cannot see any communication, emails, correspondence or memos between the Department of Transport and Main Roads, the ETU, the CFMEU and the plumbers union because that is cabinet in confidence. Since when do emails and correspondence between a department of government and the ETU, the CFMEU and the plumbers union end up as cabinet in confidence? This is the government that told us in the Governor's speech in 2015 that it would be open, transparent and accountable. It is far from that. We only have to look at this RTI situation. I am being denied information about this.

I wrote to the Minister for Transport on 29 March and asked him to come down to Palm Beach and talk to the people of my electorate about Light Rail stage 4.

Mr Boothman: Has he been yet?

Mr HART: That was on 29 March, member for Theodore. I have not yet been shown the courtesy of a reply. Yet the Minister for Transport has spent all day today trolling my Facebook page to attack me. I have to tell members that it did not end well for him. The people of my electorate absolutely slammed this minister for refusing to come down and talk to them—feigning consultation with the people of my electorate. Apparently, last year they made 500 phone calls to people throughout my electorate to talk about Light Rail stage 4, but I cannot find a person in my electorate who took a phone call from them. That did not happen.

Back to this grubby deal with best practice industry conditions—

Mr Bailey interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Member for Miller, please cease all interjections.

Mr HART:—this has caused a blowout of the Townsville stadium by \$43 million. It has caused a blowout of the Capricornia Correctional Centre, the Cairns Convention Centre and the Gatton correctional centre. I think Cross River Rail is going to get hit pretty severely by this too. I have written to the Auditor-General and I have asked him to have a look at best practice industry conditions—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Excuse me, member for Burleigh, the word 'grubby' is unparliamentary.

Mr HART: I withdraw. I have written to the Auditor-General. I have asked him to look at all best practice industry conditions and to look at how this is going to affect every government contract going forward over the next few years. It has had a 50 per cent effect on Light Rail stage 3. The project is delayed. There will be nothing extra for the people of my electorate from the \$330 million. I urge the Auditor-General to have a look at this. This is really important. It is going to have a detrimental effect on government projects going forward.

I have no idea what it will mean for Light Rail stage 4. It has blown out Light Rail stage 3 by 50 per cent. I think we can anticipate that it will do the same with Light Rail stage 4. It was already estimated to be over \$2 billion. If it blows out by 50 per cent, that will be another billion dollars. It will

just never happen. Quite frankly, it will never happen. I have even written to the Deputy Premier to ask him whether he has conditioned the Gold Coast City Council to look at all the development that is happening along the route because of the possibility of light rail coming in the future. The government has not even thought about these things. That is how incompetent they are.

When it comes to the land titles office, what a farce that is. Last sitting it was valued at \$4.2 billion; now it is valued at \$7.8 billion. If you look at Australian and international accounting standards, you cannot capitalise on something like that unless somebody buys it. Unless somebody pays for it, you cannot capitalise on it. It is against the corporations law, I would suggest. Maybe some of the lawyers in the room—I know there are competent lawyers on our side; I am not sure about the other side—might know about the corporations law—

Mr Russo interjected.

Mr HART: Maybe the member over there could possibly tell us whether this would comply with the corporations law. There is no money changing hands here. It is just capitalising on the land titles office. I had a look to see how much money the land titles office makes—but it is nowhere. There is no money changing hands. They are saying, 'We will put this \$7.8 billion into a fund and we will direct anything it earns towards the completely unfunded Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund, a billion dollars for housing, a couple of billion dollars for health, the Debt Reduction Fund and the \$300 million Path to Treaty action. On page 126 of Budget Paper No. 2 there is a statement that \$1.8 billion of that \$7.8 billion is being set aside for those things.

This is money that the government usually spends on hospitals, schools and more police. All of a sudden this money is being shifted into a fund that is now going to pay for these anonymous renewable energy programs and housing programs that do not exist. The money will not be there. We do not know how much it is. It seems like the Treasurer does not know how much money the land titles office generates.

If you are in business and you want to sell something or you want to put a capital value on something, you look to see how much it earns and then you apply a multiple. It is pretty easy. How can the government have got this so wrong? You apply a multiple of 24 or 30, or whatever it is. You look at how much it makes and multiply it by, let us say, a generous 30 and that is how much it is worth. I cannot imagine how the Treasurer of this state has got this so badly wrong that he could not multiply whatever the titles office earns by 30 and come up with a number.

What I suspect has happened is that they needed an extra \$3.8 billion, so they just decided to value it by \$3.8 billion more. That is like me saying that I use my car for Uber and it earns me \$100 a year and it is worth a billion dollars. So I will take that money to the bank and I will buy a mansion somewhere with that billion dollars worth of equity that has suddenly appeared in my account!

The ratings agencies are not that stupid. They are going to see right through this. We are going to see our credit rating fall through the floor and our interest rates go up. This is smoke and mirrors. This is absolute rubbish. This is Labornomics. This government is messing up this state and it has messed up this budget.

(Time expired)



Mr WALKER (Mundingburra—ALP) (5.54 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Queensland state budget 2021-22. As this is my first opportunity to speak during this sitting of the parliament, I would like to acknowledge the passing of Duncan Pegg, Peggy, and I pass on my sincere condolences to his family and friends. I was fortunate to have a brief opportunity to sit next to Duncan in this place. Although my time knowing him was short, I can truly understand why his loss is being felt so deeply by so many. His legacy as a true community champion, advocate and friend to so many will live on.

This is my second state budget. I am pleased I was elected on some very important key commitments for the people living in the state seat of Mundingburra. I must also add that the return of the Palaszczuk Labor government was due to the Premier, assisted by her Deputy Premier and cabinet, showing strong leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic. We know that this pandemic is still with us, but our COVID economic recovery plan is helping shape our economic future—a strong future focused on jobs, infrastructure and, most importantly, our people.

It is also important that I deliver on my commitments to the people of Mundingburra and to make sure that they get their fair share out of this very important budget. The Queensland record \$22.2 billion health budget is an investment for the people of Queensland, to provide a high standard of health care which all Queenslanders deserve—not like the LNP Morrison government slashing Medicare and placing pressure on Queenslanders to pick up the slack of the federal government and furthermore forcing Queensland families into higher health insurance premiums.

In Townsville, I call on the LNP federal member for Herbert, Phil Thompson, to stand up to Canberra and reinstate the entire Medicare service and also to provide more bulk-billing doctors. Phillip Thompson has failed our ageing community by not providing more aged-care beds to meet the growing demand by our senior Queenslanders.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr WALKER: Those on the other side continually complain, and interject, about the health professionals at Queensland hospitals. There is not a word from them about the Morrison government slashing Medicare or failing to supply more aged-care beds—nothing. They just continually play the blame game and silly politics with people's health. The Queensland opposition leader needs to step up, show some leadership and take Morrison on. Enough is enough.

We on this side of the House know that investing in good quality health care, employing highly trained health professionals and providing job security is extremely important and is the right thing to do. The LNP and the Morrison government just do not get it. The LNP and the Morrison government must now be held to account.

In the seat of Mundingburra is the Townsville University Hospital—the only tertiary referral centre in North Queensland and the largest hospital in Northern Australia. It is important to note that \$17.8 million has been allocated in this budget for the construction projects to improve facilities at the Townsville University Hospital including the expansion of the outpatients department. A new \$1.4 million paediatric cardiology service has also been announced for the hospital to make sure that the 150 young people and their families requiring the service no longer have to travel to Brisbane to receive this very important health care.

The Palaszczuk Labor government continually demonstrates time and time again that it is serious about delivering high-quality health care to the people of Townsville. On Tuesday, 2 June I accompanied the health minister, along with young Bodhi Campbell, who has used the hospital emergency services on several occasions. It was a privilege to see young Bodhi, his mother and the health minister open the new \$1.6 million paediatric emergency services department at the Townsville University Hospital. This new purpose-built facility provides 12 new emergency services beds for young people separate from the adult emergency services department—another great improvement to health services in Townsville.

Education is fundamental to the development of our future leaders. Six schools across the seat of Mundingburra will be beneficiaries of an \$11.1 million investment in new and existing education facilities. The Townsville Community Learning Centre will receive a total of \$7.9 million to build additional learning spaces and commence the early stage of the new school hall facility; Wulguru State School will receive \$350,000 to refurbish learning spaces; William Ross State High School, \$400,000 to refurbish their science lab; Oonoonba State School will receive \$256,000 of \$500,000 for a covered link to the hall; Cranbrook State School will get \$700,000 for a school security fence and \$200,000 to upgrade the year 6 playground; Currajong State School, \$280,000 to install a lift to the existing raised covered walkway to allow access to blocks A and C; and a further million dollars for additional maintenance and minor works for schools across the seat of Mundingburra.

Whilst we on this side of the House invest in education and our young people, the Leader of the Opposition, as the former member for Mundingburra and minister for local government under Campbell Newman, was responsible for selling and closing schools. That is right; the Leader of the Opposition sold schools and closed schools. This morning he stated in this place that he wanted to be transparent and accountable. I call on him to come into this place and admit that he was a member of the Campbell Newman government that sold schools and closed schools. It would be a good starting point and the right thing to do. I still talk to families who remember when the Stuart State School was closed. Mothers cried, young ones were forced to find new schools and there was increased travel for families. It was an absolute shame.

On a more positive note, there is more great news from the budget for the Mundingburra electorate when it comes to roads, intersection upgrades and shared pathways, including Stuart Drive between University Road and Bowen Road Bridge, \$1.3 million for design, survey, geotechnical investigation and public utilities relocation. This is very exciting news for those who travel that stretch of road on a regular basis. One of my key commitments at the last state election was to build four lanes along this section of road. My commitment to the people of Mundingburra is that we will get this done! University Road received \$300,000 for new noise barriers; intersection upgrade planning at Discovery Drive and Yolanda Drive, \$331,000; Rooney's Bridge rehabilitation works, \$473,000; construction of a


shared pathway at the Douglas Cycleway, Discovery Drive to Yolanda Drive, \$895,000; design of a shared pathway from Angus Smith Drive and Parkinson Road to Joseph Banks Avenue, \$22,500; construction of a priority crossing at the Stuart Drive and Gartrell Drive intersection, \$31,000; and planning for an intersection upgrade to access the Townsville University Hospital, \$60,000.

It is great to see the \$122.7 million allocated for the First Home Owners' Grant in this budget. This is fantastic news for those wanting to purchase their own home. It also creates jobs. There is also a new action plan and a \$2.9 billion investment that is set to fast-track social housing delivery. Under this action plan, projects and initiatives will be fast-tracked to increase the supply of social housing across the state and, more importantly, in Townsville. Another very important announcement is the \$1.9 billion to be spent over four years to boost housing supply and increase housing and homelessness support across Queensland. This investment will increase housing stock and assist more vulnerable Queenslanders into homes quicker. This is another important area where the Morrison government has failed and, more importantly, the member for Herbert, Phil Thompson.

The recently passed Youth Justice and Other Legislation Bill 2021 is working. In the 2 June 2021 edition of the *Townsville Bulletin*, Superintendent Newton was quoted as saying that the changes made a 'significant impact' for police. He further stated, 'Probably most important to us is that presumption against bail and the involvement of parents. I think that's what will have an impact, and a continued impact.' No amount of crime is acceptable. That is why it is important to invest in more police and resources to manage offenders.

Police and Corrective Services are a very important part of this budget. As promised during the 2020 election campaign, the building of a new police station at Kirwan is now recognised in the budget. In the coming weeks I will accompany the police minister to the induction ceremony of more police for North Queensland. The Palaszczuk Labor government is investing in police and police resources—not like the LNP, who sack, cut and sell. That is right; if the LNP got into power we would not have a police training facility in Townsville to train extra police.

Corrective Services will get a further \$20.6 million in the budget to complete the construction of the extra 398-bed Capricornia Correctional Centre facility and a further \$320 million to commence construction of a further 1,000-bed facility at the Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct. The total cost of construction is \$654 million. That is right; more capacity in our Queensland Corrective Services facilities to lock up criminals. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (6.05 pm): This budget is a triumph of spin over substance. I think the member for Everton made that point in his contribution to the debate a little while ago. Not only is it a triumph of spin over substance; it is a budget of hope over experience—hope that things will be better and experience under Labor that we know they will not. It is built on a combination of wishful thinking, financial trickery and windfall gains. It promises much but delivers so little. It spins more but delivers less.

As far as spin goes, the Treasurer has spent all week claiming debt will be less, but the budget papers reveal just the opposite. In each year that this Treasurer has been in office, total state debt increases. It goes up. In fact, out to 2024-25 the current budget papers show borrowing with the Queensland Treasury Corporation increasing by about \$10 billion a year until 2023, then \$7 billion, followed by a final tranche of \$5 billion in 2024-25. That is almost \$43 billion in additional borrowing since just 2020. Under Labor, since 2019 borrowings with QTC have increased by an eye-watering \$51.5 billion. In five years under Labor borrowings have exceeded the previous 165 years of borrowing of the state of Queensland. That puts it all in perspective if you ever needed it. With lease liabilities included, the total is an even more staggering \$56.9 billion.

Where is most of this debt being incurred? We were continually told, 'It doesn't matter. It's in the government owned corporation sector. They earn an income, and that will pay the interest on the debt.' We know that the government owned corporation sector is flatlining. It is getting less. The government owned generators are not even going to produce any revenue for this government in the last two years of the forwards under this budget. It is so uncertain that they cannot tell. Of the \$56 billion, 53 of it is going into the general government sector.

To hear the Treasurer talking about less debt is not only an assault on the truth—which no-one is terribly surprised about—not only is it an assault on reality—which no-one is terribly surprised about—but it is an assault on his own budget papers and an assault on common sense and the future prosperity of Queenslanders, because today's debt is simply tomorrow's increased Labor taxes. To hear the

Treasurer claim in exultant tones, as he does over there making his pitch for votes from the backbench, that Labor's debt is going to be marginally less than last year's horror projections is like hearing a drunk claiming to have beaten the bottle because he only drank 3½ bottles of scotch and not the full four.

To continue the analogy, the promise of the so-called Debt Reduction Fund is like the same drinker downing a tumbler of water between bottles in the hope that the hangover will not be so bad the next day. Who is going to have the hangover? The people of Queensland are going to be paying the price.

If that debt was being used in the main for increasing the capital stock, if we were actually going to get something tangible and productive from it, we might be inclined to accept the increased level of borrowing, but again the budget figures show this is not happening. The figures show that net debt is still getting worse. It is blowing out. Since 2019 it has blown out by \$42.6 billion. What does the Treasurer's own budget papers say about net debt? At page 131 it says that net debt—

... indicates the soundness of the government's fiscal position, as high levels of net debt will require servicing through interest payments and limit flexibility to adjust expenditure.

By their own measure, by their own papers, not only is it getting worse but also they are being told what the consequences of it getting worse are—that is, less flexibility and higher interest payments. The figures show that a large part of the borrowing is not being used to increase the capital stock of the state—the things Queensland needs like roads, ports and railways that facilitate economic growth and activity. If that were occurring, then for every cent that was borrowed and a liability incurred, there would be an asset of the same value and the net debt would not be getting worse, but it is. There would be an asset being built to the value of the borrowing to help generate the income necessary to pay the interest on the debt. They have to pay it some time, especially with the \$21 billion that QTC had borrowed by the end of May and had already locked in. The massive increase in net debt tells us that is not happening.

Not one cent of existing debt has been identified as being paid down. There is no less debt expected this year than was achieved last year or the year before that or the year before that. There are fiscal deficits every year and have been for every year since 2017-18 under Labor. The spin that this is all about COVID and that it is COVID related borrowing is just that: it is just spin. Debt and deficits were well and truly locked in before COVID.

Mr Bailey: You can do better than that.

Mr NICHOLLS: This Treasurer is just making them worse. I take the interjection from the member for Miller. He said, 'You can do better.' We can do a lot better than this government has ever been able to do. We can do a lot better. If he just waits a little longer, I will tell him how we did do it so much better. You can only repay debt by actually paying it off. It has got to be less. You cannot do it by shuffling the deck chairs on the *Titanic*. That does not work.

Because the Treasurer knows this is the case but cannot or will not do anything to fix the problem, he is now inventing a new mantra. He says that Queensland debt is not a problem. He says that we should embrace borrowing more. He says that we should borrow more but actually get less. He tries to convince Queenslanders that there is no consequence of Labor's debt binge and their failure to have a path out of ever-increasing borrowings. Just this morning we heard the Treasurer with his continued attempts to spin away Labor's failure to control its spending. He referred, if memory serves me, to the LNP government, which he does all the time. It is a fixation with him. He must study the figures and wonder, 'How can I do as well as the LNP government?' He reads my speeches and even quotes them back at me. They say that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

What he failed to point out is that the LNP government started off in our term in government inheriting five years of Labor fiscal deficits totalling more than \$22 billion. We were \$22 billion behind when we started in 2012, and two years of operating deficits under Andrew Fraser and Anna Bligh. The member for Woodridge, the member for Inala and the member for McConnel were all sitting around the cabinet table approving those budgets each and every year that it happened. When we started with Labor's accumulated losses already in the operating statement on 1 July 2012, we had a mammoth task. Despite the lead weight in the saddles, we managed to turn those operating losses around in just one year—after starting more than \$22 billion behind.

We dealt with unexpected shocks too. We dealt with things like ex Tropical Cyclone Oswald, the plunge in coal royalties of more than 20 per cent and a 10 per cent drop in predicted stamp duties that had been boosted by Andrew Fraser, Anna Bligh and the member for Woodridge as a member of that cabinet. They were expecting to get 14 per cent year-on-year growth in stamp duty revenues at the height of the global financial crisis.

Despite everything the Labor government says, our purchase of non-financial capital assets—that is, the productive stock like schools, hospitals, roads and ports—was higher in our first year of government than every year under Labor from 2015 all the way until 2020. From 2013 onwards, our fiscal balance was better than every year under Labor from 2008-09. Who can forget, like they want to forget, that Queensland under Labor was paying a higher interest rate on its debt than the state of Tasmania? That is who they measured themselves against. On top of that, they had sold off \$15 billion worth of assets, but guess what. The debt still did not go down. They spent it all. They wasted it.

No-one says that borrowing to fill holes in revenue caused by unexpected events should never be undertaken. That is not my position and it has never been my position, but when borrowing continues year in, year out as it has under Labor since 2017 the excuse wears thin. It bells the cat on Labor's claim that borrowing to pay the bills is only COVID related. It is Labor habit and it is Labor mismanagement pure and simple.

There is so much more that I could say in relation to the debt and the deficit, but I want to move on now to talk about Labor's financial trickery and the way they have in fact benefitted from the great initiatives of the federal LNP government. These are the windfall gains that this government have benefitted from. There is an extra \$1.5 billion this year alone from the GST and continuing increases of 5.4 per cent next year and five per cent for the following three years. Can we remember them bleating about the GST? Year in, year out, they said that there was not enough and that we were not seeing any of the money. Now the rivers of gold are flowing their way because of the extra funds arising from the federal government's outstanding COVID responses, including the billions provided through JobKeeper and JobSeeker which kept being spent in Australia and boosted the economy.

Then there is the second windfall of stamp duty, with a 21.4 per cent windfall this year and 24.5 per cent next year. People have confidence because the Morrison government has kept them in jobs and kept their businesses operating. Not only are they buying their houses to live in; they are buying investment properties as well. We remember what Labor wanted to do with investment properties. We all remember Bill Shorten's successful policy. How did that negative gearing policy go? That went well. Take that home, Mundingburra, and see how that went for you. No wonder Phillip Thompson is doing so well up there. No wonder he is slaying the Labor Party up there and he will continue to do so.

Then there is the trickery. The titles office financial trickery has all the hallmarks of the bankers out of Russia and all of those places. It was \$4 billion three weeks ago and \$8 billion three weeks later. If it was so great, table the valuation. If it makes so much sense, table the valuation. They say commercial-in-confidence, but hang on a second. Who else is competing with the titles office in Queensland? No-one. Not a single soul. Where is the money coming from? There is all this financial trickery but no-one actually says. Is it a loan? Is it debt? Is QTC being asked to pay for it? Are QIC going to the market to fund it? How is it being funded? There is not a word in the budget papers. It is completely opaque. It is complete financial trickery.

In the minute remaining I turn to the seat of Clayfield. We see a heat map put out by the government showing where they are spending money. I can tell honourable members that the heat map is icy cold when it comes to Clayfield, but that is nothing new. We take on all comers and we are very happy to take on the Labor Party; they have been trying for a long time.

The member for Miller waltzed out in his cardigan last year to announce an upgrade of the Woolloowin Railway Station. Why does he not do the Albion one that he promised five years ago first? We are still waiting on it. He was going to supersize the Albion Railway Station. All we got is a super delay from a super dud. The schools are missing out. Kedron State High School is still in a hall from 1960 despite having 1,800 students.

This is a dud budget from a dud government led by a Treasurer with no skill and no ability.

(Time expired)



Mr SKELTON (Nicklin—ALP) (6.20 pm): I rise in support of the appropriation bills for the 2021-22 budget. Before I go on, I would like to offer my condolences to the family of Duncan Pegg. He was a great member and an excellent parliamentarian. It is a great loss that we all share.

Onto the budget, and it is a terrific Labor budget. How good is it to be a Queenslanders? We may have lost Origin 1, but as the Treasurer explained when handing down this budget, we are ahead of all the other states in the important economic indicators. I thank the Palaszczuk Labor government and the people of Queensland who have united to recover, and we are doing that sensationally.

The challenges that we face are correctly the focus of this budget: infrastructure, public health, education and social housing. Underpinning this investment in the future, we are creating jobs, jobs and—wait for it—more jobs. It is a Labor budget with Labor values backing Queensland workers and their families.

On the Sunshine Coast \$730 million is being spent on infrastructure, creating 2,300 jobs. So many of my local tradespeople are benefitting from this construction bonanza. An amount of \$1.4 billion is being invested in health services, \$140.5 million in education and \$38.5 million for social housing. We are on the road to recovery and so is the electorate of Nicklin. As a community and a state, the positive and immediate actions that have been taken regarding the pandemic have put us in the best position of any state in the country.

I thank the member for Miller and his department for all the work they are doing and continue to do in my electorate: the Beerburrum to Nambour rail upgrade stage 1; pedestrian refuge on the Yandina South connection road; and widening works on Kiamba Road, from Image Flat Road to Wattle Road. These are some, but there are other projects that will ease the burden of congestion and unblock the arteries of the Sunshine Coast so good services and people can get to where they are needed.

I would also like to say thank you for the allocation of \$20 million for the Sunshine Coast Stadium. I would like to acknowledge my friend the member for Caloundra. We are going for the NRL bid for the Dolphins and we do have an upcoming Olympics. We would like to be considered on the Sunshine Coast. This is a responsible government that gets things done.

The Queensland public health service has been critical as we navigate the ravages of the unforeseen COVID-19 pandemic. The Palaszczuk Labor government has allocated a record spend of \$22.2 billion over this budget cycle. An amount of \$1.4 billion of this is allocated to services on the Sunshine Coast. In my electorate of Nicklin, Nambour General Hospital will have \$31 million spent on it this financial year as it transforms into a subacute facility. This is in addition to restoring frontline services on the Sunshine Coast to the tune of 310 extra doctors, 979 extra nurses and 72 extra paramedics since the Palaszczuk government was elected in 2015, and these figures will continue to grow as they are needed. I really must say I appreciate the agility of our health system as we had COVID cases just days before the Sunshine Coast show. The speed that extra vaccinations became available and the quick activation of an additional testing site at Caloundra aerodrome ensured that the show did go on. That demonstrates a fast-acting and responsive government getting things done.

The education system has had \$140.5 million allocated to schools on the Sunshine Coast. The local schools that will benefit are: Burnside State High School, which will see work started on a new performing arts facility; Chevallum State School, a refurbishment of block 15; Nambour State College, refurbishment of block M including five learning spaces; and Yandina State School, a senior playground upgrade. I know that many schools in my electorate, particularly the older ones, are struggling with increased demand and old, run-down facilities. I hope to have some of the maintenance funds allocated to those schools. The Palaszczuk Labor government can be trusted with education. We owe it to our children to get things done.

I am pleased to see the record spend on social housing delivered in this budget. I look forward to the completion of 16 units off Arundell Avenue in Nambour, which will be delivered in September. Eight of these dwellings are platinum standard and eight are gold standard. This means that they will be home to some of our most disadvantaged. In addition, I noted that funds have been allocated to NGOs in the electorate: Coast2Bay housing group and Kyabra Community Association, both located in Nambour. Across the Sunshine Coast many other organisations have likewise been funded. A Palaszczuk Labor government committed to getting things done.

Whilst we are talking about the budget I would like to mention something regarding funds but on a much more micro scale. How good are community gambling benefit grants? You can embark on huge projects such as hospitals, roads, schools et cetera. Indeed we must. When one of these many community groups are afforded one of these grants, it is just so pleasing. It is personal and means so much to these groups. I am sure that all members in this chamber appreciate the work of the Attorney-General's office in providing these grants. It demonstrates community and government working together to get things done.

The farmers' and fishermen's friend, the member for Ferny Grove, has visited my electorate and enjoyed a bit of time at the Sunshine Coast, cracking a whip and impressing the public. The new glasshouse at the Maroochy research facility is now complete. The work done there that supports our primary producers is truly amazing. I look forward to the official opening.

Work is nearly completed on the new police station in Nambour. At long last our officers can move out of the portable buildings that they have endured for so long. It is on track for scheduled completion in September this year. I look forward to joining the minister on Monday to oversee the work that is getting done. The new Cooroy Police Station is in the planning phase and work is due to start soon with an opening date of 2023—in the same month. The additional staff to the region will be most welcome when the appropriate facilities are completed to accommodate them.

Finally, with regards to skills, there is more support for our TAFE college, specialising in courses in the growth jobs in our region such as nursing, aged care and hospitality to name but a few. There is more funding for our small businesses who in the regional areas like the hinterland are big employers. The minister visited and spoke with some of the business community earlier in the year and has acted. The chambers of commerce will get a chance to talk with the Treasurer next week thanks to the member for Caloundra and his chamber. The Palaszczuk Labor government and the ministers listen and get things done.

Mr Speaker has reviewed and approved my budget speech for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

Justice:

Speaker, Thank you to the Member for Waterford.

The commitment of funds to tackle the social issues that prevail in not just mine but every electorate in sometimes different ways. We have seen important and protective legislation pass in this house.

A continued commitment over four years to tackle domestic violence and provide family services is completely necessary.

The sense of community and the various not for profit groups that offer respite and care in Nicklin will benefit from a more sensitive and far-sighted government.

Responsible government looking after the most vulnerable Queenslanders. A government committed to getting things done.

Local Government:

Speaker, With gratitude to the Deputy Premier and Member for Murrumbidgee,

This state government invests in the community. The beautiful rural gem of Cooroy has benefited from this government's far-sighted support of Local Government initiatives. An almost \$3 mill commitment to the Hinterland Adventure Playground that will be completed in December this year and the Butter Factory fencing, has been gratefully received.

Nambour Aquatic Centre splash and slide and play zone.

Yandina Cricket Club, and upgrade to amenities for females and all abilities.

Speaker, this tiny snapshot of the good, community support that Nicklin has benefited from, in this budget only demonstrates the commitment of the Palaszczuk government to the well-being of its people.

Tourism, Innovation and Sport:

Speaker, Commendation to the Member for Sandgate.

The Nambour Crushers Rugby League Club upgrades to the clubhouse incorporating female change rooms, kitchen, training and meeting rooms. These are in the planning phase with construction due to start early next year.

The Palmwoods Cricket Club and Hinterland Blues shared facility has risen out of the ground and is due to be finished later this year.

Tree Tops mini adventure playground is now open.

It looks likely that not only the people of Nicklin will benefit but people from across the state.

Economic facts

Latest economic data shows that household spending, dwelling approvals, dwelling investment, construction starts, all growing faster than the rest of Australia.

Data just in from the Australian Bureau of Statistics in particular show that the Economic Recovery Plan is working.

The unemployment rate in Queensland posted the largest fall in the nation, falling to 5.4%—now below its pre-COVID level.

Employment increased by 32,300 last month—more than 1,000 jobs created every day. Queensland is now 84,900 jobs above its pre-COVID level in March last year—the highest in the nation. And the Queensland labour market did all of this while the participation rate—the share of people in work or seeking work—increased to 66.6%, almost half a percentage point above the national average.

The Palaszczuk Government has added 337,400 jobs since we came to office. And our Budget continues that good work.

Our domestic economy by 3% over the past 12 months, one-and-a-half times more than the national economy at just 1.9%.

We have created more jobs since the depths of the pandemic than anywhere else in Australia. Queensland has added 253,200 jobs since May 2020—more than any other state or territory. There are 54,900 more jobs in Queensland now than there were before the pandemic—again, more than any other state or territory.

Budget facts

Deficits

Compared to the last budget, Queensland deficits much smaller, showing a collective \$6 billion improvement.

The deficits get progressively smaller as the economy strengthens over the forward estimates.

We return to operating balance in 2024-25 with a small surplus of \$153 million.

Of the four largest Governments in Australia to go into deficit due to COVID, Queensland is the first to show a surplus.

Debt

Net debt for Queensland 2021-22 is \$25.5 billion. This represents a \$9.7 billion decrease in debt, relative to our forecasts last year. That is the single biggest reduction in net debt ever recorded by the Queensland Government.

We have been able to achieve that reduction in debt without cutting services.

We have done it without any new or increased taxes.

And we have done it without sacking public servants and without selling public assets.

Debt Comparisons

Our net debt \$25.5 billion for 2021-22, compares to:

\$67.8 billion in New South Wales,

\$102 billion in Victoria, and

\$729 billion for the Commonwealth.

In the final year of the forward estimates (2024-25), our net debt will be \$42.6 billion, compares to:

\$96.7 billion for New South Wales (2023-24, Budget next week),

\$156.3 billion for Victoria, and

\$980.6 billion for the Commonwealth.

Lower net debt means we are better able to respond to future shocks, such as natural disasters, with additional spending

Speaker, This, budget has something for everyone and the Ministers that I may have missed are contributing to Nicklin in an indirect way by increasing the output of their respective departments and I have provided but a brief snapshot of my region.

The economic recovery is at full throttle because of a Labor Palaszczuk government. Queensland, the Hinterland and its people are resilient and have survived the worst of the world-wide Covid 19 pandemic and global recession.

The Premier, Deputy Premier, Treasurer and the cabinet of this Palaszczuk government have led Queensland through this difficult time. The mandate of majority is proof of the belief that Queensland has in the Labor Party to lead them through tough times. As we always have historically.

As representative of the people of Nicklin. I fully support this budget and its commitment to my region and our great state, our proud people.

To reiterate, The Palaszczuk Labor Government has been endorsed by the people as it is for the people. There is a plan that is already in progress. Queenslanders and the Palaszczuk Labor government are getting things done.



Mr WEIR (Condamine—LNP) (6.27 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Appropriation Bill 2021. The Premier, Anastacia Palaszczuk, and the Treasurer, Cameron Dick, have stated that this is a typical Labor budget. They are right; it is a typical Labor budget full of dodgy accounting, black holes, announcements that are not funded or only exist somewhere out there in the never-never. There is no greater example of this than the announcement of the \$2 billion Queensland Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund which comes under my role as shadow minister for energy. They claim it is \$2 billion. The government has already committed a good portion of the initial \$500 million and the budget accounts for another \$500 million. That still leaves \$1 billion unaccounted for.

The minister responded to my question without notice by telling the House about the two lots of \$500 million and seemed to think that this added up to \$2 billion. I say to the minister that is not so. What we have is a \$1 billion black hole and there is still no detail on what objectives this fund will achieve. This one is well and truly out in the never-never.

I have asked the minister on a number of occasions where is the plan for the renewable energy target? There is no spending set aside for developing a plan to hit the 50 per cent renewable target by 2030. As seen in the Service Delivery Statements, the target for 2022 is 22 per cent. There is no plan on how to double renewables in eight years time whilst maintaining a stable, reliable and affordable grid. There is no plan. It does not exist.

Oddly, there is a note buried in the Service Delivery Statements which states that the 2021-22 target does not take into account all renewable energy generation projects currently committed. Why not? The minister should aim high and show Queensland he is serious about it. Why set himself a target he knows he is going to hit? He is marking his own homework and provides no basis for how he derived the 20 per cent.

It contains a mere \$5 million to spend on renewable energy zones. We know from the New South Wales experience that if you are serious about this, it takes an investment in the tens of billions of dollars from both the private and public sector. There appear to be a lot of press releases but very few dollars to deliver. As I have asked on many occasions, where is the detailed plan to transition to 50 per cent?

Sitting suspended from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm.



Mr WEIR: There is confusion and concern in the market, in all sectors. Thankfully we had base load coal and gas generators to carry us through the power shortage after the explosion at the Callide Power Station. Next time we might not be so lucky. Whilst on the subject of the Callide station, the budget papers contain no capital expenditure to repair Callide C, so how do we have confidence that this will be rebuilt by April next year, as promised? There is also the weird case of diminishing dividends from our electricity generators, despite the fact that they are still shown to make a profit. Is this finally an admission that they have taken too much cash out in the past and they are now left vulnerable when it comes to paying for vital maintenance?

This morning we heard the minister claim that he had solved the tariff issue that has been causing great distress and uncertainty in the ag industry and the foundry sector. The minister spoke of a rebate that would resolve this situation. As is the case with many things this minister says, this statement warrants much closer scrutiny. This rebate, as I understand it, begins at 90 per cent of the expected price increase and decreases 10 per cent year on year until the end user is hit with the full increase. Prices will increase by 10 per cent next year, 20 per cent the year after and 30 per cent the year after that. This is not a resolution to this issue; this is a con job. This will slowly but surely drive industry, particularly the foundry industry, out of this state. This is incompetence on a grand scale. If members think that is bad, all of these industries have to sign an agreement with the provider by 1 July this year—in less than two weeks. The minister needs to spend less time comparing himself to astronauts such as Neil Armstrong and more time focusing on the industry and giving it some certainty and direction.

I will now move on to the other part of my shadow portfolio responsibilities: natural resources and mines. We are all aware of the tragic event that occurred at the Grosvenor mine in Central Queensland on 6 May 2020, seriously injuring five underground mineworkers. Our hearts go out to those injured, their families and their work colleagues. Anyone who has visited an underground mine will be aware of how close-knit the underground team are. The former minister, Anthony Lynham, established a board of inquiry into the incident, chaired by Terry Martin SC. The findings of this inquiry have been delivered in two reports. The second of these was tabled by Minister Scott Stewart this week.

While there were 25 recommendations in the first report and 40 in the second, and these will take a little time to enact, one is glaring. I speak of the resourcing, training and remuneration of the Mines Inspectorate. This was raised in detail in report volume 1. This was also raised as a significant issue in the industrial manslaughter legislation. So it is disappointing that there is no additional expenditure to staff the Mines Inspectorate at the appropriate level. We know that this has been recommended time and time again. This sort of investment can help prevent these tragedies in the future. I said during the debate of the industrial manslaughter legislation that the government was not looking at the real cause of the failures and the causes of these incidents. It is past time this Palaszczuk government took some meaningful action to protect mineworkers and not just look for easy headlines.

Mineworkers have every right to doubt the sincerity of this government, given the way it has treated the workers at the New Hope Acland mine—350 mineworkers just thrown on the scrap heap. That says it all. Despite this, the mining industry continues to deliver for this state and this nation. Whilst royalties took a hit during COVID and through trade issues with China, they have regained much of that

loss, with coal alone contributing \$1.75 billion in 2020-21 and increasing 17.4 per cent in 2021-22. Despite this, the Treasurer mentioned the word 'mining' only once during his entire address. That shows the value this government places on this industry.

I will now turn to what this budget has delivered for the electorate of Condamine. Frankly, this will not take very long. It will take much longer to address the things that were not delivered. There is a \$3.5 million contribution to the Toowoomba Wellcamp trade distribution centre out of a total bill of \$10 million. This facility is already built. Construction is complete. There is another announcement, if you would call it that, relating to Wellcamp. The budget papers state—

The Government continues to work with proponents on the Wellcamp Entertainment Precinct proposal, subject to Australian Government funding and other conditions.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr WEIR: I am serious. That is what it says. With those two announcements we are already halfway through the total commitments for the electorate of Condamine. Going by that, the state government must think 50 per cent of the population resides in the confines of the Wellcamp airport.

Let us look at the remaining two commitments. There is \$2.1 million to complete the refurbishment of the Yarranlea substation and a reannouncement of the funding for the Clifton school training facilities and to upgrade the hall. That is it: one reannouncement, one station upgrade, one project already finished and one with no funding. As I said it would, that did not take long.

Let's talk about some announcements that the residents of Condamine would have welcomed. There are no major road projects listed for the Condamine in the budget papers—in fact, no road projects full stop. There are many roads that are in desperate need of attention. I have repeatedly sought funding for Clifton Leyburn Road. When I wrote to the minister about the dangerous state of this road, all that resulted was a reduction to the speed limit and a 'rough road' sign. They are still there some two years later.

Law and order remains a serious issue that has missed out again. The manning and the sad state of the Cambooya Police Station remains, despite repeated requests and a petition delivered to this House on behalf of residents. Rural crime is on the rise: property and stock theft, break and enter and trespass. This is putting an increased workload on the rural crime squad, formerly known as the stock squad. Despite this, there is no mention in the budget papers of any increase in resourcing for this branch of the police force. We know that this minister does not support the rural crime squad and was caught out last year when I asked a question without notice as to whether there were plans to move it into the CIB. The minister—

Mr RYAN: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence. The statement is misleading and I ask the member to withdraw.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Member, the minister has taken offence. I ask that you withdraw.

Mr WEIR: I withdraw. The minister needs to recognise the important role these officers play and give them the staff and resources they need. It was also disappointing to not see some funding for Oakey Hospital. This hospital is well overdue for a significant upgrade, both for patients and for staff.

I note that the Palaszczuk government continues to pursue the quarantine facility at the Wellcamp airport. We heard this morning from the Deputy Premier that the state government has upgraded its detailed plan for this facility from three pages to 95 pages. You would have to ask why it has taken six months for the Premier to realise that five glossy pages do not pass for a detailed management and business plan.

The Premier has still not provided me as the local member with this plan nor the members of the general public of Toowoomba. They have not seen any detail. The Premier should table this document in this parliament so we can all have access to it. The community has every reason to be concerned by this proposal, and the fear and concerns are only enhanced by the ongoing lack of detail. The Premier has deliberately sought to create division in the community on this issue by constantly blaming the federal government for not approving the facility despite the complete lack of detail. This whole process has been nothing short of disgraceful by all involved in this stunt by the Palaszczuk government.

Last week one of the largest agricultural field days in this country was held at Charlton in the electorate of Condamine. There were good sales across the three days by exhibitors and record crowds, with 20,000 through the gates on the first day. This event was attended by the opposition leader, David Crisafulli; deputy leader, David Janetzki; and about 10 LNP state members—


Mr Millar: Including the member for Gregory.

