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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Friday, 18 June 2021

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FRIDAY, 18 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 Tour



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from St Anthony's Catholic Primary School in Toowoomba, in the electorate of Toowoomba South.

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Edwards, Hon. Sir LR, AC



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.31 am): I move—

1. That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this state by the late Hon. Sir Llewellyn Roy Edwards AC, a former member of the parliament of Queensland, deputy premier and minister of the state.
2. That Mr Speaker be requested to convey to the family of the deceased gentleman the above resolution, together with an expression of the sympathy and sorrow of the members of the parliament of Queensland in the loss they have sustained.

The Hon. Sir Llew Roy Edwards AC was born in Ipswich on 2 August 1935 and was educated at Raceview and Silkstone state schools and Ipswich Grammar School. After secondary school, Sir Llew followed in the family business and qualified as an electrical mechanic and fitter. In 1958 a work accident led to an extended stay in hospital, which then inspired Sir Llew to study medicine. At Sir Llew's state funeral we heard that it also led to his first marriage to Leone, a nurse who looked after him during his recovery. That was one of the many lovely stories told at that moving event.

In 1965 Sir Llew graduated from the University of Queensland with a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery. He began medical duties at Ipswich General Hospital and from 1969 he took up general practice in the Ipswich suburb of Raceview.

In 1972, Sir Llew was pre-selected by the Liberal Party to contest the seat of Ipswich, which he won and held for 11½ years. During his time in this place, Sir Llew served in numerous parliamentary, political party and executive government roles. In December 1974, he was appointed as minister for health. In October 1978, Sir Llew became leader of the Liberal Party and deputy premier. A few months later he moved from health to become treasurer. Sir Llew delivered four state budgets and he was at the forefront of government until he decided not to contest the 1983 election.

I had the great honour and privilege of speaking at Sir Llew's state funeral. I take this opportunity to reiterate that he was a calm and reasonable figure in a tumultuous period of Queensland politics. He was firm but placid amid the noise and haste. Sir Llew was a dedicated member and leader of the Liberal Party, but his party loyalty was balanced with conscience and a genuine willingness to reach across the aisle when appropriate.

Although Sir Llew retired from parliament in October 1983, his service to the people of Queensland and Australia continued for many years. In fact, in the minds of many hundreds of thousands of Queenslanders, the role he then took on, as Chairman of World Expo 88, was the most important of his many acts of service. Back then, as students the treasurer, the minister for health and I worked at Expo and we fondly remember seeing Sir Llew walking around the grounds.


Sir Llew was a dedicated medical practitioner and a hardworking local member of parliament. He led our health system as minister and had the crucial responsibility for the state's budget as treasurer. However, since Sir Llew's passing, when his extraordinary public service is discussed it is the memory of Expo that lights up people's faces and prompts the telling of great stories and memories. They are stories about everything that Expo meant to us, from the fun of a great day out to its enduring economic and social legacy; from Expo passes and pavilion queues to the transformation of South Bank into an outstandingly beautiful and vibrant public space. Queensland will forever have Sir Llew to thank for that.

Sir Llew also served as chair or member of many company boards and government organisations. I know that he was especially proud of being Chancellor of the University of Queensland from 1993 to 2009. We heard how deeply he respected the personal aspects of that role, shaking hands with thousands and thousands of graduates over those years. There was no social distancing back then. In 1984 Sir Llew was awarded a Knight Bachelor. In 1988 he was named Queenslander of the Year. In 1989 he was awarded a Companion of the Order of Australia. In 2010 he was named a Queensland Great. Sir Llew led a remarkable life. He was a person of great dignity who left a distinguished mark on Queensland and Australia.

On a personal note, I will always appreciate the way Sir Llew took time to say hello and ask after my family when I happened to see him and Lady Jane having breakfast at Harvey's in New Farm. Sir Llew's and Lady Jane's love and devotion for each other was the foundation of a wonderful marriage and a dynamic partnership. Their respective abilities, their outstanding personal attributes and their shared commitment to service came together in a relationship that was a blessing to their friends, their community and, indeed, to the whole state. They were a welcome and familiar presence at many events.

The Hon. Sir Llewellyn Roy Edwards AC passed away on 25 May at the age of 85 and a state funeral was held on 3 June at St John's Cathedral in Brisbane. It was indeed a wonderful service. There was as much joy in the memory of his family and public life as there was sadness at his passing. The attendance of many current and former political, academic, corporate and cultural leaders of this city and our state was a testament to our esteem for Sir Llew.

I place on the record the government's thanks for the years of service that Sir Llew gave to the institutions of our democracy and, of course, to the greater Queensland community. On behalf of the government I extend my sympathy and that of this House to Lady Jane, his sons, David and Mark, and all of Sir Llew's family and friends. I warmly acknowledge their presence with us today. I close by restating: even those who could claim to have matched the extent of Sir Llew's community service could rarely match the grace of it. He was a true servant of Queensland.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.37 am): Today I join all members and the Premier in acknowledging the contribution of Sir Llew Edwards to his community, the people of Queensland and this parliament. For over 11 years Sir Llew served as the member for Ipswich and he served as minister for health, treasurer, deputy premier and the leader of the Liberal Party for nearly nine of those years.

In 1972 he was elected as the member for the newly created seat of Ipswich. He joined a class of Liberals who, in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, overcame the traditional voting records of their electorates to win seats that had not traditionally been won by that side of politics. I instance the likes of Sir Peter Delamothe in Bowen, Rex Pilbeam in Rockhampton, Dr Norm Scott-Young in Townsville, Gilbert Alison in Maryborough and Mervyn Anderson in Toowoomba and Toowoomba East. But Llew Edwards was the most successful of them all. He was a genuine son of Ipswich. His Welsh heritage and his religious convictions were central points in his life and mirrored the community from which he came. They also provided direction in his professional and political life and his post political endeavours.

Sir Llew along with his late wife, Leonie, raised his family in Ipswich. Despite his medical achievements in later years, Sir Llew began his life working as an apprentice electrician and he qualified as an electrical mechanic and fitter. That he graduated from the University of Queensland with a medical degree in his 30s in no way diminished the pride he felt in his initial qualifications.

Upon graduation in 1965, he served at the Ipswich General Hospital and as a GP in Ipswich. It was as a family doctor that Sir Llew recognised the great contribution that could be made to local communities. In his maiden speech in this place in 1972, he spoke of the important role of the general practitioner and said—

It is often the family doctor who is the first to arrive uncalled, yet very welcome, when a sudden unexpected tragedy strikes the home of a patient. The general practitioner knows, therefore, the crises in his patients' lives as well as their problems, their aspirations and their disappointments. The family doctor who lives among his patients not only knows them and their families, but enables them to know him and to trust him.

It was this ethos that drew Sir Llew into politics for the newly created seat of Ipswich in 1972. His belief in the importance of community service was a mainstay during his time in politics and says much about his success in being elected to parliament on four separate occasions.

Sir Llew's record of achievement in parliament and government is well-known. Appointed as minister for health at the relatively young age in those days of 39, elevated to Treasury in '78 and assuming the deputy premiership and leadership of the Liberal Party in the same year stand as a testament to his ability, his willingness to work hard and the high regard in which he was held.

Sir Llew gained a reputation for courage, particularly in his efforts to maintain the integrity and direction of the government. Few would forget his opposition to the advocates of cancer quackery as he sought to protect the health of Queenslanders, relying on his unique perspective as a medical practitioner and minister for health. It was his belief in his professional experience that gave him the strength to tackle what many have regarded as an impossible political task. To his credit, Sir Llew stood his ground and ensured the interests of Queenslanders were protected.

However, there is no doubt that in the 1970s and 1980s, it was a time of great stress within the then coalition government and indeed within the Liberal Party. It was Sir Llew's role to steer a course that preserved the best features of both the government and the party, but acknowledged the need for change where circumstances called for a new approach until his retirement in 1983. It is to his credit that, once again, in the face of changing circumstances, Sir Llew embarked on a new productive phase of his life. His achievements as head of Expo 88 are widely recognised. In that role he did much to bring Brisbane, Queensland and Australia to the attention of the world and created an amazing legacy which we all enjoy.


Sir Llew also served as Chancellor of the University of Queensland from 1993 to 2009 as well as accepting directorships on the boards of some of Australia's most prominent public companies. Again, the key element to Sir Llew's post political life was his willingness to contribute to his community. For this he was recognised through the awarding of a knighthood in 1984 and the Companion of the Order of Australia in 1989.

It is interesting to note that Sir Llew was elected to this House nearly half a century ago and yet his legacy lives on across the river where thousands get to enjoy it every day. While it is obvious none of the members in this House served with Sir Llew, there would be few of us who do not feel they know him in some way. We know him because of what he has achieved and what he has contributed. We know him because we have seen him at work. We know him because we are members of the community he served.

We are honoured his great-nephew, the member for Bonney, sits in this House. It is not lost on me how he, too, has developed a strong personal following amongst many in his local community who have not traditionally supported this side of politics.

I pay tribute to Sir Llew's wife, Lady Jane, a highly respected businesswoman, one of the premier public relations operators in Brisbane and a woman of immense generosity and integrity.

Let us all be thankful for the life and work of Sir Llew Edwards and I extend my sympathy and that of the entire opposition to his family who join us today. Vale, Sir Llew.

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (9.44 am): It is an honour to rise today to speak to the condolence motion for one of Queensland's greatest Liberals, Sir Llewellyn Roy Edwards AC. It is fitting to have this condolence motion in budget week given his many years of service as Queensland's treasurer and also as we see the installation of the Neville Bonner Bridge begin, opening up better access to his beloved South Bank.

To me he was my Uncle Llew, so it is a rare privilege to pay tribute to his life as a member of his family whilst serving in this place myself.

I want to acknowledge in the gallery Llew's wife, Lady Jane, and the members of our family who have come to remember Llew's service. I will probably forget someone and hear about it later, but we have his sons, Mark and David, Mark's wife, Gail, some of their kids—India, Elsie, Hannah and Eloise; and Eloise is turning 30 today so I wanted to rub that in and get that on record—his beloved great-grandson, two-year-old Hunter, who is being very quiet up there in the gallery and behaving himself, my Auntie Anne-Maree, my Uncle Gary, cousins Rob and Fiona, my mum, Suzanne, my dad, Rodney, my sister, Emily, and my grandfather Tom, Llew's brother.

For my grandpa, this is a particularly sad time because he is the last of his extraordinary siblings left. They were close. He and Llew are just a couple of years apart. They went to school together at Ipswich Grammar and worked together in the family business as sparkies. I believe in the dark old days before members were allowed to have electorate offices, Llew may have even been given a back room in the RT Edwards headquarters from which to work.

Thank you to all of my family for coming to this place today to where Llew dedicated over a decade of his life in service. That is what he did—he dedicated himself to the people of Queensland.

Llew was a legend of our Edwards family, an ever-present figure whose extraordinary legacy was something we all knew about and looked up to. It took me a long time to actually grasp the extent of the role he played.

We all got the stories of South Bank and Expo whenever we visited that part of Brisbane, but that was only the beginning of what he achieved. Even now in the weeks following his death, I am hearing more and more stories about which I had no idea.

Uncle Llew was a visionary who wanted to see the best outcomes for the people he represented in Ipswich and across our state. Llew had an incredible way with people. He was embracing of everyone. All people were the same to him and he would give his time and attention equally to them. Although anyone who met him would have noticed this charming style, underneath was a tough, determined man with strong convictions and principles.

I have asked members of our family why he chose to enter politics and, more importantly, why he chose the Liberal Party. With his background as a doctor, having delivered, we think, around 2,000 babies and tending to the illness and injuries of many more people, especially in the mines around Ipswich, Llew knew how underserved the Ipswich health system was.

My family has a proud Welsh background. They came to this country as coalminers, and that is what brought them to Ipswich and it means they were very left-leaning. His dad, Roy, my great-grandfather was a local alderman and deputy mayor. I only found out this week that he was actually elected as an Independent Labor member. That came as a bit of a shock because I have one of his how-to-vote cards displayed in my office. I probably should have read it more carefully before getting it mounted and framed.

Many of Llew's relatives were drawn to the left of politics because back then they saw it as essential to maintaining their rights at work as miners. Some were, in fact, openly Communist, including his grandfather, Benjamin Thomas. Llew even had a second cousin who would regularly run against him in elections as a Socialist candidate.

He believed his beloved Ipswich area was neglected. It had been poorly serviced and he wanted to fix that, so he ran for parliament.

Llew believed in the freedom of the individual. He wanted to do everything he could to make sure government helped those with aspiration to succeed.

Running for Ipswich as a Liberal was best described as brave. This was a strong Labor area. The local federal member was Bill Hayden, and when this seat was re-established in a redistribution, it was certain in everyone's minds to be a Labor electorate. In 1972, Llew won the seat of Ipswich against Kev Dwyer by 282 votes, a 1.2 per cent margin. Having won my first election with a similar margin of just 1.7 per cent, I can certainly understand his desire to not take for granted the opportunity he was given to serve in this place and to work as hard as he could as a local MP. It paid off and in 1974 he had a massive 17.9 per cent swing towards him. He turned a marginal seat with a high Labor vote into a safe Liberal seat because of his dedication to his community and the people he represented.

In my first speech, I included part of his own maiden speech, in which he said that we must 'legislate to provide an equal opportunity for all' to 'acquire the knowledge to enable him or her to improve his or her station in life and as a result benefit the community in general'.

He was a Liberal because he could not stand the thought of being bound to a faction or a particular way of voting. He wanted to represent his electorate to get the best outcomes. Even amongst his own side this approach did not always win him friends. There was often tremendous pressure on Llew from those he governed with.

Uncle Llew was known to go to everything he possibly could as a local member. He was rarely home. Even when he was working in Brisbane he would often travel back to Ipswich and go to community events at night. Saturdays were full of school fetes and sporting activities. He took it as his supreme duty and privilege to represent his area and he knew the Ipswich community deeply.

A few months after his election the devastating Box Flat mining disaster happened—a massive explosion which smashed windows kilometres away and tragically killed 17 people that night. He felt his house in Raceview shake and the mine's owner, John McQueen, lived just a few houses up from Llew. As a doctor who had worked around the mine for years, Llew knew what this explosion meant so he rushed to the mine and provided immediate medical care for the survivors. In those days miners would often take their sons down the shaft for the day at times, and sadly one family lost a father and a son. Llew had an uncle and other family members of ours die or be seriously injured in mining accidents so he understood the depth of this loss for his community. He kept in touch with the widows and families for years to come and offered whatever support he could. That was how he operated throughout his life.