Mr WEIR:—including the member for Gregory—along with federal—

Mr Boyce interjected.

Mr WEIR:—and the member for Callide—LNP members and senators, demonstrating their commitment to this important industry. In comparison, it was a no-show by the Labor Party—state or federal—demonstrating the value that they have for the industry. It was also evidenced by the fact that the Treasurer mentioned ‘agriculture’ only once in his budget speech. If that was not bad enough, today we saw the agriculture minister incorporate his speech after just a few minutes in this budget debate. That is appalling. The minister could not even be bothered to speak to the very important ministry that he holds.

This is a budget of spin, trickery and deception, inflated value of assets such as the titles office, funds promised that do not appear in the budget papers and projects that have no funding committed. This is indeed a typical Labor budget. In the words of a former leader of this party, it is full of jiggery-pokery. Before I finish, I also want to pass on my condolences to the family of Duncan Pegg. He and I served on a number of committees together and I regarded him as a friend. I am very sad for his loss.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (7.41 pm): I also acknowledge that, as a member elected in 2015, this is the first budget for which I have been here without the member for Stretton. I want to pay tribute to Duncan as a good friend, a good comrade, a great MP and someone who certainly would have been a future minister, and we all miss him.

This is the seventh budget of the Palaszczuk Labor government. We cannot consider this budget without considering the profound impact of the global pandemic and the management of that by this government in a world-leading fashion—something not acknowledged by those opposite. When we look at the tragedies throughout the world, Queensland led the way not just in this country but across the world. People asked, ‘How did Queensland do it?’ It came from strong, authentic leadership for a start from the Premier and from the now Deputy Premier, who was the health minister.

We declared a health emergency on 29 January last year. We were one of the first. We understood the threat. We closed the borders when we needed to against a huge amount of criticism from those opposite and from the federal government, and we stuck to our guns. We protected jobs and we protected the health of Queenslanders first and foremost, and to end up where we are is an extraordinary achievement. It is not just an extraordinary achievement because of the lives we saved in Queensland and elsewhere in other jurisdictions that understood and learnt from us; we saved jobs and we saved the economy, and the sum of that dividend is in this budget.

When we look at an unemployment rate of 5.4 per cent, a drop of half a per cent in one month, we can see the boom. What is happening? The confidence is with Queensland. We have 88 per cent of net migration. In the whole of this country in terms of all of the places that people can move to, 88 per cent are moving to Queensland. It is a vote of confidence in this state and in this state’s leadership. It was not our Premier who equated the world-leading pandemic response to putting a doona over your head and sucking your thumb like the member for Broadwater. We saw his true stripes at that point—that is, he is not a real leader, he is not authentic, he does not understand the economy and he does not understand the pandemic.

In the last few days it has been pretty pathetic to see the opposition looking more like *Hey Hey It’s Saturday* skits with its wheel of fortune. I will leave other members to surmise which one is Ossie Ostrich and which one is Daryl Somers, but with its empty cupboards and its little skits there is no substitute for content and substance. That is what we do not see. That was a low point of the opposition in the seven years that I have been here to see those pathetic stunts rather than something substantial. Those opposite said that they would be different, and they are: they are worse! At least we knew what the member for Nanango and the member for Clayfield stood for. With this current Leader of the Opposition, he flip-flops from month to month: ‘We’re borrowing too much,’ and then, ‘No, we should borrow more.’ We will see what he says next month. You cannot trust somebody who is so inconsistent and so weak. That is the truth of it.

This budget is absolutely critical. There is another record investment in road and rail across this state worth \$27½ billion. There is \$2 billion for renewables and hydrogen. There are huge opportunities in green hydrogen for this state for decades to come. We have a social housing commitment of a billion dollars, looking after people who need that help. There is \$300 million for a Path to Treaty. That is really important. It is important for the soul of this state that we have a genuine dialogue and respect for our

First Nations people. I invite all members of parliament to look into the wisdom and the need for this Path to Treaty. It is something that we all will grow from. It is not a party political thing; it is something that this state needs and this country needs. I hope everybody looks at it in that light.

There is a record health budget, and not just a record health budget in some of the obvious areas. There is a new hospital in Roma. The LNP could have done that. There is a new hospital in Kingaroy. The LNP could have done that. It is actually a Labor government building new hospitals in LNP electorates, because we get it done. If we look at our record, there is 3.25 per cent growth in this budget when growth got down to 0.7 per cent under the Newman government, and it did not even have a pandemic. There was no pandemic but growth fell off a cliff because it sacked 14,000 people and botched the economy and the jobless rate surged to 7.1 per cent. Here we are, this Labor government, in the middle of a pandemic and the jobless rate is more than 1½ per cent lower than when those opposite were in office without a pandemic and growth is nearly four times higher. That is why we are here.

We are seeing electricity prices fall by seven per cent; they went up 43 per cent under those opposite. We saw infrastructure cut at every LNP budget; we are seeing another record rail and road budget from this government. That is the choice that Queenslanders have to make: this competent, contemporary Labor government that understands the changing economy, that understands clean energy, that understands technological change or the old gang over there—member for Broadwater, Newman government minister; member for Clayfield, Newman government minister; member for Everton, Newman government minister; members for Nanango and Chatsworth, almost Newman government ministers; members for Surfers Paradise and Glass House. They are all still there. Regardless of what they say, we know that if they ever got elected it would be cut, sack and sell. We know that. Queenslanders know that, and that is the truth of it.

From this government you get Gold Coast Light Rail stage 3—we built the first two and we will get the third section done as well; Bruce Highway upgrades; the inland freight route, which does not go anywhere near a Labor electorate but is good economic policy; and Cross River Rail. What an awesome project Cross River Rail is, and we are getting it done. It was cut by those opposite and then they promised to cut it a second time in 2017. How did that go for them? Got killed at the election because they do not understand infrastructure. Under this government you also get the Sunshine Coast rail duplication—another investment in the Sunshine Coast, where we have two fantastic new members; supporting the live music industry, which is finding it hard during the pandemic; the Carbon Reduction Investment Fund worth \$500 million because we believe in acting on climate change; and the biggest fall in net debt in one year in Queensland history.

There is a very clear contrast: a competent, strong budget from this government that has managed the pandemic and saved Queensland lives and jobs while those opposite have learnt nothing from all of their mistakes. The Speaker has reviewed and approved my budget speech for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Gerber): Thank you, member for Miller. I understand that your speech has been approved to be incorporated.

The speech read as follows—

This Budget is the seventh that has been handed down under the Palaszczuk Government, and I'm proud to say that it's the sixth record QTRIP—\$27.5 billion across Queensland, supporting 24,000 jobs over the next four years.

Speaker, Queensland's strong leadership during the COVID-19 health crisis means our state is the place to be—more people are moving to Queensland than anywhere else in Australia, and it's easy to see why.

With economic growth set to reach 3.5 percent in the 2021-22 Financial Year, the Palaszczuk Government continues to deliver Queensland's plan for economic recovery.

Economic stimulus and supporting jobs remain key priorities for the government, and this is evident in our pipeline of works as part of an infrastructure boom.

We have delivered a transport budget which will drive our state's economic recovery—a \$600 million boost on last year's QTRIP.

Reliable, high quality roads and transport are critical to ensuring all rural, regional, and urban communities are safely connected in a state as decentralised as ours.

Transport services must provide for the safe movement of not only people, but also goods and services, now and into the future.

And that's what we're delivering.

We've developed a four-year investment outlook that anticipates future infrastructure demand and backs Queensland workers and businesses.

When work sites across Australia and the world shutdown due to COVID-19 lockdowns, Queensland kept building.

This budget adds more projects to the state's infrastructure program, so we don't lose momentum on Queensland's economic recovery.

Bruce Highway

Speaker, the Bruce Highway is the economic artery of Queensland—a 1,700 km route that carries freight, tourists, and commuters the length of our state.

The Palaszczuk Government is delivering additional funding to target upgrades between Gladstone and Rockhampton, Mackay and Proserpine, north of Townsville and a four-lane bypass of Tiaro.

The new funding means more than \$13 billion is locked in to continue upgrading priority sections of the Bruce over the coming decade.

Key connections

Speaker, the freight industry were key to ensure Queensland's health response to COVID—by ensuring Queenslanders had the supplies they needed during lockdown, and the Palaszczuk Government provided support to the industry to keep Queensland moving.

And our support for the freight industry is continuing in this Budget.

There's funding to move freight more efficiently across the state by improving key road and port connections.

That includes upgrades to key regional highways, with a \$237.5 million jointly-funded plan to upgrade sections of the Landsborough and Capricorn Highways and surrounding roads.

Those works will complement the \$500 million in joint funding already locked in for upgrades to the Inland Freight Route between Charters Towers and the NSW border.

The Inland Freight Route will take trucks off the Bruce Highway, create regional jobs and improve freight productivity for truck drivers, farmers and mine workers.

Sunshine and Gold Coasts

The growing communities on the Sunshine and Gold Coasts are being strongly supported.

Speaker I'm proud to say that we'll work with the Federal Government on a \$320 million upgrade of the Mooloolah River Interchange (Stage 1).

When we came to government there had been no work done by those opposite—no business case, no gazettal, no planning.

We've done that work, and now we're going to deliver the upgrade Speaker.

The Mooloolah River Interchange will transform one of the worst traffic bottlenecks on the coast and build on the strong pipeline of works from Brisbane to the Sunshine Coast.

Works are also progressing on the \$662.5 million Caboolture—Bribie Island Road to Steve Irwin Way upgrade; and the \$301.3 million upgrade to Maroochydore Road and Mons Road interchanges and the \$164 million Deception Bay interchange upgrade.

This budget also locks in funding to start building light rail to Burleigh later this year, and we're focused on getting shovels in the ground for stage one of the Coomera Connector between Nerang and Coomera too.

Funding is committed towards three new northern Gold Coast train stations, major M1 upgrades between Brisbane and the Gold Coast are continuing, and early works have started on the Exit 41 upgrade at Yatala.

Rail investments

The Palaszczuk Government's investment in rail projects will deliver better services and support new jobs and training opportunities.

We'll keep building Cross River Rail for services to start in 2025, keep rolling out the \$371 million smart ticketing system for every Queensland commuter, and progress the much-needed Kuraby to Beenleigh Rail upgrade.

And Speaker we are bringing rail manufacturing back to Maryborough! After those opposite sent manufacturing overseas, we're bringing it back as part of our \$600 million commitment to build 20 new trains for Cross River Rail.

Train stations across south east Queensland will become more accessible under our \$500 million station upgrade program, and we'll upgrade regional stations Maryborough West and Rockhampton, as well as starting planning to upgrade Bundaberg train station.

Lives lost

Speaker, with 122 lives (as of Wednesday 17 June 2021 morning) lost on Queensland roads so far this year, we are continuing to make road safety funding a priority in this budget.

Every death on the road is a tragedy and we have committed record funding to saving lives and reducing the impact of road trauma on the community.

QTRIP includes a record \$1.69 billion investment in road safety, including prioritised safety upgrades in known crash locations, improved driver education, making school zones safer and develop policies to reduce road crashes and trauma, including next month's rollout of distracted driving cameras.

We'll continue to work with the Federal Government to deliver upgrades like better rest facilities, new road barriers, extra street lighting and overtaking lanes, audio line-marking and wide centre line treatments on high risk roads across the state.

Essential services

Essential transport services will also be maintained for Queenslanders, particularly those in regional and remote communities.

The Local Fare Scheme, which provides discounts of up to \$400 for a return airfare for residents in Cape York, Gulf of Carpentaria and the Torres Strait, will be extended until 30 June 2022.

A financial support package introduced in April 2020 to assist regional transport operators struggling with a downturn in passengers will also be extended until the end of this year, with an additional \$16.3 million

Low and no emissions

The record roads and transport budget spend ensures funding for low and no emissions travel too.

We'll keep building new and improved facilities for bike riders and pedestrians, with \$250 million allocated over four years for active transport, including \$20 million to extend the Oceanway at Broadbeach, in partnership with the City of Gold Coast.

We also expect more Queenslanders to make the switch to electric vehicles in the coming years, so we'll keep building more charging stations.

The Queensland Electric Super Highway, which opened in 2018, now has 31 charging sites between Coolangatta and Port Douglas.

This budget provides funding to add 18 new sites, taking the network out west to places like Winton, Roma, Emerald and Cloncurry to support regional tourism.

Regional investment

Our regions are powering ahead and \$17.5 billion of the \$27.5 billion Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program (QTRIP) will be invested outside Metropolitan Region (that is, outside of Brisbane, Ipswich and Redland local government areas), estimated to support an average of 15,870 jobs.

Travel anywhere across our state, and you'll see that investment at work creating jobs and driving our economy.

We're sealing the road to Weipa, opening up Cape York's economy to new tourism and economic opportunities that were previously out of reach and supporting local jobs and training.

Roads around Cairns are being transformed thanks to projects like the \$164 million Smithfield Bypass and the \$481 million duplication of the Bruce Highway between Edmonton and Gordonvale.

We'll start upgrading the Captain Cook Highway north of the Cairns CBD later this year and we are moving ahead with planning to fully duplicate the last remaining single lane sections of the Cairns Western Arterial Road.

In Townsville, work has started on Bruce Highway safety upgrades at Black River, and early works are underway on the final stage of the \$230 million Townsville Ring Road.

Work to improve flood resilience on the \$514 million Bruce Highway upgrade south of Townsville at the Haughton River are on track to finish ahead of schedule this year.

North of Mackay, work is about to start on the \$150 million Walkerston Bypass after we finished the main construction works of Stage 1 of the Mackay Ring Road last year and start four-laning on Proserpine-Shute Harbour Road later this year.

In Rockhampton, major projects like the Rockhampton Northern Access Upgrade and the Capricorn Highway are well advanced, and next year we'll start building the \$1 billion Rockhampton Ring Road and progress upgrades on Rockhampton-Yepoon Road.

The \$41.8 million Isis Highway upgrades south of Bundaberg we started in January are continuing, and the \$103 million Saltwater Creek on the Bruce Highway north of Maryborough will ramp up over the coming weeks.

West of Brisbane, we'll continue to prioritise Warrego Highway upgrades under the \$544 million Warrego Highway Upgrade Plan, including the Mount Crosby Interchange, and \$139.5 million to continue delivering upgrades to priority sections of the Cunningham Highway.

We'll continue to support western Queensland communities too, with more than \$980 million locked in the budget over the next four years for western roads and highway upgrades.

That investment will support about 1,180 jobs, with many of those projects contracted to councils so the work is delivered by locals, for locals.

The Palaszczuk Government has also maintained funding for councils through the successful Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme, with \$280 million over four years.

We know that funding is vital for councils to deliver projects for their communities that improve safety and address congestion, so we're pleased to continue our strong transport funding arrangements with them through that scheme.

Public transport/COVID response

As part of our COVID response in the public transport sector, we supported essential workers and maintained all services, as well as increased cleaning and sanitisation, which continues.

We introduced cashless payments and rear-door boarding to support safer trips for commuters and drivers.

We added 105 train services added to the network to support social distancing and that has become a permanent fixture.

The freezing of public transport fares in 2021 has been well received by the public and patronage levels, which were down to 20 per cent at the height pandemic, have steadily increased to about 70 per cent.

To ensure that Queenslanders' expectations can be met now and into the future, the Palaszczuk Government is committing significant funding in 2021-22 to ensure the availability of transport services.

In 2021-22, the government is providing:

- \$2.074 billion for rail services to be delivered by Queensland Rail
- \$658.3 million for bus services in rural, urban, and regional Queensland
- \$33.9 million for ferry services
- \$16.6 million for air services in the more remote areas of the state

\$206.7 million for the School Transport Assistance Scheme to assist parents in meeting the cost of students

Marine infrastructure

Marine infrastructure projects are crucial to not only creating new local jobs during construction, but delivering the facilities needed to make our regions an even better place for locals and visitors.

\$183 million is provided for maritime infrastructure in QTRIP 2021-22 to 2024-25 such as boat ramps, pontoons, jetties, floating walkways and dredging across Queensland.

Marine infrastructure projects include implementation of the Spit Master Plan at Southport, Yarrabah Jetty, and a boat ramp and floating walkway at Yorkeys Knob and Casuarina Creek.

We are also investing in better facilities for local boaties and tourists accessing the southern Great Barrier Reef and the Keppel Islands, with this investment upgrading the Rosslyn Bay Boat Harbour with improved in-water facilities.

The War on Wrecks program continues to be a success story with Maritime Safety Queensland co-ordinating the removal of 816 wrecks and derelict vessels since launched in 2018, and the funding for that program to ensure safer, cleaner waterways will continue

Conclusion

In summary, the 2021-22 State Budget shows the massive investment this Government is delivering in roads and transport infrastructure to drive our state's economic recovery

We are moving into uncharted territory, post COVID, but I am confident we are setting up a strong and healthy future for Queensland.

While there may be challenges ahead, the priorities this government has already built into its vision for the future will guide and power our economy to the benefit of all Queenslanders for generations to come.



Mr MINNIKIN (Chatsworth—LNP) (7.49 pm): I am pleased to rise tonight to respond to the Palaszczuk government's 2021-22 budget. The opposition leader rightly stated in his budget reply speech earlier in this debate that every budget handed down sees each minister getting up and spruiking words to the effect 'I am proud to announce a record budget for XYZ portfolio'. As I stated earlier last year, throwing ever increasing amounts of money into key government areas such as transport and main roads, health and education is not in itself a real measure of success. It is about the effectiveness of outputs, not just input efficiencies. Simply put, it is what you actually do with resources rather than just throw borrowed money continually at an issue.

Given our state debt level will now blow out to \$127 billion over the forward estimates, this budget continues to fail future generations by avoiding the tough decisions required to be made by this generation. Unfair intergenerational debt will continue under Labor. I stated in my last budget reply speech said that there was nothing wrong with borrowing for income producing assets. This is indeed basic finance 101. Given that marketers define a generation as around about 25 years, any piece of infrastructure which lasts for, say, 100 years will obviously have four generations of taxpayers derive economic utility from its use. It is extraordinary, however, that billions are being borrowed for recurrent expenditure rather than capital expenditure, state building assets.

I will now comment on the budget in my capacity as the shadow minister for customer service and shadow minister for transport and main roads. When one breaks it down, I mentioned late last year that the *raison d'être* of the transport and main roads portfolio is all about delivering an efficient and responsive statewide transport system that will connect people from one end of our vast state to the

other, both now and into the future. Yet again Labor's incompetent approach to the 2021-22 budget, in particular for this key portfolio, means that this worthy goal is still a long way off. The Minister for Transport and Main Roads wants to talk up the Transport and Main Roads budget and tell us it is a record. In effect, it is definitely more a smoke and mirrors exercise than a credible financial document for the future.

Let me begin a deep dive into the Transport and Main Roads portfolio and look at Labor's record. The minister talks about a record \$27½ billion QTRIP, but what really is Labor's record? It is one of project cost blowouts and delays. Of course, the obvious starting point is the Palaszczuk Labor government's signature infrastructure project, Cross River Rail. Let us start with the cost. Minister Bailey has said numerous times in this House that Cross River Rail is a \$5.4 billion project.

Extracts from *Hansard* going back to page 310 on 9 March show Minister Bailey talking about the \$5.4 billion Cross River Rail project. That is repeated in *Hansard* on page 15 on 23 February 2021; on 5 February 2020; 11 December 2020; 26 November 2020; 22 October 2019; Cross River Rail, a \$5.4 billion transformational project, on 15 October 2019; 21 August 2019; back to June 2019, \$5.4 billion. But what is the true cost? Page 126 of the Capital Statement shows \$6.725 billion with \$162 million in returnable works. If you believe that number you believe anything.

Make no mistake, this project's budget is under massive pressure. Project changes have been made to compensate and environmental standards are being lowered. There is spoil haulage from CBD construction sites on a Sunday, which has never previously been allowed. The Clapham stabling yard will now take spoil 24/7. Is the project on time? The actual completion date for the project was raised at estimates last year. In a subsequent media interview a Cross River Rail Delivery Authority representative said—

It has been noted publicly on multiple occasions that major Cross River Rail construction works are due to be completed in 2024—this remains the case.

...

Following construction, an extensive safety testing and commissioning phase will commence.

As has been stated previously, Cross River Rail passenger services are expected to be operational in 2025.

The use of 'remains the case' implies that services have always been scheduled to start in 2025. However, a government media release from 4 April 2019 says—

Minister for Transport and Main Roads Mark Bailey said because of the Palaszczuk Government's decisive action, Cross River Rail will be ready to service the South-East by 2024.

Another release from the former deputy premier dated 19 August 2019 says—

Ms Trad said fans will begin accessing the Gabba via the new Cross River Rail underground station in 2024.

Labor have been caught out trying to rewrite history to cover up a project delay. I know the minister likes to wax lyrical about things being awesome, but maybe he should concentrate on getting things done. What about the perceived benefits? How predictable that the spin from this government has well and truly begun. It is now backtracking on the benefits of the project.

In 2018 the project was promised to deliver Sunshine Coast commuters a train every six minutes in the morning peak. Now the Cross River Rail website says they 'could' get a train every 15 minutes. In 2018 the project was promised to deliver Ipswich commuters a train every five minutes in the morning peak. Now the CRR website says they 'could' get a train every 15 minutes on the Ipswich-Rosewood line from the Rosewood station. Finally, in 2018 the project was promised to deliver Redlands commuters a train every 5½ minutes in the peak morning period. Now the Cross River Rail website says they 'could' get a train every 15 minutes on the Cleveland line. We knew this was coming. The 2017 Infrastructure Australia assessment said that 'the project benefits as set out in the business case are significantly overstated'. Let me repeat that quote: 'The project benefits as set out in the business case are significantly overstated'.

When it comes to rolling stock, the budget raises serious questions about whether the additional 20 trains that this government says must be delivered for Cross River Rail will be ready on time. Almost 60 per cent of the project budget will be spent after the 2024-25 financial year. How is that possible if Cross River Rail services will start in 2025? Either the trains will not be ready for Cross River Rail or Cross River Rail will not be ready for the trains. Pure genius. Are we being prepared for further delays to Cross River Rail? Make no mistake, this so-called signature project is being overseen by a transport minister who is completely out of his depth. He continues a long line of failed former Labor transport ministers when it comes to this project's delivery.

Despite what the Minister for Transport and Main Roads says, the LNP has always acknowledged the need for a second rail river crossing in Brisbane. It is true that we differed in relation to the design and project scoping, as the initial plans under the failed Bligh Labor government were totally inadequate, but it was always acknowledged that a cross river rail solution would eventually be required. However, as I have repeatedly flagged, we hold concerns about the lack of transparency by Labor regarding Cross River Rail's cost and benefit. Is it any wonder the cost-benefit analysis was not supported by Infrastructure Australia.

The minister puffs out his chest every time he boldly declares that Queensland will fully fund the Cross River Rail project on its own. Is it any wonder the Commonwealth, which along with the Brisbane City Council is fast becoming the de facto transport and main roads provider, refused to fund a project that did not stack up? Gold Coast Light Rail stage 3 is another example of project delays and cost blowouts.

Prior to the 2020 election Labor said that John Holland had been selected to build the project and construction could begin before Christmas. What did we find out after the election? There was a \$334 million cost blowout. The contract had not even been signed. Now the minister hopes to have construction started by this Christmas. Let me be perfectly clear here: this project is only going ahead because of a \$126 million bailout by the LNP federal government—yes, another bailout for Minister Bailey.

Turning to the Coomera Connector, construction is due to start in mid-2021. However, we understand that the contractor has not been appointed yet. After questioning at estimates last year we were advised that the whole project from Coomera to Nerang would be completed by 2025, but—hold the phone—the TMR website says construction timing for the central and southern sections is yet to be confirmed. This year's QTRIP shows that 41 per cent of the budget will not be spent until the 2025-26 financial year so do not bet on a 2025 completion.

What about the reduction in the 2021-22 QTRIP spend? So far I have focussed on major projects in South-East Queensland, but I can tell the House that disappointment in this year's budget is spread right across this vast state. Let us look at the forecast 2021-22 spend from last year's QTRIP compared to this year's QTRIP. This year across the state \$763 million less will be spent on transport infrastructure compared to what the Labor government promised only eight months ago. That is a drop of 11 per cent. This government is pushing projects further out into the forwards to cover over a budget black hole.

The Bruce Highway, the Cunningham Highway and the Warrego Highway, all key corridors, have projects that have been hit. Let us talk about bridge strengthening at Palm Tree and Blackrock Creek on the Bruce Highway, between Mackay and Proserpine. Last year QTRIP said there would be \$8 million spent in the 2021-22 financial year. This year QTRIP says just \$410,000 will be spent. This is the Clayton's approach to funding, where you allocate a miniscule amount for show when you really do not want to be funding it in the first place.

Let us talk about safety improvement on the Isis Highway between Bundaberg and Childers. Last year QTRIP said \$12 million would be spent in 2021-22. This year's QTRIP document says just \$4 million will be spent. This year to date 119 people have died, sadly and tragically, on Queensland roads. That is 16 more than at the same time last year. Very tellingly, \$8 million of safety improvements have been delayed.

What about the inland freight route? The creation of an inland freight route was a key commitment of the Labor government prior to the last election. In a media release the Premier said—

We'll also build on our existing \$125 million partnership with the Federal Government to improve the inland Townsville to Roma corridor by committing \$200 million for the 'Second Bruce' to take trucks off the Bruce Highway.

On 10 May this year, the Prime Minister announced that the federal government would commit \$400 million to the inland freight route. 'Beauty!' I thought. 'That is \$600 million for this project.' Imagine my surprise when I read QTRIP. In his forward, Minister Bailey said—

We will be working with the Australian Government to identify and deliver projects under the joint funded \$500 million upgrade on this corridor to encourage more trucks to move freight inland via the Carnarvon, Dawson and Gregory Highways.

I know maths may not be a strength of those opposite, particularly the transport minister who I believe was a former high school drama teacher. It would appear that he is much more interested in English than maths, given his penchant for private emailing. However, 200 plus 400 does not equal 500. Where has the other \$100 million, committed to by this government, gone? For the past two terms under Labor the Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program, QTRIP, which outlines the current transport and roads projects, resembles a lay-by agreement, outlaying a dollar today, a few more next year and the rest off into the never-never.

What about backlog maintenance? For six years Labor has neglected Queensland's roads, cutting infrastructure spending and allowing approximately \$6 billion in backlog maintenance to build up. According to the Queensland Audit Office, the figure will reach \$9 billion over the next six years. Thanks to Labor, our roads are more congested than ever and less safe. In this budget the maintenance spend has been increased from \$4.4 billion to \$4.466 billion. Of course, any increase is welcomed but we know that this level of funding is not enough. The transport minister has advised that as of 30 June last year the asset sustainability ratio was 51 per cent. That means we are only providing about half the funding needed just to keep the network in the current condition. In other words, we need to double the amount we are spending on maintenance. This budget does not do that. For Queensland motorists that means more potholes, more dodgy bridges and less safe roads.

I have always said that the role of an opposition is to hold the government to account but not to criticise just for the sake of it. In that spirit I again congratulate the Department of Transport and Main Roads in relation to the department's Service Delivery Statements, page 7 of which outlines their customer experience standards and effectiveness measures. I am very honoured to be appointed the first shadow minister for customer service by the opposition leader and I congratulate Transport and Main Roads staff.

At the end of the day, this budget is simply as bereft of visionary reform as the Treasurer is of showing humility. You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today—Abraham Lincoln.



Hon. GJ BUTCHER (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (8.04 pm): I rise in support of the Appropriation Bill 2021. I am proud to stand in this place to support another strong Labor budget. I commend the Treasurer for delivering such a strong budget as we continue to face globally uncertain times due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As the Treasurer rightly pointed out, our government can deliver such a strong economic statement due to our health response in this state. By putting the health and safety of Queenslanders first we are now in a position to deliver Queensland's plan for economic recovery. At the heart of this budget is a focus on delivering jobs right across Queensland.

As Minister for Regional Development I am delighted to see the commitments made to job-creating infrastructure projects right across regional Queensland. Whether it is roads, health, schools or infrastructure, every dollar that we spend in regional Queensland delivers good secure local jobs for regional Queenslanders. That highlights an important difference between the Palaszczuk government and those opposite: when we make a promise we deliver and I can tell the House that regional communities certainly appreciate that.

All too often I hear stories of Campbell Newman gutting services and sacking public servants in the regions and of the huge negative impact that had on all regional communities. Of course, Campbell Newman did not do it on his own; he had plenty of support and help as he recklessly slashed jobs in regional Queensland. The former short-lived premier was ably aided by many of those who currently sit on the front bench opposite, including the member for Broadwater and the member for Nanango. The member for Nanango, in particular, claims to be all about regional Queensland yet she stood by—she said and did nothing—as thousands and thousands of jobs were lost under those opposite. Of course, it was not just direct jobs that were impacted; jobs that supported services in the communities were also lost.

Thankfully, those days are well and truly behind us and the Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering jobs in regional Queensland. A big part of the strategy is our government's \$3.34 billion Queensland Jobs Fund. The Queensland Jobs Fund brings together a range of existing funding programs and also delivers a new \$350 million Industry Partnership Program to focus our efforts on job creation right around the state. As we heard from the Treasurer, the Industry Partnership Program will grow and create jobs in priority industries such as advanced manufacturing, hydrogen, biofuels, biomedical, defence, aerospace, space, resource recovery and our Mining Equipment, Technology and Services sector.

If there is anything that the COVID-19 pandemic has shown us it is that we need to be self-reliant when it comes to manufacturing critical products. As the Minister for Manufacturing I welcome the focus on and certainly the investment in this area as part of the Queensland Jobs Fund. I also recognise the huge potential that the emerging hydrogen industry has for powering our state's advanced manufacturing sector. Hydrogen is already key for a range of industries that provide vital inputs into the manufacturing process. As we grow that industry, more and more opportunities will become available to all of our manufacturers right across Queensland.

Water security is critical for our state's long-term economic growth.

Mr Boyce: How's the Paradise Dam going?

Mr BUTCHER: Do not get me started on Paradise Dam, member for Callide. For regional communities water security is a key component of long-term planning for future population and economic growth. While the Palaszczuk government has committed close to \$1.9 billion to bulk water infrastructure across the state since 2015, we also understand the importance of water security to the water treatment plants, reservoirs and water and sewerage systems of our regional towns and cities. That is why yesterday in this place I was proud to talk about the \$70 million that we are investing in round 6 of the Building our Regions program. By providing financial support to regional councils, the Building our Regions program has a long history of delivering infrastructure improvements, economic opportunities and jobs for our regional communities.

The first five rounds of the program have seen more than \$348 million allocated to 271 projects across 67 councils. Building our Regions has also leveraged more than \$539 million in additional funding from other sources to deliver a capital expenditure of more than \$887 million, supporting more than 2,700 construction jobs in regional Queensland.

Every mayor that I talk to in regional Queensland raves about the positive impacts Building our Regions funding has had in their local communities. Round 6 of Building our Regions to be delivered over three years will focus on delivering maintenance and improvement works to water treatment plants, reservoirs and water and sewerage systems in all of our regional communities.

However, I am not just a proud member of the Palaszczuk government, I am also incredibly privileged to represent the great people of Gladstone. For our region's education sector, there is more than \$14.6 million in upgrades to the schools right across the Gladstone district and even into the electorate of Callide where we are delivering a \$60 million high school which will be complete next year. We are planning for growth in new classrooms at Toolooa High School and \$1.8 million for the amazing team at Rosella Park School who will receive more than \$8.1 million. I am pleased to report that our smaller schools will also benefit in this budget with \$1.1 million going into infrastructure and amenity upgrades at Yarwun, Ambrose and Mount Larcom state schools.

Our local tourism hero, Heron Island, will also increase renewable energy infrastructure and operate with 100 per cent solar energy and nearly \$87,000 of funding will go to install new eco tents.

Everyone knows that the Gladstone region is the greatest place to live, work and fish. Our region's anglers will be pleased to know that we are delivering a \$10.8 million fish hatchery at Awoonga Dam, and you do not need a rod to enjoy the upgrades we are bringing because we are also putting \$1.1 million into continuing community walking trials at Boynedale and Four Mile Scrub. I am pleased to advise that we are constructing a shared path on Tannum Sands Road with \$2.2 million, and an upgrade to Raglan Creek Bridge on the Bruce Highway, as well as fixing up the Toolooa Street pavement between Derby and Agnese streets.

This budget is delivering and providing direct support to Queenslanders and I am particularly proud of the significant investments it is making in our regional communities. I thank the Treasurer and I look forward to seeing these investments deliver real outcomes for all of our communities in regional Queensland.



Mr LAST (Burdekin—LNP) (8.12 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Appropriation Bill 2021. What we saw in this place on Tuesday was the Treasurer taking the approach of famed American hoaxer PT Barnum and hoping that, indeed, there is a sucker born every minute. Unfortunately for the Treasurer, those of us on this side of the House are all over this hoax, but even more unfortunate is the fact that this hoax will have a disastrous effect on each and every Queenslanders, including those in the Burdekin electorate, an electorate, I might add, that has played a large part in keeping this state afloat during the COVID-19 outbreak through the resource and agricultural sectors.

The news that QTRIP spending for the coming financial year is down by 11 per cent will be no surprise to people in the Burdekin electorate which is home to one of the most dangerous stretches of the Bruce Highway in the entire state. The section of highway between Zinc Road and the AIMS turn-off has claimed far too many lives. I see the member for Mundingburra sitting on the other side of the House tonight. It used to be in his patch when he was a councillor, so he knows the section of highway very well. I would like to think that when they are having their partyroom meetings that he is up there raising the flag and calling on the minister to fund this section of highway because there is nothing in the budget to address that stretch of road which is still subject to speed restrictions.

In the western part of the electorate, we have the Peak Downs Highway or, as the locals like to call it, the Peak Downs goat track, a road that continues to claim lives and is long overdue for major upgrades. The government's commitment to the current upgrade between Cavill Road and Wuthung Road is welcomed but, frankly, it is far too little and, for some, far too late.

Again, I need to mention the Kilcummin Diamond Downs Road and others, including the Bowen Developmental Road, the May Downs Road and Clermont Alpha Road that are nothing more than dirt tracks. They are not just dangerous, they are impeding children getting to school and damaging emergency service vehicles. Yet again, nothing in this budget for those roads.

We have to understand that, for those people who live in the western parts of my electorate, these roads are arteries; these roads are all they have to get their produce out, to take their kids to school and to travel to the coast.

Mr Minnikin: Economic arteries.

Mr LAST: I take the interjection from the member for Chatsworth. They are economic arteries. The royalties and the wealth that this state takes from those areas comes out on those roads. To think that not one cent in this budget is going towards upgrading those roads is nothing short of disgraceful. The Treasurer can talk all he likes about investment in roads, but for my electorate that talk is sleight of hand at best.

Agriculture plays a key role in the Burdekin electorate. Again, all we can see in the budget for local primary producers is promises with no commitment to delivery. In Ayr, Home Hill, Clare, Gumlu and Bowen, farmers are desperate for workers due to the closure of international borders. This government talks a big game about helping, but in those towns the results speak for themselves. The 10 per cent cut in funding to DAF explains some of the hold-ups, but in the meantime, thousands of tonnes of fruit and vegetables are left to rot and Queensland families face eye-watering increases in the cost of fresh fruit and vegetables.

I do not think those opposite truly appreciate just how dire that situation is. It was only today that I was talking to a grower from the Sunshine Coast who arranged a convoy of vehicles to transport 40 workers to the Burdekin to help plant this season's produce in that area. To put that into perspective, Bowen, a major horticultural area in this state, needs 3,500 seasonal workers every year—3,500; in the Burdekin, a couple of thousand, yet still we are only bringing them in, in small numbers.

We have already heard from the opposition leader and the shadow health minister about the absolute con job that is the Hospital Building Fund and the impacts of the failure to properly fund health services in this budget will be felt in the Burdekin electorate as well. On the so-called election commitments made in the lead-up to the October state election were dialysis services in Clermont and expansions of both the Bowen and Moranbah hospitals—yes, the same hospital with a termite infestation. None of those projects are funded in this budget and is it any surprise when this government has form when it comes to delivering health services in my electorate.

In Home Hill, we have a fully equipped dialysis unit, but locals are travelling hundreds of kilometres a week for treatment because there is no funding for staff. I know that some of those patients are very elderly and to think that they have been forced to drive to Townsville and back for dialysis defies belief. Down the highway in Bowen, we have already seen a sod turning for construction of the medical imaging unit, but no mention of the project in the capital statement. All we have is conflicting completion dates and a mention in the government's marketing document but nothing in the capital statement.

I also want to highlight the unfolding disaster regarding the lack of a doctor at the Clermont Hospital. As in many rural communities, the medical superintendent at the hospital has the right of private practice through a surgery located adjacent to the hospital. In recent weeks, Queensland Health has seen fit to close this surgery which has meant local staff working there have lost their jobs. We are hearing that Queensland Health are moving to an alternative model. However, scant information has been provided to the community on how this model will work and consultation with the broader Clermont district on these changes has been abysmal. It is not good enough and it is no wonder the residents of Clermont feel like they are being treated like second-class citizens.

Education is yet another area where this government has failed to deliver in the Burdekin electorate. In Ayr less than 10 per cent of the funding needed to build the new multipurpose hall at Ayr State High School has been delivered. I sincerely hope that the Treasurer's commitment to an extra 117 teachers in the Mackay Whitsunday area is fully delivered because we certainly need them in some of the communities in my electorate. Communities like Dysart and Moranbah have significant shortages

in teacher numbers. Again, there is no funding in the budget for school halls at Clermont, Collinsville and Dysart. There is no funding for the much needed upgrade to the administration block at Queens Beach State School.

Whilst I am talking about education, I certainly hope the minister has moved on the water situation at Valkyrie State School, which has made headlines in recent weeks. Valkyrie State School has no water and relies on a mining company to truck water to the school each week in a tanker. To think that we have a school in this state in the year 2021 without a water supply is unbelievable. The school community have identified a solution but the minister is dragging the chain on this issue. With each passing day the situation at that school becomes more dire.

In Ayr, the Treasurer has failed to deliver any funding for the promised upgrade at Rugby Park. They talked the big game during the election, but there is no funding. Despite the promises to junior players—yes, children—and their families, there is not one cent in the budget for that project. I ask: how much lower can one go than to deceive children?

The deception from this government does not stop there. Out in Clermont we were promised a new police station. Not only has the contribution in this budget been just over one per cent of the needed amount, the entire project has been scaled back. The allocation of \$50,000 would not even pay for a shade sail, let alone any sort of detailed planning.

Mr Ryan interjected.

Mr LAST: This minister would have us believe that \$50,000 is going to pay for the planning for a brand new police station.

Mr Ryan interjected.

Mr LAST: I am going to hold the minister to that. We will see what \$50,000 delivers for the Clermont community.

For my electorate and many others, this is a budget that is big on talk and low on delivery. It is all well and good to talk about unite and recover, but yet again there will be no unity while this government makes promises and fails to provide the funding. I find it inconceivable that this government could reduce infrastructure spending by \$4 billion at a time when rural and regional Queensland are screaming for funding. I bet there would be a lot of councils around this state that would salivate at the thought of what they could do with \$4 billion in infrastructure funding, not to mention industry groups across Queensland.

I will now address my shadow portfolio responsibilities. Once again, this budget is big on rhetoric and feel-good statements but small on delivery. For many Queenslanders, today is like too many days before it. Each day they wake up to check if their car is still in their driveway or if their house has been broken into. Each day they get more tough talk from this government on what is supposedly being done to rein in these hard core offenders.

On Wednesday this week Queenslanders woke up to the realisation that all this government has to offer when it comes to crime is more talk. In Townsville and Cairns, as just two examples, every victim of crime—and there are thousands of them—saw absolutely no commitment to tackling this issue in the budget. In fact, they woke to the news that things will get worse. The Queensland Police Service SDS is a damning indictment of this government's failure to address crime. Let me explain. It is right there in black and white that the target for total property offences for the coming financial year is actually higher than what we have seen in the current financial year.

In Kirwan, possibly the heart of the youth crime epidemic in Townsville, less than one per cent of the promised funding for the replacement police facility was delivered. Statewide we have seen the axe taken to the capital funding for the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Just days after it was confirmed that, unbeknown to the minister, young offenders were relocated to Townsville because of facility shortages in Mount Isa, 63 per cent of funding to that portfolio was cut. We need more facilities to address this issue. Yes, we need more boots on the ground, but thanks to this government's inability to make the tough calls, provide the legislation required and the facilities to house these young offenders, we instead get less than half the actual spend for 2020-21.

Moving onto corrective services, we see a commitment of \$8 million for double up bunk beds in high security. It would be interesting to hear from the Treasurer or the minister as to how many bunk beds that will provide because, despite the same promise being made last year and failing, we see a reduction in facility utilisation of over 35 per cent budgeted for in the coming year. Based on my

calculations, achieving the facility utilisation would mean a combination of either an extra 2,000 beds or 2,000 fewer people being held in Queensland's prisons. The minister needs to explain which one it is.

Mr Ryan: Beds and cells are different.

Mr LAST: There it is. They are different. Despite there being \$8 million worth of bunks beds to address overcrowding, the Service Delivery Statement paints an horrific picture with the rate of officers assaulted by prisoners more than four times the target during 2020-21 and serious assaults of staff by prisoners only improving marginally compared to the previous year. Overcrowding in prisons is a sure-fire recipe to increase numbers of assaults on officers. Our corrective services officers have a tough job. I acknowledge them here tonight because it is not easy working in prisons and it is certainly not easy working in prisons that are suffering from overcrowding.

Moving onto fire and emergency services, we see yet more deception. This time it is aimed at the volunteers. Let us quickly look back at the targets of this budget-wide deception. We have children, the sick, victims of crime and now volunteers. We have had reviews and promises focused on those brave men and women who, when disaster strikes, answer the call for help. Regardless of whether it is out at sea or on land after a cyclone or battling a bushfire, it is those volunteers who embody the Queensland spirit.


Promises to marine rescue organisations via the Blue Water Review are unfunded despite the minister's assurance in writing that he would deliver on that promise. Today, the minister is quoted as saying that Treasury holds the funds and it is in the forward estimates. What we have is another promise that at best has been pushed into the never-never. Queenslanders know that when they face disaster—

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Pause the clock. Member for Gregory and minister, I caution you to stop quarrelling across the chamber. Otherwise I will start issuing warnings.

Mr LAST: In the meantime we have seen SES volunteer numbers plummet to the lowest level in history—a paltry 5,900 down from 17,200 in 2002.

The Burdekin electorate has only ever asked for its fair share of the pie when it comes to the annual budget. I do not think it is too much to ask for schoolchildren to be driven to school on a bitumen road or to have a reliable water supply. It is time this government governed for all of Queensland and that means funding services equitably across the board.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (8.27 pm): This is a budget that ensures our economic security and employment opportunities and delivers a bright future for Queensland. Each successive Palaszczuk government's budget has added to our collective future growth. The Palaszczuk Labor government has been a shining beacon for other states as an example of what leadership looks like, how to make the tough decisions that keep people safe and how to keep the economy moving in the right direction under pressure. Our economy is now bigger than it was before COVID hit. We have become the state of choice for interstate migration.

My region is set to be the powerhouse of new industry and jobs in agribusiness. The Future Foods BioHub has the potential to value-add to crops already grown across the Mackay Isaac Whitsunday region—value-adding to sugar cane, cattle, broadacre crops from the west and our salad bowl crops to the north. New industries making high-grade vitamin and protein powders to sustain world food needs can be manufactured in my region. The many by-products from the sugar crop are waiting for an investor to take advantage of them. Products like biodegradable plastics, building products, paper, nutraceuticals and activated carbon are only some of the proven products that are waiting to be manufactured.

This budget supports the funding of the business case needed to get the ball rolling on the new manufacturing opportunities in agriculture in regional Queensland. The future bioscientists are sitting in the classrooms of Mackay and new industries are building the employment opportunities and choices for our regional students. The Paget industrial precinct has the skills and ingenuity to design and manufacture new machinery and factories to establish these new industries.

The Mackay Resources Centre of Excellence was a 2017 election commitment. It is now a world-class centrepiece for training and research for the resources sector. The centre will also be the home to the Mackay manufacturing hub. Mackay's manufacturing and industrial estate at Paget has a reputation of having one of the highest concentration of patents per capita. The manufacturing hub will

assist those already in the export market to hone their skills and extend their market reach and also assist those who are putting their toe into the export market with the guidance and confidence to grow and develop offshore clients.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Speaker has reviewed and approved my speech on the budget for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): I understand you have had your speech approved by the Speaker and it will be incorporated.

The speech read as follows—

A skilled work force is needed for now and into the future, we need to be agile and be ready to upskill our workers to meet the ever-changing needs of industry. Being able to upskill close to home is an asset to employees and employers.

CQU Trade Training Centre is continually working with industry to deliver the programs that meet local needs. \$7.5 million to upgrading training facilities to cater for heavy automotive keeps apprentices in Mackay instead of needing to travel to other centres. It has been proven that apprentices that train close to home are more likely to complete their training. A win win for industry and training.

Safe and modern roads from our pits in the Bowen Basin to, Paget on to Port, for the resource sector is essential. The Ag sector also needs a reliable transport chain from paddock to processing plants to port.

The now completed Mackay Ring Road and the realignment of the Eton Range has made travel to port safer for industry and locals.

There are still works being executed on the northern approaches on the Bruce Highway, the \$110 million Northern Access Road. Hundreds of trucks and commercial vehicles have already been taken off the suburban streets of Mackay by the ring road.

The job is not done, the regions road program is marching on, the \$150 million Walkerston Bypass tender is out with the project ready to start before the end of the year, more work for locals, this will complete the southern part of the ring road link to the Peak Downs Highway. At the northern end of the Ring Road planning for the Port Access link is underway. Groundworks to upgrade Slade Point Road \$4,888,000 two lane road is in preparation for the Port Access Road.

While the Newman LNP government cut 600 jobs from Roadtek we are getting on with delivering the modern transport chain my region deserves.

Mackay is a flat city, ideal for cycling and walking, we love our shared paths that allow us to get out for recreation, exercise and sometime a fun run. This budget adds to the paths from the Harbour to Goose Ponds to the Pioneer River, when completed will be well used.

Public transport is an important choice for people of all age groups in Mackay. Canelands shopping centre is a hub for local bus interchange. The current bus stop faces into the afternoon sun, an unsuitable situation in our sweltering summers. This bus station will be replaced with a \$5.377 million purpose built bus station on Mangrove Road adding to passenger comfort.

In Mackay we love our parks and outdoor green spaces.

It was a Palaszczuk Labor Government that funded \$8 million for the redevelopment of the beautiful Queens Park, it is a place of pride for locals with packed playgrounds and walking paths each week. Now Woodlands District Park will be created by amalgamating reserves and parks across Andergrove and Beaconsfield spanning 21 hectares. Works for Queensland funding of \$2 mil, part of \$9.9 mil awarded to Mackay Regional Council will be used to build stage one of the new leisure and activity public space. As further stages progress.

The Palaszczuk Governments Works for Queensland programs supports local employment and allows councils to deliver projects that enhance the liability of our community. Local kids are excited stage one of their new park will include a modern bike pump track.

I can't wait to see the new walking and bike paths, playgrounds, and lake with Barramundi as works progress.

Affordable housing is in high demand

Everyone deserves to have a safe secure home. We have seen unprecedented numbers of people moving to Queensland putting a huge strain on available social housing. People are also choosing to live closer to where they work since COVID, they are looking to settle closer to the Bowen Basin and centres that service the mines instead of fly in fly out as their first option.

We have gone from a situation of having 2000 vacant properties to families living in tents. The federally funded NRAS has been wound up, investors are withdrawing their investment properties from the rental market displacing families.

To Combat the housing shortage the Palaszczuk Labor Government is embarking on a four-year building scheme on a scale that has not been seen since the end of World War II.

We are fast tracking the construction of 48 units of accommodation this is just in the wider Mackay region alone.

I visited a building site on the north side of Mackay 10 units of accommodation on the way of being finished. They are solid, well laid out homes, close to schools, doctors and shops all within walking distance. The trades people working on the homes are doing a great job. In months to come 10 local families and singles will have a safe secure place to call home.

The groundwork has already commenced on 4 more units of accommodation on the westside, we are getting on with the job.

There is so much construction there is so much construction taking place in Mackay on private builds and government builds our next biggest problem is sourcing trades people. If you know of any tradies looking for work, send them to Mackay, when have plenty of work for them.

We are also funding services to support those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to local organisation including, St Vincent DePaul, HomeStay Early intervention, Kalyan Youth Services, CASA, Lowanna House, Mackay Hostel, Community Housing and Information Centre Incorporated. The services are varied to deal with individual needs.

Education gives you choices in life. It is important that we deliver updated quality modern learning settings whether it be in a newly built school or in one of our many schools steeped in proud education history.

My region has great State and fee-paying schools, and I would like to thank our hard working teachers, teacher aides, cleaners, and axillary staff that support our students.

I would like to also congratulate the Queensland College of Teachers on their 50th anniversary this year.

44 schools across the Mackay Region will receive funding for ongoing minor works. I am looking forward to seeing the new disabilities amenities at Mackay SHS, and the refurbished learning spaces at Pioneer SHS and Mackay North SHS from Schools Infrastructure Enhancement Program. Students at Pioneer SHS tell me they are excited at getting renewed science classrooms.

Active kids are healthy kids, the resurfaced basketball courts at Mackay North SS will be well used.

We believe education is for all and not all students have the support they need from home to be ready for learning when they arrive at school. That is why we are continuing our support for schools to continue breakfast programs were needed.

There has been a big focus on mental health during the pandemic.

I am pleased \$6.6 million upgrades to the Mackay Community Mental Health Facility will provide safe and private clinical environments for patients and deliver clinical spaces that improve patient management in delivery of mental health services.

This is on top of the new pilot Crisis Support Space at the Mackay Base Hospital providing an alternative to emergency department care for someone arriving at hospital in distress.

The upgrades will deliver better care to more people as part of our region \$19.7 mil health upgrades which will also deliver jobs and add to our economic growth while adding to our top-quality health infrastructure in our region. The Palaszczuk government is committed to delivering for our community.

Health Services delivered across the Mackay HHS takes pressure of the Mackay Base Hospital, the new state of the art Sarina Hospital to be built at Brewers Road will continue to deliver quality health care for people living to the south of Mackay, the new hospital will be single bed rooms instead of the current multi bed rooms. Health care delivered close to where people live has better outcomes for patients and their family.

The Mackay electorate is not just about heavy industry, our natural beauty lends us to being a top tourist destination for adventure sports, engaging with nature, and attending events.

The Great Barrier Reef Arena will see shovels in the ground later this year more employment opportunities for locals. This is a piece of fantastic infrastructure that will attract big sporting matches to Mackay. Mackay was the first regional centre to hold a Sheffield Shield match outside of Brisbane, we have had National AFL teams play off and Big Bash games with large spectator crowds. With modern facilities more events can be attracted to my city, adding to our number of tourism stays in our accommodation, also boosting our restaurants and retail spend.

We want our day trips to local islands to be revived, funding for the Red Cat catamaran will get our island hopping tourism off the ground.

For our tourist that want to get out and active, they will be attracted to the Pioneer Valley Mountain Bike Trail, \$500,000 funding will assist the Mackay Regional Council to get this project off the ground.

Looking for a holiday, come to Mackay, explore our beautiful rainforest, pristine beaches, meet the wallabies at Cape Hillsborough beach, there is something for everyone.

As a former teacher I am pleased with the education improvements for my electorate, I am really proud of Duncan Pegg's achievements for the schools in Stretton. A wonderful tribute to Duncan naming the Stretton College Performing Arts Centre in his name, Vale Duncan.

I commend the Bill.



Ms BOLTON (Noosa—Ind) (8.30 pm): In rising to respond to the 2021-22 appropriation bills I have a question: is the word 'appropriation', which means a sum of money or assets devoted to a special purpose, appropriate given that it is in large part borrowings? In the journey out of the economic disaster of COVID we knew we were going to have this debt, as many other governments do.

Economic analysis suggests that the Queensland government's economic recovery plan has set the foundations for a budget with a transition from short-term support and stimulus to longer term productivity and competitiveness to drive private sector growth and jobs. This is a positive and, due to record low global interest rates, it is cheaper to service debt and borrow to rebuild. As always though, the devil is in the detail and in the application for effectiveness.

The predominant call from our businesses as part of getting our economy back on track is for industries such as tourism, which suffered the greatest impacts, to regain travel confidence. This comes from knowing that borders will not close whilst you are holidaying, lockdowns being minimal, appropriate quarantine facilities being available and vaccines being accessible including having a choice of them.

In the first readings, this budget appears to have something for everyone, including opportunity through funding packages and initiatives. Within my own electorate we had welcomed announcements including for our schools, Noosa council capital works and organisations to provide supports. The omissions I trust will be accommodated within these other funding pools as they are essential going forward, and I will speak on these.

Without international workers we need a concerted effort to utilise our own backpackers and unemployed via training, with job security versus casualisation. It is not the first time I have brought up the need to rebrand our key industries of hospitality as careers, and it requires a new focus from schools, governments and industry. May some of the funding provided via the \$320 million for Skilling Queenslanders for Work and the \$100 million investment in the JobTrainer Fund incorporate customised training of hospitality related jobs.

Noosa is one of only two regions in Queensland where tourism is the major employer yet it has not benefited from any recent initiatives including the Holiday Dollars vouchers which Brisbane and the Gold Coast were issued. Given the Noosa electorate per head of population traditionally has more international visitors than the Gold Coast or Brisbane, with a current loss to our economy equivalent to the Gold Coast, a percentage of loss in visitors and spend equivalent to other regions, a critical staffing shortage due to one of the tightest vacancy rates and Queensland's most expensive housing market—it is vital that we are able to access initiatives.

With Indigenous tourism very much in demand, within the budget, and appreciated, was a further allocation for the Cooloolool Great Walk, which is a partnership with our Kabi Kabi in providing unique cultural experiences through these beautiful areas via our young custodians.

Building our economy includes diversification and ensuring we are not reliant on international sources for essential products and to increase what we can export. With our upcoming efforts in Noosa to brand our iconic name as much more than a destination, funds will be required by organisations such as FAN for cold storage facilities and ongoing grants for our businesses to increase outputs. It was good to see over \$3 billion for the Queensland Jobs Fund and \$350 million Industry Partnership Program in the mix to assist in this, as well as plenty of small business grants.

From my own committee's inquiries and hearings into bills, it has become clear that there is a need to have consistent mandated components in the curriculum focused on healthy relationships and mental wellbeing from the very start of our children's education. Whilst this budget does provide essential funding for school infrastructure and maintenance upgrades, I have yet to unearth whether extra funding has been allocated to address inconsistencies. Appreciated is the Local School Local Jobs as part of transitioning our youngsters into the workforce. Did I mention that hospitality is a fabulous career?

An increase to policing is always welcome. Noosa's transition to mobile police units versus our two police beats has not had the best of starts, with two assaults in two weeks within the Hastings Street precinct and a delay in response times. We must have the resources to keep people safe and hold offenders accountable. I trust that, within the increases, the Sunshine Coast region is accommodated and that the integration between the QPS and QPWS systems is fast-tracked so we can finally prevent offenders on our North Shore from accessing permits.

Tewantin Bypass needs to be completed by 2024 to see an end to the bottlenecks, and delays to stage 2 will see double the amount of traffic enter into the 'straights', requiring release at the other end. With stage 1 having happily commenced, the Eumundi-Noosaville end now needs those detailed designs and the funds to do it.

All in this chamber are familiar with the greatest systems failure I have encountered. Haulage routes in our hinterland assessed independently as not being suitable for 40 to 80 trucks per day at times have loads of more than 200. The danger and trauma to road users, residents, businesses and our infrastructure has been well documented and is unacceptable. Whilst road upgrades are necessary to repair the damage, the environmental authority and associated haulage routes must be reviewed before a tragedy occurs.

An expansion to our emergency department in Noosa Hospital, which in effect acts as a satellite hospital, must be scoped. The flow-on effect from not having capacity to take our emergency cases has led to bypassing ambulances and ultimately adding to the ramping woes at SCUH.

Whilst on health, I stand here again looking for the clinical master plan for the Sunshine Coast to be finished. With needs including Parkinson's nurses, extra counsellors, psychiatrists and psychologists to see an end to lengthy delays for those who are suffering mental trauma and depression, I feel that we are running blind. I can only hope that the \$648 billion allocated to address the pressures from COVID, emergency patient flow and elective surgery waitlists, will somehow cover these, as well as those volunteer first responders to avoid the delays that I have spoken about previously.

It has never been more important to speak on palliative care. It is well documented that our volunteer organisations, including our palliative care hospices such as our much loved Katie Rose Cottage, deliver services at a much more economical cost than available within a hospital. Yet these accredited hospices still do not have an appropriate level of funding, nor did they have a dedicated voice during the inquiry into palliative care.

With voluntary assisted dying being debated this year, ensuring choice of palliative care is vital, and hospices require the surety of a partnership that commits to funding their nurses for 50 per cent in developing a sustainable funding model into the future. A portion of the \$171 million allocated to end-of-life care must be utilised to address this.

This year we commenced our Be: Noosa Connect pilot, utilising volunteers to ensure our frail who do not have the means to access their treatments at SCUH are transported. Already data being compiled is concerning, with the majority seeking assistance having to attend daily treatments for many weeks, leading to the cost to transport each individual at around \$2,500.

We appreciate the funds provided in this budget to Anglicare for those under-65s who are not eligible for transport assistance through NDIS or My Aged Care; however, much more funding is required, especially for the over-65s. In addition, the criteria around the PTSS must be urgently overhauled. My community has faced an unprecedented crisis in housing accommodation which has led to a loss of workers and impacted our economy and our much loved long-term residents and volunteers. This was preventable, and that is why I am angry about it. The current COVID rationale is only part of this story.

I stood in this chamber years before the pandemic outlining what was needed, which included development funds for our community housing organisations and surplus site identification. Some four years later state government land zoned for housing sits unutilised with the rationale on one side being that carbon offsets make it unviable and on other that it is under a native title claim. As the Noosa Housing Action Group continues to implement initiatives, including emergency provisions—and I thank the department for assisting in this—all I ask is that in the establishment of the \$1 billion Housing Investment Fund an allocation be provided to us without the previous barriers and that the state criteria around housing assistance for worker families who are currently not eligible for assistance be changed. The four-year commitment of nearly \$100 million for the housing and homelessness service system is appreciated, and I look forward to seeing what head lease packages are made available to Noosa.

Whilst the rail duplication to Nambour is vital, and it is good to see the commencement of the Beerburum to Beerwah section, so too is the rail shuttle pilot to Gympie. Opportunities within the Noosa and Gympie regions can only be realised when we connect transport to commuters, freight and tourists.

Overall, does this budget provide what my community seeks? In many parts yes, including the opportunity of funding pools to access assistance which may not be large in dollars but makes a real difference. The extra allocations across the state in domestic violence supports, youth justice reforms and concessions are just a small sample and are all very welcome. In addition, the \$42 million over four years to continue the fisheries reform process will raise great interest, as it is always a hot topic in my community. I have not yet found funding to extend SharkSmart and other non-lethal trials to other areas as well as much needed increases for maintaining our national parks, however, I will keep digging.

In closing, I thank the Treasurer, ministers, departments and all involved in compiling this budget. Again your task has not been easy, as across Queensland the diverse needs of our communities can be difficult to accommodate whilst we are still finding our way out of COVID. All efforts are appreciated. Even though the 2021-22 appropriation bills may not have given my electorate some of the specifics sought, they have left the door open. Let me assure you that my foot is planted squarely in the doorway to prevent it slamming shut.



Hon. DE FARMER (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (8.43 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, 5.4 per cent—what a great way to start a budget reply speech. Today is another huge milestone in our journey towards economic recovery in Queensland. When we know that unemployment levels have dropped to 5.4 per cent, that we have

created more jobs than pre COVID—almost 90,000 more jobs, in fact—and the hard work that everyone has put in is paying off, what a pleasure it is to be here in parliament backing a budget that shows our plan for economic recovery is working.

As the Treasurer said, we put the health of Queenslanders first. Because of that, we are in the best possible position to create more jobs. Our economy is roaring back to life, and it is now even bigger than it was before the pandemic. It has not been easy. To keep each other safe we were asked to do things we never had to do before: to stay away from the ones we love; to not travel around our great country; and to close the doors to small businesses, not knowing when they could re-open. But when asked Queenslanders rose to the challenge, and I want to thank every single person for their contribution. The sacrifices made across the state have helped get us to the economic position we are in now.

When everyone has done so much for the good of all of us, it is offensive for the Leader of the Opposition to ask this morning in his budget reply speech, 'Where is the opportunity, the reassurance, the hope?' If we had bowed to their demands to reopen borders and their cynicism about the reality of COVID, Queensland and Queenslanders could now be in the most abject and challenging of circumstances. They were the very perpetrators of lost hope when they were in government. They were the very cause of Queenslanders craving reassurance and crying out for hope and opportunity. It was during the Newman LNP years when the member for Broadwater was a member of that terrible cabinet that people were sacked, respect for doctors, nurses, teachers and other frontline workers went out the window, public servants were called the B team, community groups were emasculated and silenced and havoc was wreaked in communities across Queensland. The Palaszczuk Labor government returned opportunity, reassurance and hope to Queenslanders.

I have lots to talk about in my speech, including the more than one billion dollar investment in skills and training that are so important to economic recovery and our support for small business during COVID and coming out of the COVID economy. I am so excited about the opportunities we are able to offer. I want to talk about what the budget means for my own beloved local community. However, before I go into any of that I want to acknowledge our good friend Duncan Pegg and the inspiration he was for all of us in how to be a good human being and a good member of parliament. He is already so terribly missed, but I like to think he is looking down on us now listening to what we are all saying in our budget reply speeches, and I hope he approves. Most of all, I know he would be so proud of this budget.

I am sure Duncan would want us to mention some of the things he fought for, and I want to list a couple that are in this budget, including: the Stretton bus turnaround facility, \$1.2 million, which I know Duncan fought for for years; over \$8 million for the Runcorn State High School for facilities to cater for growth; over a million dollars for Runcorn State School; and \$400,000 for Kuraby State School. We know how much he loved his local schools in particular, and these projects will be a credit to him when completed.

I am very proud to know James Martin, who is Labor's candidate for the Stretton by-election. I know how much faith Duncan had in him as someone who would follow in his footsteps and care as much as he did about this beautiful community and who would fight for the things that are important. I wish James all the best as he works to hopefully build on Duncan's magnificent legacy.

Mr Deputy Speaker, my speech has been reviewed and approved for incorporation, and as such I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): I confirm that your speech has been approved by the Speaker or Deputy Speaker and will be incorporated.

The speech read as follows—

Speaker, no matter where you are in Queensland, and no matter your background, you deserve the chance to get the skills you need to get a good job.

At the same time, the number one issue raised with me by small businesses is finding the right people to work for them.

The picture is complicated, but I believe this is a problem we can solve.

It is such a privilege to stand before you as the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development to talk about how the Palaszczuk Government is doing just that.

The jobs we create and support people into are not abstract numbers in a report.

We are Labor, the party of workers, and we know that getting the right training and getting the right job can be nothing short of life changing.

Each and every job is an opportunity for someone to earn a wage.

For a couple to make a home.

For a young person to save money for the future.

For a parent to know they'll be able to support the dreams of their child.

The dignity of work cannot be understated.

That's why investing in training and skills and backing small business is central to our Economic Recovery Plan and at the heart of this Budget.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work is now a permanent program with ongoing funding of \$80m a year.

There's a reason we call it a flagship program.

Because it works.

It's helped more than 36,000 people get jobs since 2015.

In fact, 73% of participants end up in a job or further training, making it the most successful program of its kind.

Despite that the LNP cut as soon as their feet hit the ground in government.

Thank goodness we brought it back so it can help people like Courtney, a young woman I met just a few days ago, who is fulfilling her dream of training to be a tradie after deciding hairdressing wasn't for her.

We've helped more than 25,000 people into employment with our Back to Work initiative, and our \$140 million investment into a revitalised program is going to help thousands more.

And of course Mr Speaker we can't talk about training and skills without talking about TAFE.

After gutting TAFE, closing campuses and getting it ready to be sold off by the LNP to the highest bidder, the Palaszczuk Government has rescued Queensland's public provider.

Whether it's free TAFE and free apprenticeships for under 25s that's helped over 34,000 young people get the training they need,

Or the \$150 million we have pent upgrading, revitalising and building training facilities in TAFE campuses across Queensland,

We have committed over 1 billion dollars towards training and skilling Queenslanders.

Training people like Abeer, who I met just a couple of weeks ago.

She left Syria because of the war and—if her latte art was anything to go by—will soon be one of the best baristas in Queensland!

I'm sure she'll have no issue getting a job, because I know small businesses are crying out for workers.

Small businesses employ nearly a million people in our state, and we were there for them when times got tough.

Nearly \$200 million of adaption grants helped thousands of businesses stay afloat.

Now, we are helping them grow.

There is \$140 million behind our new Big Plans for Small Business strategy, including making the role of the Queensland Small Business Commissioner permanent.

We will also be holding a Workforce Summit later this year to tackle labour shortages head on.

The Palaszczuk Government is practicing what it preaches too.

Queensland is the only state in the nation to set a target to do business with small and medium businesses, and we spent over \$2.67 billion with them in the last 6 months of 2020 alone.

The best the members opposite could do was to "consider" awarding contracts to small businesses.

The LNP may wish to "consider", but here in the Palaszczuk Government we prefer to go ahead and get things done.

We are investing in Queensland's future by investing in the skills, business, and employment connections that our economy relies on. We have achieved a lot, but believe me when I say we have plans to achieve even more.

As I've said the Palaszczuk Government put backing small businesses and investing in skills at the heart of our Economic Recovery Plan, which means that my portfolio—Employment, Small Business, Training and Skills Development—is just full of fantastic work.

Some people may look at the success of Skilling Queenslanders for Work and Back to Work and think 'oh that looks fine, carry on'.

Not the Palaszczuk Government. We want the things that are good to be even better.

So not only are we continuing to fund these flagship programs, but we are updating and revitalising them too.

I spoke with thousands of businesses on our Small Business Road Show earlier this year, and their feedback has led to these important changes.

I'm sure members will agree with me when I say that small businesses are the lifeblood of our communities.

We might call them small, but there's nothing small about the \$120 billion they inject into Queensland's economy every year.

And from the thousands of businesses I've spoken with, I know it could be more.

It doesn't matter where you are across the state, or what industry you're in, employers cannot get the staff they need.

Queensland's small businesses are keen to get growing again, and the Palaszczuk Government is here to help them.

We know there are no easy solutions. That's why a key part of our Big Plans for Small Business Strategy is to hold a Workforce Summit.

The Summit, and a series of events in the lead up, will bring government, business, employers, training organisations and the community together to tackle the issue of labour shortages and support our businesses to thrive.

The Palaszczuk Government held a Skills Summit in 2018.

And that has resulted in some of the key skills and training initiatives now in place in Queensland.

Things like free apprenticeships and the establishment of Regional Jobs Committees.

But in such rapidly changing times, we need a new focus.

We know COVID has fundamentally changed the workforce landscape, and this will a unique opportunity for employers, training providers and industry leaders to come together and address labour needs as our economy grows.

Three years from the Skills Summit, with a global pandemic thrown in, it's time to rethink and reforge a path that continues to back all Queenslanders.

With international borders still closed, we now have an even more urgent job in getting Queenslanders skilled to fill jobs that are in-demand.

These are jobs not just in traditional industries like hospitality, mining, construction, and manufacturing.

These are jobs in growing and emerging industries such as technology, renewables, advanced manufacturing, and cyber security.

That's why we have a bold plan for TAFE and training too.

We need to build the workforce of tomorrow, today.

We have expanded our successful free TAFE and free apprenticeships so that all young Queenslanders under 25 can gain free training in 165 priority qualifications.

This program has helped over 34,500 young people get the training they need to get jobs in growing, emerging and traditional industries.

Of course, much of this won't be possible without a revitalised TAFE Queensland's largest education institution, which is forecast to support around 125,000 students.

We will always support TAFE.

We do not apologise for this because backing TAFE means backing Queenslanders, especially those living in rural and remote regions.

From the Gold Coast to the Torres Strait, we want Queenslanders to be able to access world-class training at cutting-edge facilities.

Now, more than ever, it is important that Queenslanders—no matter where they live—have access to well-paid and secure jobs to help recover and grow our economy.

That's why we are investing another \$100 million to over the next three years to continue to build and modernise TAFE facilities.

This is about helping to skill and train all Queenslanders for the jobs of the future.

And in a fantastic Budget such as this, there is abundance for my electorate.

I am so thrilled at the benefit for my local schools, and I was just at Bulimba and Seven Hills SS P & Cs on Tuesday night talking about some of the fantastic facilities we'll be getting from this year's funding:

\$16 million in funding for Balmoral High, including for admin upgrades and additional classrooms

New outdoor learning area at Bulimba, Norman Park, Seven Hills and Morningside SSs

Kicking off the works for the new hall at Seven Hills

And in an inner city electorate like mine where density is increasing and traffic congestion is a constant challenge, access to good quality public transport is essential. And the Budget has delivered:

We're getting the Morningside Station upgrade!

The Cannon Hill station upgrade will be finished this year.

We'll finish the design of the Cannon Hill Shopping Centre bus facility.

And there's \$8.6 million for the Stage 1 works in the Eastern Transitway.

Speaker this is a Budget for a QLD that is recovering. It is a Budget for the future, and I commend it to the House.



Mr O'CONNOR (Bonney—LNP) (8.47 pm): I will begin by talking about what this budget means for my electorate of Bonney. This morning I found out that the Premier did not know the name of my electorate, so I will just update her. It is on the Gold Coast. It is named after one of the most extraordinary women Queensland has produced, Lores Bonney, and at the last election there was a nine per cent swing to the LNP, so that is how the Premier can find it next time.

Our electorate is growing and changing. We have a community that is not only growing in size but also in connectedness. Residents are proud of our part of the Gold Coast, where they live and love what our area has to offer. I could not be more proud to represent Bonney, and I will keep fighting to get the best outcomes for them. I just wish that I could say this government was doing the same.

I continue, with my colleagues, to ask for much needed funding to keep up with the growth on the Gold Coast. Yet again we see empty promises with either no funding or waiting years for it to be realised. The second M1, or Coomera Connector, has taken a ridiculously long time to plan, and now we see that only seven per cent of its funding will be spent in the next year. This road is long overdue. There are not many people who would say they regularly get a clear run on the M1, and it is often most congested in the areas this alternative route will run between, that is, Helensvale, Pimpama and Yatala. The Gold Coast is the fastest growing region in Queensland. At the moment, you have to get on a National Highway to drive between many of our suburbs. It does not take over six years to plan a 16-kilometre road, especially when the government owns nearly 90 per cent of the corridor it is going in, and it should not take a further four years to build one.

In relation to light rail, I find it difficult to fathom that the majority of money for stage 3 will not be spent until after 2024. Stage 2, from the hospital to Helensvale, was finished almost four years ago, and this budget shows we will be lucky to finish stage 3 within eight years of that. We need light rail. It has to be the rapid public transport spine that runs down our city, and it is crucial to managing our growth. There should be rolling construction between stages rather than continual funding fights and the posturing of those opposite. It does not help us to get the infrastructure we need and only looks to create division and fear in our communities.

When it comes to roads, the main intersection I am still waiting on funding for is the Pine Ridge Road, Captain Cook Drive and Brisbane Road intersection. This is after we successfully fought to get funding for the Harbour Town intersection upgrade. I have written to the minister and his department multiple times about this. With the new Arundel Logistics Hub, Coombabah State High School and businesses in the area, it is a nightmare at most times of the day and at peak hour cars can back up for hundreds of metres. Just recently, we saw the tender for the business case go up and disappear a week later. Council has put over \$5 million on the table for the upgrade, but without state funding we cannot get the full upgrade that is so desperately needed.

We have had a big win with the government finally seeing the need to fix some of our old buildings at Coombabah State High School. I was looking back at my previous budget wish lists and they have been eerily similar every year for the past three years—always asking for more permanent buildings in place of demountables at my local schools. The upgraded multistorey facility at Coombabah high will make a big difference to this fantastic school, increasing their capacity and also giving them a space they can be proud of. I would sincerely like to thank principal Chris Kern for his continued hard work in leading this school.

I wish I could say the same for Arundel State School. We got nothing for the permanent buildings. Last year the LNP made a huge commitment to build a multistorey learning centre, and last February the minister claimed she would go one better than a funding commitment and master plan the entire school. Since then we have not seen a dollar of funding for this master plan. In fact my recent letter back from the minister referenced a principal who has not been at the school for over two years. I table that correspondence for the benefit of the House. It shows again that Labor has no plan for Arundel State School and no idea what is going on there.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 11 May 2021, from the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing, Hon. Grace Grace, to the member for Bonney, Mr Sam O'Connor MP, in relation to the concept plan for Arundel State School [\[903\]](#).

Labrador State School needs a hall upgrade—much more than the government's committed two fans, but I do welcome the half a million dollars we have secured to at least make it a bit better for the students there. Southport Special School has been promised an almost \$1 million upgrade to its drop off and pick up facilities. I have witnessed how bad this area is myself. It was not long after I got elected that I went on one of the morning bus rides. After an hour and a half long trip from Pimpama, we then had to go around the block multiple times on Kumbari Avenue just to get into the school. What I am confused about, however, is that while the region papers state that \$980,000 out of the \$1 million project will be spent in 2021-22, the Capital Statement only lists the project as \$550,000, with \$539,000 to be spent in the upcoming year and no further funding allocated. I will be seeking clarification on this.

Years after the Commonwealth Games finished, the Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct has still not seen any construction on the state owned sites there. I am pleased to see the EDQ commitment to get Proxima and the residential aged-care and integrated training facility built, and I will be watching carefully to see construction start this year as promised in the budget. I do have to confess to the House that I got it slightly wrong last time I raised this here when I said—

The closest thing to work being undertaken is some trees being planted and the installation of signage to rebrand the area.

In the last month we have actually seen some work done. We have had a fence installed, we have got some lights and there is a car park being put in one of the empty blocks. I actually think this is a good use of space considering nothing else is happening in that area, but what I do not understand is when I proposed to allow NightQuarter—a fantastic live music venue which we have sadly since lost to the Sunshine Coast—to temporarily move there until permanent leases were established, the government criticised the idea because it did not fit into the health and knowledge category. I am not sure what has changed in the last two years, but the government have really lost their vision if they think a car park is considered to be health or knowledge.

At the Gold Coast University Hospital, the upgrades announced in 2019 to the mental health unit have been a long time coming, with just over 40 per cent of the funds allocated in the upcoming year. This unit cannot come fast enough with the demand we are seeing for these services, and I hope to see it opened in the 2022-23 financial year. The staff there, who do a fantastic job, will very much appreciate it.

There is \$1 million to the Queensland Police Service for the knife detector wandering trial. This was in response to the campaign by the Jack Beasley Foundation to 'detect knives, save lives'. This money will cover operational costs. This is things like overtime for the police who are undertaking the wandering trial in Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach in the safe night precincts so they can do enough wandering over the next 12 months to get good data for the review, which is also covered in this funding. This was a big win for the Beasley family and our community, and I am so proud to support them. There is so much more work to do in terms of education programs.

I was also disappointed to see the Female Facilities Program coming to an end after this financial year as I have got two clubs which desperately need this funding. Southport Sharks and Labrador Tigers are both looking to expand their female facilities and they need this government to back them up.

I strongly support the opposition leader's proposal for a parliamentary budget office. It will provide transparency and clarity over budget policies for both sides of the House to get the most fiscally responsible policies put forward. We have seen it work very well federally and there are other jurisdictions at a state level with similar set-ups. I think this is a case of 'Why not?' Why be scared of more oversight? Why be worried if you have nothing to hide? The only reason Labor are unlikely to adopt this before we have a chance to is that they are scared of having the lens put over many of their funding arrangements.

I will now turn to the areas I cover in my shadow ministerial role. From the outset, I will say once again that Labor is a lot of talk with very little action. I will start with the Carbon Reduction Investment Fund. In my search for the money attached to this flagship program—the biggest environmental spend in the budget—I went back to the minister's 'simple terms' explanation when I questioned her on this yesterday. There is no funding allocated to this fund over the next four years. How can you make a return from zero dollars of investment? There is no detail about what will be in this fund. All we know is that there is no money in the budget over the forward estimates.

This fund is apparently being set up to ensure the viability of the Land Restoration Fund. The only thing that threatens the Land Restoration Fund is this government's inability to deliver it. Barely one-quarter has been allocated since it was announced back in 2017. Queenslanders deserve better from this government—which pretends to care about climate action but delivers with empty funds.

When it comes to waste, the removal of the annual payment to local governments for the waste levy is a clear broken promise. The statement from the LGAQ yesterday was strongly against this, and when there has been little to no communication it is no wonder why. The government has said it is because they are reviewing the levy, but as the LGAQ has said today—

Rather than using the regular legislative review process to break a promise to Queenslanders, the LGAQ calls on the Government to use that review to identify concrete ways to increase recycling, reduce landfill and achieve a zero waste future.

The current waste levy included a 70 per cent commitment to go towards reducing the impact felt by these programs to ease the transition. However, when you look at the expense measures for this waste management and resource recovery program, only 55 per cent of that revenue has been allocated. Once you take out those annual payments to local governments, this drops again to just six per cent. If this money is being spent elsewhere on waste management, I would welcome clarity from the minister because at this stage it does not appear the government is keeping its commitment. This shows the waste levy has nothing to do with the environment; it is simply a cash grab.