His family knew that you would never be able to take a quick trip down the street with Llew because it would take an hour to get through one block with all the people he knew who would stop and have a chat with him. Even his wife Jane has experienced people calling the house decades after Llew had stopped practising medicine asking for medical advice from Dr Edwards. I think my grandpa may have tried this himself in recent years in an attempt to get his driver's licence back. By that point, I think Llew had been in Portofino for a couple of years himself. Thankfully, that was unsuccessful. He was the kind of doctor who, back when fathers were nowhere near the delivery suite, would drop past their workplace on the way home to let them know the news and then take them to the pub to celebrate.

I want to also pay tribute to Llew's two long-serving electorate office staff, Faye Thomas and Delma Boyd. We all know how important our staff are in helping us serve our communities and these two ladies did a wonderful job over many years.

What most Queenslanders would know Llew as is 'Mr Expo', and I am proudly wearing an original Expo 88 tie today in his honour. It is not a family heirloom; I got it off eBay for \$15. The Expo celebration was the birth of what we know as Brisbane today. It was as successful as it was unexpected. Many were opposed given the cost and the relative flops of previous Expos, but Llew saw what Expo could be. He, with his Welsh stubbornness, took on the challenge and delivered an event that all of Queensland is rightly proud of. His efforts to promote and organise Expo 88 involved making 5,200 speeches about the event, going on 35 trips overseas, 147 interstate trips and 31 intrastate trips to lock in participants and attending what is estimated to be around 11,600 meetings and deputations on behalf of Expo.

He also drove his vision for South Bank to remain a space for everyone to enjoy. South Bank was what some have called a cesspit of a site prior to Expo, with the best government offices facing the city rather than the river because of how bad it looked. Llew's office as deputy premier looked over the old site whereas Joh's on the other side enjoyed city views. That is partly what made him so aware of how much potential the southern bank of the Brisbane River had. Llew believed the spirit of Expo should shape the area and fought hard to keep the site for the people and have it protected as parklands as a legacy for generations to come. It is hard to think of what Brisbane would be like without South Bank. We will soon have the Neville Bonner Bridge connecting it with the CBD, and we can all be thankful for Llew's vision in driving it through.

Like my grandfather, for many years Llew was a teetotaler. He had not drunk a drop of alcohol. In my research for this speech, I found what I believe was the first time he might have experienced alcohol and that was probably on an official visit to Tokyo. He was given a century egg. This is a preserved egg where the egg white has turned green and the yolk is black—it is held underground for a century apparently, given the name—with a very strong flavour due to the hydrogen sulphide and ammonia. He was presented with this egg and had to eat it. If he did not it would cause great offence to his hosts. He gave it his best and after several attempts he managed to get most of it down. After that he needed something to wash it down with so he grabbed what he thought was a glass of water next to him. It turns out it was sake, which must have been quite an introduction for him.

Ipswich defined Llew in his character. Llew's proudest achievements include getting the much needed upgrade for the Ipswich Hospital, introducing school dental clinics and better maternity services. He backed Medibank, even though some saw it as the socialisation of health. Llew persuaded the then premier to accept the federal Whitlam government's significant Medibank funding and he used it to embark on a massive program of hospital building and upgrades. These were some of the services that drove him to run originally. He saw the inequity of health accessibility and he wanted to make it available for all.

He went toe to toe with Sir Joh on many occasions, most of which, I suspect, will never be publicly known. One of his wins was holding firm and refusing to budge on an 18-month argument with Joh to bring the fraudulent doctor Milan Brych to Queensland. He refused to register him as a doctor here and years later was proven to be entirely right.

Given everything he achieved, what he has nurtured in our family is admirable. He had Sundays at home, Leone making sure he kept strictly to that with the rest of his schedule so full. The family would head to his dad Roy's church, Raceview Congregational, with all the cousins and relatives and then Roy and Agnes would have everyone over for lunch to follow, showing amazing hospitality even though she was known as a terrible cook and it was not safe to eat anything unless it came from a tin.

There is another story involving that family house in Raceview which has become a bit of a family legend. Russ Hinze was visiting Llew and they were having a cup of tea on the back verandah. The surveyors' pegs were marked out for the new section of the Cunningham Highway. Russ noticed that they were not too far away from the back of the house and asked Llew if he would like to have this major piece of infrastructure moved further away to have less of an impact on the lovely Edwards family home. I am not sure how serious that offer was, but I am proud to say that Llew politely declined and the Cunningham Highway is just behind that area now.

Llew was known to only take one week off a year between Christmas and New Year. That was to holiday at Labrador on the Gold Coast, now in my electorate of Bonney. It is partially to Llew that I attribute my lifelong love of this part of the world to. In the 1950s, Llew and my grandpa Tom bought a beach house on Marine Parade. Since then, six generations of the Edwards family have holidayed there. They transported and donated the original house on the site to a missionary organisation at Tamborine and built a two-storey house called Deeside with separate units for each family. It became our second home. When I moved to the Gold Coast after finishing university there was nowhere else I wanted to live and I moved into a unit just a few hundred metres away from Deeside.

Every school holidays there would be around 20 cousins with a 15-year age range between them running around like crazy there. This chaos probably would explain why Llew only stayed there for one week a year. It was an incredibly special time which brought our extended family together and for that week he would be there playing cricket in the yard, fishing, getting to the beach and enjoying all the Gold Coast had to offer. I was not there when Llew was, but my memories of this place are what built my connection to Labrador and Biggera Waters and I am thankful for his and my papa's part in creating that space for us.

Llew has been lucky to have been deeply loved twice. Leone was his nurse in the Ipswich Hospital. He spent many months there after falling off a ladder while on a job as a sparky in the family business and breaking his back. Tragically, she died suddenly in 1988 of an asthma attack in the early hours of the morning. She was just 55 years of age. Her death traumatised Llew. With all of his kids having left the family home, he could not comprehend living there on his own. This was just six weeks before Expo was to open. Within a few days of her death he moved to an apartment in Brisbane. After more than half a century living in Ipswich, the place which had formulated his values, his character and his sense of community, Llew would never return. He found love again with Jane and their relationship was something he cherished and brought him many more decades of joy.

Llew achieved so many things in the years he lived in Brisbane and he was most proud of his role as chancellor of the University of Queensland. Like many of us who have lost family members, my biggest regret is not spending more time getting to know Llew and gaining from his wisdom and experience. I loved having him here for lunch with my papa a few years back just after I was elected. Even though his dementia had taken hold then, he loved being back and chatting to everyone as he made his way through the corridors again.

I brought him into this chamber for the first time since he left as a member in 1983 and he absolutely lit up with memories, excitedly pointing around the room. It was quite strange for me though because he was on that side of the chamber which is not something I have experienced. That is all he got to do, so he was very lucky.

I have valued the last few weeks spending time with my family remembering Llew and learning more about his extraordinary legacy. I would like to table this article as I think it shows Llew well. It is from the day after he lost the Liberal leadership holding his first grandchild proudly—my cousin Nick—clearly beaming with joy. It is the definition of leaving politics for family reasons.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Telegraph*, dated 31 August 1983, titled 'Grand first for Llew ...' [906].

Llew served our state with everything he had. I only hope that I can serve my electorate and Queensland with his same level of commitment and vision. It is an honour to be part of Llew's family, and I know we have all been touched by the number of people who have reached out during this time. On behalf of the Edwards family, I would like to conclude by saying thank you to all members for your contributions to this motion. Vale, Sir Llew.



Mr McCALLUM (Bundamba—ALP) (9.59 am): On 26 May we lost a Queensland Great with the passing of Sir Llewellyn Roy Edwards. A man renowned for his warm, generous and courteous nature, Sir Llew was elected to Queensland parliament as the member for Ipswich in 1972. He joined this place as a Liberal member and would go on to lead the party from October 1978 to August 1983. It was his commitment to Ipswich's working class community that played a major role in his popularity and success as a community representative.

Sir Llew's son Mark fondly remembers how our local working class heartland embraced his father, a former Ipswich electrician who went on to become a GP. I want to personally thank Mark for sharing his memories of his father. In Mark's words he recalls—

It all started out when dad was a medical practitioner and he had a very large 'mining and railway practice'.

Back in those days they were the two biggest industries in Ipswich, so he got to know all those families very well.

Dad himself came from a mining family—his grandfather was a miner, his great uncle were miners—and he lost one of those great uncles to a mining accident in 1920.

When dad first ran for parliament he stood against a union official, and the mining community voted for dad because they knew him as their doctor.

I remember miners handing out how to vote cards and saying to me, 'we vote for Bill Hayden federally and Llew in the state'.

Sir Llew remained as the doctor for many of the widows left behind after the terrible tragedy in our local Bundamba community of the Box Flat mining disaster on 31 July 1972. Seventeen men lost their lives that day and another died in 1974 as a result of his injuries.

Sir Llew served the city of Ipswich until his retirement from politics in 1983. Sir Llew loved Ipswich and Ipswich loved Sir Llew. Following his retirement from politics, he was appointed by the state and federal governments as executive chairman of our transformative World Expo 88—an undeniable coming of age for Brisbane and Queensland and indeed for me, like so many of us who had the chance to attend that wonderful event.

Following his tenure as Expo chairman, in 1983 Sir Llew was elected the 12th chancellor of the University of Queensland, where a building at the St Lucia campus is named in his honour. He remained in that role until 2009, chairing more than 100 meetings of UQ's Senate, presiding over 300 graduation ceremonies and congratulating almost 90,000 graduates.

Sir Llew rose from working class Ipswich to become one of our state's most influential figures and was officially named a Queensland Great in 2010. I was thankful for the opportunity to pay my and my community's respects at his state funeral and pay tribute to his dedication and commitment to helping our local community. Queensland continues to be a better place for his many contributions, and his legacy will be forever felt nearby at South Bank—the site of Expo 88.

I offer my and the Bundamba community's deepest respects and condolences to Sir Llew's family—to Lady Jane Edwards; children, David and Mark; his grandchildren; and of course his great-nephew, the state member for Bonney Vale, Sir Llew Edwards.



Mr JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10.04 am): Let me start by offering my deepest condolences to Lady Jane; sons, Mark and David; brother, Tom; his grandchildren and all the family here today. Sam, you honour Sir Llew's legacy with your service and that contribution.

Sir Llew's life was one that touched generations of Queenslanders for so many different reasons. To some he was their local GP. To others he was their local MP. Then here in this place he was minister for health, treasurer and deputy premier. He was a corporate leader serving some of our most significant companies. To others again he was the University of Queensland's chancellor, attending every graduation, shaking every hand—90,000 in total I am told. But to me, my family and indeed the people of the Darling Downs, he was the man who brought the world to Queensland—Expo 88. I remember the pavilions—and I still reckon there are people waiting outside wanting to get into the Switzerland pavilion today!

Ms Grace: The Italian one was better.

Mr JANETZKI: I would go to the Munich beerhaus. There was the monorail, the sky needle, lasers, fireworks—even Jon English was here. It was quite the experience for a young country boy on his first visit to the big smoke of Brisbane. Sir Llew delivered that to us. He knew that Queensland could be part of something bigger, and he made it happen.


As so many speakers do when preparing for condolence motions, I turned to Sir Llew's maiden speech for guidance as to his political philosophy. I was stunned by its beauty and intellectual clarity. His exposition of classical liberalism could have been penned by JS Mill himself—

I fully believe in the individual's role in a free society which is so designed as to permit the fullest expression of an individual's conscience and his personality and the complete achievement of wellbeing in the society in which he lives.

In speaking of the Liberal Party's platform, he said—

... to encourage the development of the individual as well as the development of the community, promoting advanced efficiencies and technological developments with a minimum of restrictive regulation consistent with the common good.

May we in this House today aspire to such lofty ideals—ideals not just spoken into *Hansard* for posterity but lived every day in every way by this truly great Queenslander. Vale, Sir Llew.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (10.07 am): It is indeed an honour to stand in this House and contribute to the condolence motion for Sir Llew Edwards. I would like to acknowledge Lady Jane Edwards, who is here in the chamber today, and Sir Llew's sons, Mark and David, and the extended Edwards family who are here today with us. Of course I would also like to acknowledge my great mate the member for Bonney, Sam O'Connor.

It has been such a privilege meeting Sir Llew several times in my life. In fact, I would state that you could not go to high school in Ipswich and not know either Sir Llew or his legacy to that great town, and his imprint on Ipswich remains. Sir Llew was a champion for Ipswich.

As speakers before me have mentioned, Sir Llew's career started as an electrician. He had in fact matriculated to medicine, but his father, Roy, who had lived through hard times told Llew he had seen doctors during the Depression who could not find work, so he insisted Llew complete an electrical apprenticeship with the family company RT Edwards in Ipswich. Sir Llew apparently claimed he was never a very good electrician, and in his final year he had an accident which resulted in serious injuries and a four-month hospital stay, and that is where he met his first wife, Leone.

Far from near tragedy, he saw a new direction and decided to finally pursue his dream of studying medicine. While still working for RT Edwards on weekends and holidays, he graduated with a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery from the University of Queensland in 1965 and worked as a doctor in Ipswich until 1972.

It was in 1972 that he was asked to run for the Liberal Party for the seat of Ipswich. Sir Gordon Chalk, the then member for Lockyer, treasurer and leader of the Liberal Party, had visited Sir Llew's doctor's surgery to ask him to run. It was not an easy decision for Sir Llew, who loved being a doctor. He told Sir Chalk he would not have the time to campaign, but in the end he decided to run, winning the seat by just a few hundred votes. When he got to state parliament and saw what was going on it was reported he thought, 'How can I get out of this?'

Mr O'Connor: Nothing's changed.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Nothing has changed. There is a story that one of the members of parliament was found ill or had collapsed and Sir Llew was called upon, like all good doctors in this House, to look after that member. I think the other members around the member who was down said, 'Hang on, we haven't found someone else for that seat yet.' They were worried about the by-election. In any case, at the next election in 1974 Sir Llew won the seat by a large majority. As other members have stated, Sir Llew held positions in this House as minister for health, treasurer, deputy premier and leader of the Liberal Party. Sir Llew remained the member for Ipswich until October 1983, when he used his casting vote against himself in a challenge for the position of leader of the Liberal Party and he retired from politics.