The further issue with the scheme is that currently local governments have no directions or guidelines about how they use the annual payments to reinvest in waste resource recovery or for communication programs. At the moment they are essentially just paying people to generate waste. I think the LGAQ is right to say the review should be focused on concrete ways to reduce waste and on supporting local governments to develop the infrastructure they need within their communities.

I have spoken before about my passion for FOGO, organic waste processing. It is a revolution in rubbish that we need to get on board with. The minister has announced a handful of small trials with little clarity over how those particular local governments were chosen. In other states we are seeing tens of millions of dollars being spent on this. In New South Wales just over the weekend their new Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy confirmed that they have spent \$105 million to help councils introduce FOGO so far, that they are committing another \$65 million for five years from 2023 and that it will be mandatory for all households and businesses to have FOGO by 2030. Once again Queensland under Labor is being left behind.

The Recycling Modernisation Fund is not identifiable anywhere in these budget papers. I sincerely hope our contribution is hidden in there somewhere because we are the last state to sign up. I understand we are just waiting on an announcement of the state's signing of this deal and the sooner the better.


I want to talk briefly about hydrogen. Only one-quarter of the funding we were told would be committed to a Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund has been allocated over the forward estimates until 2025. There is \$1 billion missing.

The government has said they want to see 50 per cent renewable generation by 2030 in Queensland. With 8½ years to go, less than half of their target has been reached. I support the call of our shadow minister the member for Condamine to see their plan to achieve this. Again, the sooner, the better. Our carbon emissions are still higher than when Labor came to office based on the latest data in the state and territory greenhouse gas inventories.

In last year's budget I spoke about the lack of ambition in protected areas with a target of just a 0.01 per cent increase in the next year. I am sad to say this has happened again. They have once again put forward this very disappointing target of 0.01 per cent growth. If we continue to go at this rate of growth, that puts us within reach of the government's own target of 17 per cent of Queensland land area being protected in what I calculate to be around 800 years. That is how slow we are going with our increase in protected areas.

The Great Barrier Reef funding in this budget is best described as underwhelming. Despite the Minister for Environment's grand announcement of \$270 million in continuing the water quality program, there is only \$1.2 million allocated for this year. I wish there was more to say on this funding, but unfortunately yet again it is another example of empty promises and a continuation of the existing amounts of funding. It is business as usual basically.

To conclude, this is just a typical Labor budget of promising much but delivering little, particularly when it comes to the environment.

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (9.00 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2021. Before I do I would like to pay tribute to my dear friend Duncan Pegg, Pegg, Peggy or DP, as I called him. It is different this budget not having him around to cheer me on. Duncan loved budget speeches. I loved how he would walk in with his scribbled notes on a piece of paper, multiple pages of

past speeches and newspaper articles with sections highlighted and sometimes looking somewhat disorganised. Then he would get up and deliver the most structured speech mixed with passion and humour. As much as I miss not seeing him in action this budget, I know he is up there somewhere making commentaries about the proceedings in the House. I send my condolences to DP's family, his parents, Graham and Lindsey, and his brothers.

I would like to acknowledge the Treasurer, Cameron Dick, for delivering an outstanding budget, a good, strong budget that delivers directly to the heart of Queensland. This budget demonstrates the Palaszczuk government's strong commitment to Queenslanders through our strong health response and plan for economic recovery. This is a sensible budget that comes off the back of this government's strong health response to the global pandemic. Unlike those opposite, we on this side of the House have a plan for economic recovery, and this budget proves it is working. I echo the Treasurer's words that when you protect the health of your people, jobs will grow. This budget recognises the need for growth in the wake of the pandemic, and we are investing in vital infrastructure and services to support jobs now and into the future as we continue to recover economically.

When I was first elected in 2017 to represent the Cook electorate I made a promise to my community that I would fight hard to represent them in parliament. It is wonderful to see investment allocated in this budget to support services and deliver better roads and vital infrastructure projects. The vastness of my electorate highlights just how critical it is to deliver quality health care and how important it is to have the right infrastructure and resources in place to meet the ongoing needs and demands of every community in the most remote parts of Queensland. The presence of COVID-19 in any one of my vulnerable remote communities would have been devastating.

This record health budget delivers for Queensland and, more specifically, it delivers for Cairns and for Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service. I welcome the \$1.81 billion investment for the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service, which covers Mareeba and Mossman in my electorate, representing an increase of 62 per cent. The Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service will receive \$250 million, representing an increase of 45.5 per cent. This is a far cry from the devastating track record that Campbell Newman and the LNP left behind: 14,000 public sector jobs, including nurses and doctors, cut with no second thought to the impact on service delivery. Those opposite like to come in here and make a lot of noise about health, but one thing is for certain: Queensland will never forget the LNP legacy of savage cuts to our health sector jobs.

When it comes to health, we not only talk the talk; we walk the walk. In the Torres Strait we are building a brand new primary healthcare facility on Mer Island with upgrades to primary healthcare centres at Masig, Poruma, Ugar, Dauan, St Pauls and Thursday Island. Not too long ago work commenced on the redevelopment of the Thursday Island Hospital, which I had the pleasure to visit recently with the Minister for Health, Yvette D'Ath. In the northern peninsula area, our health investment will allow for the replacement of the existing roof and associated infrastructure at Bamaga Hospital. This budget allows for the implementation of a remote building management system that monitors generators, vaccine fridges, morgue fridges and the incoming power supply at Northern Primary Health Care Centre. The Weipa Integrated Health Service will receive much needed funds for the refurbishment of a birthing suite, bringing maternity services closer to home as well as compliance and redundancy works for the chiller and heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system that will enhance service delivery. I visited the Weipa Integrated Health Service back in March where I got to meet with health staff and patients alike. I got to hear how this wonderful, world-class facility is contributing to staff and patient health and wellbeing across the board.

Our children deserve quality education no matter where they live in Queensland. This government investment of \$51.2 million for the Far North Queensland region will give schools greater capacity to maintain, improve and upgrade their facilities. I am delighted with the \$16.78 million education budget into schools in my electorate, demonstrating this government's commitment to deliver quality education to children in regional and remote areas. We on this side of the House know that by investing in our children we are investing in our future. From the Torres Strait to Cape York, Mossman to Mareeba, we are prioritising upgrades and refurbishments, maintenance costs, additional amenities and learning spaces; improving water supply; and installing disabled amenities and accessible walkways.

Who can resist talking about roads? Roads is one topic that has grown on me over the years, knowing how critical it is to deliver safe and reliable roads for road users travelling the vast region of Far North Queensland. While on the subject, I would like to acknowledge the Minister for Transport and

Main Roads, Mark Bailey, for his support in delivering vital road projects in my electorate. I would also like to acknowledge his ministerial staff in the department for the wonderful way they support the work that I do in my electorate.

The Speaker has reviewed and approved my budget speech for incorporation and, as such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): I confirm that the Speaker or Deputy Speaker has approved your speech for incorporation. It will be done.

The speech read as follows—

Speaker, when it comes to housing, I am absolutely delighted with this government bold announcement of \$1.9 billion over 4 years. People in Queensland want safe and affordable housing options, people in Cook want safe and affordable housing options. This record housing budget shows that this government is listening and delivering directly to housing needs of the most vulnerable in this state.

The \$203.3 million investment for Social Housing and \$14.5 million for homelessness services in FNQ will ensure that we continue to support the most vulnerable in our community with strong housing outcomes. I am pleased that places like Kowanyama, Mapoon, Napranum, NPARC, Pompuuraaw, Torres Shire and Torres Strait Island Regional Council will now be able to deliver housing outcomes for their community.

Community Organization like Mareeba Community Housing will continue to support individuals through programs such as HomeStay and Street to Home, that are designed to deliver specialist homelessness services.

When it comes to local government jurisdictions, I have the absolute honor and privilege to work across multiple local government areas of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous councils.

Works for Queensland would have to be the most popular amongst my councils, with my Mayors constantly expressing their support for this program. Works for Queensland allows council greater capacity to deliver minor infrastructure projects in their local communities.

I am thrilled that \$49.4 million has been allocated for regional councils in FNQ to undertake 111 minor infrastructure and maintenance projects. This is a big win for councils in my electorate, giving them more capacity to deliver local outcomes in community.

That's not all. We are seeing huge investments into community safety, small business, training and the arts, creating opportunities that will have long lasting impact on the lives of people in regional and remote areas.

Speaker, I commend this bill to the house.



Mr McDONALD (Lockyer—LNP) (9.07 pm): On the day of the budget's release the Premier and Treasurer both claimed with pride that this was a true Labor budget. Since then, many members have repeated these claims and espoused how good this budget is for Queensland. However, when we examine the details it becomes very clear that with line after line of announcements and no funds allocated, the claim of this being a good budget for Queensland is simply not true. These claims are simply a smokescreen for the fact that this budget is a budget full of Labor debt that is heading to a record \$127 billion and false promises of announcements with no actual dollar value. It is an insult to Queenslanders right across the state. This budget should have charted a clear path out of the pandemic, but where is the vision and investment in vital services across Queensland? Ambulance ramping is out of control, Queenslanders are sitting in traffic longer, housing affordability is dropping thanks to diminishing land supply and youth crime is out of control. This budget does not fix these problems.

As we have come to expect, this budget, like all Labor budgets, is short on infrastructure spending, long on excuses for earlier failures and chock full of empty promises. I recognise the observation of the Manager of Opposition Business of excuses that this government has used with his aptly named blame game wheel. Queenslanders expect governments to take responsibility for their decisions but this government is intent on blaming others, especially Canberra. History will show that the LNP federal government saved Queensland's finances through their JobKeeper and JobSeeker programs. With projections of increases in revenues in this budget and cuts to infrastructure of \$4 billion and debt increasing to a staggering \$127 billion, the question obviously is: where is the money?

The impact of these numbers on everyday Queenslanders needs further exploration, and we need to examine the budget in more detail to show the true cause. In Queensland, infrastructure spending accounts for 12 per cent of total budget expenditure. This proportional expenditure is the sixth lowest in the nation and pales in comparison to that of New South Wales and Victoria, who each spend over 20 per cent of their state budgets on infrastructure. No wonder our roads are falling apart. As the Auditor-General confirmed, we are on the way to a \$6 billion backlog. While we currently sit in sixth spot, just ahead of Western Australia, Queensland's average budget expenditure on infrastructure has

been on an annual decline since the Palaszczuk Labor government ascended to the treasury benches in 2015. We are the only state to record a decline in annual spending. Indeed, in this budget total infrastructure expenditure has been reduced in real terms by \$4 billion. \$1 billion of new infrastructure supports 10,000 jobs. Cutting \$4 billion of infrastructure spend will send 40,000 jobs out of Queensland and onto projects in other states and countries.

This budget is full of creative accounting. Creating accounting at its best is the titles office being owned and run by Queensland. The state government has valued the titles office at \$7.8 billion. Two weeks ago the Treasurer said in the House that the titles office had a preliminary value of \$4.2 billion. I am a parochial Queenslander, but when the New South Wales titles office is bigger than Queensland's and they actually sold their titles office for \$2.5 billion in 2017, one has to question the \$7.8 billion valuation. Likewise, Victoria's titles office had a value in 2019 of \$2.85 billion. Again, one has to question the \$7.8 billion valuation. What makes this so creative is that the government has used the inflated figure to place a great asset on the books against the debt. I wonder how many Queenslanders would love to increase the value of their house or property threefold and get comfort from their banks. This is questionable accounting at best, while the state's debt heads towards a record \$127 billion.

One of the other areas of creative accounting is the government's claim of its new \$2 billion hospital building fund. All the government has done is throw a net over business-as-usual building cost and called it a building fund. This is not going to address the 1,500-bed shortage that the AMA has called out or fix ramping and health problems in Queensland. Indeed, Labor's self-proclaimed record health budget has only increased by the \$400 million that was gifted by Canberra in this year's federal budget. I am sure that even this generous assistance will not stop the Palaszczuk government from blaming Canberra for their continued failures and inability to effectively manage Queensland's health system in the midst of this health crisis. Fear motivates people, and the government should be ashamed of its approach to scaring Queenslanders.

I have only skimmed the surface when it comes to pointing out how this Labor budget has failed Queensland. Continuing to do so would deprive me of the time to speak about how this budget has affected my community of Lockyer. I will be honest: as I sat yesterday to pore over these budget papers, I was initially surprised to see some projects receive funding in Lockyer. Sadly, this surprise quickly wore off as I realised that, like much of this budget, all I was seeing was reannouncements. There was virtually no new or increased funding for desperately needed projects in Lockyer. However, we did get some small wins. I was always taught to be grateful for those.

Beginning with the good news, I welcome the state's investment to provide upgraded amenities blocks at Grantham State School, Lake Clarendon State School and Blenheim State School and Laidley and Lowood state high schools. These are much needed funds for these great little schools. Indeed, education was one of the few areas where Lockyer received a fair share. I thank the minister for that. Given the government's \$293 million decline in education capital expenditure in this budget, I am certainly grateful that we got some.

Unfortunately, this budget has once again failed to fund perhaps the most important education project in Lockyer. At Hatton Vale State School, one of the fastest growing state schools, parents and teachers continue to battle over an insufficient number of car-parking spaces, and our calls to have additional land and car parking provided have fallen on deaf ears. Before the battle for parking begins at the school, many parents and teachers must first survive the threat that many Lockyer residents face daily. I have said it numerous times in this House. Every day Lockyer residents risk their lives crossing our state's most dangerous roads. Every day our motorists risk their lives by tackling dangerous intersections on the Warrego and Brisbane Valley highways, and this government simply could not care less. Despite my ongoing campaigning for road safety right across Lockyer and in light of the state road toll, which continues to grow, this government's road infrastructure priorities remain skewed towards electorates in the Brisbane area. It is all well and good to invest in solutions that will see residents in Brisbane and Ipswich get home 15 minutes earlier; however, I am certain that is of little consolation to the families of the more than 30 Queenslanders who have lost their lives on the Warrego Highway through the Lockyer in the last decade. Fortunately, the Morrison federal government has its priorities in order and is aware of the dangerous—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Members, there are far too many conversations happening in the chamber. Please take it outside if you would like to talk.

Mr McDONALD: Fortunately, the Morrison federal government has its priorities in order and is aware of the dangerous nature of Lockyer roads. I once again thank the federal member for Wright, Scott Buchholz, who has secured \$60 million for road safety improvements on the Warrego Highway

from the Morrison government's Roads of Strategic Importance funding. Over the past two years this money has sat unused, awaiting partial contribution from the Palaszczuk government of \$15 million. The state government has the opportunity to work collaboratively with the Morrison government to save Queenslanders' lives. This \$75 million package of road safety upgrades for the Warrego Highway will save lives and is something the government should fund. They need to stop playing political games with the lives of Lockyer residents. It is time this state government got its priorities in order.

Another sign of this Labor government's ignorance towards regional Queensland and our Lockyer is this budget's almost total lack of agricultural investment. I have said it before, and the fact remains, that Queensland would not be the state it is today without the Lockyer Valley. We are the seventh most fertile valley in the world, and the hardworking families who work the prime agricultural land it offers produce products renowned the world over. I am sure every single person in this House and their family has, with or without their knowledge, sampled some wonderful produce from the Lockyer Valley. The reputation held by our farmers and the esteem in which their products are held has not come without hard work and sacrifice. I look forward to further discussions and work with our shadow minister for water, Deb Frecklington, our leadership team and the Minister for Water, Glenn Butcher, to discuss and see the Lockyer Valley and Somerset water project funded in coming years.

Constrained by drought, the ongoing pandemic and an anti-region, anti-farmer government, Lockyer farmers have never had to work harder than they are currently. Recent rainfall has done little more than turn the grass green. While public attention remains on the government's favourite source of blame—the ongoing health crisis—meanwhile the longest drought in living memory continues to impact our farmers, and our irrigation assets remain some of the poorest performing in Queensland. I once again call on the minister to freeze or waive the part A charges for our water schemes. At a time when our farmers need support more than ever, this budget shows that the Labor government has truly abandoned the agricultural sector once again.

While it is just one more of this budget's long list of reannouncements, it would be remiss of me to not acknowledge the government's investment into stage 2 of the Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct just outside Gatton. It is one of the largest infrastructure projects in the state and does provide some employment opportunities. Once again I stress to the minister and the government the importance of maximising local business opportunities and benefits.

The contractors have been engaging with our locals and we need to see this continue to maximise those local opportunities. Unfortunately, the outlook for other potential public safety projects in Lockyer is far less clear. The communities of Fernvale and Lowood are two of the fastest growing in my electorate. These communities are protected and served by the officers of the Lowood station, but unfortunately their task is made particularly hard due to the station's desperate need for renovations. Within its walls officers are forced to work within cramped conditions where they can hardly turn around without colliding into one another. Prior to my election in 2017 and again at last year's election the LNP promised to provide \$2 million for this renovation to ensure that the hardworking officers at Lowood station are able to complete their work and keep their community safe in a suitable working environment. Sadly, this commitment has not been met by the Palaszczuk government in each subsequent budget and I once again call on the minister to fund that needed upgrade.

The Premier and Treasurer were correct: this is a true Labor budget reflecting the Palaszczuk Labor government's continued lack of direction, lack of meaningful investment, lack of transparency and contempt for regional Queenslanders. Like the government that developed it, this budget is an insult to many Queenslanders and fails them on almost all levels. It contains nothing but reannouncements, cover-ups and creative accounting and would certainly gain some negative attention from the Australian Taxation Office were others to try it with a business's books. Once again, this budget has failed Lockyer on most counts. Whilst grateful for some minor investment we will see, there are far more missed opportunities which will leave our community wanting.

This budget fails to address the road safety needs and fails to provide water security for Lockyer farmers. It also fails Lockyer educators and fails to address the public safety concerns in Lowood and Fernvale. This is not the budget Lockyer needed or wished to see. Nonetheless, I will continue to fight for those projects that we so desperately need and hold the Palaszczuk government accountable at every opportunity that goes by. This budget should have charted a clear path out of the pandemic where Queensland vision and investment would have given certainty to business and for Queenslanders in terms of the problems in Queensland, including ambulance ramping, housing affordability as well as youth crime. Queensland deserves better than this Labor government.



Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism Industry Development and Innovation and Minister for Sport) (9.22 pm): I support the appropriation bills and congratulate my friend the Treasurer on delivering a traditional Labor budget with a record investment in health, education and housing. It is a budget which recognises that our health response to the pandemic and our economic recovery plan are working. The budget shows that, because the Palaszczuk government protected the health of Queenslanders, we can recover and grow with confidence.

A central part of that economic recovery is the more than \$860 million that the Palaszczuk government has committed in delivered and planned support for the tourism and events sector since the onset of the pandemic. This includes \$10 million in funding announced in Tuesday's budget being invested over two years to start rebuilding aviation connectivity and the government's commitment to the \$7.5 million Work in Paradise program to offer cash incentives for much needed workers to take up jobs in the tourism industry in Northern and Western Queensland. These initiatives, along with a long list of other successful programs that we have implemented in the last few months, including the hugely popular Holiday Dollars voucher program and the Great Barrier Reef Education Experience Program providing subsidised reef trips for school students, have been effective measures to help take the Queensland tourism industry from its darkest hour last year to a position where the economic recovery of the sector leads the nation.

Our economic package for tourism recovery is working. The March 2021 monthly visitor data compiled by Tourism Research Australia shows Queensland outperformed all other states and territories in growth of overnight visitor expenditure. Expenditure was up \$673 million, or 88 per cent, to \$1.35 billion compared to March 2020. That is \$43.5 million being spent by tourists each and every day in Queensland or \$304.5 million a week.

The Palaszczuk government's investment in tourism industry recovery is in stark contrast to those opposite, who, when fleetingly in government, cut 35 staff from Tourism and Events Queensland. Those opposite also cut \$188 million from the tourism budget. The lack of investment in the sector by those opposite severely limited Tourism and Events Queensland's ability to plan, market or deliver events supporting the tourism industry. The LNP government's short-sighted vision for tourism put thousands of Queenslanders' jobs at risk and we saw tourism growth flatline, and that was under a government that claimed it was one of the pillars. In fact, being one of the pillars under the Newman government was to damn it to go backwards.

I fear for the people of Queensland if those opposite were ever to find themselves in government again as they clearly cannot read budget papers. The number of inaccuracies and incorrect figures in the Leader of the Opposition's budget reply were outstanding. The Leader of the Opposition claimed that only \$430,000 had been spent on the Wangetti Trail in 2020-21—clearly wrong. That figure is for property, plant and equipment. The Leader of the Opposition needs to scan further down the page where it clearly states that \$3.63 million was spent on capital for the Wangetti Trail in the 2020-21 financial year.

The Leader of the Opposition also claimed that only \$1,000 had been spent in 2020-21 on the \$1 million Outback Tourism Infrastructure Fund—absolutely, utterly and clearly wrong. This is actually a hugely popular \$7.79 million program with \$5.9 million being distributed in 2020-21 and the remainder proposed to go out in 2021-22. These errors show the opposition simply cannot read the budget papers. What makes it worse is that the Leader of the Opposition is also the shadow tourism spokesperson and has been since 2017. This is a portfolio that he should have knowledge of, not make such blatant and clear errors in.

In stark contrast, the tourism industry has come out in support of the Palaszczuk government's investment in tourism. Queensland Tourism Industry Council CEO Daniel Gschwind was quoted as welcoming—

The extensive investment into support—with positive tourism-specific initiatives noted in the budget including the creation of a new \$10 million aviation fund, budget maintained for Tourism and Events Queensland, and other region-specific capital works and infrastructure.

He also commented on ABC Radio—

The State Government has reacted strongly to the needs of the tourism industry.

Tourism & Transport Forum CEO Margy Osmond welcomed—

ongoing funding for Tourism and Events Queensland to continue the important job of marketing the State to get interstate leisure, business, cultural and event related travel right back into gear.

She went on to say—

We were also pleased to see funding provided for the long awaited called-for Aviation Route Support Package with \$10 million over two years committed to rebuild Queensland's international aviation connectivity.

In addition to immediate support initiatives, a road map for tourism's longer term recovery is underway. We have established the Tourism Industry Reference Panel to consult with industry and identify opportunities to improve resilience and accelerate the industry's economic recovery. The panel will release an interim action plan in the second half of this year and a final report early next year with a blueprint for the tourism industry's future.

The Palaszczuk government's economic recovery plan will further deliver \$25.8 million over four years to rebuild Queensland's international student market. Before the pandemic, overseas students contributed \$5.8 billion to our economy and supported the jobs of 27,000 Queenslanders, so it is crucial that we are in a position to recover quickly. We know this sector is important to our broader economic recovery. The Palaszczuk government's \$25.8 billion will place global education specialists in key markets ahead of the borders reopening, expand remote learning and protect Queensland's reputation as a world-class study destination. Also delivered in the budget was \$29.3 million over the next two years to support preparations for a future Olympics should Queensland secure the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

I note that this was a project that our friend, Peggy, was massively excited about. Duncan Pegg thought that this was a hugely important prospect for the state and for the region of South-East Queensland. With the final finish line in sight, we want to make sure that we go forward to that final vote with great confidence. We know the games have the potential to be transformational, injecting more than \$8 billion into the Queensland economy and generating up to 122,000 full-time equivalent jobs and a once-in-a-generation opportunity for tourism.

The Deputy Speaker has reviewed and approved my budget speech for incorporation and as such I ask that the remainder of my speech, which highlights other elements of my portfolio responsibilities and for the Sandgate electorate, be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): I confirm that the Speaker or Deputy Speaker has ruled that your speech can be incorporated, member for Sandgate.

The speech read as follows—

The Palaszczuk Government's Economic Recovery Plan will deliver a further \$25.8 million over four years to rebuild Queensland's international student market.

Before the pandemic, overseas students contributed \$5.8 billion to our economy and supported the jobs of 27,000 Queenslanders, so it's crucial we're in a position to recover quickly.

We know this sector is important to our broader economic recovery.

The Palaszczuk Government's \$25.8 million will place global education specialists in key markets ahead of the border's opening, expand remote learning and protect Queensland's reputation as a world-class study destination.

Speaker, the [Speaker / Deputy Speaker] has reviewed and approved my budget speech for incorporation, and as such I ask that the remainder of my speech is incorporated into the record of proceedings.

In Sport, the Palaszczuk Government is rolling out more than \$144 million in election commitments including new sporting facilities, equipment, and programs.

This includes \$15 million for the redevelopment of Ballymore and \$10 million for Great Barrier Reef Arena Development Project at Harrup Park in Mackay.

Our investment follows a \$51.3 million Sport and Recreation COVID SAFE Restart Plan to help clubs recover from COVID and the joint \$8 million, 2020 AFL Grand Final Legacy fund now delivering new facilities across Queensland with a focus on getting more females involved in the game.

And in Innovation, work is continuing on the Government's \$755 million Advance Queensland Strategy with an allocation of \$47.43 million.

We're stepping up our efforts to support regional innovators and entrepreneurs with \$5 million for the Advance Queensland Regional Futures program.

Regional Queensland is embracing innovation to build the jobs of the future and the Regional Futures Fund will help take that to the next level.

Advance Queensland has invested \$170 million to help over 4,600 innovators across regional Queensland and support more than 11,000 jobs.

With the announcement of the appointment of Wayne Gerard as the fourth Queensland Chief Entrepreneur, Queensland will be well placed to support start-ups and scale-ups grow, rebuilding our economy and creating the jobs of the future in this state.

I would also like to take a moment to mention the Budget measures in my electorate of Sandgate.

In education spending overall the 2021-21 budget delivers \$21 million in education infrastructure spending over the forward estimates for Sandgate, including:

\$11.7 million over the forward estimates for a new building at Bracken Ridge State High.

\$5 million over the forward estimates for a refurbishment of the existing hall at Sandgate District State High.

\$2.6 million over the forward estimates for additional classrooms at Taigum State School.

\$380,000 to make Bracken Ridge State High School more accessible.

\$225,000 to make Nashville State School more accessible.

\$19,000 of \$200,000 each for Bracken Ridge State, Sandgate State and Shorncliffe State Schools for upgrades to outside school hours care facilities.

\$3.37 billion in health for the Metro North Budget for 2021-22, including \$888,351 in 2021-22 out of \$4 million for construction projects at Brighton Health Campus.

In Transport and Main Roads Sandgate will receive:

\$16.95 million of \$163 million for the Beams Road overpass—a project that the Member for Aspley and I have worked persistently to see start.

\$3.6 million of \$1 billion for Gateway Motorway upgrades between Bracken Ridge and the Pine River.

\$1.5 million of \$5 million to replace and improve noise barriers on the Gympie Arterial at Bald Hills.

\$9 million of \$30 million for the Gympie Arterial/Hoyland Street interchange upgrade—to a 'diverging diamond' design.

And, \$850,000 of \$2 million for dredging at Cabbage Tree Creek.

Also for our community we will see \$324,000 for Home Assist Secure to maintain existing community services.

And finally, \$868,170 for maintenance at Bracken Ridge TAFE.

I would also like to put on the record the details of some of the long list of tourism initiatives the Palaszczuk Government has provided since the onset of the pandemic.

The Palaszczuk Government has committed \$74 million to the Rebuilding Queensland Tourism commitment comprising:

- \$20 million Tourism Activation Fund
- \$20 million Events Boost
- \$15 million Regional Tourism Organisation Fund
- \$15 million for a Tourism and Events Queensland marketing blitz
- \$4 million for future proofing the industry.

Since the onset of the pandemic we have also delivered other significant support for the tourism industry including:

- \$25 million Queensland Tourism Icons Program
- \$25 million Growing Tourism Infrastructure Fund
- A further \$15 million aviation support
- \$174 million for tourism businesses through the Industry Support Program
- Over \$78.8 million in Small Business COVID-19 Adaptation Grants
- The Holiday Dollars Program for Cairns, Brisbane, Whitsundays and Gold Coast
- \$1 million the Great Barrier Reef Education Experience Program
- \$2 million Tourism Business Financial Counselling Service
- COVID-19 Marine Tourism Rebate program, and
- \$6.8 million rebates on marina charges extended until mid-2022.



Mr DAMETTO (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (9.30 pm): As this is my first time on my feet since the passing of the member for Stretton, on behalf of the people of Hinchinbrook I pass on our deepest condolences to not only Duncan Pegg's family and friends but also the good people of Stretton.

I rise to give my contribution to the Appropriation Bill and speak to the budget 2021-22. As most members have said, this is a textbook Labor budget. I draw to the attention of the House these lovely glossy documents that were provided when the budget was handed down. We have one for Far North Queensland. We have one for Townsville. I would like to put on the record that next time I would really like one for Hinchinbrook. For some reason it seems to have been forgotten.

Mr Perrett interjected.

Mr DAMETTO: Exactly. I will take that interjection.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr DAMETTO: Don't give up; that is right. This is a standard Labor budget that I believe does one thing: it keeps the lights on for Queensland. Most people would be happy with just keeping the lights on. Mr Deputy Speaker, could I get you to intervene and stop the chit-chat? Otherwise I will have to speak louder and louder.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Walker): Pause the clock. Member for Hinchinbrook, I will chair the chamber and you just keep talking.

Mr DAMETTO: I would like you to.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have the call. Go hard.

Mr DAMETTO: Education has been a winner in the state this year, as has health and transport and main roads as per usual. Like I said, it is a very standard Labor budget. People who are trying to do something innovative for the state have missed out. There is also none of that nation building infrastructure that the KAP has called for and which is part of our mantra. Unfortunately Big Rocks Weir did not get a mention, nor did Hells Gates Dam or the North Queensland bioenergy sugar mill. In previous budgets the North Queensland bioenergy sugar mill, which would be built in the Hinchinbrook electorate, has topped a mention. Unfortunately the state Labor government has moved away from the conversation on biofuels. There have been numerous calls in the past and plenty of money spent on trying to get a biofuels industry up, but unfortunately we have moved to hydrogen. We have stepped away from something that could have been a great industry for this state and made a great deal of profit. Unfortunately we have put that to the side and gone for another pie in the sky which is hydrogen. Hydrogen has a future and we love the investment, but do not forget biofuels, which this budget has.

CopperString 2.0 has not been mentioned in this budget. This project is imperative not only for the North West Minerals Province but for the seats of Mundingburra, Townsville and also Thuringowa. We would like to see not only in-principle support but financial support and hard backing from the state Labor government to see that project go forward. This is not only about opening up mines in those high-value minerals that the member for Townsville spoke about in his speech a couple of days ago, but opening up new mines in copper, gold and zinc in the North West Minerals Province to make sure that Townsville has a future. As I said, what is good for the North West Minerals Province is good for Townsville.

HIPCo did not get a mention in the budget. That is an irrigation project in Hughenden. There is no money for that project. Money from the federal government for Big Rocks Weir is sitting there. We need the state government to get its hands dirty and progress that project. I hope that the water minister takes heed of that and continues to work with those stakeholders.

I want to draw down on water projects that would help the Hinchinbrook electorate that missed out in this budget. The Hinchinbrook Shire Council has worked tirelessly and is now working with the federal government to secure funding. We need funding to do studies. Small councils across Queensland cannot be expected to put the money forward for infrastructure projects that build wealth for the nation and the state. They are looking to do weirs on the Stone River system but also the Herbert River, not just for agriculture but also, if you believe in rising sea levels, to protect our water sources from rising sea levels. The state government should be looking at helping these small councils to futureproof their water supplies.

The electorate of Hinchinbrook has received \$600,000 out of a \$2 million spend to upgrade Wallaman Falls visitor facilities to ensure that there are better facilities in the Girringun National Park for people who travel there. Around 100,000 people a year drive up to the Wallaman Falls. It is the greatest single waterfall attraction in Australia. It is the largest single-drop waterfall in the Southern Hemisphere. If anyone here in the House has not seen it I urge them to get up there and check it out. It is absolutely beautiful. We need more funding invested in the Paluma to Wallaman Falls Trail project. The state government has known about that project for some time. I have advocated strongly for it. We need to make sure that we are spending more money on those sorts of projects to open up ecotourism.

I cannot talk about tourism right now without talking about insurance. We have small mum-and-dad operators across the state who are unable to get insurance. I am hearing it across the sector. Without public liability insurance we do not have a product. We can open our gates at any stage

and have international tourists but if we do not have ecotourism attractions for people to come and enjoy we do not have an industry. It saddens me. Much of this falls under the federal sphere. The honourable Bob Katter has put pressure on the government at that level to make sure there is work done, but the state government can play a part otherwise we will see that fold up.

Our youth crime pandemic does not get a lot of attention when it comes to new infrastructure in this budget. There are beds being built in the south-east corner and a little bit of money spent here and there for programs, but we are looking for real investment in better facilities to look after these kids. This is a great opportunity for me to talk about the KAP's relocation sentencing policy. This is a policy that would see children taken out of the environment they are in where they are committing these crimes and away from the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre that continues to be a revolving door scenario. The information provided to us is that the average stay at the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre is eight days. We are wanting these kids to go out on country in a purpose-built facility. It will be donga style accommodation, not costing \$1,500 a day, which it is at the moment. It is a much cheaper way of doing it. It is a real investment in these children. They will do six- to 12-month stints. It is an alternative sentencing option for these kids to try to break the crime cycle.

I acknowledge that this week is Men's Health Week. Although we have seen from the government significant investment in and acknowledgement of the issues faced by women across Queensland, whether it be domestic violence or homelessness, we see very little being invested by this state government when it comes to men's health.

Today in this House I acknowledge the passing of Kerry Rooney, who was allegedly stabbed by an ex-partner in front of his son. It is Men's Health Week, but in this budget we do not speak about men. Men are also victims of domestic violence. Men are also victims of homelessness. However, in this budget men are not acknowledged as women are and that issue needs to be raised in this House.

I wish to talk about some things other than tourism investment that are good for Hinchinbrook. For one of our good news stories I thank the Minister for Education, who always does good things for us in the Hinchinbrook electorate. In this budget we see \$1.5 million for new amenities at the Bluewater State School. The Bohlevale State School, just around the corner from my place, will receive \$375,000 to refurbish Block B. A sum of \$700,000 will be invested in a beautiful large fence to go around the school to not only protect the kids from someone coming into the school at any time but also protect the kids from running onto the road and possibly falling victim to a car incident.

One of my favourite small schools in the Hinchinbrook electorate is Trebonne State School. The school will get \$45,000 for outdoor adventure play equipment. Last year they were fortunate to get about \$35,000 from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund to start that project. The community has also chipped in and now we will see extra investment from the state government. I think that small schools in the Hinchinbrook electorate are cool schools. I am sorry if I am speaking quickly, but I have a lot to say. I feel like an auctioneer. The 2021-22 budget also delivers \$887,000 for minor works across Hinchinbrook schools. Once again, I thank the education minister for that investment.

In the Hinchinbrook electorate people will be very happy to see progress on the ambulance centre to be built on the north shore next to Bunnings. This budget provides \$500,000 to secure the land and conduct preliminary works and planning. That will be a \$6 million spend in the Hinchinbrook electorate to make sure that ambulance services for the northern corridor are topnotch. I will continue to advocate for that project. While we want to see that ambulance centre up and running, we also want to make sure that the Black River ambulance station continues to be supported because it plays an integral part in the provision of emergency services for the northern part of Townsville.


We see a further commitment—it is more of a reinforced commitment—to Port Hinchinbrook, where we have had some longstanding issues. Unless we can fix the problems at Port Hinchinbrook, Cardwell as a whole will not be able to rebuild following cyclone Yasi. It has been 10 years since cyclone Yasi hit Cardwell and damaged Port Hinchinbrook beyond repair, but we can band together to fix some of the longstanding problems. It is good to see that the state government has left \$6.4 million in the budget to rebuild the sewage treatment plant, but more needs to be done. I will continue to work with State Development on some of the longstanding problems with that development to ensure that we see normalisation and that the people of Hinchinbrook can see an end in sight in terms of those issues.

I will continue to lobby the state government for projects that did not get any funding in this round, such as marine infrastructure for the tourism industry. In the Hinchinbrook electorate we have some of the most beautiful islands in Queensland. Our largest island is Hinchinbrook Island, which is home to the Thorsborne Trail. The Palm Island group sits in the Townsville electorate. We want people to see

those places, but unless we have tidal access people simply cannot get there. We need investment at Forrest Beach. Cassady Creek boat ramp is a good start, but we would love a lovely big breakwater out the front. I know some people would say that that is pie in the sky, but never say never, especially considering what happened at Clump Point, Mission Beach. With the right lobbying at the right time, things can happen.

We would like to see all-tidal access for Enterprise Channel at Dungeness, which is via Lucinda. With all-tidal access at Dungeness we would have more tourism operators operating in the Hinchinbrook Channel, accessing Hinchinbrook Island and taking people out to the reef or up the channel to catch barramundi or coral trout. Every Queenslander who visits Hinchinbrook should have that opportunity.

As I said earlier, the budget papers contain a couple of really glossy documents that talk about the state government's big spend in Queensland, especially in education and health. While that is great, the fact is that certain things have not been funded. People are still being left behind. The cost of living is still through the roof. Both parents still need to work full-time just to scrape by. Insurance costs are through the roof. We need to bring down those costs and the state government has an opportunity to do that through stamp duty reductions or reassessing some of the ways that funding is distributed. We push the state government to help those who are trying to get ahead. We want working people to be able to access the things that they need.

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (9.45 pm): It is great to hear the member for Hinchinbrook and Katter's Australian Party talking up the Palaszczuk government's record education budget in this place.

Ms Grace interjected.

Ms LAUGA: I take that interjection from the Minister for Education. This is the first time that I have risen in this place since our good friend the member for Stretton passed away. Duncan was a good bloke. He was a friend to many of us in this place. He was taken too soon and I am still grappling with his passing. It feels like he is just on a holiday or something. I am sure that in the future many of us will have more to say about Duncan and his work. We miss him terribly. I offer my condolences to Duncan's parents, brothers, friends and family.

Given the way that those opposite talk in this budget debate one would think that Queensland is falling apart. Those opposite say that Queensland's roads are falling apart, the hospitals are falling apart and the schools are falling apart. It is all drama and negativity. They are so negative. They actually sound like the used car salesman I dealt with when I traded in my first car, my beloved Betty, the white Holden Barina. The salesman said, 'The wheels are falling off, there are dings in the body, the paint is chipped, the brakes don't work and it is not worth much at all.' Just like those opposite, he talked down my car. He talked down the care and maintenance that I had given to it. He looked for every opportunity to give me the lowest price possible. He sounded just like those opposite as they talk down our great state. There are always lots of hidden fees when you are trading in a vehicle with a used car salesman—or hidden cuts, as the LNP like to say. There are lots of hidden fees, lots of hidden cuts and lots of fine print in the contract. They said that there will not be any cuts, but then the Leader of the Opposition says, 'But it won't be savage.' There is always fine print when it comes to the LNP and their promises.