It was not long before opportunity knocked again, and the then prime minister Bob Hawke rang to offer him the position of chairman and chief executive of World Expo 88. Apparently, Bob's words were, 'Mate, what are you doing with yourself now? Do you know anything about Expo? You're the only man in Australia who can work with Joh up there in Queensland. It's just a part-time job just a couple of days a week.' Sir Llew said he would think about it, but woke the next morning to read in the paper that the prime minister had announced him as the chair. Sir Llew became the face of World Expo 88, 'Mr Expo'—the event that is credited for making Brisbane and bringing more than 18 million people to this city. He helped transform 40 hectares of land in the heart of the city and he brought the whole world here to Brisbane.

For those in this House who are old enough to remember the brilliance that was Expo 88—and I do note that the member for Bonney was not even born—as it was my last year in high school, I was fortunate enough to have a season pass—I have still got that little laminated pass—and with my

schoolmates, one of whom is sitting up here, Anne-Maree Savage, we were able to catch the train in almost every weekend. The world opened up before my eyes. I thank Sir Llew for the excuse that so many seniors of 1988 had as to why their exam results were not quite so stellar. The upside of this was that those seniors of 1988 were able to experience the tastes, sounds and visions of so many other countries—not just Germany—all without leaving Queensland.

Sir Llew also served as chancellor of the University of Queensland. He had a genuine interest and connection with the student population, and I hear he was often in trouble for taking too much time with individuals during graduation ceremonies. In all of these roles Sir Llew demonstrated his ability as a true leader. His niece, Anne-Maree Savage, interviewed Sir Llew whilst writing a book about the history of the family company, RT Edwards. She shared with me some insights into what Sir Llew thought was the secret to good leadership. These included: have good people around you; trust the people around you; expect the best but detect the worst; do not tolerate murmuring, debate or secrets behind your back; always be up-front; communicate; stay humble; work as a team; and make all feel important.

I was fortunate to get to know the Edwards family when I attended Ipswich Girls' Grammar and was in the same year as Anne-Maree. My brother Ross is a good schoolmate of Sir Llew's son Dave from Ipswich Boys Grammar. In fact, Sir Llew's extended family is firmly connected to my old school, with his sisters Gwyn and Merlyn attending, his daughter Louise, granddaughters Hannah, Gabrielle and Eloise—happy birthday, Eloise—nieces Anne-Maree and of course Sam's mum Suzanne all attending there. Anne-Maree said the entire family is immensely proud of Sir Llew and all that he achieved and contributed to Queensland and beyond.

One of Anne-Maree's earliest memories was handing out flyers supporting Uncle Llew at the local Raceview State School proudly wearing an 'Ipswich needs Llew' T-shirt. Anne-Maree also reflected that he always had awesome travel advice. He could recommend fantastic places to eat that only the locals knew about, and they were the ones he loved best. He would often share fascinating stories of his life. She recalls him telling the story of how he managed to get an audience with the Pope, which in itself was a challenge for a non-Catholic. The Vatican treasures were considered priceless and they had never before left Rome, but somehow Sir Llew convinced the Pope to allow them to come to Brisbane for Expo 88. He said that the next challenge was how to get those priceless treasures here. No-one wanted to carry them or insure them. He managed to get hold of the boss of Qantas, who chartered a private plane to get the treasures safely to Brisbane. He recounted the story with a smile, no airs or graces. He was always humble.

No-one could ever accuse Sir Llew of having a brush with the law; however, Anne-Maree had just returned to London from backpacking around Turkey and Egypt and thought it was a wonderful opportunity to send some of her loot and souvenirs home. She gave Sir Llew, who was in London at the time, a huge bag of stuff she had collected and asked him to take it home to Queensland. The next time Anne-Maree saw Sir Llew he said, 'You could have told me about the kebab skewers. I had a slight problem in customs. I probably should have declared them.' He had been detained with a set of 40-centimetre kebab skewers that were basically lethally sharp blades complete with belly dancers and Ali Baba on the top. Bear in mind this was just after September 11. Thank you, Anne-Maree, for providing with us an insight into Sir Llew and the man behind the public face.

Lady Jane, thank you for your service, thank you for your kindness to me, your advice and your guidance. The last time I saw Sir Llew he was with Lady Jane at the hairdressers—that was a couple of years ago—where Sir Llew would sit patiently reading the *Australian*. He would ask me about the state of Queensland politics and what was going on in this House. Sir Llew was a gentleman, always interested and always generous with his time.

To Lady Jane, to Sir Llew's sons David and Mark and to his extended family I offer my sincerest condolences. A humble servant of this state, a leader, a family man and a community champion, he truly was a Queensland Great. Rest in peace, Sir Llew.



Ms HOWARD (Ipswich—ALP) (10.17 am): I rise to contribute to the condolence motion for Sir Llew Edwards AC, who was born in Ipswich on 2 August 1935 and who died aged 85 on 25 May 2021.

Sir Llew was a third-generation Ipswichian. His great-grandfather, Thomas Benjamin Llewellyn, moved to Ipswich from Wales in the United Kingdom. He has three children, Mark, David and Louise, who is sadly deceased. It is lovely to see Mark and David and their families in the gallery today. I also pay tribute to Lady Jane, Sir Llew's widow. Amongst her many achievements, I know that one of the things she did do incredibly well was bring a lot of joy to Sir Llew's life. I also want to acknowledge Sir Llew's brother and local Ipswich great Tom Edwards and his family who are here today, including Sam O'Connor over here. Thank you for your contribution.

As you can see, Sir Llew came from a very well known and respected Ipswich family. His son Mark, along with his wife, Gail, and two of their four children, still live in Ipswich and Mark is a much loved and respected pastor at Ipswich's largest church, Cityhope Church. His other son, David, is chair of the Ipswich Grammar School board and is doing an excellent job guiding the school that he and his dad and many in their family also attended. The school is indeed fortunate to have him. It was an honour to see student leaders and the headmaster of Ipswich Grammar School, Richard Morrison, in attendance at Sir Llew's state funeral a week ago.

As we have heard from previous speakers in this House this morning, Sir Llew led a life well lived. He attended Raceview and Silkstone state schools and later Ipswich Grammar School. He left high school to become an apprentice electrician, but following an accident in 1955 and many months in hospital recovering Sir Llew pursued a different career. After completing a degree in medicine at the University of Queensland in 1965 he became a doctor in Ipswich.

Sir Llew made good use of all of his time, particularly the time that he was in hospital, by not only determining a new career for himself but by falling in love with and marrying the mother of his three children, nurse Leone Sylvia Burley, in 1958. In 1972 Sir Llew became the member for Ipswich where he gained a reputation for being hardworking and effective. In fact, his years as an MP leant dignity and stability to a government that was often fraught with controversy and colourful characters. Sir Llew later became health minister, deputy premier, leader of the Liberal Party and treasurer in his time in parliament.

My friend and someone I owe so much to, the Hon. Dr David Hamill AM, became the Labor member for Ipswich in 1983 after Sir Llew retired. He said—

There can be no doubt that it was the esteem in which he was held by his constituents that secured his victories in what would otherwise be considered a marginal Labor electorate.

David has asked me to extend his and his wife Pat's sincere condolences to Lady Jane and his sons, David and Mark, and their families. David went on to hold the seat until 2001 when he himself retired. As was the case with Sir Llew, David led a distinguished career in parliament and is held in high esteem in the Ipswich community today.

Sir Llew went on to make a significant contribution as the 12th Chancellor at the University of Queensland, at which there is now a building named in his honour. In 1984 he was made a knight bachelor and in 1989 he received a Companion of the Order of Australia. It is not news to anyone who knew him that Sir Llew's time as chair of World Expo 88 was the highlight of his career. Without doubt, World Expo put Brisbane on the map and beautiful South Bank is a lasting legacy of that achievement. In 2010 Sir Llew was named a Queensland Great by then premier Anna Bligh with a citation that read—

... an outstanding Queenslanders who has made exceptional contributions to many fields. No matter his occupation, Sir Llew has always maintained his goodwill and sense of humility as he helped transform Queensland into the great State it is today.

What an incredible life Sir Llew led and what an incredible legacy he leaves. His life's achievements are many and varied. He has been a role model to all who knew him.

When attempting to summarise a life like Sir Llew's, we could be mistaken for thinking his life was easy or privileged. While it was indeed a fortunate life, he would undoubtedly have experienced challenges and struggles along the way. Leadership can often be a lonely place and, for some, achievements like his may have made them arrogant or entitled, but Sir Llew was the exact opposite. His son Mark told me that his earliest and most enduring memory of his dad is that he would give the same deference to a coalminer he would meet in the street in Ipswich as he gave to the Queen when he met her at Expo. People mattered to Sir Llew and so did equality and fairness, and that is one of the reasons his life and his passing means so much to so many in Ipswich.

Mark regaled me with another example of this. As a seven- or eight-year-old, Mark referred to one of the children of new Australians at his school as a wog, which so many of us did in those days, to our shame. His dad immediately corrected him and drove him to his good friend's cafe—one of our Greek cafes of the time—and they sat and talked for what seemed like ages. The lesson for Mark was that everyone was equal and everyone was our friend, regardless of where they came from, what they ate or the colour of their skin.

As a parent, there is no greater legacy to leave your children than an understanding of equality, fairness and love for our fellow travellers. Those traits are evident in Sir Llew's children and grandchildren, and I know he was extremely proud of them all. On behalf of the entire Ipswich community, I thank Sir Llew Edwards for his enormous contribution to Ipswich and to Queensland, and I extend my sincere condolences to all who loved him.



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (10.23 am): As the Liberal National Party state member for Moggill and as a former president of the Australian Medical Association of Queensland, it is a privilege to rise and support this motion and honour the life, service and sacrifice of a true servant of the people of Queensland. On 26 May 2021, the Hon. Sir Llewellyn Roy Edwards AC passed away at the age of 85 years. With the passing of Sir Llew, our state has lost not only a Queensland Great but also a true gentleman whose service in so many different and varied capacities has left a legacy which has benefited generations of Queenslanders.

It is a profound loss that has been felt right across Queensland and particularly by all of those who were fortunate enough to know Sir Llew through his significant contributions to our state—be it through his tenure in the Queensland parliament, his roles as deputy premier of Queensland, treasurer and state leader of the Liberal Party, his service to higher education or via his leadership as chair of World Expo 88. However, today in addressing this condolence motion I want to particularly acknowledge and pay tribute to the public service made by Sir Llew Edwards to health care and the medical profession in Queensland.

Born on 2 August 1935 in Ipswich, Sir Llew attended school at Raceview and Silkstone state schools before then attending Ipswich Grammar School. As is well known, following his high school education, Sir Llew entered his family business, R.T. Edwards, as an apprentice electrician. It was a vocation that was not his first choice, as Sir Llew had instead wanted to study medicine, but he began as an electrician given that his family insisted he should not consider progressing to a higher tertiary qualification until first completing a four-year apprenticeship. It can be said that Sir Llew's transition to medicine literally came about by an accident, when in his third year as an apprentice he fell off a ladder and cracked three of his vertebrae. As Sir Llew later recalled, that accident had 'reinforced the notion that I had better get on and do medicine'.

In 1958 Sir Llew commenced his tertiary education at the University of Queensland, graduating with his medical degree in 1965 at the age of 27 with a Bachelor of Medicine and a Bachelor of Surgery. Following his graduation, Sir Llew then commenced his professional service of improving the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders. From 1965 to 1967 Sir Llew served as a resident medical officer at the Ipswich General Hospital and in 1968 he then served as a surgical registrar at the Ipswich General Hospital.

Throughout this time and for more than 10 years following his graduation, Sir Llew also worked as a general practitioner and helped to deliver thousands of new Queenslanders. As fate would have it, Sir Llew's foray into Queensland state politics came via his medical practice when none other than the former leader of the Liberal Party and the 30th premier of Queensland, Sir Gordon Chalk, came to see Sir Llew at his Ipswich medical practice to convince him that he should consider running for state parliament. As all doctors who serve and have served as elected representatives in this place can attest to, there is certainly a diverse range of political views offered by patients, and I am sure Sir Llew's decision may have surprised many in his then medical practice.

In May 1972 Sir Llew was sworn in as the state member for Ipswich in the Queensland parliament. In doing so, he became the first non-Labor state member representing the city of Ipswich in nearly 50 years. Sir Llew is widely remembered for his contribution and service to the Queensland parliament where, as the minister for health from 1974 to 1978, he helped lay the foundation for ensuring that Queenslanders had access to a modern and accessible health system. This is evident even in Sir Llew's maiden speech, which best encapsulates his core belief in the prosperity of this great state being enjoyed by each and every Queenslanders, as well as the associated importance of ensuring that the health and welfare of each individual is a priority. As Sir Llew said—

... the greatest gift a person can acquire is that of good health and the wherewithal to develop and maintain a healthy body and a healthy mind as well as the ability to enjoy such facilities to the best of one's capabilities in order to give the full meaning to life.

I believe that benefits that can be derived from the prosperity of this State and nation should be enjoyed by all. I therefore wish to pay a great deal of attention and devote a great deal of time to research, study and consideration of all aspects of health and welfare services, to ensure that the best facilities are available to all sections of the community so that the people of this State, of which we are justly proud, may enjoy their lives to the optimum.


Notwithstanding his service to the Queensland parliament, World Expo 88 and also as chancellor of the University of Queensland, Sir Llew was also an eminently qualified individual—a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Medical Administrators, a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management, not to mention having an honorary doctorate from Griffith University as well as an honorary doctorate from the Queensland University of Technology. I am also a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Medical Administrators—which is the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation

Agency recognised specialist medical college that provides education, training, knowledge and advice in medical management in order for fellows of RACMA to fulfil key roles and positions in various government bureaucracies, public and private hospitals, not-for-profit organisations and other health agencies.