I looked after my car, Betty. It did not miss a service. It had clean oil that was regularly topped up. The tyres and brake pads were newly replaced. I looked after my Betty Barina just as the Palaszczuk Labor government is governing with care and attention. All of us on this side have a great love for our state of Queensland, but those opposite are talking down this state—our state—like a used car salesman. They are talking down the economy, our future and the prospects of our great state for their own benefit.

I would not want to be anywhere else in the world right now and that is only because of our Premier, our Chief Health Officer, our Deputy Premier and the nurses, doctors, healthcare workers and all Queenslanders who have worked so hard to keep our state safe from the global pandemic. Now our economic recovery is underway. Our economy has rebounded and the latest labour force data shows that unemployment in Queensland has dropped to 5.4 per cent, which is lower than before COVID. In Keppel the hotels are booked out. In fact, the owners of Oshen tell me that they could book out their hotel twice every night. The restaurants are full and tourism is booming. This budget demonstrates that Queensland's COVID-19 economic recovery plan is working. The budget invests in jobs, infrastructure, services—including in health and schools—and growth right across Queensland.

In Keppel, this budget delivers on our election commitments. It delivers a record health budget with a \$691 million investment in our Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service. This budget delivers the funding for the finishing touches on the \$14.3 million, 42-bed detox and rehab centre in

Rockhampton. It delivers funding to start work on the cardiac hybrid theatre at the Rocky hospital so local people can get the stents in their arteries that they need without having to travel to Brisbane. It delivers the funding to refurbish and expand the mental health unit at the Rockhampton Hospital so more local people can get the mental health treatment they need close to home.

I am incredibly proud to be Assistant Minister for Education in a government that is yet again delivering a record education budget, the Palaszczuk government's seventh record education budget, a record \$15.3 billion state education budget investment in school and early childhood education which will deliver for Queensland children, students, teachers, teacher aides and tradies from Far North Queensland to the Gold Coast.

Almost \$1.9 billion in infrastructure spending will maintain, renew and build new facilities, including 10 new schools and other facilities supporting more than 4,100 jobs across the state. This continues our proud record of giving every child a great start and engaging young people in learning, no matter where they live.

The Speaker has reviewed and approved my budget speech for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech is incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Walker): Member for Keppel that has been approved for incorporation.

The speech read as follows—

The budget also includes \$202.9 million invested over four years and \$64 million in ongoing annual funding to support the continued provision of universal access to kindergarten for Queensland children.

This means funding for kindergartens for 2021-22 of \$187.1 million.

That's going to mean 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 also includes:

- More than 240 new teachers and more than 80 new teacher aides
- \$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 well-being professional and to pilot GPs in 20 state secondary schools
- More than \$23 million to deliver on the 2020 election commitment to build and upgrade training facilities at schools

Mr Speaker, the planning, delivery and condition of our roads will always be a touchstone in every electorate, and mine is no exception.

As I have already stated, the population growth driven by this government's sound economic policies, has seen centres such as Rockhampton, Yeppoon and Emu Park grow—particularly in the past two years as many miners base themselves on the Coast.

Two key roads in the Keppel electorate will now be significantly boosted thanks to this Budget with a total spend of \$12 million and a focus on road safety.

The increasingly busy 45km Rockhampton—Emu Park Road is set to receive \$2 million for upgrades in the next financial year, including overtaking lanes and other priority safety and capacity improvements.

This is a pre-election promise of mine which will now be delivered.

Another of my promises now being delivered thanks to this Budget, is \$10 million in the 2021-22 financial year towards the \$80 million upgrade of the Rockhampton—Yeppoon Road.

This is a significant step towards eventually expanding the second part of this road to four lanes, providing commuters with a world-class driving service for the 42.5km journey.

In February 2021 Transport and Main Roads announced its survey had found traffic volumes on this section of the Rockhampton-Yeppoon Road range between 10,700 and 11,600 vehicles per day, which includes 1000 heavy vehicles.

The Rockhampton-Yeppoon Road was also receiving \$4.4m for strengthening pavement.

To follow Treasurer Cameron Dick's drive to "Boost the Bruce" Highway, I'm pleased he has allocated \$5,290,340 to improve various locations and intersections on this State's busiest highway.

HOUSING: The pressure on our housing market and rentals, and the needs of those without accommodation, is typical in most regions across Queensland.

I receive scores of emails relating to our housing market each week, and my staff work closely with constituents, private agents, and not-for-profit groups to help people find permanent homes.

Mr Speaker, I'm pleased this government has moved to put in place policies which will go some way towards addressing this issue, including a \$1.6 billion investment to build more social and affordable homes.

It's the largest investment in social housing since World War Two, and Keppel is one of the electorates to benefit from this.

I recently visited, with our Federal Labor leader Anthony Albanese and Senator Murray Watt, a \$2.1 million social housing construction site in Frenchville, North Rockhampton.

This project, due for completion very soon, is part of an unprecedented social housing construction expansion in Central Queensland aimed at delivering 60 new homes over 5 years.

Work on two new homes and nine apartments in the Keppel electorate is helping the Palaszczuk Government keep pace with an increasing demand for social housing in the region.

These include:

- Five x 1-bedroom and two x 2-bedroom apartments in the Frenchville project.
- 2 x 2-bedroom duplex units in Norman Gardens (completion date 2021-22),
- 1 x 4 bedroom detached house in Emu Park (2021-22), and
- 1 x 4 bedroom detached house in Norman Gardens (2021-22).

The Palaszczuk Government knows that while social housing can help, it is not the only answer, which is why the department works with customers to connect them with services that address their immediate housing needs, including accommodation in the private market.

I turn now to TOURISM which, like Housing, Education, Resources etc., equals jobs.

And that's what this government is all about, Mr Speaker—creating jobs and laying the economic platform for the future to help Queenslanders to help themselves to a better life.

I am pleased that Central Queensland and the Capricorn Coast has been well promoted in the government's Tourism budget, helping to create and guarantee jobs such as operators, tradies, services and hospitality staff.

Promoting our region in national campaigns, and I'm proud to say with the wonderful work by CQ locals Tom Busby and Jeremy Marou, is helping drive more visitors to our neck of the woods.

Tourism operator and wildlife sanctuary Cooberrie Park has been given \$800,000 in the Budget to develop their exciting plans for a dinosaur park.

I met with Kieron from Cooberrie Park onsite earlier this month and his plans are exciting to add another dimension to our tourism matrix.

There's money too for Rosslyn Bay boat harbour which is an extremely popular facility for local boaties.

Central Queensland is well placed to benefit from the \$10 million to be invested over two years to start rebuilding aviation connectivity as part of the Palaszczuk Government's Economic Recovery Plan.

We acknowledge that getting flights in the air is an important investment in helping the tourism industry rebuild.

So far some \$860 million has already been committed by the Government to support the tourism and events industries through the global pandemic.

That support is vital in a decentralised state like Queensland spoilt for first-class visitor destinations like the Capricorn Coast, and aviation access is critical.

Mr Speaker, I commend this historic State Budget to the House which, I believe, paves the way for an exciting future.



Mr PURDIE (Ninderry—LNP) (9.50 pm): I rise to speak on the Appropriation Bill 2021. As the Treasurer trumpeted in his speech, the budget has all the hallmarks of a Labor budget, following in lockstep a generation of Labor budgets that have come before it. It is one void of ideas, but full of empty promises and empty buckets of money. In fact, the budget reminds me of one of my kids' favourite reads, *Choose Your Own Adventure*. It relies on a series of chance outcomes and the correct alignment of the stars to hopefully result in a happy ending. Unfortunately there are no happy endings when you combine the Labor government and economic management. They are diametrically opposed and that is clearly apparent again in this budget. No ambitious bold plans to back up their lofty targets, just more creative accounting and subterfuge.

This budget can be likened to a tried and tested recipe. Step 1: cook the books, hoodwink the taxpayers then bunker down. It is Labor's favourite tactic. Fudge the figures, apply some clever accounting and bury the details deep enough so by the time the truth is exposed, you can lay the blame elsewhere, like Canberra or COVID or play the commercial-in-confidence card—just spin the wheel and see where it lands.

Step 2: distract, ideally by replaying their favourite hit list straight from their best-selling album straight out of the Newman era, an administration, mind you, which governed more than six years ago, long before I got here—six long years in which this third-term Labor government has had ample opportunity to lay their own foundations of a new era.

As we know, the hallmarks of a Labor government are not ones that stand the test of time. It does not take a master chef to guess what happens when you take the same dated recipes, stale ingredients and dodgy chefs. It was always going to be a flop, styled to appeal and look tasty, but ridden with holes and hard to digest.

Ms Grace: Cliches, one-liners, no substance.

Mr PURDIE: Thanks, Grace. Come on, Grace. Mr Deputy Speaker, we all know the Treasurer likes to compare himself with the greats. Aspiration is a wonderful thing, provided it is grounded in at least some element of ability and reality. However, the name Charles Ponzi comes to mind when I reflect on what has been arguably the Treasurer's biggest light bulb moment of his career in the delivery of this latest budget. I am talking about the Queensland Titles Registry. No doubt, after learning the ratings agencies were going to downgrade our credit rating, a moment of enlightenment struck while he was eating his peanut butter toast. It probably went something like this: 'Let's beat up the value of this bad boy and move it off our books so debt will look better down the track. No-one will suspect a thing.' As polished as he likes to think he is, this sleight of hand did not go unnoticed and the Queensland Treasurer has been called out.

Unlike a real playmaker, thrilling and suspenseful, he is not. Deceptive and hard to follow would be much more appropriate words to describe this latest attempt to create a distraction from what can only be described as a missed opportunity to deliver a budget that actually delivers for all Queenslanders.

Our state's economy is not a game of *Monopoly* where a 'chance' card can get you out of jail. You have to pass go and pay your dues, the same way that hard-working Queenslanders pay their taxes and expect a fair go in return.

According to the Premier, the Queensland economy is coming back bigger, stronger and faster than ever. However, no amount of creative accounting can make up for the fact that this budget fails to deliver for Queenslanders. Not one constituent in my electorate has contacted my office this week to ask a question about the state budget and it is not because they do not care about their future, their kids' future or the economic health of our state; on the contrary, they just cannot relate to a government that has clearly lost touch with reality and with public sentiment.

The Treasurer's deceptive accounting and quiet musings have no relevance or appeal to the 39,000 people living in my electorate. But I can tell you what they do care about: they care about their health, they care about getting home safely, they care about security for their families and their future, they care about getting a good education and a good job, and they care about the cost of living.

At a time when the Treasurer himself has boasted about the pace of our economic recovery, the questions most Queenslanders are asking are: what does it mean for them; how can they continue to afford paying record high prices for rent and housing; how much longer will they be forced to wait for medical treatment to ease their suffering and pain; when will the long overdue upgrades for our failing road network be completed so they can get home sooner and safer; will their children be forced to leave our region to look for work; and is their own job secure?

We know the Palaszczuk Labor government likes to talk about transparency, so let's reflect on some of the figures that were missing from this third-term Premier's budget. Hospital ramping has peaked and currently sits at 40 per cent. It is the highest it has been in a generation. At some hospitals it is a 50/50 chance whether or not you are seen in clinically recommended time frames. Essentially it is the toss of a coin.

Right now, more than 10 per cent of elective surgeries are not completed on time and there are nearly 55,000 people on the waiting list. In addition, nearly 230,000 Queenslanders are on the waiting list to get on the waiting list. Similarly, there are more than 150,000 people on the dental waiting list. Labor's operational health budget has increased by two per cent, barely above CPI which budget papers forecast at 1.75 per cent. Queensland's health budget only increased by the extra amount that Canberra gave them in this year's federal budget—\$400 million. Labor's record health budget does nothing to improve a public health system which they are losing control of.

Infrastructure spending has been slashed. Of particular concern to residents in my electorate, there is no money to fast-track long overdue road infrastructure, including busting congestion in Coolom or to upgrade major arterial roads like Yandina Coolom Road and Eumundi Noosa Road which are no longer fit for purpose.

There is no money in this year's budget to replace the Bli Bli Bridge which has been the subject of extensive structural investigations for over a year. Truck drivers have been forced to make lengthy detours due to the load limit that has been imposed for the duration of the investigation works. Not only does this add to their time but also it adds to their costs, reduces profit margins and ultimately impacts our local economy. Meanwhile, questions about the bridge's safety and structural integrity go unanswered.

There is still no money budgeted to start construction on the duplication of the Sunshine Motorway which Labor committed to at the last election. This infrastructure project would be a game changer not only for my electorate but also for the entire Sunshine Coast region, particularly high-growth areas north of the Maroochy River. Imagine the number of jobs a construction project of this scale would create. It would also save lives, too many of which have been lost on this dangerous stretch of road which is well past its use-by date.

In 2021, there are still students at Coolum State School sitting in hot, asbestos ridden classrooms and buildings they cannot access when it rains due to flooding. There is no money in this budget for them. Similarly, as I see the minister is still in the House, they are still waiting for their air conditioning which, after years of fundraising—

Ms Grace interjected.


Mr PURDIE: I take that interjection. The Coolum Primary School does not deserve to wait until 2028 for their air conditioning. When the P&C work tirelessly for years to raise over \$400,000—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Walker): Pause the clock. Member for McConnel, if you want to interject can you do it from your seat, thank you.

Mr PURDIE: It is an aircon con by this minister. I take her interjection about Coolum State School having to wait until 2028 for their aircon. The hardworking members for the P&C raised over \$400,000. They have already spent that getting the school's electricity network ready for aircon. Given their hard work, they were promised that they would be one of the first to receive aircon. They were promised it before last year's hot summer. There is still no indication as to when the aircon will be rolled out. I urge the minister to take that on board. It has been promised. They worked hard to fund the electricity upgrade. I call on the minister and this government to do what they said and provide Coolum State School with air conditioning.

With the Sunshine Coast population forecast to grow to over 500,000 by 2041, now is the time to be investing in major projects, not short-changing our region with funding shortfalls and empty buckets of money. The Labor Party has admitted that this is a typical Labor budget—full of promises, short on detail and void of an economic plan and vision to realise our state's potential.

Taxpayers do not care about the Treasurer's musing over his peanut butter toast. They care about the things that affect them directly—things like receiving medical treatment when they need it, having access to housing and a safe community, not falling victim to the state's growing crime crisis, giving their children a quality education and the prospect of them securing a job in the future and getting home safely and not spending hours stuck in traffic. The things that affect them directly are what this budget has failed to deliver.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (10.01 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Appropriation Bill 2021 and the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2021. My focus will be on the Appropriation Bill 2021. As at January 2020, the first five years of the Palaszczuk government had delivered five successive surplus budgets, with a sixth forecast for 2020, such was the strength of the Queensland economy. The COVID-19 worldwide pandemic turned our economy upside down, particularly our tourism and transport industries. By early September Australia had plunged into its first recession in 30 years.

With the 2021-22 state budget, the Treasurer, Cameron Dick, supports the ongoing implementation of our COVID-19 economic recovery plan, introduced in 2020, by further strengthening the core pillars of our government: health care, education, infrastructure, renewables and jobs. The focus of the Queensland economic recovery strategy, Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs, is to help the state recover from COVID-19, with a focus on backing Queensland jobs.

Our successful response to the global pandemic has reminded us once more of the value of our world-class health system. That will be boosted by another record investment in health care in this budget. We are also set to build more schools, better roads, a workforce for tomorrow, equipping Queenslanders with the skills they need to succeed and unlocking the opportunity our state requires to grow and flourish.

For the Ipswich region, the 2021-22 budget will see significant expenditure. This includes: \$950 million for infrastructure that is estimated to deliver 2,900 jobs; \$750 million for the West Moreton health service; and \$157.2 million for education to maintain, improve and upgrade Ipswich schools. The budget delivers \$166.9 million for the Ipswich Hospital to improve facilities and construct an acute mental health unit, \$51.9 million for social housing to expand and improve social housing and \$7.3 million for the highly successful Skilling Queenslanders for Work program to fund more training opportunities and improve workforce participation.

This is a great budget, not just for Ipswich but for the whole of Queensland. In my electorate of Ipswich West, the budget provides a wide range of education infrastructure projects at Ipswich West schools such as: Ashwell State School, \$750,000 of an overall spend of \$750,000 for amenity upgrades; Ipswich North State School, \$300,000 of a \$300,000 spend to refurbish block B learning spaces; Ipswich North State School, \$250,000 of a \$250,000 spend to resurface courts and the outdoor learning centre; Ipswich State High School, \$5½ million of a \$25.5 million investment for additional classrooms; Ipswich State High School, \$622,000 of a \$700,000 spend being a contribution to the sports field upgrade; Karalee State School, \$200,000 of a \$200,000 spend for a more efficient, larger septic system; Mount Marrow State School, \$750,000 of a \$750,000 spend for amenities upgrades; Rosewood State High School, \$2,030,000 of a \$7 million spend for additional classrooms; Tivoli State School \$350,000 of a \$350,000 spend to refurbish block B learning spaces; and Walloon State School, a \$1,533,000 spend of a \$5,200,000 spend for additional classrooms.

There is a general allocation for maintenance at schools in the Ipswich West electorate of \$689,000 across 14 schools throughout the 2021-22 financial year. There is a general allocation for minor works for schools in Ipswich West of \$266,000 across 14 schools throughout the 2021-22 financial year.

There is more. Infrastructure projects for police and fire and emergency services include: \$1.1 million investment to build a new auxiliary fire and rescue station at Albert Street, Rosewood; and \$50,000 to commence planning for the new Rosewood Police Station. Transport and main roads projects in the budget include: funding of \$399,000 of a \$799,000 spend for planning for the Warrego Highway and Haigslea-Amberley Road interchange; and funding of \$2.27 million of \$5 million jointly funded by the Australian government and the Queensland government in addition to the 20 per cent contribution by the state government to a \$22 million project provided for in the 2020-21 state budget for planning for the Warrego Highway-Mount Crosby Road interchange.

What these projects deliver is not just new or improved infrastructure for our communities, but jobs for workers and contracts for suppliers. This is a true Labor budget. As my mother would say, these jobs and contracts allowed breadwinners to keep a roof over their head and food on the table for themselves and their families. We must never forget that.

The Speaker has reviewed and approved my speech on the budget for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Walker): You have prior approval, thank you.

The speech read as follows—

I was pleased to see the 2021-22 State Budget will continue with the good work done with our previous Budgets to support our rural communities and our agriculture sector, providing some certainty in uncertain times.

\$523 million has been provided in the Budget to strengthen and safeguarding the sector from biosecurity risks, continue to support those producers and communities who are affected by the ongoing drought, while also investing in farming of the future.

We are backing our farmers to help deliver Queensland's plan for economic recovery through a fourth round of Rural Economic Development (RED) Grants.

The first three rounds of the RED scheme created 1800 jobs across regional Queensland and this new investment will see the creation of 600 more.

As part of the COVID-19 Unite and Recover Queensland Jobs Plan the Palaszczuk Government has committed additional grants for cluster fencing in Western Queensland.

The sheep industry is supported by the new Regional Agricultural Development (RAD) Scheme.

Since 2015 we have provided more than \$60 million in loans and grants for cluster fencing across Western Queensland


The \$4 million RAD scheme will back our farmers to rebuild the infrastructure needed to expand our sheep industry.

Initial data indicates the program has created an extra gross regional income of about \$63 million for Western Queensland.

Key Agriculture and Fisheries highlights of the 2021-22 budget include:

- Increased funding of \$42.5 million over four years to continue fisheries reform, which paves the way for a world-class fisheries management system.
- Continued support for producers and communities affected by the ongoing drought with funding of up to \$71.4 million over four years for the Drought Assistance and Reform Package—assisting producers to prepare for, manage, and recover from future droughts.
- Increased funding of \$10.9 million (and \$5.9 million in capital funding over three years) to finalise long-term decisions on the future assets formerly held by the Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges, including developing a new Central Queensland Smart Cropping Centre at Emerald.
- Increased investment in Biosecurity Operations of \$8.8 million over four years and \$1.1 million ongoing from 2024-25 for African Swine Fever prevention and preparedness, biosecurity emergency operations, marine pest surveillance and plant diagnostics.
- An additional \$2.6 million in 2021-22 to enhance implementation of the Australian Government's Pacific Labour Scheme and Seasonal Worker Programme to fill seasonal employment gaps in regional areas

In closing, I would like to thank the Treasurer and the Premier for their hard work in guiding the Queensland economy through the Covid-19 Pandemic and I commend the two Appropriation Bills to the House.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (10.08 pm): I rise to speak in respect of the appropriation bills before the House. Before I get into some of the detail, with the indulgence of the House, I would like to send a shout-out to all of those Gold Coast businesspeople and community members who are sleeping out in the cold at the Cbus Super Stadium. This would have been my sixth year as an ambassador and a participant but, unfortunately, I need to be here for budget week. I particularly want to acknowledge Colin Wheeler, Lorraine Lovatt and Karen Phillips—my co-ambassadors—and also Kris Martin and Tanya Mahoney from St Vinnies on the Gold Coast for the incredible work they do. More importantly, I want to thank my team who are parading around the event this evening with a corflute cut-out of my head with a beanie on it. They are sending me regular updates.

Government members interjected.

Mr MOLHOEK: I am not taking those interjections.

Government members interjected.

Mr MOLHOEK: In fact, I take offence at those comments from those on the other side of the House!

I am particularly proud of the team. Team Southport, who set a goal of raising \$28,500, have exceeded that goal. I want to put on the record my thanks to John Cutler, who is parading around as a stunt double for me this evening, and also to Sheila Ponting; Chris Smith, the officer in charge at Southport Police Station; Jackson Hills; Logan Walker; Liam Ginn; and Leana Marquet, who are all part of the team down there representing my electorate.

The other thing I need to say—and I know I need to get on to the appropriation bills—is that this is a record result for the Gold Coast sleepout. At my last glance at the website, they have raised \$575,000 from some 4,000 contributions. That is the most we have ever raised. Every cent of that will go towards building more crisis accommodation at Arundel at the Families Back on Track facility that St Vincent's on the Gold Coast has developed over many years. That money will go towards the cost of building another apartment or two for elderly women on the Gold Coast in need of crisis accommodation and support.

I would also like to pass on my condolences to friends and family of Duncan Pegg. I had the pleasure of attending a number of functions with him at Sunnybank, at Landmark, Golden Lane and a few other venues, over the years. He was an adored and greatly loved local member. I did hear one member on the other side of the House make a comment about the progress he was making learning Mandarin. I think they may have misrepresented that slightly. I am not sure that he was making much better progress than I was learning Mandarin. He was probably a little better than me. It is certainly very challenging. It is incredibly sad to have lost him from this House. I know that all of us, political differences aside, certainly value the hard work that each of us do and the contributions we make in our communities.

While the Minister for Education is still in the House, I want to thank her for the spreadsheet I received today outlining funding commitments that perhaps were not identified in the Capital Works Program for schools within my electorate—but I need to say, Minister, it is not enough.

Government members interjected.

Mr MOLHOEK: I am not taking those interjections. The \$3 million that has been committed—particularly for Bellevue Park State School, for infrastructure improvements at Ashmore State School, for sports courts shade sails at Benowa State High School and the extra money towards the construction of a gym at Keebra Park, is certainly appreciated. About \$3 million is coming into my local schools. I actually have 18 schools in the electorate of Southport and some 20,000 young people attending schools across the electorate.

My wish list, which I have spoken about at great length in the debate on the last appropriation bills, totals \$31 million. I have about 10 per cent of what we need to meet the needs of growing schools in the fastest growing city in Australia. Also, as a result of COVID, we have seen extraordinarily high growth on the Gold Coast over the last 12 months. A lot of that growth has come into the electorates of Bonney and Southport via the games village and a lot of the high-density development that has happened through Southport as a result of the PDA. All of the schools are either at capacity or very close to reaching capacity. There is a real need for some significant capital works expenditure on additional classrooms and facilities right across my electorate.

I have spoken about this previously but, in terms of the overall capital works budget, the Gold Coast has yet again been bypassed. With something like 14 per cent of the total population of the state of Queensland, the Gold Coast will receive only 8.5 per cent of the total capital budget—about \$1.1 billion out of a total state budget of \$12.6 billion. Sadly, that trend is reflected in so many areas of vital infrastructure.

There are still no dollars in the budget for the realignment of the Southport Nerang Road from Queen Street through to Kumbari Avenue, although I am pleased to see the department acquired one of the properties on that route and had it demolished because it was at risk of becoming a problem with vagrants and homeless people and was not a particularly safe location for that. I pass on my thanks to the regional manager of the Gold Coast TMR for expediting that demolition fairly quickly.

I also want to touch briefly on law and order. Southport has been for some time known as something of a hotspot. It is often misrepresented. It is the largest policing district on the Gold Coast. Geographically as a result of that, when the statistics come out there is always more of everything, but in pro rata terms it is comparable to the rest of the city. There is certainly a great need for more police.

I note that in the Service Delivery Statements there is reference to about an extra 1,000 police in the 2021-22 budget for Queensland. I hope Southport gets a good share of those. We could use at least an extra 20 or 30 police based at the Southport command to deal with the ever-growing challenges around domestic violence, support for families and managing some of the homelessness issues that we have seen in Southport and in other population centres up and down the length and breadth of the Gold Coast.

This morning I had wanted to ask a question of the health minister. Perhaps I can pose it now, not that the health minister is here to reply but hopefully she will hear of the question and we will get a response.

Ms GRACE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Not referring to whether a member is in the House or not is a standing order that is usually observed. I know the member may have made an error, but it should not be referred to in that manner.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Walker): I will take advice. Member for Southport, it is against convention to mention members who are not in the House. You need to be mindful of that.

Mr MOLHOEK: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, I accept your guidance on that. The issue that I particularly want to draw to the attention of the House is, in reviewing the Service Delivery Statements of Queensland Health and in looking in particular at the budgets for all hospital health services across the state, there is a discrepancy—and at some point I would like to hear a response to this.

We have heard talk of this being a record health budget. In fact, the minister has stated in this House that every hospital and health service in Queensland will receive extra funding, but the reality is that across all health services in the current budget as proposed there is actually a drop of \$74 million in budget terms over actual expenditure for the current year. Of particular concern, \$51 million of that is just on the Gold Coast, so it does raise significant concerns. I understand that yes, last year there was over-budget expenditure in some hospital and health services like Cairns, the Gold Coast and some of the metropolitan services as a result of extra expenditure due to COVID. It does concern me that on the Gold Coast the department is forecasting a \$51 million drop in expenditure over the current

year; the Sunshine Coast will apparently be \$16 million down; and Cairns will be some \$25 million down on actual expenditure for the year just gone. Even at the children's hospital here in Brisbane there is a decline of about \$7 million, and a number of the other metropolitan health services also see an actual decline. That is in the direct spending of the health services themselves.

In looking at the capital works budget for Queensland Health, it also concerns me that there does not seem to be any significant amount of money allocated for additional hospital beds. While there is some money there, there is not a lot. If I reflect on my time as deputy chair of the Health and Environment Committee, the Queensland Audit Office recently made a presentation to us on planning for sustainable health services. They raised significant concerns about the lack of forward planning.


A government member interjected.

Mr MOLHOEK: Mr Deputy Speaker, I am not taking those interjections. What concerns me about this health budget and the capital works budget particularly, and some of the loose terms that we have heard about these new hub hospitals or whatever they are called—

A government member: Satellite hospitals.

Mr MOLHOEK: Satellite hospitals—is that there is not enough detail. As a member of the health committee, it is incredibly frustrating not to be able to share some of the information that has been presented because so many of our briefings have been in private, which goes very much against the fundamental principles of establishing the parliamentary committee system. It was actually Judy Spence who, a number of years ago, stood in this very House and said that on every occasion possible the work of committees and the proceedings of committees should be in public unless there is a clear reason for a meeting to go into private session. There are many concerns I believe that need to be highlighted and explored further in respect of planning health services across the state.

In conclusion, I want to raise concerns—as the member for Everton, the member for Hill and many other members in the House have done today—in relation to the underspend on public housing. While I heard the minister's announcement about a \$1.9 billion commitment, I note that it is over four years. My real concern again is that, if you look at the budget for this year, the Gold Coast in terms of capital works for acquisitions, upgrades and new housing will only receive \$32.9 million, which is about six per cent of the total budget. Again that is a significant shortfall, given that the Gold Coast has 14 per cent of the state's population. If you look at that in terms of the last decade, it represents an annual shortfall of around \$25 million to \$30 million, so almost \$300 million of underspending over the last 10 years. There is a lot of catch-up that is required on the Gold Coast. I implore the minister and the government to roll out the proposed housing program a lot quicker than what has been foreshadowed in this budget, because there are many families in crisis, and no less so on the Gold Coast than anywhere else in this state.

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (10.24 pm): Before I begin I want to acknowledge the overwhelming detail in some of the contributions that have been made. It is almost intimidating. I rise to make my meagre contribution to the budget in reply. Before I do, I would like to acknowledge and congratulate the Treasurer and his team for their hard work. Never before have any of us in this chamber ever seen the challenges that have evolved or presented themselves over the last 18 months. Hopefully we have seen the back of them, but it may well continue into the forwards because we are not out of the woods yet.

I think that presenting two budgets to people who can read a profit and loss statement and others who cannot is obviously a challenge, even for those who have the most basic education. However, the Premier and Treasurer of this government have been as one, as we as a government have been as one. We have been consistent with the simple message—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr HEALY: It is not over yet, so hang in there. The Premier, the Treasurer and this government have been as one and consistent with the simple message that a healthy community leads to a healthy economy, and today the figures speak for themselves. That sensible, calculated and measured response based on the science has worked and worked well, not just for the government but, far more importantly, for the people of Queensland. Investing in job-creating industries and activities is how you grow the economy. Investing in much needed social and community housing is how you grow the economy. Investing in our hospitals and associated staff is also how you grow the economy. Investing in our schools and teachers is how you contribute to building a better Queensland for the future, and

that is what this budget does. We are not cutting services. We are not sacking people. We are not selling assets. This is a solid investment in our future. We are growing our economy and, most importantly, we are investing in the people of Queensland.

I will only make slight mention of those on the opposite side of the chamber, but we did hear the member for Sandgate highlight the member for Broadwater's inaccurate details. The creative accountancy we are hearing is impressively disappointing. You do not look at a P&L sheet and go 'maybe'. They are black and white. They are figures. You look down the columns. It is as basic as the day is long. What passes as the opposition in this state can best be described as a quagmire of dysfunction, displaying an impressive and consistent inability to comprehend or articulate any significant solutions to the challenges COVID-19 has presented. There is no greater example than those opposite calling on 64 occasions for the borders to be opened. What an absolutely impressively disappointing response. Not only did that reflect their inability to comprehend the magnitude of the challenge but it is as concerning that they did not even understand the science. It highlighted their total lack of understanding that to have a healthy economy you need a healthy community. The good news is that the people of Queensland knew that and reflected that towards the end of last year.

Only the other day I was speaking with a senior executive of a worldwide hotel chain, who told me that prior to COVID-19 the Pacific region was producing less than 20 per cent of that company's total profit. Now, due to the impact of COVID around the world the Pacific region now accounts for 54 per cent of this company's viable profit. A healthy society means a healthy economy. The facts speak for themselves.

Speaking of health, may I just touch on some of the spectacular things that are happening in our part of the world in Far North Queensland. When I look at the Far North I am pleased to report that the Palaszczuk government has continued its investment in our city and region with \$1.3 billion allocated. The Queensland government is investing \$133.9 million into projects at the Cairns hospital as part of its transition to a university hospital, supporting 389 full-time jobs. This government investment includes \$70 million for a new mental health facility, \$30 million for expanding our emergency department and fit-out for a pre-admission clinic, amongst other investments.

In addition, the government is investing \$24.9 million for critical infrastructure upgrades to ensure the ongoing efficient operation of the hospital to meet the projected future demand of its facilities. Completed projects include \$4.5 million to deliver a new hybrid theatre and \$4.5 million for the fit-out of an 11-bed ward. In addition, the Queensland government is investing an initial \$16.5 million for a Cairns Health Innovation Centre adjacent to the hospital site which is set to become a new public health precinct for clinical research, education, training, Indigenous health and community engagement. The government is developing the CHIC in partnership with the James Cook University and its Cairns Tropical Enterprise Centre.

As the Treasurer highlighted, since our government was first elected in 2015 we have overseen a 30 per cent increase in the strength of our nursing workforce. That means an additional 8,400 nurses and midwives. Queensland has 2,841 more doctors, 4,291 more health practitioners and 858 more ambulance personnel reinforcing our frontline health response.

You do not need to be a parent like me to understand the importance of education. The understanding of that importance is reflected in the government's commitment to the Far North, with \$51.2 million being spent in our schools to maintain, improve and upgrade our schools in the region. This includes half a million dollars to refurbish the resource centre at Balaclava State School. I was very happy to ring the principal there the other day and have a chat with her about that. Thank you again, Minister.

In addition to that investment, there is \$600,000 to upgrade the Cairns West State School, over \$5 million for administration upgrades to Edge Hill State School and over a quarter of a million dollars each for both Balaclava State School and Parramatta State School for out-of-school-hours care. This is absolutely fundamental. In addition, the new hall facility at Trinity Bay State High School will receive \$450,000 for initial works out of the planned \$11.5 million.

I am also very pleased to report that the Cairns Diversionary Centre will receive \$3.2 million to expand its facilities. Those funds have been allocated, in addition to \$1.2 million to establish a Cairns Managing Public Intoxication Program. This is an essential piece of local infrastructure which contributes to dealing with our city's itinerant challenges.

The Speaker has reviewed and approved my speech on the budget for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

Speaker The Palaszczuk Government has always acknowledged the importance of small businesses and their need for skilled staff. In doing so, we believe that one of the best things a government can do is to provide people with the skills, and the training and the confidence to get a job. One of the most important initiatives in this space is the “Skilling Queenslanders for Work” program, along with the “Back to Work” Program. These initiatives have been essential to a number of local businesses and in reducing unemployment numbers in and around Cairns, and I’m pleased to confirm that these outstanding initiatives will continue with strong funding being provided over the next 4 years.

The government provided significant tax relief to support Queensland businesses, landlords, tenants, pubs and clubs, including: payroll tax refunds, waivers and deferrals for eligible businesses, targeted at small to medium businesses a payroll tax exemption for wages subsidised by the Job Keeper payment land tax rebates, waivers and deferrals for eligible taxpayers. An estimated 340 employers in Far North Queensland will also benefit in 2021-22 from the higher payroll tax threshold.

Tourism initiatives which Far North Queensland will benefit from: \$24.7 million (\$15 million in 2021-22) to continue delivering the Growing Tourism Infrastructure Fund 2020, to fast-track the development of new and enhanced tourism infrastructure projects state-wide. \$7.5 million towards the Work in Paradise program to attract workers from across Australia to help rebuild our regional tourism sector. \$1.1 million in 2021-22 for the delivery of projects under the Year of Indigenous Tourism that support the growth of Indigenous business and partnerships and increasing Indigenous participation in tourism, generating jobs and improved economic outcomes.

Ongoing investment in the “Building our Regions” will bring a smile to Mayors and councillors across the region as we see a \$60 million allocation to 66 critical infrastructure projects in Far North Queensland, supporting economic development and 416 jobs.

From a law and order perspective, apart from our ongoing commitment to grow our Police numbers, which remains on target, in Cairns we receive \$2.2 million to progress the New Police Facility at Cairns West. In addition to this the ongoing investment, a further funding of \$150,000 has been allocated for the delivery of the Space and Place Activities for Youth in Cairns initiative. This initiative addresses youth disengagement in high density public housing areas in Cairns. But it doesn’t end there, with \$7.4 million allocated in 2021-22 out of a \$17.4 million total spend to progress the upgrade of the police facility at Cairns. This is a much-needed refurbishment of the principle police headquarters in the far north and will maximise the efficiency and reliability of police services, bringing the facility up to date with the latest technology and infrastructure. While we are at it, \$6 million in 2021-22 out of a \$11.4 million total spend will progress the replacement police facility at Woree. Clearly the government’s commitment to the safety and security of Queenslanders is undeniable with major investment taking place in multiple locations across Cairns, and this backs up our clear agenda from the last state election with the capacity to properly resource the increased policing presence.

Additionally, there is a strong commitment from this government to water security. We understand that access to safe and clean drinking water is a fundamental right for every Queenslanders. Not only is this essential to the liveability and health of our cities but it is vital in future proofing our great state and supporting economic development. This money will give life to important water supply and reticulation projects as well as sewerage and wastewater infrastructure. Many Councils around Queensland are under pressure to deliver such projects and services and I’m pleased to say we acknowledge their issues and are responding appropriately. At a time when COVID-19 detection and control is critical, further welcome investment in wastewater networks is pivotal to ensure discovery and elimination of the virus in Queensland continues.

Plainly, this budget has not forgotten Councils and their needs, because the state government intrinsically understands that relationship between community and local government, and in doing so can effectively channel support to every layer and demographic within our society.


Once again, we see an example of a government that is listening and responding with an unprecedented contribution in the area of housing and homelessness. The COVID pandemic has seen a new wave of interstate immigration to Queensland, the healthy state. Like never before people are moving here, and cities such as Cairns are bearing the brunt of accommodation issues and housing affordability. As a former Chair of Access Community housing in Cairns I know only too well the importance of the basic human rights of food and shelter, as well the detrimental effect it can have on all our community when such essentials of life are not available to all. As such I am very proud to see that this state government has responded appropriately and swiftly. So, in this year’s budget, we’re fast tracking housing delivery to increase supply across the state. Our bold new housing plan is the largest concentrated investment in social housing in Queensland’s history. \$1.9 billion will be invested through the Palaszczuk Government’s Housing Strategy Action Plan to increase housing stock, including 7,400 new homes over the next four years as part of the Queensland Housing Investment Growth Initiative, of which \$203.3M has been allocated for the Far North. And as I said, this is a holistic approach not just a single sugar hit. This sustainable plan will provide a foundation for the affordable housing of all Queenslanders whether they be renters or buyers. And significantly, underpinning the housing strategy plan is the value and premise that a house is principally a home and place to live, not a commodity to buy, stockpile and exploit at the expense of the most vulnerable in our society. That is why this is a concerted and multifaceted approach that will also entail a new \$1 billion Housing Investment Fund. As well as \$20 million to expand domestic and family violence support services and another \$20 million for homelessness initiatives.

We should remember that the aforementioned initiatives are but just a few projects of a larger infrastructure plan that sees 1.2 billion invested into the far northern regional economy and supports some 3900 jobs in productivity-enhancing infrastructure and capital works. It shouldn’t be forgotten that 61.2% of the total budget spend is occurring outside of greater Brisbane.

Transport infrastructure is key to the accessibility and economy of the north and I’m pleased to see significant investment continue in the road network. The road to Weipa will be sealed and this will open up Cape York’s economy to new tourism and economic opportunities that were previously out of reach while supporting local jobs and training. Further, roads around Cairns are being transformed thanks to projects like the \$164 million Smithfield Bypass and the \$481 million duplication of one of the busiest stretches of the Bruce Highway in the state between Edmonton and Gordonvale. We’ll start upgrading the Captain Cook Highway north of the Cairns CBD later this year and moving ahead with planning to fully duplicate the last remaining single lane sections of the Cairns Western Arterial Road. This government won’t stop improving connectivity for the regions, whether it by air, sea, rail or road links and transport diversity will remain a priority and a vital artery of our regional economies.

And in the face of ever-present natural disasters and weather events this government has pledged support for disaster resilience initiatives: \$14.4 million has been allocated in 2021—22 to the Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund, as part of the National Partnership Agreement, jointly funded with the Australian Government, to improve safety and natural disaster resilience across the state. The state government will continue to deliver a suite of targeted measures aimed at promoting disaster recovery and resilience from the \$100 million 2019 Betterment Fund established following the 2019 monsoon flooding event under the joint State-Commonwealth Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. \$20 million has been allocated in this Budget to establish the 2021 Queensland Betterment Fund to improve disaster resilience and reduce the cost of future reconstruction of public assets damaged by natural disasters, jointly funded with the Australian Government.

Significant measures funded under these programs will also have the potential to reduce insurance premiums for Queensland households.

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (10.32 pm): I rise to speak on the 2021-22 state budget for Queensland. On behalf of the people of Mirani, I would firstly like to thank the ministers for working with me on certain projects. I would also like to extend my condolences to the family of the member for Stretton, Mr Duncan Pegg. He invited me to some of his functions and we had some great times together. The House will be sadder for his loss.

It would seem this budget hangs on a shoestring—being dependent on both fickle weather events and future COVID lockdowns for it to be delivered successfully. With the current debt, it invests Queensland money on hydrogen projects that at this point have no real demand and no imminent return on the investment that is desperately needed at this time. After COVID hit us in 2020 and wiped out small businesses and crippled so many others, Queensland became aware of what is truly essential. Why wouldn't we continue on this path to ensure risk-free stabilisation across the state until the threat of COVID and the impact on our mining and agriculture sector is stabilised? It has given Queensland the foundation that supported us through the COVID crisis.

The electorate of Mirani is home to some of the state's most wealth-generating industries, including sugar, tourism, horticulture, fishing and many of the support industries. Queensland's crucial mining sector is based there. With all due respect to the members present, the needs and concerns of the people of Mirani are very different to the needs and concerns of those in the south-east. One of the biggest concerns we have is the terrible state of our road network. Across the electorate, there are roads in a desperate state of disrepair, and a real program of work is urgently needed to ensure they are safe and fit for purpose for the future. That is why I have been asking for a solid commitment from the state government to repair areas of the Bruce Highway, which is a road that farmers use to haul cane, and also Anzac Avenue, which is a road that transfers visitors to our beautiful Pioneer Valley and Eungella Range. The problem is fast becoming urgent however, with a rash of horrifying accidents and near misses. There have been rollovers of trucks near schools, rollovers on main highways in 100 kilometres an hour zones. The road network has fallen into complete disrepair in many areas.

The Walkerston Bypass funding in the budget was also very welcomed, but as I have said previously the project has numerous design problems and is causing untold problems for farmers in the area that need to be addressed. The current plan forces cumbersome farm vehicles to cross the planned new bypass via a staggered T-intersection and is a big safety concern for local canegrowers. Interaction between slow-moving cane harvesting gear causes fatalities, and this could all be avoided by just listening to growers and making changes. If it is not fixed, this interaction will claim lives during the crushing season when there are more than 220 trips per day crossing the intersection and adding to the existing traffic during peak periods. This is only the beginning in terms of what is needed. We are in urgent need of funding to address issues on the Bruce Highway. We need new bridges and additional culverts, more lane duplication, increased overtaking lanes and flood proofing of long stretches along the Bruce Highway from St Lawrence north.

Health is another area I am concerned about. I am part of that committee. Queensland faces an unstable future concerning health infrastructure. More than 11,000 people are reported to be moving to our great state every month. The already overburdened health system and crime issues are deep concerns which are continually spoken about by my people. Regional hospitals are crying out for more beds, more medical staff and more supplies. More than that, I am hearing people all over the region calling for much more transparency around the health sector. I have heard stories concerning some older people recently, and my father was one of them. He went in for a normal procedure and spent nine days in intensive care. Another lady said that her husband went in for a procedure and did not come back out, and she still does not know why. It is not the fault of the health staff or hospital staff. They are doing the best job they can with what they have. I cannot praise them enough for the work they have been doing. It is just that the whole system is overloaded and we do not have the resources or the workers they need to keep up sometimes.

We are also seeing a noticeable lack of adequate community and social infrastructure, and this is becoming critical. Even the member for Mackay would be able to say that. People working in the community up there are saying that they are being hit with a huge surge of unmet demand for services and are dealing with a huge volume of people suffering economic hardship, homelessness, health issues and job losses. I heard last week that 478 people in my area—most of them mothers with children—were being evicted but could not find places to rent because of economic hardship. They cannot afford the rent rises and what is going on in the state. They are living in cars and couch surfing at the moment. That is mums with kids. We are seeing that many people are still struggling and we need the government to throw a lot more effort and finance towards that area so we can work through that.

The Mirani electorate also provides critical support services for the mining sector at Hay Point and Dalrymple Bay. We are proud to be the home of what I believe are the most resilient sugar and cattle industries in the world. The whole state has reaped and still does reap untold riches from the blood, sweat and tears of our miners, farmers, manufacturers and small businesses. The onus is now on the government to give back some of that wealth to the people who produced it. Mount Morgan is a prime example. It is drought-stricken and urgently needs piping of water up to its No. 7 Dam for the people and also for the opening of the new mine this year. We also need the government's support to ensure that that mine does open and the legacy and the damage of all the poisoning that has occurred over the years is addressed by that mine opening. The mine going in there will help to give jobs to the local economy and fix that legacy.

The same goes for the fireclay caverns in Mount Morgan. The dinosaur footprints are crying out for more investment, the opening up of that area and the support of the government. We have a risk-averse government in that sector that shut those fireclay caverns and we need to work to make sure they are opened again. They are crying out for that tourism investment. It has been an absolute shame to watch that whole thing close. One of the other projects I have been fighting for, and will continue to fight for, is the mountain bike trail also in Mirani that goes from Eungella down to Finch Hatton. That will be a major tourist attraction and help the whole region.

There can be no beating around the bush: Queensland's books are awash with red ink. The state's total debt is expected to jump from the estimated \$95.8 billion this year to \$106.3 billion in 2021-22 before hitting \$127.3 billion in 2024-25. According to the Treasury, the debt interest bill is forecast to reach \$3.4 billion per year by 2024. That is an unprecedented and staggering amount of money which the state will now have to pay each year. Even these alarming figures are heavily reliant on a shaky set of assumptions. Omitted from the calculations are the massive costs we will incur if we win the bid for the 2032 Olympic Games. In fact, if the government thinks the games are going to turn a profit for Queensland, I believe it should pledge to the people of Queensland a dollar-for-dollar investment in infrastructure and water security spend in this state that equals the overall cost of the bid and the holding of the games. That is what I believe. There are also many other rosy assumptions: that interest rates stay at the current low of 0.1 per cent, that there are no more outbreaks of COVID and that the government somehow works out a way to reap dividends from the billions being poured into renewables.

On Tuesday the Treasurer said that all the borrowing is needed to generate growth for the future, but nowhere in this budget did I see any productivity plan or blueprint for reform of our tax system or plans to reduce the regulatory burden that is killing small business and agriculture. Nor are there plans for new ports or any other major water or power infrastructure projects that would help expand the supply side of Queensland's economy. We could have at least built Rookwood Weir to the level it was actually designed for. That is where we will find real potential for growth and the opportunity to create jobs, investment and wealth for the future.

As it is, Queenslanders have been handed a budget that focuses exclusively on maintaining people's cash flow in order to service their monthly debt payments and keep the state's property and household debt bubble from bursting. Mortgage stress figures are already showing that there are huge numbers of people, especially in the south-east corner, who are most at risk. That is the real reason behind the budget's huge spending: to create enough low-paying dead-end jobs so people have just enough to service their debt obligations. The majority of these low-paying dead-end jobs will be in the service sectors and will destroy more of our middle wage earners over time. Any government can borrow to create low-quality jobs to drive unemployment numbers down, but it is only by investing in private and export sectors that we can hope to provide Queenslanders with real jobs—jobs that are rewarding, secure and well paid. As it stands, with any increase in unemployment figures over the next few years we will quickly see a rise in delinquencies and—

Mr Saunders interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): The member for Maryborough will cease all interjections.

Mr ANDREW:—defaults that will upset stability in terms of the banks and bring the whole economy to its knees.


All this spiralling debt which the government is using to prop up the 'debt bubble' and the 'green economy' will do nothing to prevent the steep falls we will see in the government revenue, particularly from our coal exports. Oil revenues are falling and we have seen a big drop in LNG royalties as well. Overall, Queensland exports fell 28.4 per cent between 2020 and 2021, with the biggest falls being for mineral fuels and coal, which both fell 38.1 per cent. Lower exports and lower coal prices means billions of dollars less in royalties for the government. With the massive debt the government is carrying the implications for Queenslanders of that sobering fact could be huge. Now more than ever we need a government to step up to support and safeguard the state's most productive and proven wealth-creating industries—the backbone of our economy—and they have failed to do it once again.

There was nothing for resources, mining, agriculture or tourism anywhere apart from a few one-off temporary projects. Even worse, the budget made damaging cuts to the departments responsible for those sectors. The agricultural budget was slashed by 32.5 per cent, tourism lost 24 per cent, and small business and training lost more than eight per cent. The Department of Resources suffered a whopping 47.7 per cent cut to its budget, something not even the loss of the titles office could hope to justify.

The government of Queensland has missed a unique opportunity in this budget, an opportunity to take all the debt and use it to invest in Queensland's real economy—the economy that generates real wealth, drives real growth and creates real jobs for the future. They have missed that opportunity.

Mr MINNIKIN: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Under standing order 244(5), members must be in their allocated seats, particularly with COVID restrictions. I draw your attention to the member for Miller.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Order! I remind members to please be in their own seats.

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (10.45 pm): Last year Queenslanders had a choice to decide who they trusted to keep us safe in a time of global pandemic. Last year Queenslanders had a choice to decide who they trusted to deliver for our state's health, for our hospitals, for our schools, for the delivery of infrastructure and for the growth and security of jobs.

Last year Queenslanders elected a Palaszczuk Labor government. Since then that third-term Palaszczuk government has delivered two budgets that continue the great track record of backing in health, backing in regional infrastructure and backing Queensland jobs. This is a budget that meets the challenges that my community of Bundaberg has had to face because of COVID-19. This is a budget that delivers for health, delivers for housing and delivers more jobs in Bundy.

Let's talk about housing. There is \$1.9 billion in the budget for housing and this will change lives for the people in Bundaberg. We have the Housing Construction Jobs Program, \$27.8 million in this financial year to complete the construction of 20 housing units; and the Works for Tradies program, \$2.7 million in 2021-22 to complete further construction. This is a game changer because it looks after the most vulnerable people and gives them a roof over their head and the confidence to get back into the job market. We on this side of the House help people get back into the job market and we have fantastic programs such as Skilling Queenslanders for Work and the Back to Work program.

I can tell honourable members that businesses in Bundy love the Back to Work program because it gives young people a chance to get back into the workforce and it also gives \$20,000 to those businesses to invest back into their business and grow their business. Let me tell honourable members that businesses in Bundy love the Palaszczuk Labor government.

We can talk about education, and what a huge win for schools there was: over \$3 million in new builds and \$1.4 million of ongoing maintenance and small works. When I met with the principal of Bundaberg South State School earlier this year I said we would deliver that new security fence. There is \$440,000 in there and the security fence is already underway. There is \$350,000 for Bundaberg North State School and \$350,000 for Walkervale. Even though it is just slightly out of the electorate, there is just under \$1 million for the students, staff and parents of the great Woongarra State School as well.

In talking about education, let's talk about TAFE. I went to TAFE the other week and I have to say you can still feel the scars and the hurt from the savage cuts of the LNP—that Newman-Nicholls-Crisafulli government that absolutely ripped our TAFE apart. The Palaszczuk government is investing in TAFE. We will deliver the new agriculture and horticulture hub for the Bundaberg TAFE because we know that the Bundy—

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, there is just too much excitement happening in the chamber tonight.

Mr SMITH: We invest in our agriculture and horticulture in our TAFE because we know that the Bundy kids of today are the growers of tomorrow, and we have the best growers in the world in Bundaberg.

This budget is about investing in the jobs, and we are doing that through the construction in housing and the construction in education. There is \$41 million for works on Isis Highway and Childers Road. Of course, the next big step is delivering Bundaberg's brand new world-class hospital. That is right, the hospital that the Premier promised is the hospital that the Premier will deliver, and what a great hospital it will be.

This is a budget that delivers for Queenslanders and delivers for my community of Bundaberg. While we are talking about health, let's talk about my good friend the little angry ant, the member for Burnett. He went on radio on Wednesday and said, 'The budget is too hard to read.' It is also obviously too hard for him to understand the technical terminology around hospitals. The member for Burnett is not happy lately because there is a Labor member back in Bundaberg who is standing up for Bundaberg. I am not going to let the mistruths and the spin of the member for Burnett poison our community.

The member for Burnett is not happy because his own party shafted him all the way to the backbench. He is not happy because the local LNP are getting their preselection candidates ready and they are circling. He is not happy because, as I found out, this week is the fifth anniversary of him being found in contempt of parliament. I did not have a chance to go out and get him a card, so I thought I would table this article and wish him a happy anniversary.


Tabled paper: Article from the *ABC News online*, dated 18 June 2016, titled 'Queensland MP Stephen Bennett apologises to Parliament over sharing of confidential documents' [904].

Paul Keating once said that one of his political opponents needed a valium. The member for Burnett does not need a valium; he needs a big hug and a good lie down.

Let's talk about the member for Broadwater's 'oh no!' moment on Sky News last night. In fact, you can go back and watch it; it is on YouTube. You can see the moment he actually gasps at the realisation of what he had said. It is the same moment that all of his advisers had to pick their jaws up off the floor at what he said about savage cuts. It is the same moment that the members for Clayfield, Nanango and Surfers Paradise had a smirk and a smile and said, 'Brother, welcome to the club of former LNP leaders.' They are going to welcome him with open arms, that is for sure. You could see how much the member for Broadwater was rattled by that misstep last night. Members on his own side would not even listen to his speech today. They would not even back him. They were too busy on their phones. I think one of them might have been playing Tetris. I am not sure; I will have to check the record.

Last sitting week I mentioned how I had heard some comments that maybe there was a bit of a coup forming amongst the backbenchers. Let's just say it would not be a long reach to suggest that some LNP members are a little nervous about the member for Broadwater. Let's just say: he should not have to fret because I am sure he has nothing to Warrego about. That is a bit of a bad pun, but you have to try to work it in.

This is a budget that delivers for health, housing, jobs and Bundaberg. What a fantastic Labor budget this is by a fantastic Labor Treasurer, part of a fantastic Labor Palaszczuk government. I support this budget.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (10.52 pm): It is always so great to follow a member of the Labor Party like the member for Bundaberg. This new member actually thinks he is supporting his electorate by supporting a budget that has not one red cent to restore the Paradise Dam, not one red cent to support the agriculture industry and not one red cent to support all of those incredible Bundaberg

people who were here today. Where was the member for Bundaberg when those fruit and vegetable growers were standing at the end of the Speakers' Hall? They had spent all day with that incredible display, but where was the member for Bundaberg? He was so scared to talk to them that he walked straight past. The member for Bundaberg knows that the people of Bundaberg and the people of the Wide Bay-Burnett region are disgusted with him and his lack of support for Paradise Dam—ripping down Paradise Dam.

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): The members for Everton, Bundaberg and Miller will cease all interjections and cross-chamber chatter.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Thank you for your protection, Madam Deputy Speaker. If I can move on from the—

Mr Harper: Oh, please.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will get back to him. I wish to start tonight, this being the first time I have spoken since the passing of the member for Stretton—

Mr SMITH: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I ask that correct titles be used in the House. I am not 'him'; I am the member for Bundaberg.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Madam Deputy Speaker, I was talking about the member for Stretton and his passing.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, you have the call.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: As I was saying, this is the first time I have had an opportunity to speak in this House since the very sad passing of Duncan Pegg, the member for Stretton. I know that there will be an opportunity at another time to speak about our memories of Duncan Pegg but, given that this is the budget debate, it would be remiss of me to not recount how much we loved Duncan Pegg in that we called him the financial genius. I know that he loved it. He stood up in every budget debate and gave it to us as best he possibly could, which was great. He did it in debate of private members' motions as well. Anytime there was a financial bill or motion before the House the member for Stretton was on the speaking list. It was always great and I really loved the debate with Peggy. He is sorely missed.

This Appropriation Bill is a bit like the member for Bundaberg: it is just all smoke and mirrors, really.

Mrs Gerber: And dribble.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection. This budget sets the government's economic and policy agenda for the next year and beyond. Quite frankly, the effects of this budget will be so far reaching. They will go to our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. I cannot go past the fact that two weeks ago in this chamber we debated a bill that the Treasurer put before us—

Mr Stevens: Debt reduction.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The debt reduction bill, supposedly. He said that the lands titles office in Queensland was at an unbelievable value of over \$4 billion when the Victorian and New South Wales offices were below three. Within two weeks, miraculously—I dare say the ratings agencies said, 'Hang on a minute, Treasurer'—the value was doubled, to \$8 billion. That is trickery and a con job, and we all know it.

We know that Labor is losing control. It is completely losing control of the key services that the people of Queensland deserve from their state government. There is no more critical example than the failures of the health system across Queensland. I will give just a couple of examples from my electorate. The first is 17-year-old Jordyn, who suffered a severe cut to her leg and needed surgery in Toowoomba. She is from Kingaroy. After her mum urgently drove her to Toowoomba for surgery, Jordyn went nil by mouth each day for four days awaiting that emergency surgery. Every day for four days she was told, 'Don't eat because you'll get surgery today.'

Then there is Merv from Toogoolawah who needs cataract surgery. His eyesight is deteriorating due to glaucoma. He was referred to Ipswich Hospital in September 2020. By February, when he contacted me, Merv had not heard from the hospital. His referral then went to the PA and he was told he was category 2, meaning he would have to wait another 90 days. It is now June and he has been

told by the PA that category 2 now has a wait time of 18 months. That means it will be two years from his original referral before he even has an appointment with a specialist. Merv may be blind by then. That is the concern.

The health system in Queensland is at crisis point, and I know I have said this in this House many times before: I recall when Anna Bligh was the premier of Queensland and the now Premier of Queensland was a cabinet minister who sat around her cabinet table.

An opposition member: She nodded her head.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: She nodded her head when the then premier of Queensland, Anna Bligh, stood there and said, 'The health system is a basket case. We've got to split it into two.' Where is Premier Palaszczuk now? It is a worse basket case now than it was under that premier that no-one in this House ever likes to name—that is, former premier Bligh. It is now worse, yet the current Premier was a minister—sat around the cabinet table—when that was said about the health system, and that is one of the reasons I am in this House today. We know that it is only the LNP that can get in and fix the health system in Queensland.

In my portfolio as the shadow minister for water and the construction of dams and regional development and manufacturing, the department of water is another area where the government is losing control. It is a sector that has kept our economy booming and ticking through this pandemic. It is a sector that has ensured that food is on our tables. It is a sector that has made sure that Queenslanders have remained in jobs. What does this sector need? It needs water infrastructure. It does not need the Paradise Dam wall ripped down. It does not need the Callide Dam wall ripped down without an option to put it back up again. It needs investment in water infrastructure.

At a time when interest rates are at an all-time low, one would think that the government would be spending some of that extra borrowing that it is doing on infrastructure, but instead it has ripped the heart out of the infrastructure budget in this state. There is no extra money—none, zero, zilch—for the extra water projects that we need, whether it is projects in the Callide electorate or whether it is projects in my electorate with the Barlil Weir. The member for Callide is always talking about Nathan Dam, and there are other dams. There is the Urannah Dam. All of these projects are waiting for investment and support by the Palaszczuk government, yet what do we see in this budget? Absolutely nothing. However, what we do see is an absolute con job with the Townsville Regional Action Plan. The highlights on that glossy brochure say that Townsville will get \$195 million—

Mr Harper: Hear, hear!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: That goes to show how clueless the member for Thuringowa is. I will take that interjection, because it is obvious that the member for Thuringowa—

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

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Member for Nanango, the member for Thuringowa takes personal offence. Do you withdraw?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw and, Madam Deputy Speaker, I would take offence too if the Treasurer of Queensland who was on my side fed me an absolute pup and said, 'I'm going to give you \$195 million,' but in the Capital Statement, member for Thuringowa, it is \$85 million. No wonder you are offended. I understand his problem because it is the member for Thuringowa who is under the pump because crime is out of control under his watch. It is obvious that the member for Thuringowa is so precious—

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

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, the member for Thuringowa—

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Buderim, cease your interjections. Member for Nanango, the member for Thuringowa takes personal offence. Do you withdraw?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw, but I would like to take—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: No.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw. I would like to take the interjection from the member for Buderim, because it was very good. In the manufacturing space Labor is quick to boast building two new manufacturing hubs. Where are those hubs? They are apparently on the Gold Coast and Mackay, but once again the devil is always in the detail. When it comes to a Labor budget, we know that those opposite have not picked up the papers—sorry, they have probably picked up the papers that the ministers have fed them, and that was pretty obvious from my neighbouring colleague the member for Ipswich West. It was pretty obvious that the education minister just said, ‘Member for Ipswich West, just read this.’ Seriously, this is a budget that is a con job. It is full of trickery, it is full of glossy paper and deception—

An opposition member: Smoke and mirrors.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It is smoke and mirrors; I take that interjection. It is no wonder that this budget completely fails to address so many issues that are hurting regional Queensland, whether it is electricity prices, whether it is water infrastructure projects, whether it is the incredible project in the Lockyer and the Somerset providing water for another incredible agricultural and horticultural region that is amazing. Imagine how good it would be if we could just add water, and that is what we want to do in the Lockyer and the Somerset regions. That is what the member for Bundaberg should be looking at in relation to Paradise Dam.

In relation to the Nanango electorate, there is nothing more disappointing in this budget than the lack of road funding. This is what we have missed out on: Kilkivan Tansey Road, a single-lane bridge on the New England Highway at Cooyar, the 11-kilometre single-lane section of Mundubbera-Durong Road, seven kilometres of the unsealed section of Memerambi Gordonbrook Road, Running Creek Bridge on Woolooga Road, and the Brisbane Valley Highway single lane at Tanduringie bridge. It was the Tanduringie bridge that those opposite said they would look at after a school bus full of kids nearly went over it. I have been advocating for it. It is not even listed anywhere in the budget—no planning, nothing. There is a backlog of maintenance. When it comes to a bus load full of schoolkids—I have spoken in this House about this issue twice—one would think that the minister for roads would think, ‘Maybe we should fix up that bridge,’ but no. It is like the sealing of the Bunya Mountains Road. You think, ‘Great, it’s in there,’ but not until after 2024-25. It is an absolute rort.

An opposition member: They’ve kicked it down the road.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Those opposite have kicked it down the road. I commend the great P&C and the principal of the Kilcoy State School for around seven years of advocating with me for the new school hall. We are so pleased to be able to see that, eventually after six years, the Palaszczuk government has decided to fund that and for Toogoolawah school. I do thank the Minister for Education in relation to those schools. However, what the South Burnett needs more than anything—

Ms McMillan: Is a new member.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON:—is a paediatrician for South Burnett families. I get the arrogance and the hubris of the member opposite.

An opposition member interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: They do not care. They think a new member will help them, but what the South Burnett needs is an understanding from those inner-city people like the member for Mansfield that the people of the bush deserve to have the services. They do not deserve—

An honourable member interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It was the member for Mansfield who thought she was funny.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: She should know better because she is a former principal. It is the principals of my local schools who are asking for this. They want the paediatrician based there. They do not want the health minister to say, ‘We’ve got it fixed because they can go to Toowoomba.’ I will tell members this: if you are a family that lives on the other side of Proston and your kids are at Tingoorra State School, you cannot afford to get your kids over to Toowoomba. That is the reality of living in regional Queensland. It is not like just heading off to the royal children’s hospital or the Lady Cilento. You just cannot do that if you are in the bush, and that is why we need a paediatrician for the South Burnett.

I have touched on the water infrastructure that we need in the wonderful area of the South Burnett, but I say in closing that this budget is a complete fail. It is a fail for the people of Queensland. It is a fail for the people who support us by putting food on our tables. It fails the people who want water security in Queensland. It fails the manufacturing industry. It fails the mums and dads who are just trying to get ahead to get a home and raise their families in Queensland. It is unacceptable that this con job is actually a state budget.

Mr MINNIKIN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 244(5). The member for Miller is not in his seat again. Thank you.



Mr KELLY (Greenslopes—ALP) (11.10 pm): What an absolute success of a budget. Member for Bundaberg, member for Thuringowa, member for Ipswich West and member for Mansfield, how did you survive that withering attack from the former leader of the opposition who thought the way to the top job was via the New Bradfield Scheme? It is a great honour to reply to the budget delivered by our very talented and hardworking Treasurer who, according to the member for Kawana, is an extremely photogenic Treasurer and a very good dog walker.

Mr Mander interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Member for Everton, cease your interjections.

Mr KELLY: Please cease your interjections, member for Everton. I have heard all about the statue that you have raised to yourself and now the photograph you have put up of yourself. You have said enough tonight. Before I respond to the budget I did want to respond to some of the things said by those opposite, starting with the efforts of the Leader of the Opposition. There are many of us on this side of the House who, prior today, feared that Derek Zoolander had perished in a freak gasoline accident. But fear not, the spirit of Derek is alive and well and is rocking blue steel in the Queensland parliament. We have the member for Broadwater who delivered a budget speech that will be compulsory reading at the Leader of the Opposition's 'centre for kids who can't budget good and want to learn to do other stuff too.'

The member for Broadwater's speech shows that he is more than up to the job of filling the shoes of previous opposition leaders, and long will he stay there. He has the feet to fill the shoes and the mouth, with wonderful quotes like 'I am ruling out being savage'. Like any good butcher, he will be offering prime cuts, but will they be cuts that make people want to come back again and again? I think not, but perhaps they will be non-savage cuts delivered with velvet scissors.

Mr Mellish: Crafty cuts.

Mr KELLY: That is a good one—crafty cuts. Enough of the member for Broadwater. I did want to pay tribute to the former opposition leader and I have already alluded to that, but I will start with some comments updating the House on the word on the street from Greenslopes about the New Bradfield Scheme. The people of Greenslopes cannot stop talking about the New Bradfield Scheme. They love the New Bradfield Scheme.

Mr Mander interjected.

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

Mr KELLY: I can update the House on the New Bradfield Scheme. Since the last time I spoke on this topic in the last budget reply speech, all I can say is that if the LNP had been elected we would have now had only 14½ years to wait until anything was actually delivered. In fact, the much vaunted office—I think it is called the parliamentary budget assessment office—is so vaunted, in fact, I do not think I have heard a single member on that side of the House talk about it in their speech. The member for Bancroft talked about it. The office of budgetary assessment would have had a mere 14½ years to assess the New Bradfield Scheme if the LNP had been elected. We know the New Bradfield Scheme is not going to happen and we know the office of budgetary assessment is not going to happen either.

Ms McMillan: What about the rego rebate?

Mr KELLY: That will not take long either. I do want to turn to serious matters. The Leader of the Opposition used his speech to continue to perpetrate the myth of a health crisis. I do not want to diminish or disregard the serious issues raised by those opposite, but to take individual cases and conflate them to a crisis is the height of intellectual and political laziness.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Everton and member for Buderim, please cease your interjections.

Mr KELLY: It is the height of intellectual and political laziness—

Mr Mickelberg interjected.


Mr KELLY: As intellectually and politically lazy, might I say, as not listening to the speaker on their feet. I recently saw a post on a local community social media page with extremely positive feedback about a person's recent visit to the Princess Alexandra Hospital emergency department. There were over 60 positive comments accompanying that post. Does this mean everything is perfect in the health system? Do I suddenly go away and conflate that absolutely everything is perfect? I hope you are listening, member, because this is about dealing with confirmation bias, which is something you clearly do not understand.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Greenslopes, please direct all comments through the chair.

Mr KELLY: Does the member understand confirmation bias? I think not, because he understands very little. Does this mean that everything in the health system is perfect and we can ignore everything those opposite state? Absolutely not. If there are people in my electorate who have problems with the care they are receiving, and there will be, I support them through those issues. Where there are systemic issues I go to the minister with policy suggestions. What I do not do is come in here and use those individuals and their cases for cheap political gain. That is what continues to happen in this place time and time again. If there is a systems issue I will take an evidence based policy suggestion to the minister. I have done that on many occasions with good result.

The reality is that not one member of the LNP can explain how ramping is fixed by sacking ambos and nurses, which is what they did the last time they were in office. Certainly the member for Mudgeeraba, as the only nurse in this chamber to vote against safe nurse-to-patient ratios, would be hard pressed to explain to any nurse how having more patients for each nurse would help fix ramping. The member for Toowoomba North wants to stomp and scream about building a hospital as his own personal policy suggestion. I would support that every day of the week, as would every single person on this side of the House and that is why we are building more hospitals. That is what this budget is all about. It contains budgetary measures for building more hospitals. Those opposite did not build more hospitals. If it was just a matter of building more hospitals, which is what we are doing, then ramping would be fixed quickly. It is a complex, nationwide problem with some significant causes. There is a crisis in health care; it is called a global pandemic. Those of us who work in health care understand it. Those of us who show up every week and vaccinate people understand that. We also understand how difficult it is for people to see a GP, which is why they are flooding our system. It is a complex issue that we are working hard to resolve, but we will let those opposite continue to be politically and intellectually weak and lazy on this and every other issue.

The Treasurer and Premier are to be congratulated on a fantastic budget. We have economic growth, falling unemployment and huge numbers of people moving to the greatest state in the nation. It is a growth budget for a COVID recovery. It is an infrastructure budget. Schools, hospitals, social housing, roads, public transport—you name it, we are building it. It is a small business budget. There is \$140 million for our small business strategy. There is the Business Investment Fund and the Back to Work program. It is a skills and training budget, making Skilling Queenslanders for Work permanent. Remember that particular program, member for Everton? You should because you cut it. It is an industry development budget with the \$2 billion hydrogen and clean energy fund. That is what they are talking about in the streets of Greenslopes. They are certainly not talking about the New Bradfield Scheme. They are talking about the investment in film and television, infrastructure, small business, training and new industries. This is a COVID recovery budget.

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (11.19 pm): With the indulgence of the House, I start as others have by acknowledging Duncan Pegg's contribution to this place, as well as his friendship. I offer my condolences to his family and loved ones. As has been said many times, this was his week in the parliamentary calendar and we will all miss him.

I am proud to speak to this year's Appropriation Bill, which was introduced by our Treasurer, the Hon. Cameron Dick. This is the seventh year in which I have risen to support a strong Labor budget and I could not be more proud. My thanks go to everyone involved in preparing the budget. It is a lot of work and it has been a much shorter break since the last budget, which we brought down at the end of the last year.

I offer my thanks for the way that Queenslanders pull together in a crisis. We see that with floods, bushfires and cyclones, and we have seen it with COVID-19. Thanks to our willingness to do the right thing and protect each other we were able to invest money sooner in building back better across Queensland. However, we still have to balance our forward planning with the risks that this pandemic continues to present in our country. We need to keep futureproofing our small businesses and we need to make sure that our systems of government, particularly in health and education, have the technology and capacity we need to continue to outwit this horrible disease. We need to keep investing in a brighter future, with climate change in mind. That means more money for renewable energy sources, which is a particular passion of mine and I will come back to that a little later. Above all, we need to keep Queenslanders healthy.

To do that we are delivering another record health budget of \$22.2 billion, including a new satellite hospital in my area, the replacement of the Petrie Ambulance Station at Lawnton and multiple projects in the two major local hospitals at Redcliffe and Caboolture, including an MRI at Redcliffe Hospital. This budget continues our investment with an extra 5,800 nurses, 1,500 new doctors, another 475 paramedics and 1,700 additional health professionals over the four-year term. That stands in stark contrast to the cuts that we saw under the last LNP government. We are still undoing the damage they did in a few years.

We are also picking up the slack of the LNP nationally by rolling out new mass vaccination hubs in coming months. Those hubs will vaccinate the aged-care and disability workers the federal LNP could not appear to be bothered with. 'Get in the queue with everyone else,' they said, even though in our country the majority of deaths from COVID-19 have occurred in the older cohort. There is no better indication that the LNP does not value investing in health like Labor than the cuts to Medicare that we are now seeing at the federal government level. Was it 'Scotty from Marketing' who told us about those cuts or was it Malcolm Turnbull? I cannot keep up with the leadership changes. The federal LNP said that those cuts would not happen. When federal and state Labor tried to warn Australians and Queenslanders that the LNP would make cuts to Medicare that would leave them out of pocket, they said it was a scare campaign. What a shame it is that we were right all along.

Like health, education and training are key Labor priorities. This budget continues our commitment to employ more than 6,100 teachers and 1,100 teacher aides over this term of government. The rollout of air conditioning and solar for all state schools continues in this budget. In my electorate it is exciting to know that in a number of schools those projects are already completed or are nearing completion—in two years, not eight years. Our schools are getting building upgrades as well. It is really great to see Lawnton State School getting more love with new teaching spaces and an administration block, receiving \$7 million this year out of a total spend. The new administration block and hall that I secured last term have made for a lot of smiles around Lawnton State School. Lawnton is not alone in receiving funding as Burpengary State School, Jinibara State School, Kurwongbah State School and Narangba State School also received the funding that we have been promising them for a while.

I know that I sound like a broken record when I talk about the many awesome infrastructure projects we have on the go in the Kurwongbah electorate, in the most part thanks to state Labor budgets. In this budget we see the continuation of the long-awaited Deception Bay Road and New Settlement Road interchange, which is well underway. It was dropped from QTRIP under the LNP, but we brought it back and it is nearly done.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr KING: Talking about broken records, I am hearing one down the front from the member for Everton. Soon the Petrie roundabout will no longer be a roundabout or a bottleneck. Thanks go to Minister Bailey for listening. I also thank commuters for their patience during the construction of those two major bits of infrastructure in my patch.

The Dakabin station upgrade is nearing completion, much to the joy of Gemma Gale and the Dakabin Station Action Group. They have worked hard over the years to get a result. I am proud to say that we have listened and we are delivering that long overdue upgrade. I am looking forward to opening that with my neighbour and friend Deputy Premier Steven Miles as well as Gemma Gale. The Burpengary station upgrade, which I promised before the last election, has a line in the budget and planning is underway for not only the station but also the park-and-ride for Burpengary commuters. That park-and-ride is much needed as the new Burpengary Community Club will open soon across the road. That exciting new shopping and club precinct has the community buzzing. If it is anything like any of the other Comiskey ventures in Moreton Bay it will be a raging success. The Narangba station park-and-ride has not been forgotten. Work is continuing there with money for design in this budget.

I turn to energy investment—I did say earlier that I would get back to renewable energy. I welcome announcements made last week by the Premier about the \$2 billion Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund that will create many decent and secure jobs and will continue our government's investment in renewable energy. The fund will provide significant investment in big-scale storage such as batteries and pumped hydro that, like a large battery, is ready to provide clean energy at the flick of a switch. That versatility was evident a few weeks back when Wivenhoe's pumped storage came online quickly to help restore the state's grid when the generator at Callide failed and took out neighbouring coal-fired power stations. Steam turbines take some time to reset as they build up steam whereas pumped hydro comes online in minutes. The news that Borumba Dam is being looked at for a similar and larger system is great news, as is the 2,000 regional construction jobs it promises. As a former electrician who worked in the industry I know my former colleagues will love that news.

Before I finish I will return to an issue that I raised in my speech on the Debt Reduction and Savings Bill during the last sitting and about which we keep hearing from members across the chamber. At that time I tabled an article from the *Financial Review*, which I have tabled before for the benefit of informed debate. That article listed comprehensively Queensland government assets that the LNP sold during the Campbell Newman years. The article was not the only news source that reported those sales but it is the best summary I have seen yet and I encourage members to look at that tabled document. I say that because we do not sell assets. This government does not sell assets to fund things; the previous government did. I am dead against selling Queensland's assets. My commitment to my constituents on that matter is clear and I will stand up in this place to reiterate it at every opportunity. Our commitment as a government is also clear regarding that issue.

We will continue to build back better in Queensland, we will do it while prioritising Queenslanders' health and we will create thousands of jobs as we do it. We will find savings wherever possible and we will borrow money as well. However, like every Queensland household we will review and recalibrate our budget sheet as circumstances demand. We have taken the hits from COVID-19 and we are making positive changes. I am proud to be part of the Palaszczuk Labor government and I am proud to stand here supporting another strong Labor budget. I commend this bill to the House.



Mr BOYCE (Callide—LNP) (11.26 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Appropriation Bill 2021, but before doing so I would like to join with my parliamentary colleagues from all sides of the House in recognising Mr Duncan Pegg. I send my sincere condolences to his family.

Once again we see a minimal budget spend in the big rural electorates such as Callide. The Callide electorate is, of course, a significant revenue contributor to the state and the nation through major industries such as agriculture, mining, resources and energy generation. Relatively speaking, it has been overlooked in the budget yet again.

It was pleasing to see \$8.6 million allocated to the replacement of the John Peterson Bridge at Mundubbera, which is a project for which the community has lobbied hard for many years. I know that former councillor and local identity Mrs Faye Whelan will be most pleased. That \$25 million project has attracted a \$20 million funding contribution from the federal government courtesy of federal member for Flynn, Mr Ken O'Dowd.

While I am talking about bridges, it is most concerning and disappointing that there is an allocation of only \$19.5 million to the bridge replacement program. Of all the old bridges throughout the road network in Queensland that need replacing, the Labor government can fund little more than one of them. Again I draw the attention of the House to the Auditor-General's report that identified the bridge replacement program as grossly underfunded. My constituents will be furious to know that there is an allocation in the budget of \$2.5 million of an estimated \$10 million spend for the South Brisbane bikeway network. Incidentally, one could classify the electorate of the transport minister, Mr Bailey, as South Brisbane. Furthermore, there is a \$12.148 million allocation to cycling programs throughout Queensland. Of course that takes precedence over vital road infrastructure projects in rural and regional Queensland that provide connectivity for important money-generating mining, resources and agricultural products and services.

It is also pleasing to note in the budget a \$3.5 million allocation to the redevelopment of the Moura Multipurpose Health Service, including renewal and upgrading of aged-care facilities. This is part of a \$7.2 million cost estimate, and once again it pales into insignificance when you compare it to the \$40.3 million financial year spend on hospital car parks in the south-east corner. This is part of a total cost estimate of \$162 million. I am guessing the government has to provide for more space for ambulance ramping.