The broader membership of the Royal Australasian College of Medical Administrators is certainly feeling the profound professional loss of a colleague who gave so much to health and medical research. It also speaks volumes about the genuine nature and character of Sir Llew Edwards that, in a profile in 1992 when reflecting on his then 30 years of service to Queensland, Sir Llew chose his time as a general practitioner to remember most fondly in, as he termed it, the noblest profession of all. I know that both the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine also recognise Sir Llew's immense contribution to primary care and community medicine.

I was fortunate to meet Sir Llew on many occasions, and his mentorship and leadership, along with a generation of conservative medical practitioners—including former senator the late Dr John Herron AO and the late Professor Tess Cramond AO OBE—is something I will always cherish and be forever grateful for.

On 3 June 2021, I along with many elected representatives in this place attended the state funeral service and celebration of the life of Sir Llew Edwards which was held at the cathedral church of St John the Evangelist. The eulogy and tributes on the day were a testament to a life well lived. Modern Queensland would not be what it is today without the dedication and service of Sir Llew Edwards. I wish to place on record my formal condolences to his wife, Lady Jane Edwards, and to his surviving children, Mark and David, as well as the member for Bonney and the entire extended family of the late Sir Llew Edwards. Vale Dr Llew Edwards.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (10.29 am): On behalf of the community I represent, which includes part of Ipswich city and the Fassifern area, I express my condolences to Lady Jane, to David and Mark and also to brother Tom Edwards on the death of Sir Llew Edwards. The entire family should be very proud of the contribution that Sir Llew made to Queensland, to Australia and in particular to the Ipswich community.

Sir Llew is a great example of Liberal values and why we stand to be a member of this place to represent our community. He was a hardworking gentleman. He left school early to work as an electrician, as we have heard, but then took the initiative to further himself to study medicine while also raising a young family, which we heard about at the state funeral recently. He was adaptable and in tune with his community and he was compassionate. When he left this place in 1983 I think it is not drawing too long a bow to say that the steady hand of Sir Llew was irreplaceable within the coalition.

In my community around the Fassifern area it has been said that he was a great friend of the Fassifern region. I have spoken to a number of people I have run into during the weeks since Sir Llew's passing and they have commented on his terrific contribution not only to Ipswich, Queensland and Australia but also to our region. In particular I draw attention to the fact that Boonah Hospital was replaced in 1977, which still stands to this day as a testament to the investment made by Sir Llew when he was the minister for health. The former mayor of Boonah shire and also Scenic Rim John Brent commented that there was no greater friend of the Fassifern in terms of the investment brought to our health services and other services in that region during the time of Sir Llew's service as the member for Ipswich, deputy premier, treasurer and minister for health. Another commented that not only did Sir Llew replace the hospital, but he had such a connection to community that he came back 10 years later, after having left politics, to actually celebrate the 10th anniversary of its construction. He was committed to the communities that he had served even after leaving politics. There were other significant investments as well. The *Fassifern Guardian & Tribune* published a wonderful obituary for Sir Llew Edwards, which I will table.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Fassifern Guardian & Tribune*, dated 29 May 2021, titled "What a politician should be" tributes flood in for former Ipswich MP and Queensland Great' [\[907\]](#).

Tabled paper: Photograph of a plaque for the opening of the Ipswich Hospitals Board Boonah Hospital [\[908\]](#).


It quoted the former Ipswich mayor John Nugent, saying—

"Llew Edwards to me was what a politician should be.

...

"He had a strong feeling for the ... people and their welfare.

In that he was a great example for all of us. We acknowledge his service and his contribution to our community. I express my condolences to all of his family on the passing of Sir Llew. May he rest in peace.

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (10.32 am): Sir Llew Edwards, a giant of the Liberal Party, a stalwart of Queensland political business and community life and a well-known figure in the Clayfield electorate, passed away peacefully on 26 May this year. A state funeral for Sir Llew was held on 3 June and, like many in this place, I was honoured to join the hundreds of others at St John's Cathedral to celebrate Sir Llew's achievements and mourn his passing. At that service Sir Llew's friends and family spoke warmly and fondly of his love for them, of his engagement with his friends and, indeed, his love for all of Queensland. In particular David's words were heartfelt and gave a deep insight into Sir Llew's life and times and his achievements.

Many thousands of words have been written about Sir Llew's life and contributions. No doubt more will be written and said about his career and public achievements—the Ipswich Grammar boy who trained as an electrician. From what I have heard about his acuity on ladders, the electricians' loss has probably been the medical profession's gain.

Sir Llew went on to obtain a medical degree and became a much loved local GP. He was convinced by another great Liberal leader Sir Gordon Chalk to run for the seat of Ipswich and was elected to this place in 1972. He was quickly recognised as a man of intellect and talent and was promoted to health minister in very short order. He was seen as a potential leader of his party early on and was elevated to that position in 1977. He went on to secure outstanding results leading the Liberal Party in the subsequent two elections, seeing the coalition rise to their highest numbers in this place.

Sir Llew was both a health minister and a treasurer and went on to secure huge reforms for the people of Queensland, including finalising a Medibank deal that saw 40 new hospitals built or rebuilt. He saw in the value of home ownership the aspirations of all Queenslanders and introduced stamp duty concessions for young people buying their first home. He was a cooling and moderating influence in a cabinet that, as has been said, had strong voices and strong personalities and perhaps not a few hotheads. He knew when the time came how to retire from the battlefield of politics with his honour and reputation intact. Having retired and returned to private medical practice, he then again answered the call to serve when asked to chair the World Expo 88 organisation and he subsequently went about that task with his usual charm, diligence and efficiency.

Sir Llew's legacy from those years changed the face of Brisbane forever. More importantly, he changed the way we thought about ourselves and our state. He made us confident about who we were, no longer playing second fiddle. That perhaps is one of the greatest legacies that Llew left behind. The confidence that the successful Expo imbued has never left us. Those who were there in those heady days will never forget. Perhaps they will not forget the entirety, but a few nights might be a bit hazy. I still have my six-month Expo pass, a gift from my then girlfriend and now wife—in fact of 28 years today I might also add. I might also add that for 16 of those years I have been doing budgets.

Even after those achievements, he contributed even more as a company director and University of Queensland chancellor. These are, indeed, mighty achievements. They are achievements unlikely to be matched any time soon. Of course, honours and accolades have followed as well as the numerous parks, roads and buildings that are littered throughout the state that have been named after Sir Llew.


I also want to talk about the Llew I knew and saw in my electorate. When I listened to the speeches at the service, as I have listened to them here today and as I have spoken to his family and friends, it only reinforced my experiences with Sir Llew. Yes, he was honoured and respected for his public achievements, as he should be, but it was the simple kindnesses and the humanity of Llew that stood out most to many people. It was never a surprise to see Llew and Jane out walking their beloved Schnauzers, shopping at the local Sirianni's IGA or, as the Premier has mentioned, as part of the Harvey's Breakfast Club at Newstead. Just as much, it was never a surprise to see them in deep conversation with any and all who came across their path.

One such event was when I was shopping with my daughter, Kate, a few years ago at the Sirianni IGA. I was walking through the car park with Kate. Llew and Jane had just been inside and were coming out. We stopped to have a few words and I introduced Kate. Without any hesitation at all, Llew started chatting away to her, a 15-year-old as if she was someone he had known for years. He did it in that way that Llew had of never talking down to someone but listening up to them. That conversation continued for some minutes until the dangers of the Range Rovers and the Mercedes in the car park became a little too great and we had to move on.

Llew also handed out for me at the 2012 election, faithfully manning the election booth at Brothers at Albion for a few hours. While I did have some qualms and felt it might have been a bit of an impost on him at that stage, I did make sure that he was at a booth with a reliably high LNP vote and where there was a good chance he would at least know most of the voters. I think the vote improved as a result of Llew's efforts there for me.

In recent years Llew's health had declined and the steady march of dementia saw him increasingly under care. It was during that time that the support and love of his family and friends was so important. I know David was frequently with him and, without doubt, Lady Jane was the rock of his last years and months. While he was unable to live the life he and Jane so much enjoyed—travelling, dining and the company of friends—he and Jane were still very much a partnership.

I join with not only members in this place and not only his friends and colleagues but also the hundreds of thousands of Queenslanders whose lives he touched and made so much better in extending my condolences and sympathy to Jane, to David, to Mark and to the entire family. While the carnival is over, the music plays on and the memories will remain.


 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to make a couple of brief comments of my own. There have been many words said about this gentleman and his giant contribution to public life which I wholeheartedly endorse. We share the honour of both having been treasurers of Queensland; however, the member for Bonney gave us a great insight into his personal life. It is as a father, a grandfather, a husband and an uncle that he made one of his most significant marks. Through my great friendship with David Edwards I saw how much Sir Llew meant to his family and how much his family meant to him. I was honoured, like many others, to attend his state funeral and to see the impact he had on the lives of so many Queenslanders, but it will be in his family where Sir Llew will be missed the most. Honourable members, will you please indicate your agreement with the motion by standing in silence for one minute.

Whereupon honourable members stood in silence.

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


MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Coronavirus, Update; Coronavirus, Vaccine

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (10.42 am): In terms of our daily COVID update, I can confirm that we have no cases of community transfer. We have three new cases, all overseas acquired and in hotel quarantine. We have 29 active cases. I can advise that we have had 6,941 tests in the past 24 hours and—another record—14,397 vaccines have been given in the past 24 hours.

Yesterday we heard of new advice from the federal government in relation to the AstraZeneca vaccine. The federal government has advised that AstraZeneca is restricted to those aged 60 and over while the Pfizer vaccine is available for those aged 59 and under. As a consequence, our community hubs will now offer Pfizer to those aged 40 to 59. I also advise people that it is very important that they book in for their vaccine.


Economy

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (10.44 am): Queensland's economy is roaring back, just as we said it would. New data released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics yesterday proves that our COVID-19 economic recovery plan is working. Unemployment is now lower than it was before the pandemic, at 5.4 per cent. Queensland's 0.7 per cent reduction in unemployment is the biggest drop in the nation, and Queensland now has 84,900 more jobs than before COVID—the highest jobs growth in Australia. In fact, Queensland recorded growth of more than 1,000 jobs each day throughout May.

The state budget delivered by the Treasurer this week will create even more jobs for Queenslanders. To date we are investing more than \$14.2 billion in economic recovery initiatives. This includes our flagship \$3.34 billion Queensland Jobs Fund to support industry and turbocharge job creation. Our more than \$52 billion infrastructure investment will support 45,000 jobs a year to deliver major projects like Cross River Rail and billions of dollars worth of upgrades to roads and rail right across our state.

I have said it before and I will say it again: you cannot keep a Queenslanders down. We will continue to invest in infrastructure and services to create jobs and rebuild our economy.


Police and Corrective Services, Recruitment and Training

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (10.45 am): Under our government we are recruiting more police to keep Queenslanders safe. At the election I committed to deliver the biggest boost to policing in 30 years, to recruit an extra 2,025 police officers by 2025 to keep Queenslanders safe. Together with the police minister, Mark Ryan, and Commissioner Katarina Carroll, I can confidently say that we are delivering on that commitment.

I am proud to announce that today 96 police recruits will graduate from the Queensland Police Academy. Well done, Minister—excellent work. This is the largest graduating class for a number of years. Earlier this week another 120 police recruits entered the academy to begin their intensive training. Those graduating today are aged anywhere from 21 to 50. They have had previous occupations such as cinema managers, carpenters, landscapers and soldiers. They all share one common trait: they want to serve the people of our great state. In total, more than 300 recruits will start training or graduate at our Townsville and Oxley academies this month.

I am proud to confirm that Queensland Corrective Services is actively recruiting more officers and more staff as well. Almost 100 recruits will graduate from the Corrective Services Academy in my electorate of Inala later this month. They will be followed by nearly 100 additional graduates next month.


Gender Equality

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (10.46 am): I have spoken a lot in this House about gender equality, and my government has been working hard for a long time championing change throughout the community. We set gender equity targets for Queensland government bodies, and we smashed them. Fifty-four per cent of Queensland government board positions are now occupied by women. At the time of setting these targets in 2015 that figure was only 31 per cent. We have also supported women to thrive as leaders in business through the Mentoring for Growth program, the Advancing Women in Business initiative and the Advance Queensland Female Founders Program. We have inspired women to pursue excellence in leadership in a range of fields such as Women in STEM, Women in Media, Women in Music and Women in Mining and Resources. We also recognised, through the campaigning of nine-year-old Malia Knox, that not enough monuments and memorials were of women, so we are changing that too.

The recent roar of women's voices across the nation has shown that we still have a long way to go on gender equality. It is not acceptable that women make up half of our population but do not share equal representation in leadership roles. Less than 33 per cent of the ASX 200 company board positions are occupied by women. Two of these boards have no female representation whatsoever. While women make up half of the private sector workforce, only 18.3 per cent of women are CEOs and 32.5 per cent hold key management positions in the sector.

Wherever decisions about our business, industry and community are being made, women must be at the table. The more women are at the table, the more you change the conversation. That is why today I am proud to announce that our government will be hosting three Women in Leadership events across the state later this year—in the north of our state, in the west and in South-East Queensland. These events will provide an important platform for a robust discussion about gender parity on boards and in leadership across male dominated industries and sectors. The events will also encourage community and corporate organisations and non-government boards to set their own targets for gender parity and broader diversity in leadership. We will provide more details when these events are finalised, but this is another great step towards gender equality in our state.


Jobs, Labour Force Data; Min Min Lights Tourist Attraction

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) (10.48 am): We got some fantastic news in the latest labour force data released yesterday. The unemployment rate in Queensland posted the largest fall in the nation, falling to 5.4 per cent. Last month in Queensland more than 1,000 jobs were created each and every day and at the same time the participation rate increased to 66.6 per cent, almost half a per cent above the national average. This data demonstrates how our economic recovery plan is working and creating jobs for Queenslanders.

We are lucky to live in a state that is home to some of the best tourist attractions in the world. From the Great Barrier Reef to Whitehaven Beach to Lake McKenzie, people have flocked from all over to experience what makes Queensland a great tourism destination. But there is another gem that lies deep within the state far from the coast. I am talking about the famed Min Min lights of Boulia. Over the years travellers have witnessed the mysterious lights, described as floating balls of colour glowing in the outback night. The government wants the rest of the nation and, when international travel opens up again, the world to experience this phenomenon. I am pleased to advise the House that the government will contribute \$477,000 from our Building Acceleration Fund to renovate the iconic Min Min Encounter building. Boulia Shire Council will also contribute the remaining \$52,000 to the total project cost of \$529,000.