There has also been some moneys allocated to some of the 60-odd schools in the Callide electorate, namely Taroom, Gin Gin, Calliope, Chinchilla, Bullyard, Coalstoun Lakes, Jambin, Monto, Prospect Creek and Thangool schools respectively. There has also been some road upgrades in the Gin Gin area and the replacement of a 66-kilovolt powerline from Childers to Gayndah—a \$30.25 million spend of a \$75.86 million cost.

I would like to use the rest of my time to make some comment in relation to the energy sector, specifically what has happened at Callide Power Station, and proposed hydrogen production, all mentioned, albeit briefly, in the budget papers.

Very recently we have seen a major failure of Callide C4 coal-fired power generator. An explosion of compressed hydrogen in the C4 generator has led to the destruction of the turbine shaft which has led to the shutdown of the entire plant. Further ramifications of the event caused the tripping out of Stanwell and Gladstone power stations, causing widespread power outages, resulting in energy failure chaos throughout the state.

Hydrogen is used as a coolant for the electrical generators at Callide Power Station, and the explosion at the Callide C4 generator is an example of just how dangerous it can be, given certain circumstances. There will be many ongoing investigations into just exactly what has happened in the lead-up to the generator failure and the results of the aftermath. I know there are questions being asked about the integrity of the footings and only an extensive geo-survey will determine the outcome.

There are two things that are clear with regard to this episode: one, the Callide C4 generator and turbine shaft have been destroyed and, two, the state's electricity grid is reliant on coal-fired power generation. The renewable energy sector, whilst it tried, failed in making up the energy shortfall.

Minister de Brenni has made a commitment to replace the generator and turbine, however there has been no allowance made in the budget, presumably because CS Energy and co-owner InterGen are pursuing insurance claims, and my experience in that sector says it will take a considerable amount of negotiating and time. All that aside, I would argue that given the generator and turbine are write-offs, then so is the boiler and associated coal plant, as one complements the other, even though it has emerged unscathed.

I can only imagine the cost of the repairs to Callide C4 will run into the hundreds of millions of dollars. Rather than investing in the 25-year-old technology of the Callide C4 plant, we should be investing in the latest ultra-supercritical, high-efficiency low-emission coal-fired technology. This would boost efficiency of coal-fired power stations upwards of 45 per cent and produce lower carbon emissions. It would also provide greater energy security for Queensland business and industry, which the renewable energy sector is not capable of.

At the recent G7 meeting in England, Japan insisted that there should only be transition away from building and financing unabated coal power. This was agreed to by the world leaders at the meeting, recognising Japan's request to continue to develop their nation with coal and gas-fired power stations that use carbon reduction technology.

Japan is proposing to build 22 new coal-fired power plants; China, 127; India, 27; and Vietnam, 17. Australia exports \$70 billion worth of the best coal in the world to these countries so that they can provide cheap, reliable electricity to their businesses, industries and peoples, yet we deny that opportunity to Australians. This argument is driven by the mind-numbing, eco-Marxist millennials and upper middle-class wokes who have been indoctrinated with some quasi-religious belief that coal is bad and carbon dioxide is poisoning the planet.

China's coal-fired power generation grew by 38 gigawatts last year, the equivalent of 19 Liddell power stations. Japan has just signalled to the world that it will support, produce and use coal-fired generation technology now and well into the future and it wants Australian coal, the cleanest and best coal in the world.

Brisbane is the biggest coalmining town in Queensland. There are 50,000 jobs that rely on the coal industry. Everybody relies on coal-fired power generation in Queensland.

I have a question to the Labor Party, to those opposite: do you support the coal industry? Will you support the building of a new ultra-supercritical coal-fired power station at Callide?

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

Mr BOYCE: Or are you going to continue the hypocrisy—

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

Mr BOYCE:—of relying on coalmining and coal exports to other industrial nations that is an indispensable revenue stream for the state of Queensland, and limit and stop the use of the most abundant, cheap and efficient energy source that we have in Queensland?

If the Labor government does not support new technology coal-fired power generation, how can it guarantee the viability of heavy industry like the Boyne Island alumina smelter at Gladstone? Remember, this smelter was offline for approximately three hours during the Callide Power Station event. It can only stand five hours offline, then the potlines freeze over and it is all over.

As the government pursues its 50 per cent renewable energy target, we will end up in the same position as Victoria where Portland Smelter has recently been underwritten by the federal government to the tune of \$76 million because of an electricity demand management strategy implemented by the Victorian government. In short, there is not enough peak load power in the system to keep everything going in Victoria. Portland uses 10 per cent of Victoria's generating capacity.

Hydrogen will be the answer that those opposite will champion, but as we all know—and the Labor Party has admitted this—the commercial production of industrial quantities of hydrogen is economically unviable at this point in time with the available technology. We have heard many times the Labor Party spruik the merits of hydrogen, particularly green hydrogen, produced by using wind and solar to power electrolyzers that split the water molecule into hydrogen and oxygen.

Recently I attended a conference, Developing Queensland's Hydrogen, hosted by the Committee for Economic Development of Australia where Minister de Brenni was among the guest speakers. Hydrogen needs to reduce production costs to \$2 a kilo to make it economically viable. Current production costs are in the order of \$9 a kilo. The biggest single production cost is electricity, approximately 80 per cent of the total cost. At the conference, we were told that there are conversations around ideas of making hydrogen electrolyzers exempt from electricity costs to bring down the cost of hydrogen production. To me, this idea is economic insanity.

The renewable energy sector, which is supposed to supply green hydrogen production, is already heavily subsidised through energy generating credits. If we were then to subsidise hydrogen electrolyzers which use renewable energy, we are subsidising alternative energy production twice, which is absolute madness. Ultimately the people who will bear the cost of this idea are the people who can least afford their electricity bill. If hydrogen is to become the world's new energy source, it will have to find another way or develop better production technology.

For now, we should be investing in the latest ultra-supercritical coal-fired power technology and use the plentiful coal resource we have. In closing, I reiterate my support for the coal industry and for coal-fired power. Coal is king and will be for many years to come.



Hon. MC de BRENNI (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement) (11.38 pm): This is our plan—our plan to create more Queensland jobs. It is a plan to create prosperity for generations to come as well. I would like to start by congratulating the Treasurer on delivering his second budget and the Premier her seventh. What a tremendous Labor budget it is.

I am incredibly proud of the 52 Labor members who were elected to this House on the commitments in the 2021-22 budget—commitments I know will deliver in spades for the community of Springwood that I represent. For example, in Redlands the Palaszczuk government will deliver through this budget a full-time fire station for Mount Cotton, a new oval at the Mount Cotton State School, a brand new primary school for southern Redlands—terrific news—a brand new satellite hospital and an expansion of the Redland Hospital. In Logan, there is a massive \$1.75 billion investment in the M1 upgrade from Eight Mile Plains right through to the Logan Motorway and the busway as well—getting people home sooner and safer. There will be an extra 206 beds at the Logan Hospital so help is there for families when they need it most. Important upgrades to our schools include: a new oval for my primary school, Springwood Road State School; refurbished classrooms at the Kimberley Park State School; a brand new hall for Rochedale State High School; and new classrooms at Rochedale State School.

I am proud of the future this budget paints for our community. I acknowledge those locals in my electorate for supporting me to stand up for them. This budget continues our COVID economic recovery off the back of our strong health response. This is a budget that delivers job-creating infrastructure, better schools, better hospitals, more frontline services and a clear path to delivering on our renewable energy target. This is a budget that delivers one of the strongest financial positions of any state or territory in the nation.

We did not get here by chance. The strong forecast for economic growth in Queensland and job creation is not the result of some coincidence or luck. It is the result of the tough decisions taken by this government and by our Premier to keep Queenslanders safe and our economy open throughout the pandemic, and keep it open. Because of those decisions we now know that 1,000 Queensland jobs were created each and every day throughout the month of May—a thousand jobs every single day. Queensland now has 84,900 more jobs than our pre-COVID level in March last year—the highest rise in jobs in the nation. That is what this side of the House is all about. Some 337,400 jobs have been created by this Palaszczuk Labor government since we came to office.

The budget delivered this week continues that strong record. When it comes to my portfolios, this is a budget that delivers big. The Palaszczuk government has delivered the single largest energy investment in Queensland's history at the same time as maintaining our public assets, renewable energy projects and network upgrades to bring cheaper, cleaner energy into homes and businesses across the state.

This is a budget that does it all: \$52.3 million in electricity rebates to support regional farmers, regional manufacturers, foundries and irrigators and support employers in the north; \$39 million for grid connected batteries—new technology—in Townsville, Rockhampton, Bundaberg, Hervey Bay and Toowoomba; \$22 million to progress the Borumba pumped hydro, the second largest pumped hydro-electric scheme in the nation; \$144.9 million for CleanCo's Karara wind farm; \$40 million to unlock the northern renewable energy zone and its cornerstone project, the Kaban wind farm; \$239 million to upgrade Powerlink's high-voltage transmission infrastructure; and \$2.38 billion in job-creating capital upgrades and maintenance of Queensland's publicly owned electricity assets.

What must be considered the centrepiece is our \$2 billion Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund. Before those opposite start jumping up and down—

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr de BRENNI: Here he is jumping up down. I will point out how budgets work. Unlike the LNP, we are a government that delivers generational, nation-building infrastructure. That is what this is about. We are a government that has long-term goals. We are prepared to make long-term decisions. That is what our forward estimates and the budget strategy and outlook clearly outline.

Those opposite can play all the political games they want, but we know they are already planning for cuts. The opposition leader let that one slip. Savage or not, cuts are guaranteed under the LNP any time they get their hands on power. What Queenslanders expect and deserve is long-term generational infrastructure investment and vision. That is what the Palaszczuk government is delivering.

It is what Queenslanders get with our \$2 billion Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund—a fund that delivers for a future energy sector; a fund that delivers an advanced manufacturing jobs boom for Queensland; a fund that expands public ownership of renewable generation and storage assets; and a fund that will see solar panels, electrolyzers, wind farm components and batteries made right here in Queensland by Queenslanders. We are witnessing a worldwide renewable energy boom and Queensland is right in the thick of it. It is this Labor government and this Labor budget that will ensure the renewables boom becomes a regional jobs boom for Queenslanders.

The Palaszczuk Labor government's Buy Queensland procurement approach means greater local returns on the taxpayers' dollar. To put it simply, Buy Queensland will deliver more bang for budget bucks. This means more than just choosing the cheapest price. It means ensuring every dollar invested in goods, services and infrastructure prioritises local business opportunities, local jobs, fair wages and safe working conditions. That is why this budget strengthens compliance with our Buy Queensland procurement approach. A greater focus on compliance will ensure that everyone is playing by the rules—rules that mandate opportunities for traineeships and apprenticeships so we continue to future proof our skilled workforce; rules that deliver greater social outcomes and increase procurement—

Mr Hart interjected.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Resume your seat please, Minister. Member for Burleigh, your interjections are repeated and they are not being taken. I place you on a warning.

Mr de BRENNI: I was talking about our commitment to greater compliance with our Buy Queensland policy, supported by funding in this budget. Compliance will ensure that the rules are followed—rules that deliver greater social outcomes and increase procurement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses; and rules that ensure we deliver on our promise to source at least 30 per cent of the procurement spend with small and medium size enterprises by the end of 2022.

One of the best things a government can do is to provide its people with the skills and training to get a good, decent, secure job. For that reason alone, the Palaszczuk government made a commitment to rebuilding QBuild. Since then, hundreds of apprentices and tradies have started new careers with QBuild. We are quite literally giving these young Queenslanders the tools to take advantage of the future job opportunities our budget creates—opportunities in electrical, carpentry, painting and plumbing. They will even help deliver our \$52.2 billion four-year capital works program.

The QBuild story tells Queenslanders everything they need to know about the LNP. Queenslanders have not forgotten how those opposite gutted QBuild, sacked 1,654 QBuild workers and scrapped the apprenticeship program. The opposition leader sat around Campbell Newman's cabinet table making those decisions. The scariest part is that we all know that if they had the chance they would do it again.

The member for Broadwater says his cuts would not be savage. Campbell Newman told public servants that they had nothing to fear. We know how that worked out. There is a reason they are sitting on that side of the House. Queenslanders are smart. Queenslanders know better than to trust the LNP. They know to trust this Palaszczuk Labor government to deliver their plan, our plan for jobs and prosperity. I commend the appropriation bills to the House.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (11.48 pm): I rise to speak to the Appropriation Bill 2021. For a bloke who maintains that debt is not a dirty word, the Treasurer certainly spent a lot of time justifying why the Labor Party has given Queenslanders so much of it. The member for Woodridge used six pages of the budget speech in December 2020 to pontificate about debt and there were seven pages of justification in this budget speech about \$127 billion in debt that Labor continues to inflict on Queensland. Let us not forget the 22 paragraphs the Treasurer blathered on about trying to explain the Titles Registry revaluation from \$4 billion to \$7.8 billion in just a few weeks.

One thing the Treasurer failed to explain in those 22 paragraphs, however, was the parameters that the Bank of America, BIS Oxford Economics, Deloitte, as well as legal firm Allens Linklaters, QIC, PwC and EY base their assessment on. It was a lesson in 'Labornomics'—additional debt accumulation but at the same time a reduction in debt using creative accounting, not credible financial management.

The Treasurer has certainly pulled the budget rabbit out of the hat with our state's multibillion dollar deficit projected to metamorphosise into a paper thin \$153 million surplus based upon some rather precarious assumptions, including Queensland's borders remaining mostly open to other states, no major community outbreaks and that the RBA keeps the cash rate at 0.1 per cent until mid-2023. This budget foreshadows a fantasy future. Borrow, borrow, borrow; spend, spend, spend—but in a few years Queensland will come out with a positive balance. What an absolute farce!

The financial acumen was exemplified by the types of lectures that we get from ministers. I am glad that the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships is in the House. I love it when they freelance. The minister loves to give me supercilious answers to my earnest questions. Yesterday was a classic example when I asked about the Path to Treaty funding. I want to have a look at the speaking notes that the minister's staff obviously gave him. He gave me a lecture and said he was going to teach me a bit about 'basic maths' and that he would 'dumb it down even further'.

Let us have a look at what the minister had to say to me. He referred to the fact that this fund was similar to, in his words, 'a Commonwealth government Dollarmites account'—bah-bow! There was no Commonwealth government Dollarmites account. It was a Commonwealth Bank Dollarmites account. This state has just got rid of Dollarmites because they were not happy. They called them 'predatory' which is what the Labor government is for hard-earned Queensland taxpayers' money.

It was all about the fact that it was a future fund, but it was a future fund supposedly based on money from the sale of an asset already owned by the government and sold to itself. The minister wanted to tell me it was a future fund. Labor have never saved anything in their lives. The way they are magically getting this \$300 million is ridiculous, but the minister had no idea about that. Finally, I say to the minister: we do not take lectures in financial literacy from someone who came here with a part IX bankruptcy, who had to have a deed of arrangement with his creditors. For the minister to come in here and abuse me constantly when I ask serious questions, he needs to take a good look at himself instead of what we cop when we ask these serious questions.

When I look at this budget through the lens of the Surfers Paradise electorate, it is patent that my constituents have once again been forgotten in Labor's latest rendition of a budget that is pure window-dressing. This budget is proof that Brisbane Labor does not understand the concerns of the people of the Gold Coast and of my electorate.

Tourism is the lifeblood of our state, of the Gold Coast region and of my electorate. Battling volatile border closures, travel bans and lockdowns, Queensland's tourism and small business operators are incredibly resilient but they are hurting. If Queenslanders ever needed proof that this government, and the Treasurer, are more interested in symbols, rhetoric and imagery than actual service delivery, they need look no further than this quote from 1 December 2020 from the member for Woodridge's first budget speech. He said—

The opening of our borders today is a signal of hope and a sign of confidence in the plan that has brought us this far. It means more flights, more accommodation bookings and more activity to support jobs throughout our tourist regions.

On the day the budget was brought down the government used the metaphor of the borders reopening to proclaim a new dawn for the area most affected by the events of 2020—the tourism sector, not just on the Gold Coast but wherever tourism plays a significant role, and that is a lot of places in Queensland. Fast forward to Tuesday's speech from the same member for Woodridge and there was not one word about tourism—a sector that continues to face significant challenges and not just due to the issue of the lack of international travel. There was not one word. There was not a word about the skill sector challenges, about the travel agents cast adrift, about the uncertainty when new rules are brought in about what is going to be allowed. I see that more rules were announced today that will be applied to visitors coming from Sydney and Melbourne.

There are operators who are eking out a living trying to be two-day a week operators instead of seven. By all means, there are operators travelling well. However, many are not anywhere near where they were before March 2020. It is beyond cruel of this Treasurer to ignore the plight of thousands of businesses in this sector.

There are a lot of businesses throughout our state that pay taxes and provide a great service for Queenslanders who have been snubbed in this state budget. When the chips are down, Queenslanders should expect that the government will help to protect their livelihoods. For tourism operators, the federal government has been doing the heavy lifting via the programs they rolled out through the pandemic. Many of the Gold Coast operators and chambers of commerce that I have been to throughout the state have thanked the federal government but have bewailed to me the lack of support from the state Labor government. Is it any wonder I say Labor just does not get the Gold Coast!

In this case, when it comes to tourism and the jobs it supports, Labor does not get a raft of Queensland cities, towns and communities—all of whom stoically keep trudging forward, but it is no thanks to this expedient Labor government, big on style and symbols but very poor on delivery when it comes to my communities and communities like them.

It is not just tourism that the Treasurer ignored yesterday and has ignored for the last 16 months. Since COVID, my electorate and city have been besieged by a crime and hooning epidemic that has local residents threatening vigilantism, hiring private security and bewailing the lack of police numbers to follow up on complaints.

Of course when our hardworking police have been occupied at the borders and quarantine hotels, it is unsurprising that these problems continue unabated. Social media outlets each day are clogged with warnings about intruders stealing cars or loitering outside properties, and there is great frustration at the slap-on-the-wrist penalties or, worse still, lack of penalties for the often young offenders.

These brazen youth keep returning sometimes to the same house to steal the same vehicles for the second and third time, as happened this week in Benowa Waters. These issues have also been happening from Main Beach to Broadbeach, Paradise Waters, the Isle of Capri, Chevron Island, Clear Island Waters, Sorrento and Bundall. Local residents are also subjected to ongoing hooning, excessive speeding and, more recently and notably, horrendous exhaust noise, which is very frustrating for residents. I am going to table an email from someone who wrote to me. They said—

I am a resident of Clear Island Waters and have noticed over the last few months the increased noise from traffic—motorbikes with back firing ridiculously loud exhausts, cars with back firing exhausts flying up and down Bermuda Street—

one part of my electorate—

around Markeri Street—

which is at the southern border of my electorate with the member for Mermaid Beach—

and on Robina Parkway—

which is my border with the Mudgeeraba electorate. They continued—

It is now literally constant, middle of the night they are flying up and down so loud it wakes us up.

I table that email.

Tabled paper: Email, dated 23 May 2021, from a constituent and resident of Clear Water Island, about increased noise from traffic [905].

This week I asked a question on notice about the number of infringement notices that have been issued for modified silencing device offences. Some years ago we passed legislation in this House that enabled police or transport inspectors to take away vehicles. That confiscation does not seem to be happening as much as it was back then when there was a similar issue.

Local residents are fearful, frustrated and angry. That is why they have signed petitions that were tabled in this House this week for more police resources and speed cameras. Let us hope we get more of an acknowledgement than we did from the Treasurer on Tuesday.

The budget papers are not any more promising, with no commitment for more police officers in Surfers Paradise. The only police support Surfers Paradise received from the budget—and I know the member for Bonney acknowledged this—was \$1 million for a trial of metal-detecting wands. I thank the Minister for Education today. Out of the blue my office received an email about the allocation for maintenance and minor works at the only state school in my electorate—Surfers Paradise State School—of \$84,000. Most importantly, I thank the minister for the courtesy of letting my office know that specifically.

There was one crime related initiative. Where are the rest? It is unacceptable that my constituents feel unsafe in their communities while at the same time Brisbane Labor preaches that they care about the Gold Coast. Actions speak louder than words.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people deserve to thrive socially, economically and culturally. Seniors and people with disability deserve to live free from physical, emotional and financial abuse. However, it is questionable whether this budget genuinely enables an inclusive Queensland or whether Queenslanders are dealing with a government that is all show.

As I have already mentioned, the Treasurer announced a \$300 million Path to Treaty fund with great fanfare. However, an inspection of the budget papers reveals the lack of allocation to this fund, with not once cent to be spent by 2025. Additionally, there is very little specific detail for seniors. The only seniors performance measure in the budget papers is the number of seniors eligible for a Seniors Card. I will continue to visit groups and communities in disability services, communities and seniors, as well as multiculturalism and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships to find more detail than is in the budget papers.

I note that some years ago in a previous report the Auditor-General wrote about the confusing nature of the budget papers, and I note that today the media has also highlighted the constantly changing parameters in the budget papers that are designed, it would seem, to almost confuse people about the actual detail. The Premier describes this as a traditional Labor budget. With more than half of the budget being dedicated to health and education, it would serve this government well to walk the walk on the issues that Queenslanders face in these two areas.

When my constituents contact me about health related matters, normal procedure involves referring that query on to the Minister for Health, the member for Redcliffe. Lately we have had a number of requests for the constituent's contact details, which our office provides, but as a courtesy we ask to be copied into the response. I have written to the Minister for Health asking for clarification about these issues at her invitation during the last sitting week or the sitting week before about why it is the office does not always receive that response. We are not asking for patient details or details of the case, but as we ask on behalf of a constituent, we believe that the courtesy is for the office to be advised instead of us having to ask the constituent subsequently if they mind copying us into the response when we see we have not received one. So far, I have received no response from the Minister for Health. It is very frustrating for my constituents and my office. We are trying to do the right thing, and the Minister for Health invited members to write to her with their specific concerns about these issues.

It would serve the government well to put its money where its mouth is when it comes to the billions of dollars worth of promises within this budget. As many other members have pointed out, \$2 billion was promised for the Hospital Building Fund but there is no funding allocated in the budget papers. A billion dollars was promised for the Housing Investment Fund, but again there is no funding allocated in the budget papers.

Queensland is awash in a sea of red. It has been for some time, even before the onslaught of the pandemic, which is now being used by the Treasurer as a justification for his debt splurge, which of course is, in his own words, 'not a problem' for the member for Woodridge. The Treasurer's 'borrow

now, pay later' approach will leave future generations to deal with the unavoidable debt reckoning. The Treasurer's 'sunrise state', in his own words, is characterised by financially imprudent government—a government that is out of touch with the needs of everyday Queenslanders and a government that is all icing, no cake.

We deserve a budget that benefits all. The glossy brochure under the Treasurer's arm is certainly one that does not. People on the Gold Coast, the people I represent, do not want the government to give them a handout. They would like a bit of help now and then, but when it comes to small business grants that were completely oversubscribed within a couple of days, it is very frustrating. As I have already mentioned in this speech, the fact is that the rules keep changing. Businesses that are now operating on 20 to 40 per cent of their previous capacity are trying to get back. They just cannot do it and they want the government to get out of the way. That is what our party believes in: less regulation, making sure that businesses can do what they do best, and making sure that we also have a social safety net. There is a whole bunch of people who feel that the safety net is not helping them at the moment. This Labor government is responsible for the fact these people feel like there is no empathy or concern coming from those opposite.



Mrs MULLEN (Jordan—ALP) (12.03 am): I am very proud to speak on the appropriation bills and acknowledge my strong support for the 2021-22 state budget delivered by the Queensland Treasurer this week. When I reflect on 2020, I reflect on the hardest times for our communities. Some of our actions to keep Queenslanders safe were difficult: the lockdowns, the border closures, social distancing and mandatory mask directives. They were disruptive to the economy and challenging for so many in our communities, but our communities did not waiver. As the Treasurer said in his budget speech, 'in facing down COVID-19, everything that was asked of Queenslanders, they did.' By protecting the health of Queenslanders, economic confidence has been maintained and we are seeing the economic benefits of our decisive actions.

I want to particularly acknowledge our Premier, who faced incredible pressure and, frankly, relentless bullying by those opposite and the Prime Minister of this country. We will not forget the relentless calls to open borders, the undermining of the Chief Health Officer and blaming the states for quarantine and vaccine rollouts despite this being the clear responsibility of the federal government. As has been stated in this House, it has been shown that both globally and domestically economic outcomes have been more favourable in jurisdictions and countries where control of the virus and health outcomes have been better. As a result, we are now seeing Queensland returning to economic growth sooner and more strongly than other economies. Backed by our clear COVID-19 economic recovery plan, through our focus on creating jobs and working together, we are ensuring Queensland's future prosperity. These results can clearly be seen in my own electorate of Jordan—a high-growth electorate benefiting from opportunities but also facing the challenges of our strong interstate migration.

I am proud to be part of a government that understands the importance of resourcing our health system properly. Like all states across our country there are challenges to the Australian health system, but in Queensland we are rising to these challenges. This year's budget has a record investment of \$22.23 billion in health services and infrastructure. I was so very proud to stand with the Premier, the Health Minister and the Queensland Treasurer to announce that we would be investing in a new public hospital in Springfield. Since being elected the state member for Jordan in late 2017, I have been relentless in my commitment to see increased health services for our region. Greater Ipswich is projected to grow by 37 per cent in the next 10 years, and an extra 100,000 people will live in the Greater Springfield-Ripley Valley area in the next five years.

For our elderly residents, for those with chronic illnesses and for our young families, I have been advocating strongly for health care closer to home because I know just how important this is. Our government has listened, and in partnership with Mater Health Services we have confirmed in the state budget an initial funding contribution of \$177 million for the new 174-bed public hospital in Springfield. The hospital will have a much needed emergency department, intensive care unit, maternity services and increased interventional spaces such as operating theatres and an endoscopy suite as well as increased clinical capability of the service, meaning more complex care can be treated locally. Over the next decade this partnership with Mater will mean more than \$1 billion in investment by our government. It will also mean an economic and jobs boom for the region, with the project expected to create more than 1,000 frontline health positions as well as more than 700 jobs during construction. Our community has warmly welcomed our commitment. I have been overwhelmed by the many positive messages I have received, and we will work as quickly as we can to ensure we have the new public hospital operational by 2024.

The growth we are experiencing is not limited to our health services. With so many young families moving into our region, we are seeing an explosion in student numbers as well. From our record \$18.3 billion for education and training in 2021-22, I was pleased to see \$913.7 million for 10 new state schools. For the Jordan electorate this includes: a new primary school for 2023 to be built in Augustine Heights that will cater for increased growth in Greater Springfield and Redbank Plains; and a new primary school in Bellbird Park for 2024. The commitment will also see a new secondary school for Greater Springfield in 2024, which is so important as our wonderful Springfield Central State High School has seen incredible growth over the last few years. During the election we also announced planning for a new secondary school in Greater Flagstone. I know this is something that is very important, particularly for families living in Greenbank and New Beith. Our existing schools have not been forgotten, and I am pleased to see: \$9.3 million for new classrooms at Springfield Central State School; \$7.5 million for new classrooms for Flagstone State School; and funding of \$2.25 million for the expansion of our WestEC Trade Training Centre at Woodcrest State College.

Through this budget we have announced that over the next four years the value of the Palaszczuk government's capital works and infrastructure program will be \$52.2 billion. For the Jordan electorate we are seeing this investment through the delivery of our \$44.5 million Springfield Central park-and-ride, which is currently under construction, and our government's contribution of \$18 million towards the new Brisbane Lions AFLW stadium, which is also under construction. We will see it through the much anticipated upgrade of the Centenary Highway-Logan Motorway interchange. This \$15 million project is currently at the detailed design stage, and I look forward to sharing the plans with our community soon before we progress to the construction phase. There is also some longer term planning underway for the Centenary Highway to future-proof the highway with more lanes, new interchanges and off-ramps to address to increasing population growth.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Deputy Speaker has reviewed and approved my budget speech for incorporation, and as such I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

Our Government is also supporting the Ipswich City Council with funding for the Springfield-Greenbank Arterial duplication.

And, I am very pleased to see funding for rail corridor planning—this is the most important transport investment that we can make in our region and the 2021-22 State Budget has funding for the Salisbury to Beaudesert Rail Line Business Case (jointly funded with the Federal Government) and the Ipswich to Springfield passenger transport corridor.

Housing

Speaker, we recognise housing need as a major challenge for many of our communities across Queensland. Within my electorate, this has been further challenged by last year's Hailstorms that saw hundreds of homes severely damaged.

This has led to a lack of available rental homes with many people needing to move away from the area to find suitable accommodation. This was evidenced at Springfield Lakes State School which lost 70 students from its enrolments as a result of the storms—these are families who could not stay in the local area.

Our Government has recognised the importance of housing—affordable housing, housing for vulnerable people, for families escaping domestic and family violence.

I want to congratulate Minister Enoch on launching a bold new housing plan backed by \$1.9 billion investment over the next four years and a new \$1 billion Housing Investment Fund to boost housing supply and increase housing and homelessness support across Queensland.

As the Minister has said, this is the largest concentrated investment in social housing in Queensland's history.

I was very fortunate to recently visit a couple of fantastic new houses being built within my electorate by Sandsky Developments—four-bedroom homes that will be just terrific and they are really reflective of a new age in our social housing stock.

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 builds over the next four years under the Queensland Housing Investment Growth Initiative.

Skills and Training

Speaker, in my role as the Assistant Minister for Treasury and as the local Member, I have been meeting with many small and medium businesses who have shared with me the challenges in finding appropriately skilled staff at this time.

This challenge is not unique to Queensland—our closed borders are certainly having an impact, particularly for our agriculture and hospitality sectors but also manufacturing which is finding it challenging to find the right workers and sometimes any workers.

There is more work to be done in this space—but I am pleased to see our Government re-focussing our investment in skills and training so we can help more Queenslanders get the skills they need for jobs in emerging, growth and traditional industries.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work has been a fantastic program—I've had the privilege of speaking with young people who have undertaken this program and it really does change their lives.

The announcement by the Treasurer and the Minister for Skills and Training that Skilling Queenslanders for Work will now be a permanent program with a commitment of \$320 million over four years and ongoing funding of \$80 million each year after is certainly welcome news.

Jobs Fund

Speaker, our singular aim as a Government is to grow jobs—because we recognise that there is dignity in work and we want these jobs to be well paid and highly skilled in emerging and growing industries.

The announcement of our \$3.34 billion Queensland Jobs Fund is all about supporting job-creating industries like advanced manufacturing, hydrogen, biofutures, biomedical, defence, aerospace, space, resource recovery and technology.

We have \$2 billion dedicated to creating energy and hydrogen jobs through the Queensland Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund—not only in terms of supporting our government-owned businesses to expand ownership of commercial projects but also importantly to deliver on our 50 per cent renewable target by 2030.

The Queensland Jobs Fund will also be a vital instrument for further private sector investment in Queensland as well.

Conclusion

Speaker, in conclusion I would like to congratulate the Queensland Treasurer on the delivery of the 2021-22 Budget—I know just how challenging it is to meet the needs of our growing state and to ensure we are continuing to fund frontline services, to fund infrastructure and our growing health and education systems.


In turn, may I also acknowledge and thank the Acting Under Treasurer, Leon Allen and the many Treasury officers who worked so diligently and professionally to meet the Government's requirements of delivering the State Budget.

But the State Budget is more than just figures in a document—as the Treasurer said in his Budget speech, they represent workers getting paid and Queenslanders putting food on the table.

As a Labor Government, we were never going to punish Queenslanders with austerity measures at a time when they needed Government to step up for them.

We have continued to invest in Queenslanders—to meet their needs and to support their aspirations.

I commend the Bills to the House.

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (12.09 am): I am proud to rise today to speak in support of the Appropriation Bill delivered by the Treasurer and Minister for Investment and member for Woodridge. I congratulate the Treasurer and his team. What a great budget it is for the Queensland we serve and for the good people of the electorate of Mansfield. This great Labor budget creates jobs, setting out a clear economic plan, attracting investment and building infrastructure—building the economy of the future. It is a budget that delivers the health and education infrastructure investment for the future success of young Queenslanders and for the prosperity of our great state.

A quality education transforms the lives of individuals, families and whole communities. When I was elected to this parliament, I vowed that I would strive to ensure that the Mansfield electorate became a hub of educational excellence. I am proud of the 19 schools in my electorate and the quality education that they provide. It is the reason young families flock to my electorate, with more than 100 young families moving to my electorate every month. Our \$16.8 billion for education in 2021-22 delivers on our election commitment to employ 6,190 new teachers and 1,139 teacher aides over the next four years. I congratulate our education minister on her courageous and decisive leadership around the money that has been expended on one of the most important pillars of our community.

The 2021-22 budget includes \$1.4 billion for new schools to open in 2023 and 2024, as well as for additional and renewed infrastructure in Queensland's existing state schools. We are delivering a \$24.156 million investment in new, modern school facilities in Mansfield. There is: \$10.5 million of \$17 million for a new building for Mansfield State High School; additional classrooms at Mansfield State School and Mackenzie State Special School; a new \$250,000 outdoor learning area at Wishart State School, as well as another new \$6.4 million building on top of the \$7.5 million new building, which includes classrooms and canteen, that is currently being built; a new hall at Rochedale State High School; a new \$15 million building for Rochedale State School; more than \$1 million for minor works and maintenance for schools in my community; the completion of the new building to replace the classrooms lost in the fire at Upper Mount Gravatt State School, as well as \$500,000 for a multipurpose sports facility; air conditioning and solar; and \$2 million to light state school ovals in my electorate as a trial project for our state. The Palaszczuk government has a clear vision for education in Queensland because education is the best investment that we can make for the future of Queenslanders and for the future prosperity of our great state.

The delivery of seven satellite hospitals, including one locally in Brisbane's south, to enable our acute hospitals to continue safely managing patients via alternative models of care worth \$265 million is welcomed by my community. Last year I joined the former minister for health and the Chief Health

Officer to announce a \$12 million investment to establish a 24-bed ward at the QEII Hospital. A further \$22.4 million has been allocated for improved facilities at our local QEII Hospital. Queensland's health response to this global pandemic has drawn accolades globally. On behalf of my community, I thank the Premier, the Minister for Health, the Deputy Premier and Dr Young, our Chief Health Officer, for their courageous and decisive leadership.

Social isolation and loneliness is a well-documented and researched New World issue identified prior to the pandemic but which has been exacerbated since COVID-19. Since my election in 2017, I have worked closely with the University of Queensland schools of psychology and sociology, the Mount Gravatt Community Centre and the Queensland Community Alliance to proactively address this important issue in my community. The employment of social workers locally—known as link workers—as part of our nation-leading Ways to Wellness program has attracted \$505,016 from the Palaszczuk government. I am proud of this program, the international interest it has attracted and the significant outcomes achieved to date for our local people. I am equally honoured to be chairing the parliamentary committee which will conduct a statewide inquiry into this important social issue that significantly impacts on the lives of Queenslanders and on the future economic prosperity of our state.

I am delighted to announce the following: \$287,000 for Southside Community Care; \$581,000 to INSYNC Mount Gravatt to deliver specialist homelessness services; \$722,000 to further enable the Mount Gravatt Community Centre to continue their tremendous work supporting our most vulnerable; 32 new social housing units to be built, which is a much needed addition for people in my community; and \$28,836 over the next four years to support my much loved Meals on Wheels service.

The Deputy Speaker has reviewed and approved my budget speech for incorporation. As such I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

Mr Speaker it is also pleasing to see a strong commitment by the Palaszczuk Government to free TAFE to Queenslanders under 25. This is welcomed and will be valued immensely by the young people in my community.

The Mount Gravatt TAFE will receive a further \$3.4m upgrade to teaching spaces, maintenance and provide state of the art infrastructure.

The Back to Work and Skilling Queenslanders for Work Programs have afforded hundreds of people in my community the dignity of work. The Mt Gravatt Community Centre deliver many of the certificate courses that are part of these \$460 million Palaszczuk Government signature programs.

Police

And we're keeping Queenslanders safe.

The Palaszczuk Government will deliver an extra 2,025 police personnel over the next 5 years.

Transport and Main Roads

We are delivering another record investment in road and transport infrastructure, \$27.5 billion over 4 years supporting 24 000 jobs for Queenslanders.

- Upgrades to M1 Pacific Highway—the state's busiest road. The Pacific Motorway Eight Mile Plains to Daisy Hill upgrade will continue.
- \$1.5B in 2021/22 for Cross River Rail
- \$1.3 million for the Redland Sub-Arterial Road (Mt Gravatt Capalaba Road to Tingalpa Creek), widening, business case and
- \$4.47 million for the Upper Mount Gravatt Busway Station, design accessibility upgrade

Further, a \$500,000 commitment to begin the Priority Safety Upgrade to Ham Road for Mansfield State Primary and High School—this funding we expect will be matched by the Brisbane City Council under the Local Road Improvement Program.

Small Business

Small Businesses play an important role in my community. Our strong health response has meant that we can get back to business as usual. A \$950 million payroll tax relief package will assist small to medium sized businesses to create jobs in Queensland. Many small businesses in my Electorate have benefited from the interest free loans, 177 of the small businesses in my Electorate have received Palaszczuk Government Covid-19 Adaption Grants totalling \$1.8 million and will continue to access other supports when required.

Our strong health response in Queensland has ensured the foundations for the best possible economic recovery, the opportunity for our Government to borrow to invest. And the Palaszczuk Government's plan for economic recovery from COVID-19 begins with investing for job creation. The greatest investment any Government can make is in the people they serve.

We're focusing on growth sectors like renewable energy and hydrogen, and recommitting to highly successful programs such as Skilling Queenslanders for Work.

The budget strengthens the core pillars of the Palaszczuk Labor Government: healthcare, education, infrastructure, renewables and jobs.

It is a true Labor Budget: we are building more schools, better roads and a workforce for tomorrow, equipping Queenslanders with the skills they need to succeed and unlocking the opportunities our state requires to grow and flourish.

This is what Labor Governments do, and this is exactly what the people of Queensland elected Labor to do!


Mr Speaker, the Palaszczuk government's strong health response has put us on the road to economic recovery.

My community understands that strong and proven community leadership, and a good strong, stable government is what is needed at all times, but especially in times of a global economic and health pandemic.

I am proud to stand part of a Queensland Labor Government led by our Premier who has a vision for this great State of Queensland.

The 2021/22 State Budget ensures a progressive Queensland will be one more educated, more critical, healthier, more mobile and better prepared for the ongoing economic challenges which lie ahead. This will be the work of one Government, a Labor Government and the result of only one party—The Australian Labor Party.

I commend this Bill to the House.