The funding will allow renovations to the facade of the tourist attraction's heritage building, including essential disability access upgrades. Not only will the upgrades have a significant impact on the quality of Boulia's tourism offering and economic recovery and the region's tourism; they will also support 19 local jobs. Owned and operated by Boulia Shire Council since 2009, the encounter is a unique animatronics and theatrical experience based around the famed Min Min phenomenon. Preliminary works to upgrade the technology and facade are already underway. I look forward to updating the House further on how this government is creating jobs in regional Queensland as we unite and recover for Queensland jobs.


Jobs, Labour Force Data

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (10.51 am): There can be no better endorsement of our job-creating budget and our government's economic settings than the latest ABS labour force data released just after question time yesterday. That data showed that Queensland's economic recovery plan is working, and our budget continues that good work. Yesterday we found out the unemployment rate in Queensland had fallen to 5.4 per cent. That 0.7 per cent drop was the biggest improvement in the nation. The last time the unemployment rate was 5.4 per cent was in April 2012, and everybody knows what happened right after that.

The 84,900 jobs our government has created since March last year are the biggest labour force growth in the nation. Our labour market performance takes the number of jobs created under the Palaszczuk Labor government to 337,400. That is 12 times more jobs created under the Palaszczuk Labor government than under the Newman LNP government.

What makes our current labour market performance even more remarkable is that unemployment has fallen while the participation rate has increased. The share of people in work or seeking work rose to 66.6 per cent in May, almost half a percentage point above the national average. The recovery in the Queensland labour market is attributable to the willingness of Queenslanders to stick with our health response which has made us the envy of the world and is a reflection of the COVID-19 economic recovery plan that is putting more Queenslanders in more jobs every single day.

Coronavirus, Vaccine; Queensland Travel Declaration; Auslan Interpreters

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (10.53 am): As the Premier noted, yesterday the Commonwealth government announced it had accepted the advice of the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation to change the eligibility criteria for the Pfizer vaccine. Due to a growing body of evidence, ATAGI has recommended that the administration of the AstraZeneca vaccine be restricted to members of the community 60 years of age and over. That means that the cohort of people eligible to receive the Pfizer vaccine has been expanded to include the 50- to 59-year-old cohort. The estimated population of 50- to 59-year-olds in Queensland is more than 620,000 people. Of that number, the data available to us suggests that around 458,000 are yet to get their first dose of the vaccine and will be eligible to receive a dose of Pfizer at a Queensland vaccination hub.

This means that Queensland is now administering the Pfizer vaccine to Queenslanders between the ages of 40 to 59 years old and 1a and 1b workers of any age. Clearly, an increase in the number of people we are responsible for vaccinating will have an impact on Queensland's component of the vaccine rollout. As we have seen through our vaccine numbers in recent days, our vaccine capacity has significantly expanded as we have brought community based vaccine hubs online. While we will continue to bring additional hubs online in coming weeks, our capacity to administer the Pfizer vaccine is constrained by the available supply of the vaccine from the Commonwealth. Once again, I would

encourage all eligible Queenslanders to book an appointment before coming to our vaccine clinics. I ask that people remain patient and respect the amazing work of the staff at our vaccine hubs as demand for our hubs continues to grow.

I also want to acknowledge the tremendous take-up of our new Queensland travel declaration, which was only announced yesterday morning. As of 6.30 am today, we have had more than 22,000 people complete their travel declaration on the Queensland government website. This is an amazing take-up.

Ms Palaszczuk: They all want to come to Queensland.

Mrs D'ATH: I take that interjection: they do all want to come to Queensland. The new travel declaration comes into force from one o'clock tomorrow morning, Saturday morning. We are already aware that tomorrow alone will see over 10,000 people arrive in Queensland. I thank the many travellers for embracing our efforts to keep Queensland safe. I also want to clarify that it is our intention that this declaration system will only operate for the duration of the declared public health emergency and will not be a permanent feature of interstate travel. This is just another way that the Palaszczuk government is keeping Queensland COVID-safe. We have in fact been asked that, so I thought it important to clarify.

Lastly, I want to pass on a public thank you from Jean Mathieson, a member of the Mango Hill Progress Association. Jean asked the member for Bancroft if we could give a thank you to our Auslan people who perform sign language at our press conferences. On behalf of Jean, the Palaszczuk government and all Queenslanders, can I say a huge thank you to our Auslan interpreters for their very important service.

Cape York and Lockhart River



Hon. MC BAILEY (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.56 am): Geographically, seven United Kingdoms could fit into our huge state of Queensland and you could nearly fit one United Kingdom between Cairns and the Torres Strait within the electorate of Cook, so well represented by our member for Cook. I am proud to be the ministerial champion for Lockhart River and Cape York and to work with the member for Cook to benefit residents of the Lockhart River community. I once again visited the cape in that role last week, touching down in Weipa before making my way across to Lockhart River along the Peninsula Developmental Road that links the two communities. It has some of the most extraordinary landscapes in the nation and it was impressive to see the results that are being delivered through the Palaszczuk Labor government's jointly funded \$276 million upgrade program.

The extensive sealing works are being done by a large First Nations workforce in a partnership, including Bama Civil, and one of the outcomes of our leadership and investment in a second five-year program in the cape is helping build capacity in these local Indigenous companies. Lockhart River Mayor Wayne Butcher is excited to see the road improvements every year to make the trip between his community and other cape towns safer and faster as well as local bridge, airport and performance space upgrades that are either complete or underway.


I also note the member for Cook wants to see tourism thrive in the region, and improving this road will help drive the region's tourism market as more visitors explore this unique part of Australia. For those unfamiliar with the cape, it is difficult to convey just how far it is between some remote communities in Cape York, the Gulf of Carpentaria and Torres Strait. It means that in many cases flying is the only practical way for residents to get to essential services. That is why the Palaszczuk Labor government is extending our Local Fare Scheme. It has already provided discounts of up to \$400 per flight on return fares for almost 100,000 trips, an investment of about \$17 million into our cape communities and far north communities.

When COVID-19 hit last year, it was a tough time for cape communities and for travel operators in our regions. Flights were cancelled, planes were grounded and bus services in regional cities across Queensland saw patronage plunge. The Palaszczuk government listened to these industry operators. We worked with them and we stepped in to help. The government delivered a \$54.5 million essential transport services package to keep these regional Queensland services going and Queenslanders in jobs.

As the recent Melbourne lockdown and positive cases in recent days in Sydney show, the pandemic is not over, and that is why we are extending our support with a further \$16.3 million to keep regional communities moving. This financial year the Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering

\$2 billion for Queensland Rail services; \$658 million for bus services throughout regional Queensland; \$34 million for ferry services; \$16.6 million for air services in remote parts of the state; and \$206 million to assist parents in meeting the costs of students to attend schools that are far away from where they live. With these commitments and a growing number of regional members of parliament in the Palaszczuk Labor government, this government is committed to supporting and developing our regions.

Shield Laws

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.59 am): I am pleased to inform the House that consultation has now commenced on the development of shield laws for Queensland. The discussion paper, *Shielding confidential sources: balancing the public's right to know and the court's need to know*, has been developed to guide this consultation. The discussion paper is available on the Department of Justice and Attorney-General's website and I table a copy.

Tabled paper: Department of Justice and Attorney-General—Discussion paper: Shielding confidential sources: balance the public's right to know and the court's need to know: Shield laws to protect journalists' confidential sources [\[909\]](#).


Our government committed to consult on shield laws and we are delivering. The commitment is a significant step in strengthening our laws to further protect Queenslanders when they come forward with important information. The discussion paper sets out key issues for consideration in the development of shield laws, including the scope of the laws, the context for their application and the circumstances in which the shield may be set aside.

Alongside public consultation, I am also undertaking targeted consultation with key stakeholders. Shield laws are not just important to the media. I encourage all stakeholders, the media, the legal profession and members of the public to have a say on this important issue. Feedback can be given as a written submission or via an online survey on the Get Involved website which will take approximately five minutes for members of the public to complete. It is important that we as government hear from as many people as possible. A wide range of views is important to ensure we get the right approach for Queensland.

We understand that shield laws have been introduced in other jurisdictions, but this is now about creating good laws that work for Queensland and better protect Queenslanders. Shield laws are complex. They must strike the right balance between a journalist's obligation to maintain the confidentiality of a source and the ability for a court to have access to all relevant information in the interests of justice.

We have committed to consider shield laws in the context of recent Queensland case law and how shield laws are applied in other jurisdictions. This process, in combination with broad consultation, is crucial to developing new laws. I look forward to receiving feedback on the discussion paper and thank all stakeholders in advance for their time and participation in the consultation process to inform the development of these important laws for Queensland. Consultation on the development of shield laws for Queensland is open for the next few weeks and will close on 13 July 2021. The government will consider all feedback received during consultation and I look forward to introducing a bill on this vital legislative reform later this year.

Budget, Worker Safety

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (11.02 am): I wish the member for Clayfield a very happy wedding anniversary.

Ms Boyd: And his good wife!

Ms GRACE: And his good wife, of course. This budget delivers for Queensland workers, continuing our jobs-generating economic recovery plan, an economic recovery plan that is delivering jobs throughout Queensland, and builds on our record of protecting Queensland workers because that is what Labor governments and Labor budgets deliver.


This budget continues our \$6 million, four-year election commitment to boost our labour hire licensing compliance unit with eight additional frontline audit and inspector positions. These frontline positions will build on the success of Australia's first labour hire licensing scheme, of which we are very proud, that we established three years ago to regulate an industry that was unregulated for far too long. This scheme is lifting the standard of the industry and plays a very important role in protecting vulnerable workers from exploitation as licensees must abide by regulatory requirements.

As at 17 June 2021 there were 3,447 licensed labour hire providers in Queensland. At the time that the legislation was passed we estimated that there would have been around 2,000. Now 3,447 have the licence required to operate. The labour hire licensing compliance unit has taken compliance action against nearly 675 providers who have not met the required standards. Since the scheme started there have been 15 successful prosecutions, with the courts imposing fines totalling over \$820,000.

In addition to protecting vulnerable workers from exploitation, my department is continuing its focus on worker safety through a comprehensive review of the Electrical Safety Act, a five-yearly review of the Industrial Relations Act headed by Linda Lavarch and John Thompson, and developing codes of practice in the areas of sexual harassment, psychological health and silica in the construction industry. We look forward to working with stakeholders across all these sectors, from employer organisations to unions, to develop these codes of practice that meet the standards and requirements of modern workplaces.

The budget also funds our four-year commitment of \$5 million for medical research into the terrible affliction that is dust lung disease, in particular silicosis and coal workers' pneumoconiosis. This is a budget that continues to deliver for Queensland workers, including underpinning the highest jobs growth in the nation. As the Treasurer outlined, it is an extraordinary feat to have an unemployment rate of 5.4 per cent while at the same time increasing our participation rate. To achieve that is an outstanding effort, and is leading Australia, but that is what Labor budgets deliver.

Job Creation, Renewable Energy


 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement) (11.06 am): I love nothing more than standing in this House and talking about Queensland's renewable energy future, in particular the job opportunities that it creates for Queensland. Queensland's renewables are a cornerstone of our economic recovery plan and, of course, our Queensland Jobs Fund announced last week.

With the Palaszczuk government making the single largest energy investment in Queensland history with this week's budget, naturally we have plenty to talk about. We are not only talking about our \$2 billion Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund, driving Queensland to become a renewables hydrogen and manufacturing superpower; we are not only talking about last week's construction commencement at Kidston pumped hydro, a project that will deliver 2,000 megawatt hours of storage and 900 construction jobs for Queensland, because when you deliver a \$2.85 billion energy budget this financial year alone, there is always going to be a lot more to talk about.

There are two other significant investments I would like to highlight from this Palaszczuk Labor government's 2021 budget that will supercharge our plan to deliver cheaper, cleaner energy to Queenslanders and, of course, in doing so, continue our strong record of delivering job-creating, nation-building infrastructure. I am pleased to confirm for the House that publicly owned Stanwell Corporation has secured land west of Gladstone to build its three-gigawatt renewable hydrogen facility, a signature job-creating initiative in partnership with Japanese industrial heavyweight Iwatani. This 236-hectare site will house what will be the largest renewable hydrogen production facility in Queensland and it will create 5,000 jobs in its construction program for regional Queenslanders. That means that there is even better jobs news on the way for Queenslanders.

Even better than that, it means millions of tonnes of renewable hydrogen exported around the globe, stamped with 'Made in Queensland'. If that was not enough, there is more. The budget delivered this week provides \$22 million to progress pumped hydro energy storage at Borumba Dam, capable of generating one gigawatt and with a 24-hour capacity. That pumped hydro facility will be the first truly large-scale pumped hydroelectricity scheme in Queensland. It means 2,000 jobs in construction, because that is what this side of the House is all about. There are 84,900 more Queensland jobs than pre COVID, to the end of March last year. We have the highest job-creation levels in the nation. Since coming to office in 2015, 337,400 jobs have been created by the Palaszczuk government. It is this budget—another terrific Labor budget—that will continue Labor's strong record on job creation and the delivery of generational infrastructure and investment.

Water Security

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (11.10 am): Water is the lifeblood of our regional communities, which is why this government has committed close to \$1.9 billion to water infrastructure since 2015, supporting over 2,300 jobs. Last week I was pleased to see firsthand one of those projects when I visited Sunwater's Mareeba-Dimbulah efficiency improvement project on the Atherton Tablelands. Eighteen

Queenslanders are already benefiting from the jobs on that \$30.8 million project, which aims to improve operating and distribution efficiency and reduce water losses for Mareeba-Dimbulah irrigators. Sunwater is well on its way to completing construction by the end of this year, installing 14 kilometres of new pipeline and 130 automated channel gates across 17,000 hectares of Far North Queensland farmland.

I am advised that those works to modernise infrastructure and increase the reliability of the system are expected to deliver a savings of 8,000 megalitres of water per year. That water can be made available to local growers to drive economic growth and to create jobs. Growers will have the ability to better service a variety of crops, including sugar cane, bananas, mangoes, avocados, coffee, tea trees and vegetables. This is a clear commitment from Sunwater to deliver projects that benefit regional communities and their economies and that create jobs that are vital to our recovery from the global COVID-19 pandemic.