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (12.14 am): I rise to speak in support of the Appropriation Bill 2021. This is a budget that delivers on many of my 2020 election commitments and then some. Macalister schools are in for some major makeovers commencing next financial year. Commitments I made last year that will be delivered include the following: work will commence on the new \$12 million Beenleigh State High School hall, a commitment personally made by the Premier attending one of the recent award-winning paddock to plate events at the school; work will commence on expanding the Carbrook State School administration building, and considering the staff numbers have trebled since the building was first built the staff are really looking forward to that; Mount Warren Park State School will finally get the funds needed to refurbish the troublesome roof guttering that has been the bane of their maintenance budget for quite some time, with \$1 million allocated to finally fix this ongoing problem; and Windaroo State School will get two new outdoor creative learning spaces to the value of \$400,000.

On top of the election commitments, this government knows that school communities need ongoing improvements to meet growing populations so we will be delivering for more Macalister schools. Not content with opening a brand new building at the Beenleigh Special School last year, work will commence on another \$16.8 million building next financial year. This school's population has trebled in the last six years. Edens Landing State School will also benefit from a \$1 million refurbishment of their prep blocks because we all know that those prep classrooms need to have the space for the students to learn, grow and play. Eagleby South State School is also in line for facility upgrades worth \$400,000.


Along with education infrastructure, in a connected community like Macalister, roads and transport are vital to sustaining our community. I am pleased to see the continued allocation of funding for planning the M1 upgrade between Daisy Hill and Loganholme—in particular, the work on making the busway extension to Loganholme a reality. This will truly be a game changer for commuters not only in my electorate but also in the Springwood and Waterford electorates. I am pleased to see that the V1 upgrades, the Veloway upgrades, will occur alongside these road and public transport upgrades.

Work will continue on the signalisation of the Kruger Road and Beenleigh Redland Bay Road intersection at Carbrook, along with \$14.5 million worth of road safety upgrades and additional turning lanes further along Beenleigh Redland Bay Road. Planning will commence on widening Beenleigh Redland Bay Road to four lanes at Cornubia. Beaudesert Beenleigh Road between Beenleigh and Bannockburn is also due for upgrades. There is an upgrade between Mount Warren Boulevard and Tallagandra Road from two lanes to four lanes and pavement widening along the road at Bannockburn.

The state government will also contribute \$27.5 million to the upgrade of local roads in Bahrs Scrub, the fastest-growing part of my electorate, to meet the growing needs of those commuters and that fast-growing community. But it is not just about roads. The Beenleigh train station park-and-ride has funds allocated to get that much anticipated project underway. Work will commence next financial year on a new \$7.2 million permanent fire station to service the Carbrook and Cornubia area alongside Mount Cotton and the Redlands. This can provide peace of mind for residents of Logan who know only too well that Logan is the state's hotspot for house fires.

Next financial year we will see work completed on the Hydrogen Training Centre of Excellence in Beenleigh. This was my signature \$20 million project that secured real job-training opportunities in secure, well-paying jobs but also with an eye to the jobs of the future, the future where Queensland is at the forefront of the hydrogen industry.

I also welcome the announcement of the permanency of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. This program has assisted hundreds of my constituents into work and further training. I also note that in the next financial year we will finish many of the social housing projects that commenced this year with more to start, particularly in the community of Eagleby. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (12.20 am): I rise to make my contribution on the budget. I always like to start with being appreciative of the money that comes into the electorate. Whether I think that is enough or not is something I will discuss further on. I will go through some of the things that have been delivered.

There is money for the Kennedy Development Road, and that has been a big thing ever since I was elected to parliament. It was formerly known as the Hann Highway and is an inland highway for Queensland. If operators take a triple road train down the inland of Queensland that would take two B-doubles off the Bruce Highway. That saves a lot of maintenance and provides a lot of safety. It is a dry run in the wet season as it is away from the wet parts to the east of the Great Dividing Range. Once west of that, it is more traversable in the wet season and it is shorter. They estimate they burn 13 hours less diesel travelling from the tropical north down to Melbourne taking that inland route. It has been a very strategic piece of infrastructure and it is required.

The next most significant road of that nature for industry to be opened up is Ootann Road, which goes through the cape. I am sure the member for Hill mentioned that earlier. They are good projects. Not a lot of people live up there on those roads. It is not very enticing for the government because it is not going to be a great vote winner, but it sure would be great for the economy and the people of Queensland would appreciate it in the future.

It is good to see that money for which people in the community of Hughenden worked very hard. People like Les Carter and Greg Jones, the former mayor, fought very hard for that money. We are very pleased to see the roads sealed almost all the way through. I know that the Premier has now started talking about the inland highway—and that is good to hear—but there is still a lot of work to be done on crossings etcetera to make sure we can start getting triples through the inland. Some of those things do not cost a lot of money considering the benefits they can provide.

There is money for the Flinders Highway, but the next one I will mention is the Aramac to Torrens Creek road, which is also part of that inland link. That is something that has been a passion of Bill Bode, a councillor in Hughenden, for many years. It forms part of that vital link for the trucks. Just the other day I heard Blenners on the *Country Hour* on ABC radio saying how wonderful it would be if we could take those trucks on the inland—and he specifically mentioned the Torrens Creek to Aramac road. That money is there now. I notice that this is also in partnership with the federal government and we acknowledge their contribution as well.

I have made special mention of the Cloncurry to Dajarra road. Probably not many people here would know where that is. That was another thorn in my side for years. Incitec Pivot, the biggest fertiliser plant in the Southern Hemisphere, is located on that road. We have the biggest fertiliser plant in the Southern Hemisphere and they have been waiting for about 15 kilometres of seal to be completed ever since I have been in parliament, 10 years. Maybe that reflects poorly on me as the member for that area, but it certainly reflects poorly on the government as well. If we cannot seal a road for consumables into that mine site for the biggest fertiliser plant in the Southern Hemisphere, we are not doing our job. That is after the mine itself had already contributed a great deal of material to be used for that road, so there had already been a big contribution from the mine.

I like using this road as an example in here because a lot of the roads down here are great and thousands of people a day get to use them. Not many people get to use these roads I am speaking about. They do not buy a lot of votes but they contribute a lot to the state. If this road is built, it would carry a lot of consumables in and out. It is a good piece of infrastructure that helps create wealth. It means a lot to me as a politician when we spend money there because it is good value; it ensures it contributes to the long-term wealth of the state, not just these short-term sugar hits that the government seems to be addicted to.

Health is an interesting issue for me and one that has really galvanised my curiosity over the last six months. I have become attuned to the massive deficit in health in facilities in remote Western Queensland. It is bewildering to see some of the things that people go through due to a lack of resources or a lack of facilities. Quite recently our board of the North West HHS was effectively stood down for simply saying for the last few years, 'There's just not enough money here to do the job that we're expected to do and to provide the services we provide.' I find it difficult to see how almost everything else in this budget has priority over critical dialysis chairs, renal chairs or a new X-ray machine for

Charters Towers because they need one that works. The hospital in Charters Towers had maggots falling through the ceiling and has rats eating the wires in the building, so they have data problems. They are pretty real problems.

We also do not have mental health inpatient facilities in Mount Isa. We have a flood of people coming in through the Northern Territory clogging up the health system, but the problem apparently was the board. The problem was not that we are not getting enough money to conduct the service we have; we have money to employ doctors and nurses in those remote areas. Health is a massive problem and it is a really big drama for the government to fix. When I hear the nonsense about Olympic Games bids and \$7 billion being spent on Cross River Rail and then I see those things still are not provided for in my own electorate—and in other parts of Western Queensland—it really makes me quite angry.

There was some social infrastructure provided for in my electorate that I should be grateful for. It is pleasing to have that. There is the upgrade at the footy park in Normanton and Gallipoli Park in Mount Isa, which is enjoyed by a lot of people as well as the Family Fun Precinct. They are things that do enhance livability and we are appreciative of them. I am sure people in the electorate will also be very appreciative of that.

There are some other aspects of the budget I do want to talk about. There is the claim that 60 per cent of the budget—and I know this was also addressed by my colleagues, the member for Hinchinbrook and the member for Hill. There is always a lot of deception with budgets. It is really unfair for people out there who try to interpret what is the real deal. Health is a good example because when we heard the talk about health, it was said there was an increase in spending. I guess it would be fair for everyone in my electorate to believe that means an increase in services or infrastructure, but there is nothing new. There is nothing new in there in terms of those critical elements such as CT scanners or renal chairs.

Another thing that I found deceptive was the assertion that 60 per cent of the budget is spent in regional Queensland. Regional Queensland as I define it does not include the Sunshine Coast, Toowoomba and the Gold Coast. They are important places, but the layperson would not consider them as regional. When that is flipped around it goes back to 60 per cent and 40 per cent. That is all right if they want to spend 60 per cent and 40 per cent; maybe there is a good reason for it. However, the government should not say that to people out there because it is misleading.

On the subject of mining royalties, the only comment I can make—and I have to comment on mining royalties because the income is such a big part of my electorate—is that obviously the total amount was depleted this year but we expect it to go up. It seems to have dulled down a little bit but the coal bashing always comes out. I notice the member for Callide still pledges his support and I know the KAP would like to register their strong support. A lot of people seem to be warming to coal a little bit, but it was very frosty in here a few years ago. When we were talking about coal it was very frosty indeed. We all seem to be friends again with coal. Let's just keep that in mind because it is really helping us in the budget and it will help us in the future. Let's be careful about how much we pick on it when it becomes trendy again in the political sphere. We are concerned about royalties.

The big thing for me is the absence of money-making projects. For many years there has been a defocus. Water infrastructure just gets bogged down in a quagmire of green tape and business case after business case. In relation to the North West Minerals Province one mayor said to State Development, 'Please do not come to me again for a contribution to another study of the North West. You've done it three times, I've told you the same thing and none of it has been delivered, so stop coming to ask me to contribute to these forums on North West business cases.'

We have the world's most expensive power in North-West Queensland. Fix it by connecting us to the NEM. It is pretty easy: build a transmission line. The government has the power to do that now. We could regulate that line now. The government could own CopperString and turn us into a powerhouse out there. We can contribute so much and help you pay for Cross River Rail and your Olympics bid, but we cannot if you just say tokenistic words like, 'We support it.' Do not say that you support it; go and build it. Make sure it is done. Do not do another study of another dam. Build it. Build these things to lay the platform for industry—money-making projects, not money-absorbing projects.

In terms of infrastructure, there seems to be a really dangerous, misleading inclusion of social infrastructure, which should be separately defined from industry-enabling infrastructure. All too often in this House and in the budget we hear about infrastructure spending. I do not define that to include Cross River Rail. Technically it is infrastructure—I get that—but in my mind I am thinking, 'We need to build some things that have a legacy and make money for this state,' and that is not it. That is something you build after you have made the money from building your transmission line. Building the transmission


line will make you money. You will learn about this in the future, because you will run out of money. It is \$7 billion now—it will keep costing more—and it does not make money. It is just like your Olympics Games. The Olympics Games do not make money, either.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Comments will come through the chair.

Mr KATTER: You keep selling these things to the public, but I will tell you what makes money. All of the business cases say that dams do not make money. That is what they said about the Fairbairn Dam. That is what they said about just about every dam in Queensland, but that infrastructure lays the platform. It is not a great thing to announce before an election—it does not win you votes—but they are the mature decisions that are needed in this House to take this state forward. There is a complete absence of that in this budget.

That is a real problem that I see going forward. It has been a problem for a long time. I have a front row seat to that, because I live in a part of Queensland that is highly undeveloped. It has a large amount of untapped resources. There is four million megalitres running down the Flinders at the moment. Hardly a drop of it is being taken out. There is hundreds of thousands of acres of blacksoil plain, all lending itself to irrigable farming. Half the people in the city say, 'We're running out of food to feed ourselves across the world.' That is just crazy. We have so much resource up there that could enhance the productivity of Queensland—more taxes, more revenue—but we are not talking about that in this budget; we are talking about more pieces of social infrastructure. That will cost us money into the future—no question. They are the biggest issues I have.

I would like to finish on a positive note. This budget makes some very good contributions to the schools in my electorate. We have some good details on that. We have some very pleased principals. I rang them today. Some of them were not aware of that money coming in. I mention the elevator at Barkly Highway State School in Mount Isa. There will be upgrades at Sunset State School and Spinifex State College. Phil Sweeney and Chris Pocock do a wonderful job there. They have attracted a lot of money to these upgrades. Happy Valley State School, with Elissa Chambers, has almost \$600,000 for playground equipment and extra classrooms. A bit of money will be spent throughout the schools in my electorate. We appreciate that. That will be put to very good use.

 **Mr HUNT** (Caloundra—ALP) (12.35 am): I rise to speak in support of the appropriation bills for 2021-22. What a marvellous budget our Treasurer has set before the people of Queensland. The Queensland economy is in excellent condition because that is precisely where the Palaszczuk Labor government has positioned it. Growth of 3.25 per cent is double the national growth figure. Considering where we were 12 months ago, that is incredibly impressive. We have seen more jobs created than ever before and, lo and behold, the unemployment rate has dropped 0.7 per cent to be back where it was pre COVID, at 5.4 per cent. Again I remark: what a beautifully crafted plan for the future this is.

This is not luck. This is not coincidence. This is not chance. This is the result of the Premier standing firm and making all the correct calls in the face of ill-informed and often asinine criticisms from many quarters, the Queensland LNP and our Prime Minister chief among them. We could not forget that the LNP petitioned to open the borders mid pandemic. We will never be able to forget the advertisement that read 'We flattened the curve. Stop flattening the economy' as they sought to disregard the science—over and over again. By far the most ridiculous cart-before-the-horse logic that I hear repeated time and time again by the LNP is the torturous line that 'COVID numbers are small; therefore, it can't possibly be having an impact on QHealth or the budget'. COVID-19 numbers in Queensland are small because we have directed so much time, energy and money into combating the pandemic and will continue to do so as long as the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders, especially our older Queenslanders, is at stake. This seems to be lost on the LNP.

Queensland's health response has been so comprehensive and so magnificent that we are now outperforming the national economy and the economy of the other larger eastern seaboard states. Indeed, the residents of many other states are voting with their feet, in line with the voting intentions of Queenslanders in 2020. They are backing this government's handling of both the pandemic and the economy and are flocking here in droves.

Access to a good quality and comprehensive education is quite simply a golden stairway to opportunity. It can lift those from even the most modest backgrounds into a better place and leads to a cascade of opportunity for successive generations. As far as investment in education goes, this Labor government has absolutely outdone itself in the electorate of Caloundra. There will be over \$50 million in education spending in the seat of Caloundra. I say that again: \$50 million of investment in education in the electorate of Caloundra.


The brand new school in Nirimba is to be accompanied by upgrades to almost every state school in the electorate. I mention Golden Beach State School tuckshop and prep rooms. Special congratulation goes to Kellie Morris from the Golden Beach P&C for her advocacy in this space. Caloundra State School will have the first allocation of funding for a brand new school hall. Baringa State Secondary College will get a new visual arts facility, a new three-storey general learning block and an expansion to the science block. There will be further upgrades for Glenview State School, Beerwah State High School, Beerwah State School and Landsborough State School, not to mention funding for the planning of the proposed ambulance station in Caloundra South.

I have heard from the LNP that there is in fact no money in this budget and that the cupboard is bare—smoke and mirrors, we are being told. That being the case, I look forward to welcoming the Minister for Education to Caloundra in the coming weeks to show her the imaginary schools that she has caused to be built and the imaginary upgrades that have started in the other schools.

I further look forward to meeting the Minister for Transport and Main Roads as we tour the works of the imaginary Bells Creek Arterial Road and, if we have time, I will show him the imaginary traffic lights at Ridgewood Road—a set of traffic lights that, imaginary or otherwise, the LNP could not deliver despite 116 years representing the electorate. Over a century and traffic lights were apparently too much to ask. Most of all, I welcome the massive cash injection matching the Mooloolah River interchange—that is, \$160 million to match the federal spending. Not only is that a fantastic investment in the Sunshine Coast; it has the dual function of demonstrating how very little the LNP did in this space of road infrastructure on the Sunshine Coast when last in government but, when it cut \$1.6 billion from the road and transport budget, that is hardly surprising.

I hear LNP members on the Sunshine Coast chatting about the lack of attention to their respective electorates, so I feel compelled to mention the gigantic effort they put into Caloundra in 2012. On the verge of winning the greatest majority in the history of Queensland, so great was their commitment to Caloundra that they almost delivered a closed circuit television camera for the Caloundra CBD—almost, but not quite. That was Caloundra's reward for voting for the LNP for 110 years—a near miss on a CCTV camera.

In closing, I cannot help but comment on the Gordian knot of the LNP's own making, a position so contrary it almost defies description. According to the opposition, we need to borrow more money for Queensland while simultaneously borrowing less money for Queensland. I cannot help but mention the LNP's incredible logic when it was looking at the overcrowding in Queensland's jails. As it started to spike in 2012, its incredibly intelligent solution was to close a jail because nothing solves the problem of lack of bed space like creating a lack of bed space. It is like a bad script from a bad sitcom. This budget has delivered for Caloundra and has certainly delivered for Queensland. The economic indicators tell the tale. I commend the Appropriation Bill to the House.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (12.41 am): At a time of severe housing shortages in the private rental market, now is the time for the Queensland government to get cracking and remove the barriers to affordable, more timely delivery of housing. Incredibly, the Queensland government is doing the opposite by proposing more costly red tape in the home building industry which threatens to increase the cost of a new home by up to \$8,000 per home according to industry. Moves are also afoot to increase some infrastructure charges by up to \$10,000 per lot. This will hurt families, builders and other small businesses as well as burdening one of the most stressed housing supply markets in the nation, putting home ownership further out of reach of first home buyers.

The housing shortage in the private rental market in Queensland is a humanitarian and an economic crisis, with families, including those with jobs, competing with as many as 40 other families. I know that that is the case on the Sunshine Coast and in many parts of Queensland as they are trying to get a rental house. Social housing is important, but it is not the total picture. In fact, the majority of people who are looking for rental housing will be looking to the private rental market and the fact that there has been such a failure in housing supply in Queensland comes back to a lot of the barriers that we see with poor planning in Queensland under this Labor government as well as a lack of timely infrastructure delivery.

The vacancy rates are so chronically low because of this housing supply stress that we are seeing people who would never have expected to think they would be homeless facing homelessness. The REIQ says the housing rental vacancy rate in Maryborough is 0.2 per cent, in Southern Downs 0.3 per cent, in Bundaberg 0.5 per cent, in Gympie 0.4 per cent, in Rockhampton 0.4 per cent, on the Sunshine Coast 0.4 per cent, on the Gold Coast 0.6 per cent, and I could name other regions as well.

These vacancy rates are so chronically low because of a housing supply shortage and a stress in the market that has been exacerbated by what we see in Queensland with bad planning and a lack of timely infrastructure delivery.

Now is the time to coordinate action, not to add additional unnecessary costs but to bring across the multiple government agencies that all have a say with regard to how housing is delivered in Queensland. They must get on the same page and stop adding more costs through bad planning and a laggard and inefficient infrastructure delivery. Under this Labor government there have been moves in the infrastructure space to also add up to 30 per cent extra costs on infrastructure builds supposedly by these poorly named best practice principles, which in fact is another term for union extortion. I believe in unions in the right application, particularly with regard to safety standards, but this is extortion. It is cutting down the delivery of the infrastructure that we need in Queensland at a time when we need more bang for our buck and more delivery, yet the practice that this government is bringing about will see less delivered in Queensland when we need more. The Queensland government has cut \$4 billion from the forwards for infrastructure spend—\$4 billion—over the next four years. This is happening at a time when once again there needs to be timely investment in infrastructure.

I want to say more about the private rental market and the failures of this government to address this because, of all places, Victoria—I would not think I would be singing the praises of ‘Chairman Dan’ because I think they are lunatics in many ways—has got something right. It is delivering more timely planning and infrastructure plans around the release of housing lots in Victoria than we are seeing in Queensland. As we heard from the Leader of the Opposition this morning—actually yesterday, now that we have ticked over into Friday—there has been quite a stark fall-off in the release of new housing lots in Queensland at a time when we need to see more.

Earlier I mentioned the poor planning and lack of timely infrastructure delivery impacting upon the release of affordable new housing. The Deputy Premier announced that there would be these growth area teams and there was a project in Caboolture West to put some enabling dollars into the infrastructure there, and it was welcomed by industry. So the government is doing that on the one hand and yet on the other hand it is talking with industry through Economic Development Queensland about increasing infrastructure charges by up to \$10,000 per lot in some of our new PDAs in Queensland. If it does that and then replicates that through other areas of Queensland, one would have to say that the left hand of this government does not know what the right hand is doing at a time when we have never seen such an affordability crisis—a supply crisis—in the rental housing market, and it is causing great distress.

I also want to address the building industry’s concern about a mandatory imposition of silver level livable housing design standards across all new builds. I support there being encouragement incentives to make housing more appropriate, livable and accessible for those with mobility issues, but industry is warning that the way this Labor government is proposing to mandate and bring this in could mean that the cost of an average new home could increase by \$8,000 for a new build. It is more than just about the size of doors and having a downstairs toilet; it is also about lot configuration and yields within housing estates in terms of what you cannot do with smaller lot housing because the standard does not fit and it knocks on.

That is quite a significant impact that has not really been taken into consideration and, once again, it is an imposition of additional costs when there should be a more targeted way to help people who have a need with mobility issues to get into housing that is fit for purpose. Applying a system which is not fit for purpose for the majority of lots and housing is going to add up to \$8,000 per house according to industry. It is the wrong way to go when we should be seeing a move against poor planning red tape and costs that are going to make it even harder for first home owners to get into their first home, let alone the rental market more broadly which has a lack of supply and needs more housing to address affordability.

The state government did announce a \$1 billion Housing Investment Fund—except they had no money against that over the forward estimates. That is disappointing because there is a place for good social housing and ensuring that the most vulnerable have housing. At the moment it is so broad it is beyond those who are actually entitled to social housing. The broader rental market is in failure. When we look at the release of housing product interstate we see that Queensland has a problem and it is getting worse. You cannot blame interstate migration. The housing supply and the fall-off in lots being released is clearly a Queensland issue. The amount of cost that has been added per house is getting worse. It is time that there was leadership from this government to address this rather than press releases and ignoring the real and very distressing situation impacting Queenslanders right throughout our state.

This government got rid of the Productivity Commission. It does not like accountability. We believe accountability is in the interests of the public. It is good democracy but it also ensures people can see for themselves where the money is going and also ensures that they are getting good bang for their taxpayer dollars. It is not our money, it is theirs.

I believe the announcement of a parliamentary budget office by the Leader of the Opposition is part of that process where we say you should have nothing to fear by releasing the truth of the figures. That is why we have announced this as an important integrity measure. There is not much time to cover all the areas I would like to, but I would like to go to the Maroochydore electorate and the Sunshine Coast. There was supposed to be a 786-bed built capacity at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital by 2021. I will correct the record. There was supposed to be an operational 786 beds at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital by this year. Then the Labor government did a fudgeroo on the websites and their printed documentation and said there would be a built capacity. That sounds like the Faulty Towers version of you have got a hospital with no patients. In this case you have got hospital rooms without beds and without staff. This is one of the reasons we are seeing some of the worst ambulance ramping rates on the Sunshine Coast and that has been replicated in other areas. We are not actually seeing beds in these rooms that have staff.

Dr Rowan: It is rubbery figures.

Ms SIMPSON: It is rubbery. Those opposite can put their press releases out and laugh and joke about it, but we have been talking to the patients who have been ramped in ambulances waiting to gain access to hospitals. A GP clinic is not the answer. In these cases it is, in fact, having capacity in these hospitals. There needs to be a systems overhaul to ensure people get a bed when they need it.

I want to address some of the transport issues on the Sunshine Coast. I was thrilled when the federal government announced \$160 million for the Mooloolah River interchange. We have been waiting for years for this business case to be finished. We still have not seen it. It went on for over three years. The government dribbled out \$7.5 million on a business case—talk about a never-ending story. We still have not seen it. Fortunately the federal government has tipped in half of the funding for what is a state road. When we were in government we acquired most of the property for that corridor. We lost government and then this government went into this never-ending business case. Unfortunately it has meant that for the last six years that project has not been started. Finally it will start, even if this government is only tipping in \$4 million this year out of a \$320 million bill, which is pretty pathetic. Thank goodness it is starting because it is dangerous and it needs to happen.

I also want to address the issue of mass transit. We all support better public transport. You have to listen to the people and get it right. My colleague the member for Kawana and I have been vocal on this issue. We have been listening to our community. They do not want the higher level of density that council were proposing. Initially it was light rail, and now they say it is not necessarily light rail, between Caloundra and Maroochydore up Nicklin Way and through Alexandra Parade and other areas. They still are talking about taking out two lanes of traffic on a very busy road. They hope to have mode shift by taking out two lanes of traffic and increasing the density to a high level at the same time. We will never get out of the congestion. That is not the way to address the transport issues.

We want to see an integrated transport network that services the whole of the Sunshine Coast. As part of that we want to see heavy rail into Maroochydore on the CAMCOS corridor. It is interesting that the federal government, through Infrastructure Australia, put money into a business case, but in the executive summary of that business case for the North Coast Connect, which included a segment of CAMCOS corridor for heavy rail, one of the factors they said was a delivery risk was, one, there was no proponent, because the state government was not manning up and being the proponent and, secondly, it was not in the current Queensland government transport strategy. That is unfortunate. I believe it is time this government did put that project into their transport strategy, redid the business case and got this going. Now is the time. Stop fluffing round on a light rail option and increased density down Nicklin Way that will destroy the amenity of these communities. We want to see our communities with enhanced amenity with the right planning. Do not waste money on projects that the community is clearly saying is not the right way to go.

Policing has been a huge issue. We know police have been under the pump with many demands made on them. I heard my colleague the member for Surfers Paradise and other colleagues expressing their concerns about the lack of access to police and transport officers to work with them. We used to have joint operations where the transport officers would go out as well and address those issues of noncompliant vehicles. I do not know when they last ran a joint operation. It is time that these frontline staff were put in place, not only for peace and good behaviour in our community but for safety. They are desperately needed. We want to see this issue addressed.



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (12.56 am): I rise to make a contribution to the budget introduced by the Treasurer and commend him and his department on a strong Labor budget. The budget before us continues the Palaszczuk government's longstanding commitment to serve the people of Queensland. There are many great funding announcements in this year's budget, including a \$3.34 billion Queensland Jobs Fund to further stimulate job creation and industry development in Queensland as part of our economic recovery efforts from the global pandemic. We are investing over \$14.6 billion in this financial year in infrastructure projects right across our state, \$16.6 billion has been allocated to improve education outcomes for students and teachers, and \$1.9 billion has been committed over the forward estimates to support social housing.

In my mighty electorate of Redcliffe we will see the benefits of this funding. The Palaszczuk government is investing in the road infrastructure we need, including upgrades to the pedestrian facility at Anzac Avenue, Marine Parade and Redcliffe Parade intersections, putting signals at Oxley Avenue and Sydney Streets and improved safety measures on a number of intersections across the peninsula.

I am pleased that in this year's budget we are seeing funding for our local schools, including a brand new fence at Humpybong State School worth \$700,000; infrastructure enhancements at Clontarf Beach State High School and Clontarf Beach State School totalling nearly \$600,000; \$550,000 to upgrade learning spaces at Redcliffe State High School; and \$640,000 for enhancements, a new playground and fence at Woody Point Special School. I know the importance of a strong education and I am proud to be part of the Palaszczuk Labor government that invests not only in our education system but also in our broader social infrastructure.

In particular we are continuing to provide vital funding to our frontline community organisations such as Chameleon Housing, which is receiving nearly \$650,000 in this year's budget to deliver specialist homelessness services. I want to give a shout-out to all the community groups in Redcliffe, including Carmel at Chameleon Housing, who do an incredible job and work every day for the benefit of our fellow citizens. On behalf of the Palaszczuk government I say thank you.

I am thrilled that we have extended our Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. As the former minister for training and skills who brought back Skilling Queenslanders for Work which was savagely cut by the LNP government, I have seen firsthand how this program helps Queenslanders and changes lives for the better.

The Moreton Bay region alone will see nearly \$8 million allocated for cybersecurity training in addition to other training opportunities. There is dignity in work and I am proud that this government is investing in job-creating programs that will help not only residents in my community but all Queenslanders no matter where they live. A sum of \$400,000 has been allocated for the Scarborough harbour master plan. Last week I was pleased to join the Redcliffe Chamber of Commerce, business owners and local leaders on our mighty Moreton Bay to announce that consultation will commence in August. Consultation will be extensive, ensuring our community can have their say. I look forward to working with my community on this exciting new opportunity.

Since 2015 we have restored the LNP's savage cuts to the budget and the front line, but what did we learn recently from the Leader of the Opposition? Recently he was asked, 'Are you ruling out cuts?' The Leader of the Opposition said, 'I am ruling out being savage.' In his budget speech he said that a budget should give people hope. What does this mean? Does it mean that instead of the LNP sacking 4,400 health workers they would sack only 3,000? Does it mean instead of sacking 1,800 frontline nurses and midwives they will sack only 1,000?

Mr Bleijie: You cut waste.

Mrs D'ATH: I take that interjection. I would love for them to define what they think is 'waste'. This is someone who said of previous health cuts, 'Whilst you have to feel for those involved, you have to live within your means.'

Throughout the pandemic our approach has been focused on two things: keeping Queenslanders safe and employed. The success of that approach has been plain today. Queensland's unemployment rate has dropped to 5.4 per cent. That is a vindication not only of the government's decision to follow the Chief Health Officer's health advice but also the strong economic recovery plan we took to the last election.

It is clear that those opposite cannot read a budget. They claim that the health capital budget has been cut. That is incorrect. When the one-off leasing commitment for leasing STARS is taken into consideration, the increase to the health capital budget is \$260 million, or 23.7 per cent. The LNP said

\$2 billion has not been allocated to build a single new hospital. That is incorrect. That \$2 billion is already being used to deliver Mater Springfield and the Toowoomba day surgery, and business cases are underway for new hospitals in Bundaberg, Toowoomba and Coomera. What single hospital did the LNP build? None!

Mr Bleijie: The Sunshine Coast University Hospital.

Mrs D'ATH: I take that interjection. That was not your plan.

Mr Bleijie: I turned the sod—

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

Mrs D'ATH: It started before they came into government. Those opposite complain about regional health investment but the record reflects that the Palaszczuk government is a friend of the regions. We have just opened a new hospital in Roma and it should be noted that the last hospital that was built in Roma was built by Labor as well. Major upgrades are occurring in Cairns, Mareeba, Atherton, Sarina and the list goes on. The LNP's only infrastructure project was 1 William Street in Brisbane.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Speaker has reviewed and approved my speech on the budget for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

The Member for Broadwater declared that he would be pursuing a political approach based more upon consensus than conflict, be more collaborative than adversarial, be supportive of policy framed to advance the public interest rather than just stand in opposition for its own sake.

What we heard this week was his final descent into the default LNP culture of complaint and negativity.

It must be particularly dispiriting for the 90,000 Queenslanders who go to work every day in our health system, and especially for our frontline health workers who have worked so tirelessly to keep their fellow Queenslanders safe, to have their efforts so relentlessly disparaged by the LNP.

When we are rolling out the vaccine, when we most need Queenslanders to trust the clinical advice, the LNP has embarked on a deliberate campaign to undermine public faith in our health system.

It is misguided, it is reckless, it is dangerous.

Australians enjoy access to one of the best health systems in the world, serviced by a highly trained, highly committed, and highly professional workforce.

The more the LNP try to tear it down, the more vigorously we will rise to its defence.

Last sitting, the Leader of the Opposition led his hapless team in a chorus of misinformed outrage over what he asserted were impending cuts to the health system.

This week, we announced yet another record health budget.

Far from cuts to their allocation, every HHS has received a boost to their budget, with the aggregate increase across HHSs totalling \$662 million or 4.2%.

If the Leader of the Opposition were genuine in his concern about the sustainability of our health system, he would publicly condemn the latest attempts by the Morrison Government to undermine the viability of Medicare by increasing the costs to patients across a range of surgeries—including cardiac.

The inevitable consequence of these changes will be to reduce revenue to public hospitals and increase the number of people coming onto the public elective surgery waiting list.

Being lectured by the LNP on health is like being lectured by Clive Palmer on truth in advertising.

If the Leader of the Opposition wants to see a health system in crisis, then he need only reflect upon his time as a cabinet minister during the dark, miserable years of the Newman Government, when they sacked nurses, went to war with doctors, and—in yet another example of their disregard for expert health advice—they closed the Barrett Adolescent Centre with such tragic consequences.

The philosophical and ideological divide between this government and those opposite is most evident in the way we consider funding to health services.

They see health as a cost to the budget.

We see it as an investment in people.

We are all aware of the financial wrecking ball COVID-19 has swung through budgets around the world.

And yet, in spite of the constrictions imposed upon the State's finances by that enormous public health challenge, the Palaszczuk Government has once again delivered a record health budget.

This year's operational allocation of \$20.8 billion represents an increase of 3.4% on last year's budget and over 53% on the final budget delivered by the Newman Government.

This means that the average annual investment in the delivery of health services to Queenslanders has risen by over \$1 billion a year since the election of the Palaszczuk Government.

I have never denied that our health system is facing enormous challenges.

It is, as AMA President Dr Omar Korshid observed on ABC radio recently, a problem confronting every jurisdiction.

This year's allocation includes an additional \$482.4 million to support performance in our system as it continues to confront the pressures of a rising population, increasing longevity and declining membership rates in Private Health Insurance.

This investment will build on the work already underway to ease congestion in our EDs and stabilise elective surgery wait times.

I have spoken previously about the impact the National Cabinet decision to suspend elective surgery had on our waiting lists, and the success of our \$250 million investment in bringing down the number of Queenslanders waiting longer than clinically recommended for their surgery.

This funding is already showing results with elective surgery long waits reduced to 1,827 as at 1 May 2021, down from 5,166 as at 1 July 2020.

In 2016, we implemented the Specialist Outpatient Strategy to reduce the number of those waiting longer than clinically recommended for a specialist appointment.

As a result of that strategy, and in the face of significant year-on-year demand, there are over 30,000 fewer Queenslanders on the long wait list compared to the number we inherited from the Newman Government.

It is a matter of public record that our First Nations' People continue to have health outcomes below that of non-indigenous Australians.

Whilst there has been some quantifiable improvement in some areas, such as infant mortality rates, there remains significant work to be done to improve the lived experience and life expectancy of our indigenous communities.

This budget looks to build on the investment we have made in improving health services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders by providing an additional \$37.8 million to further support maternity services, workforce training and capacity, and embed the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health Connect Plus Program in South East Queensland.

Demand for health services is growing rapidly, and we continue to look for ways to increase our delivery capacity through the development of innovative partnerships.

We recently announced \$177 million over the next four years to purchase public health services at the Phase 2 expansion of the Mater Hospital at Springfield.

This new facility will add 174 beds to available capacity in the Ipswich corridor, and will provide enhanced access to a range of health care.

This budget has allocated new funding of \$1.3 billion to health infrastructure, an increase of 23.6% on last year, including:

- \$103 million towards the expansion of Caboolture Hospital
- \$92 million towards the expansion of Ipswich Hospital
- \$79 million towards the expansion of Logan Hospital
- \$8 million for the upgrade of the Logan Hospital Maternity suite
- \$20 million for our building rural and remote health program, including upgrades to Camooweal, St George, Morven, Charleville and Blackwater health facilities
- \$7.7 million towards our accelerated expansion of the Cairns ED
- \$11 million for the Fraser Coast Mental Health project
- \$43 million for the Gold Coast Mental Health Unit
- \$1.2 million for Mackay Community Mental Health Unit Refurbishment
- \$16 million towards the Redlands Hospital Expansion
- \$5.7 million for the Rockhampton Drug Rehabilitation Unit
- \$29 million for the Cairns Mental Health Unit
- \$105 million towards the roll out of our \$265 million Satellite Hospital program
- \$233 million for the sustaining capital program
- \$5.9 million towards the \$42 million Toowoomba Day surgery
- \$12.4 million for Windorah Primary Health care; and
- \$12.5 million for the Woorabindah Multipurpose Health Clinic.

We are creating a Hospital Building Fund, a \$2 billion investment to support capital and operating expenditure to improve bed availability and fortify our health system against the pressures of anticipated future demand.

This capital investment will support jobs, generate additional capacity, and improve access for Queenslanders to high-quality health services.

The Palaszczuk Government will always back our hard-working paramedics.

This year we are investing \$993.3 million into the Queensland Ambulance Service, an increase of over \$54 million, or 5.8% and employing an additional 100 ambulance officers.

On top of that, I was also pleased to announce that we will be employing an additional 60 officers over and above our commitment to deliver 475, taking the total to 535.

In 2021-22, the QAS will invest \$61.8 million in capital purchases to support essential frontline services to provide the highest possible quality pre-hospital emergency and non-emergency care and services to the community.

Highlights of the capital program include \$8.3 million to progress the planning and construction phases for new ambulance stations at:

- Caloundra South,
- Petrie (Lawnton),
- Morayfield,
- Ormeau,
- Ripley,
- the new Burdell ambulance station; and
- Local Ambulance Service Network office, and a replacement ambulance station at North Rockhampton.

There is \$9.9 million for redevelopment of the Cairns Ambulance Station and Operations Centre, Southport Ambulance Station and Gold Coast Operations Centre, and refurbishment of the Rockhampton Ambulance Station and Operations Centre.

\$29 million is also allocated to commission 136 new and replacement ambulance vehicles, including the continued rollout of power assisted stretchers and \$1.5 million for the fit-out of Emergency Response Vehicles.

As recent events have shown, the shadow of COVID-19 still hovers over Queensland.

But Queenslanders are resilient.

Each time we are confronted with a natural disaster, our community pulls together.

And it's that spirit, that fortitude, that Queenslanders brought to bear throughout the COVID pandemic.

We worked together, followed the health advice and crushed the COVID-curve.

Queensland has one of the most open economies on the planet, thanks to the hard work of the Queenslanders.

But we are not out of the woods yet.

The community cases that travelled into our state remind us that this pandemic persists.

To truly crush COVID, we need to ensure that Queenslanders are getting vaccinated.

Our vaccine rollout has not been without adversity either.

The ATAGI advice regarding the use of the AstraZeneca vaccine required our health staff to recalibrate our rollout. And I note the newly updated advice released by the Commonwealth today. While I have no doubt that Queensland will take this latest development in our stride, it demonstrates the ever-changing nature of this vaccine rollout.

The resilience of our health workforce has shone through.

We have already adjusted our rollout and have been able to administer the Pfizer vaccine in every HHS across this State.

Our numbers have skyrocketed, yesterday we administered over 14,000 doses of the vaccine in one day—our highest number yet.

And thanks to this most recent Palaszczuk Labor budget, our vaccine rollout will be spurred on with an additional investment of \$168 million.

The most potent instrument we possess in promoting social equity is the social and financial capital we invest in providing affordable and readily accessible health care.

In this budget, we reaffirm our commitment to Queenslanders.

I commend the budget to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mrs D'Ath, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (1.02 am): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 1.02 am (Friday).

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