That is not all that North Queensland irrigators have to look forward to from this government. As you know, Mr Speaker, we are investing \$9 million for three regional water assessments right across the state. The Tablelands is one of those scheduled to commence early next year. The goal of those assessments is to identify the infrastructure and non-infrastructure solutions that will set our food bowl regions up for economic growth, prosperity and success because this government is focused on filling the gaps in our water system to deliver the right solutions in the right places at the right time and at the right price to give our regional communities a road map for the future. That is our commitment to regional Queenslanders. I look forward to continuing to update this House on our progress in delivering it.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Nanango.

Mr BUTCHER: I take that interjection: how is the Bradfield scheme going for you?

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.13 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 31 August 2021.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Office of the Information Commissioner, Report



Mr RUSSO (Toohey—ALP) (11.13 am): As chair of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee I lay upon the table Report No. 5 of 2020-21 to the Queensland Legislative Assembly by the Office of the Information Commissioner titled *Minimum reporting requirements: personal interests, gifts and benefits, overseas travel*.

Tabled paper: Information Commissioner Report 5: 2020-21—Minimum reporting requirements: Personal interests, gifts and benefits, overseas travel [\[910\]](#).

The report outlines what information ministers, Queensland government departments and their executives, and local governments and councillors must disclose about their personal interests, gifts and benefits and overseas travel. I table the report in accordance with the requirement in subsection 184(5) of the Right to Information Act 2009. I commend the report to the House.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Today question time will conclude at 11.44 am.

Breach of Bail



Mr CRISAFULLI (11.14 am): My question is to the Premier. I table a petition to bring back breach of bail signed by nearly 18,000 Queenslanders. They tell harrowing stories of home invasions, sexual assaults, armed robberies and citizens living in fear. Will the Premier now listen to Queenslanders and restore breach of bail for young offenders?

Tabled paper: Nonconforming petition regarding the introduction of breach of bail as an offence for youth offenders [\[911\]](#).

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for that question. We have said very clearly that we are not. We are putting over \$500 million into youth justice initiatives. We have built more youth detention centres and we have passed our tough new laws through this House.

Health System

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Minister for Health. The Australian Medical Association says that the Queensland Health system is 'the worst it has ever been and people are dying' in a system that just cannot cope. Will the minister listen to the warnings about Labor losing control of the health system?

Mrs D'ATH: I have spoken at length in this House about the work that is being undertaken by Health across all of our hospital and health services and we are working with external stakeholders as well—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I ask for all interjections from both sides to cease so that the Minister for Health can answer the question.

Mrs D'ATH: I have spoken at length about the immediate injection of \$100 million that we are making to help address the pressures we are seeing on our emergency departments and bed capacity across the hospital system. The budget has been handed down this week and it includes a \$22.2 billion budget for health. We will continue to—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, I have already cautioned you today. You are warned under the standing orders.

Mrs D'ATH: We will continue to work with all stakeholders—the clinicians, the nurses, the health workers, the executive, the board members across the state and external stakeholders such as the AMAQ—to find solutions to the extraordinary pressures we are seeing. Those extraordinary pressures are from the once-in-a-generation circumstances that we are facing right now.

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: There we go: once again they are hiding under the doona. They give no recognition whatsoever to what is being faced globally, nationally and locally by our health system. Those on the opposite side are in complete denial; indeed, I think it is worse than denial. I think they are deliberately downplaying the impacts of COVID on the health system to meet their political agenda. It suits their political agenda to pretend that COVID does not exist and that it is not having any impact whatsoever. They groan every time COVID is mentioned, as if it is just an inconvenience.

Millions of people have died globally. Around the world thousands of health workers have died caring for COVID patients. Every time there is a community transmission and restrictions are placed on access to aged care, health care and our hospitals, there are delays in elective surgery. We then continue to ramp up elective surgery, but that creates demand on our bed capacity. We see significant trauma coming in the door. I cannot stop the trauma coming in the door. We would like to stop people getting injured on our roads and the other trauma that we see—

(Time expired)

Screen Industry

Ms PEASE: My question is of the Premier and the Minister for Trade. Will the Premier please update the House on what the Palaszczuk government is doing to grow our booming screen industry and the arts to create even more jobs for Queenslanders?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member very much for the question. I know how much she values the screen industry and the arts in her electorate, especially when we built those new Hemmant studios—

Ms Pease: Hollywood in Hemmant.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Hollywood in Hemmant. They used to be the old cotton sheds, so it is a great adaptation to use them as permanent film studios. I have said in this House before that when they were first built, we were a bit unsure about whether they would get continuous bookings, but now they are booked out. In fact, Universal Studios has pumped more than \$100 million into Queensland. *Young*

Rock is being filmed there and now they are doing *Joe Exotic*. I am quite sure that will be an interesting production when that comes to hand. We know all the jobs that are involved as well, including carpenters, plumbers, electricians, caterers—everybody who is involved in the film industry. It is giving our young people the opportunity to get jobs in this industry.

The budget brought down \$71 million—\$53 million for production and attraction and \$4 million for screen finance, domestic film and television and games production. Mr Speaker, you would be pleased there is \$4 million for the North Queensland Regional Plan—I know you are our wonderful ambassador up there—to grow screen opportunities. There is also \$10 million for post digital and visual effects.

We want to get more and more movies produced here. It is absolutely fantastic to see it is bringing a huge boost to the economy. We also have *Ticket to Paradise* coming up soon. They have just finished Baz Luhrmann's *Elvis*. We have had *Dora and the Lost City of Gold*. There are so many things I could say about those opposite, but I won't.

We have also invested in the music industry. We know that Minister Enoch and my assistant minister have been meeting with the music industry, especially those at the live music venues, and we are allocating \$7 million to assist them. That is something very important. I hear there was some live music coming from those opposite last night, but I will not say anything more about that.

Mrs D'Ath: Not good music.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I heard it was not very good.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Oh, I did not know it was true! Now you are confirming it. There you go. I just heard a rumour. Oh dear, oh dear. We will continue to back the screen industry and the arts and the live music because we know that it brings about jobs in our local community. We will always back the arts sector. We also announced \$6 million for additional blockbusters, for GOMA—

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: DJ Mini Minnikin will cease his interjections.

Mr Minnikin: Correct titles, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Duly noted.

Mental Health

Mr JANETZKI: My question is to the Minister for Health. The Queensland College of Psychiatrists says mental health is not a priority for Labor who will not listen and have cancelled meetings for two years. Why will the minister not listen to the experts' warnings about Labor losing control of mental health?

Ms Palaszcuk: Who closed the Barrett centre?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for his question and I take that interjection from the Premier. This question has just come from the party that closed the Barrett Adolescent Centre. In addressing the members opposite, can I say that in 2021-22, the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, Queensland Branch, acknowledged in their pre-budget submission that the mental health of Queenslanders, like three out of four Australians, was impacted by COVID-19.

Mr Crisafulli: We just want you to meet them!

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

Mrs D'ATH: They should have read a little bit further down the article that they are going to use as their question today because it said the date that I am meeting with them. Anyway, I look forward to that meeting that is already scheduled.

Mr Janetzi: Two years.

Mrs D'ATH: I not sure what the 'two years' reference is. I have only been in this role for six months. The pre-budget submission says to date there has been no increase in the rate of suicide mortality in Queensland since the pandemic started, but health experts warn suicide rates could rise if

Centrelink aid, JobKeeper and JobSeeker is cut. That is what they said in their pre-budget submission. They linked the risk of the suicide rate going up to the cuts in JobSeeker and JobKeeper, but you do not hear those opposite crying out for any change in that space.

The mental health effects of the pandemic will likely extend over the next few years and ongoing funding is needed. That is why we have provided an extra \$46.5 million to support mental health and wellbeing of Queenslanders who have been impacted by COVID. This is an additional \$61.9 million allocated over four years in our 2019-20 budget to establish suicide prevention crisis responses—

Mr Crisafulli: It is a basket case!

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Leader of the Opposition, you will cease your interjections. You are warned under the standing orders. To the members gesticulating in the House, I need no assistance.

Mrs D'ATH: As I said, we are providing an extra \$46.5 million to support mental health and wellbeing of Queenslanders who have been impacted by COVID. This is on top of our \$61.9 million over four years in the 2019 budget. We are also working with the federal government to develop a new mental health and suicide prevention agreement by November 2021.

If those opposite want to see a further injection for mental health support in this state, then they should talk to their federal colleagues and make sure that the National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan has extra dollars in it to recognise the demand. I continue to work with stakeholders and I look forward to meeting with the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists.

Energy Industry

Mr WALKER: My question is of the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning. Can the Deputy Premier outline how the government will create more clean, cheap energy in Queensland and is he aware of any alternative approaches?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for his question. I know he shares the Palaszczuk government's vision for Queensland as a renewable energy jobs superpower. When we came to office in 2015, there were no large-scale renewable projects on the books or coming—zero. Since then, all over the state there are new solar farms and new wind farm projects with more and more coming, so much so that we are now in the fortunate position where the energy minister is announcing storage solutions for all of that extra renewable energy that we are generating so that it can be used and not wasted.

That cheap, renewable energy will lead to a jobs boom here in Queensland, a jobs boom not only in energy but also in manufacturing, processing our minerals here so that they can be exported at higher value. We will manufacture elements of the renewables value chain like batteries and electrolyzers here so we can use them here, and so that we can also export them to the world.

That is why last week we held in Townsville the energy jobs forum and why the Minister for Energy, the Premier and I announced that we would bolster our Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund to \$2 billion to enable that clean energy revolution that is already underway. That forum was very successful and the response to that announcement has been very strong. The Queensland Community Alliance said it was the missing piece for transforming our energy system in a way that cares for our planet, looks after workers and protects the most vulnerable from price rises.

WWF brought together 25 Australian businesses to say thanks for that investment. They said, 'Queensland is on the path to becoming a renewable energy exports superpower.' The Queensland Resources Council's Ian Macfarlane—those well-known socialists over there at the QRC—said the fund was an incredible opportunity for Queensland in respect to manufacturing and the demand for new energy minerals. The Queensland Exploration Council said, 'It's great to see the Queensland Government supporting the resources sector, from exploration right through to manufacturing.'

All of that—to create jobs right across this state.

Coronavirus, Vaccine

Ms BATES: My question is to the Premier. It is reported today that the Premier raised concerns about AstraZeneca at national cabinet in April. Why did the Premier not tell Queenslanders about this concern and was this why she delayed her COVID jab?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am not disclosing what conversations happen at national cabinet.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

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

Budget, Recycling

Ms LAUGA: My question is of the Treasurer and Minister for Investment. Will the Treasurer please update the House on how the budget supports reducing landfill and improving recycling? Is the Treasurer aware of any other approaches to recycling in the context of the budget?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Keppel for her question. Like all members of the government, the member for Keppel supports ongoing efforts to reduce landfill and improve recycling. As it states at page 98 of Budget Paper No. 2, growth in revenue from the waste levy is moderating. Treasurers usually do not like a fall in revenue, but I welcome this because it represents people reducing waste to landfill. It means that our levy is working. We do know what the alternative is. We cannot forget 2012 when the LNP abolished the waste levy and turned our beautiful state into the nation's dumping ground. We saw truck after truck speeding up the M1, waved through by the member for Broadwater, to turn Queensland into the nation's dumping ground.

Yesterday we heard the big budget reply from the Leader of the Opposition. What a let-down. He gets worse every year. I see the Leader of the Opposition sent out his friend. There he is handing out the questions up the back. He cannot take the heat in the kitchen. He was happy to wave the trucks through, but he cannot take the comments. He sent out his stooge from city hall, Adrian Schinner, to attack the levy. These councils keep carrying on about a rebate that they already have. Councils should be so lucky—taking credit for a rebate that the Labor government is giving to households via them. Maybe we should put it on electricity bills or do something like that so Queenslanders know who is looking after them—that is, the Labor government.

We know the LNP do not like the waste levy, but we know the Leader of the Opposition is a big enthusiast for recycling. Why? I know it is bin day up in Lakes Creek today. Thank you to the member for Keppel and hello to everyone watching. There is one policy area where the LNP has been doing their own dumpster diving. They had the big release yesterday of the social entrepreneurs loan scheme. It sounded familiar. That is because it was recycled from the Newman government. The LNP's social entrepreneurs loan scheme is not an idea from David Cameron—that is what the member for Toowoomba South was saying—it is a reheated policy from 2013. You have had eight years to get this right and you are recycling things you did eight years ago.

Mr SPEAKER: Direct your comments through the chair.

Mr DICK: What have you been doing? I know you were in the nightclub last night dancing away. What are you doing? You are not doing the policy work.

Mr SPEAKER: The Treasurer will direct his comments through the chair.

Mr DICK: No wonder. It was under the government of the Leader of the Opposition's idol, Campbell Newman. They are dumpster diving and pulling out the policy. He is having a quick conversation with the member for Surfers Paradise, 'Like your tie today. Really appreciate how you've done your hair.' This is a recycled effort by a hopeless opposition leader who is a complete phony.

Mr SPEAKER: I will remind members that, whilst it is a convention to not comment on a member's absence from the chamber, commenting on a member's movements in the chamber is also not necessarily the appropriate way to go either.

Social Housing

Dr MacMAHON: My question is to the Minister for Communities and Housing. From the \$1 billion housing trust announcement only \$40 million per year will actually be spent on social housing. Can the minister explain to the 47,000 people waiting for social housing how 3,600 new homes will be built with only \$160 million?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. In terms of the fact that this is only the member for South Brisbane's second budget, we can give a bit of leeway in terms of understanding how budgets work and how things happen. My office has certainly reached out to ensure the member for South Brisbane is fully briefed this afternoon and can understand how this all works.

However, what I think is a little harder to understand is why the Greens are on a unity ticket with the LNP on this matter—peddling this idea about not understanding how an investment fund works. We know why they are on a unity ticket. It is because they helped the member for South Brisbane get elected. The LNP and the Greens are so slow when it comes to the whole idea of an investment fund. If they were any slower they would need to get watered once a week. That is how slow they are. I make it clear that they do not understand how the fund works. I am sure that this afternoon the member for South Brisbane will get that information and will hopefully be across it.

This \$1 billion housing investment fund is anticipated to generate annual cash returns. This is part of a broader set of investments that this government is making of \$2.9 billion. This is the largest concentration of investment in social housing in this state. This is not just about building. It is about spot purchasing. It is about head leasing. It is about partnering with the private sector. It is about partnering with the community housing sector. It is about generating enough stock and seeing nearly 10,000 new properties added to the stock over the life of our strategy. It is an action plan that looks at innovative ways to build housing stock in this state.

I see the member for South Brisbane is continuing to shake her head. She is looking very similar to what those in the LNP do regularly when we talk about social housing. They continue to be on a unity ticket. It is a great shame. This side of parliament, the Palaszczuk government, will continue be very proud of the massive investment we have made in social housing. This morning the Treasurer and I were at a breakfast hosted by QCOSS. Let me tell members that the sector is absolutely ecstatic with this announcement. They fully understand how it works. We are proud of this announcement. We are proud of this investment in social housing. The sector is absolutely ecstatic.

Budget, Outside School Hours Care

Mr RUSSO: My question is of the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Will the minister update the House on how the budget supports the expansion of outside school hours care services? Is she aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for Toohey for his question. As a father of two young boys, I know that his family would often use and welcome outside school hours care arrangements in his school. Our \$15.3 billion investment in schools and early childhood education is delivering for Queensland families, no matter where they live. This as part of our economic recovery plan. Our economic recovery plan has developed jobs, jobs, jobs in this state. There are a beautiful set of figures that we have talked about earlier today when it comes to employment growth in this state. With numbers like this, we are continuing to support working families with the services they need to participate in the workforce.

As many members in this House would know, the work day does not necessarily end when the school bell rings. For women in particular, who still carry the primary caregiving responsibility, outside school hours care is crucial to their full participation in the workforce. That is why I am delighted to advise that our record 2021-22 education budget allocates \$11 million to expand or upgrade outside school hours care facilities at 48 schools across this state from Parramatta State School in Cairns to Currumbin State School on the Gold Coast. I am very pleased to be working closely with the member for Keppel, the Assistant Minister for Education, who is overseeing the delivery of these outside school hours care commitments which will give parents the assurance that care is available for their children if and when they need it before and after school and often during the school holidays.

Outside school hours care was one of the first issues that crossed my desk when I became Minister for Education. Since 2018 we have seen well over 5,540 extra outside school hour places delivered and created in state schools right across the state. We plan for them now in new schools. When we opened the new schools at Baringa we planned for them. The member for Caloundra and I just visited Caloundra South where outside school hours care is being planned for within the school buildings. It is wonderful to see that we are delivering for working families because, with many of them now entering the workforce, they need that support.

When it comes to alternative policies, unfortunately there are not any from those opposite. We have scoured their website. We went back to the election commitments they made at the October election last year. Unfortunately, there is not one skerrick of evidence of an education policy from those opposite. If you want to talk about bare cupboards, just look over there.

(Time expired)

2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Infrastructure

Dr ROBINSON: My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier confirm the Eastern Busway and Cleveland line duplication will be included in the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games proposal so that the Redlands can have the public transport it needs to provide games venues?

Ms PALASZCZUK: We are working with the Commonwealth on the infrastructure that is needed.

An opposition member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We are working on that. We have a funding envelope that has been agreed. We will be prioritising within that envelope the projects that are needed to get people to the venues. The venues are spread out across Brisbane, the Gold Coast, the Sunshine Coast, Redlands, Ipswich—

Mr Dick: Logan.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Logan. There is also going to be regional participation. What I am very pleased about is the fact that the executive board of the Olympics has recommended that the full cohort of the Olympic movement consider Brisbane, Queensland in July, which is next month. Fingers crossed, but this would be a great boost to the Queensland economy. It would mean decades of jobs and infrastructure. I think now about the young people who are being selected. I congratulate those young people, especially the Queenslanders in the swimming team who have been selected to go to Tokyo.

A government member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take that interjection—50 per cent of the Paralympics swim team as well. This is going to be absolutely incredible for our state. We wish all of them very well for next month. It is going to give the people of the world hope and opportunity that we can come together during such a devastating time for families and individuals right across the world because of COVID.

Budget, Environment

Ms BUSH: My question is of the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs. Can the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is delivering practical, sensible environmental measures that are also creating jobs as part of Queensland's economic recovery plan?

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

Ms SCANLON: I thank the member for Cooper. I know she is a fierce advocate for protecting the environment and the jobs that it creates. I am very proud of this budget and to be part of a government that is investing \$1.4 billion to protect our environment and to create jobs.

One of the biggest highlights from the budget is of course our funding for the Great Barrier Reef. We know that two of the largest threats to the Great Barrier Reef are things like climate change and reef water quality, which is why we are investing significantly. We also know there have been some fairly interesting views federally from the Morrison government when it comes to climate change. I table some interesting comments we have seen recently.

Tabled paper: Bundle of articles regarding global warming and climate change [\[915\]](#).

We have Senator Gerard Rennick denying climate change and taking offence now to the Palaszczuk government's increased investment in publicly owned renewable energy. I table a copy of that for the House.


We also have Matt Canavan, who is now questioning the science of climate change as well as COVID-19. We also have the Nationals now saying that they do not support net zero emissions. I am very interested to hear from the Leader of the Opposition, who delivered his budget response yesterday—

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

HOUSING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (11.44 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008, the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Regulation 2020, the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Regulation 2009 and the Retirement Villages Act 1999 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Community Support and Services Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Housing Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 [\[912\]](#).

Tabled paper: Housing Legislation Amendment Bill 2021, explanatory notes [\[913\]](#).

Tabled paper: Housing Legislation Amendment Bill 2021, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[914\]](#).

Today, the Palaszczuk government is delivering on our commitment to put in place renting reform for Queenslanders. In fact, the Housing Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 fulfils two commitments: firstly, to deliver stage 1 rental law reforms; and, secondly, to implement amendments to the Retirement Villages Act 1999 to exempt resident operated freehold retirement villages from mandatory buyback provisions.

The 10-year Queensland Housing Strategy 2017-2027 includes a commitment to modernise Queensland's housing legislation and improve the regulatory frameworks that apply to accommodation regulated by the Queensland government. Earlier this week we released the Queensland Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2021-2025. The action plan is backed by an historic \$2.9 billion investment.

Through the action plan, we will drive closer integration between government and non-government services to deliver positive outcomes for Queenslanders, including a focus on preventing homelessness. Importantly, the action plan also supports the progression and implementation of reforms to modernise Queensland's housing legislation, protect tenant and lessor rights, and increase consumer confidence.

Renting is an important housing option for the increasing number of Queenslanders who rely on the private rental market for safe, secure and affordable housing. Around a third of Queensland households rent, and many Queenslanders also invest in rental properties. With more Queenslanders renting, and renting for longer, rental law reform is needed to keep up with the changing needs of tenants, lessors and real estate businesses.

The rental law reforms provided for in this bill will adjust and create new rights, protections and responsibilities for parties to residential leases in Queensland and follow a national trend towards modernising rental laws to better protect tenants and lessors. While addressing the challenges facing many tenants, and particularly the vulnerable people in our community, the Palaszczuk government also recognises how important it is to protect the investments of the many property owners who contribute much needed supply to the housing market. Despite what some like the Greens political party would have people believe, many of these are mum-and-dad investors, not big corporate interests. The changes implemented through these reforms strike an appropriate balance between lessor and tenants' rights and provide a strong framework for parties to negotiate and manage mutually beneficial tenancy relationships.

The bill delivers reform for priority renting issues identified through extensive consultation with Queenslanders in 2018 and 2019. It is informed by consultation with key stakeholders and the learnings garnered from the implementation of key elements of the Queensland government's COVID-19 response for residential tenancies.

Certainty about how and when a tenancy can end benefits both tenants and owners. It helps tenants to plan for their future housing needs and owners to plan for how they manage their investment. We heard through consultation that many vulnerable renters are reluctant to enforce their tenancy rights because they fear their rent will increase, they will be asked to leave or they will not be offered a renewal when their current lease ends. Research conducted by the Productivity Commission in 2019 also found that vulnerable renters are more likely to incur severe consequences from adverse private rental market events, such as involuntary moves due to unexpected tenancy terminations, as it can heighten the risks of financial hardship and homelessness and disrupt connections with education, community and services.

This bill prevents lessors from ending a tenancy without grounds and requires lessors to only terminate a lease using approved grounds. The approved grounds for renters and lessors to end a tenancy are also expanded. We heard that it is important for lessors to have access to a range of grounds to end a tenancy and regain possession of their property, including if they need to occupy the property, intend to sell or redevelop it, or on the expiry of a fixed-term agreement.

We also heard that some renters may need to end their lease if the rental property is not in good repair or because they received false or misleading information about the property or agreement before entering the tenancy arrangement. Importantly, the bill provides that protections for renters against retaliatory actions for enforcing their rights will be retained and enhanced, including protection from retaliatory termination or rent increases. These reforms provide greater transparency and accountability and will help give renters more confidence to enforce their rights. The use of additional grounds to end a tenancy will be monitored, including investigation and enforcement actions, to inform evaluation of this reform and determine whether further change is needed in the future.

All Queenslanders deserve to live in homes that are safe, secure and functional. In its 2019 research report the Productivity Commission found that: the rental properties in which vulnerable renters live are more likely to have greater repair needs or major structural problems; households that

rely on government payments have a person with disability or long-term health condition, or a single parent, or are more likely to live in housing that needs essential repair. The Productivity Commission suggested in its report that vulnerable renters may be less willing than others to request repairs and maintenance because they fear negative consequences. This is unacceptable. As such, this bill provides for basic standards to ensure all residential rental properties in Queensland meet a minimum level of quality for renters to feel safe and secure in the knowledge that living in their home will not cause them harm.

Some of these minimum housing standards include the requirement that a property: be weatherproof and structurally sound; have fixtures and fittings that are in sound condition, good repair and do not present a health hazard with normal use; be free from vermin, damp and mould; have adequate plumbing and drainage and be connected to a supply of hot and cold water for drinking; and ensure the toilet is connected to a sewer, septic or other waste disposal system. These standards do not require lessors to provide luxury or high-end fixtures, fittings and amenities but generally clarify existing obligations for the rental property to be clean, in good repair and fit to live in. Frankly, no Queenslanders should have to settle for less than this. Strengthened repair and maintenance provisions, including specific repair orders that can be made by QCAT, combined with the approved ground for renters to terminate their lease if their rental property does not comply with the minimum housing standards provided for in the bill, will support renters to enforce their right to live in a home that is safe and secure.

Everyone has the right to feel safe and live their life free of violence, abuse and intimidation. The Palaszczuk government is committed to preventing domestic and family violence and recognises the important role that safe and secure housing has in achieving this. We know that domestic and family violence increases vulnerability to homelessness, as people who are forced to leave their homes often find it difficult to secure alternative accommodation. People experiencing domestic and family violence are often at their most vulnerable when they are attempting to leave. In 2020 the Palaszczuk government acted swiftly to ensure that people experiencing domestic and family violence during the COVID-19 pandemic were supported to leave the home quickly and safely and avoid getting caught up in lengthy administrative processes.

The protections allow a tenant experiencing domestic and family violence to end their interest in a lease with seven days notice. The tenant can leave the property immediately, and their liability for end-of-tenancy costs would be capped to the seven-day notice period. The tenant would also be able to apply to the Residential Tenancies Authority to access their portion of the rental bond. Tenants can substantiate that they have experienced domestic and family violence by providing evidence signed by an authorised professional such as a doctor, social worker, refuge or crisis worker, domestic and family violence support worker or case manager, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical service worker or solicitor. This allows the tenant to provide evidence without the need for a domestic violence order or apprehended violence order.

There is strong community support for these protections. Domestic and family violence stakeholders have commented that these measures have greatly assisted their clients and should be continued. The Housing Legislation Amendment Bill will make these domestic and family violence provisions enduring. This will ensure tenants experiencing domestic and family violence continue to have access to options to improve their safety and security after the temporary COVID-19 regulatory measures expire and will align Queensland with best practice approaches in other jurisdictions.

Pets are an important part of life for many Queenslanders and are often viewed as part of the family. They provide companionship, safety and physical and mental health benefits. We saw during the COVID-19 pandemic that many people sought stronger companionship at home and a greater connection to their communities, and pets delivered this for many householders. However, only a small proportion—estimated to be 15 per cent—of rental properties in Queensland are pet friendly. Consultation with Queenslanders about their rental experiences demonstrated there is a high unmet need for pet-friendly rental accommodation but that lessors hold significant concerns about the risks to their investment of allowing renters to keep pets at their rental property.

The bill provides for rental law reforms that encourage more pet-friendly rental properties in Queensland by introducing a framework to support renters who want to keep their pet. These reforms will allow tenants to keep a pet with the lessor's written consent, which may be subject to reasonable conditions agreed with the tenant. Lessors will retain their right to decide if a pet can be kept at their rental property but can only refuse a renter's request on prescribed reasonable grounds if they cannot be addressed through the application of reasonable conditions, which does not include a rent increase or additional pet bond. The pet reform provided for in this bill will improve rental satisfaction and security, encourage responsible pet ownership and provide greater assurance for property owners.

The Palaszczuk government has taken the time to ensure we get these reforms right. We have engaged extensively with the community and sector to make sure we understand the issues, that our response is proportionate, finds the balance between the rights and needs of renters and lessors, and provides certainty and stability in the rental market. I would like to thank the thousands of Queenslanders who have had their say about renting laws and helped to inform these reforms. We received more than 135,000 responses to the Open Doors to Renting Reform consultation in 2018 and a further 15,200 responses to the consultation regulatory impact statement in 2019. Targeted consultation was also carried out with key stakeholders. This consultation has also identified a number of other issues which will form the basis for a future second stage of rental law reform.

In developing these reforms, full consideration has been given to potential costs and impacts. Rent markets across most regions in Queensland are experiencing tight vacancy rates. Over the last quarter, Queensland has experienced the greatest net interstate migration of any Australian state, which has contributed to an increase in rent and house prices and tight vacancy rates. Housing affordability is an ongoing and national issue; however, current rental market conditions are also a reminder of why it is important to carefully consider all potential impacts of reform measures. The bill I present today takes a balanced approach and considers the needs of all stakeholders as well as broad sector and community impacts. It does not simply respond to current rental market conditions but will deliver long-term certainty and stability in the Queensland rental market.

Independent economic analysis of the reforms has been undertaken, which found that at the aggregate level impacts are expected to be negligible, and the reforms are unlikely to significantly impact rent, supply or affordability. In addition, significant economic, social and health benefits will be derived from these important reforms. The staged implementation of these reforms will also mitigate any risks of significant impacts.

While domestic and family violence provisions will commence immediately upon assent to provide continuity of protections established through COVID-19 regulation, ending tenancies fairly and pet reforms will commence on proclamation, which is expected to be 12 months after the amendments are passed by the Queensland parliament. Following the passage of this bill, minimum housing standards reforms will have a longer transition period to assist lessors to plan for and undertake any necessary repairs on their properties. Minimum housing standards will begin applying to rental properties when a new residential lease is entered into from 1 September 2023 and will apply to all agreements, including existing agreements, by 1 September 2024.

I would now like to turn my attention to the amendments to the Retirement Villages Act 1999. Approximately 40,000 Queenslanders live in retirement villages, often investing a significant amount of capital to do so. Previously, when a resident moved out of a retirement village, they were required to wait until their unit was re-sold before their funds were returned to them. However, these funds are often needed to provide for a resident's next place of accommodation, such as aged care. In 2017, the Palaszczuk government introduced amendments to the Retirement Villages Act 1999 requiring village operators to pay a resident their exit entitlement 18 months after a resident has permanently left the village. In 2019, these provisions were expanded. These amendments protect elderly consumers by ensuring they had a maximum wait of 18 months after permanently leaving a village before they received their funds. These reforms have resulted in millions of dollars being returned to former retirement village residents and their families.

When the laws were introduced in 2017, a review of the payment time frames, by an independent panel, was built into the amendments, and that review was undertaken in 2020. The terms of reference required the panel to specifically look at the impact on retirement villages where residents control the operations of the retirement village. Unlike other retirement villages, resident-operated villages do not have a commercial or not-for-profit operator with the revenue and assets to cover the mandatory purchase of a freehold unit.

In its interim report, the independent review panel noted that there are fundamental differences between the arrangements for resident-operated retirement villages and other retirement villages, which justifies its recommendation for these villages to be granted an exemption from the mandatory buyback requirements. The amendments to the Retirement Villages Act 1999 in the bill create a regulation-making power to exempt resident-operated retirement villages where listed by regulation. These amendments establish clear criteria for when an exemption is appropriate. They also create appropriate investigation powers for the government and notification duties for exempt retirement villages to ensure an exemption remains appropriate if the circumstances of the villages change.

We have engaged closely with stakeholders on the proposed amendments who reiterated their general support for amending the Retirement Villages Act 1999 to enable a regulation to be made to exempt resident-operated retirement villages from the mandatory buyback requirements. The proposed amendments will commence upon assent of the bill, after which a regulation will need to be made. Following this, my department will contact the villages that may be eligible to obtain an exemption and help them to seek that exemption if they wish.

To conclude, the Housing Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 delivers on the Palaszczuk government's commitment to deliver a fair and contemporary housing system that meets the needs of Queenslanders. Tenants and lessors will benefit from more certainty and clearer assignment of risks that will provide for a well-functioning and efficient private rental market. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. LM ENOCH (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (12.03 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.


Bill read a first time.

Referral to Community Support and Services Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Community Support and Services Committee.

DEPUTY SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Members, Warnings; Points of Order, Conduct of Members

 **Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Before moving on, I want to remind those members who are on a warning. They are the members for Nanango, Broadwater and Kawana. I also want to remind members of the requirement to remain in their allocated seats. There were some issues during the proceedings yesterday. These are important rules in relation to COVID and we have a responsibility to lead by example.

Further, I want to issue a general warning to the House. There was some behaviour last night when temporary speakers were in the chair where members continued to talk when members were making points of order. This behaviour will not be tolerated. When a member is making a point of order, other members need to show them the courtesy and show the Speaker the courtesy so the point of order can be dealt with. If you have something to contribute, you may rise to your feet and take a point of order. This is a general warning. We will not be tolerating this behaviour today.


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed from 17 June (see p. 2091), on motion of Mr Dick—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (12.04 pm): Before beginning my contribution to the debate, like so many others I want to put on the record my heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Duncan Pegg, and especially to his Stretton community. Duncan built and united his community in a way that was lauded by MPs from all political divides. He was a true champion of multiculturalism in this state. Rest in peace, Duncan.

Our community of Waterford is set to grow because of the government's commitment to economic recovery. If we want to invest in our future, we must invest in our schools. That is why it is so fantastic to see half a million dollars for the Loganholme State School outside school hours care. I know it is an incredibly busy service and they are thrilled to be able to expand that for so many families in our growing community. There is almost \$5½ million in this budget for new classrooms and refurbishments at Waterford West State School. This is another growing school which is struggling with ageing infrastructure, like so many of our schools across Logan. It is wonderful that they will be able to get new classrooms and refurbishments.

There is also \$1½ million for planning for a new secondary school in Logan Reserve. When out in the community, this is something that families talk to me about regularly. We are investing in additional classrooms—\$15½ million for Mabel Park State High School and another \$6½ million for Marsden State High School. It does not matter which school you go to in my electorate, there is construction underway and it is wonderful to see.

Work on the M1 is continuing, with \$1 billion invested in the Daisy Hill to Loganholme upgrade. There is \$800,000 for a business case for upgrades to the busy Brisbane-Beenleigh Road. There is more than \$1 million for improvements to the Waterford Tamborine Road and Easterly Street intersection. This is very welcome news, particularly for those families during pick up and drop off at Canterbury College. It is fantastic to see more than \$3.3 million to continue the work on the new Fire and Rescue Station at Loganlea. This is something that our local fires championed for many years, and I am very pleased that we are delivering that new station for them.

Women's safety was a key priority for the Palaszczuk government in this budget, with an investment of more than \$155 million to tackle violence against women in the next year. I would like to take this opportunity to correct the member for Whitsunday. In her contribution she consistently stated that our government has only committed \$7½ million each year for the next four years. I repeat again that in the next financial year we are committing more than \$155 million. The \$7½ million is a continuation of the COVID-19 money. Rather than simply extend that, we have now lifted the base funding for these services so they can employ additional staff for the next four years, which is great funding certainty. I acknowledge that this is a system under pressure. I do note that the member for Whitsunday also welcomed the contribution from the federal government. Again, I say that that came about because of huge lobbying, particularly from our Premier who has placed this issue on the national cabinet agenda.

I now go back to the \$155 million commitment, which includes: more than \$138 million to respond to domestic and family violence and sexual violence, including counselling and crisis responses, perpetrator interventions, court support, shelters, mobile support, awareness and prevention, and sexual assault support; \$8.1 million to continue and enhance specialist domestic and family violence courts, and I am very proud that Queensland was the first state to introduce these specialist courts; \$3½ million to enhance the capability of community justice groups in 18 discrete Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander communities to support them to work with our specialist courts and to continue to support families experiencing domestic violence; and \$670,000 to continue the provision of legal advice and representation to sexual assault victims.

Importantly, the budget also provides \$160 million in the next financial year for housing and housing support services for vulnerable Queenslanders. Almost a quarter of all Queenslanders who reach out for housing support in this state are experiencing domestic and family violence. That is why I welcome the contribution to housing in this year's budget.

We also have almost \$800,000 over three years for the Working Women's Service here in Queensland to continue to provide free advice on work related issues and we are investing in the economic recovery for Queensland women. There is \$320 million over the four years for the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program coupled with \$140 million over four years for the revitalised Back to Work program. There is \$5 million for programs to support women in custody who are involved in the justice system to transition to a safe environment, and \$65 million for women's health, breast cancer screening and other services.

I am also very proud of the commitment in this year's budget to my justice portfolio: \$1.4 billion on delivering frontline justice services. Importantly, there is \$4.9 million over four years for the establishment of the second coronial registrar team in the Coroners Court. They work incredibly hard and it is very difficult work. I am very pleased we have committed this funding, including \$1.4 million to support the coronial inquest into the very tragic death of Hannah Clarke and her three children, which will begin later this year.

Importantly, there is an additional \$4 million over four years to Victim Assist Queensland. They can continue to provide advice and financial assistance to Queenslanders impacted by crime. I know the president of the QCAT was very pleased to hear of the \$7 million additional for QCAT, a very hardworking part of our justice system; there is \$7 million over two years. They had a huge backlog during COVID. They are working through it and that will certainly help curb some of the demand pressures that QCAT have experienced.

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

The speech read as follows—

Justice + Covid

The justice system was also impacted by COVID-19 and the legal profession and our courts responded in a timely manner and adapted quickly to ensure Queenslanders could still access the law.

The use of technology assisted proceedings through COVID and we are investing \$7.4 million in expanding and upgrading existing audio-visual capacity in the justice system, which includes video conferencing and in-custody appearances.

This will provide for the streamlining of some matters, enabling cost savings in both time and resources.

There is a further \$13.04 million over four years to strengthen timely access to justice for Queenslanders including \$4.39 million to support the Government's response to domestic and family violence through the rollout of further critical frontline DFV support services and perpetrator interventions in specialist court locations.

This budget is about providing for the safety and security of Queenslanders across the state.

The Government will spend \$14.42 million to maintain the current child protection litigation model for a further 12 months, and \$4.56 million has been allocated over four years to continue an additional part-time specialist Childrens Court magistrate, support staff, security and legal advocates to increase the case volume heard in the Childrens Court.

Liquor and Gaming

We are invested \$2.78 million in 2021-22 for the department to continue delivery of key initiatives of the government's Tackling Alcohol-Fuelled Violence (TAFV) policy. This is for continuation of inspection work, for example in relation to responsible service of alcohol, ID scanning, general liquor licensing requirements.

Half a million dollars to fund operational aspects of Safe Night Precincts such as security guards and taxi marshalling services while evaluation of Safe Night Precincts is ongoing.

Conclusion

I commend this Budget to the House.



Mr POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (12.10 pm): This morning we reflected on the life of a true Queensland great, Sir Llew Edwards, the former Liberal member for Ipswich—yes, you heard me right—health minister, treasurer and deputy premier. We heard how he epitomised classic Liberal values and principles. We heard how he used those values, principles, his intellect and talent to deliver for his community of Ipswich and for Queensland and Australia, including as the chair of Expo 88. We heard how he stood up to those who opposed his values, how he debated the issues and even challenged others in his own government.

When I joined this parliament over 12 years ago I knew I was joining an LNP team that included men and women of Sir Llew's ilk and I knew I was throwing myself against some great minds who, while misguided, were the best representatives of what the ALP believed in. They were individuals who endeavoured to live out the words of Ben Chifley when he said—

We have a great objective—the light on the hill—which we aim to reach by working the betterment of mankind not only here but anywhere we may give a helping hand.

This was the intellect that I thought I would face on entering parliament. Unfortunately, what we have today in the Queensland ALP is such a shallow reflection of this great legacy. While I fiercely reject many of the policy positions of the Australian Labor Party, there is a legacy in the ALP that deserves better than what they are seeing. This budget shows that the current version of the Labor Party is such an anaemic interpretation of true leadership and true vision that it leads to no other feeling than pity for those who still blindly believe the Labor mantra because of one simple fact. The current Queensland Labor government have taken vision and turned it into one of the most pathetic and disgraceful stains on our democracy: political spin. They have not treated Queenslanders with enough respect to say, 'This is what we hope to do.' Instead, they have used trickery and deceit. Instead of being honest and laying out the truth, they have used bureaucratic gobbledygook. They have listened to the spin doctors, the quiet backroom boys, and they are endeavouring to completely hoodwink the people of Queensland.

Just over three weeks ago I rose to speak to the so-called Debt Reduction and Savings Bill. I referred to it as a work of fiction. I spoke about how the Palaszczuk Labor government were trying to con the people of Queensland. They are at it again with this budget but on a far grander scale. A centre point of their budget is the bogus sale of the land titles office. When you sell your house in Queensland it is the land titles office that facilitates the transfer to the new owner. You pay a fee for that, a fee that goes into the state coffers. Several weeks ago in the Debt Reduction and Savings Bill we were told the government were transferring ownership of the land titles office from themselves to themselves for an anticipated value of \$4.1 billion.

I spoke about how I wanted to get in touch with whoever had done that valuation because when you compare it to the leasing of the New South Wales titles office for \$2.6 billion and in Victoria for \$2.85 billion—offices that are based on far larger populations and would be considered far more valuable—\$4.1 billion sounded like a jolly good deal. Plenty of my constituents would want to know who the Palaszczuk government's valuer was because that could hardly be described as a conservative valuation. Overpriced was probably more apt.

Little did we know that not content with \$4.1 billion, the Treasurer went in search of a better offer, a better offer at which to sell the land titles office to himself, and lo and behold he found it: a whopping \$7.8 billion. If it sounds too good to be true, it is probably because it is. By moving the land titles office from one form of government ownership to another at a price of \$7.8 billion all of a sudden the Treasurer's balance sheet looks healthier than it really is by supposedly wiping debt from the books. However, no money has changed hands. I say that again: no money has actually changed hands. It might meet modern accounting standards—just—but, to be honest, if a private corporation tried this trick, their directors would be in an awful lot of strife.

Sadly, the political spin, the fiction, the trickery does not end there. Firstly, the sham sale was designed to reduce the government's debt figure, but it has not actually reduced the level of debt each Queenslanders must repay. It has simply moved the debt sideways, not down. Secondly, this \$7.8 billion transfer was supposedly meant to free up a whole lot of capital to invest in a range of funds. There was the Hospital Building Fund, a \$2 billion fund intended to build the hospitals Queensland desperately needs. There is the Housing Investment Fund, \$1 billion to build the social housing our working homeless and most disadvantaged are crying out for. There is the Carbon Reduction Investment Fund with \$500 million for land restoration; the Path to Treaty Fund, \$300 million to finance the government's work on reconciliation; and the Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund, overall \$2 billion to assist the government owned energy corporations to increase their ownership of commercial renewable energy and hydrogen projects.

I do not know about you, Mr Deputy Speaker, but when I hear the word 'fund' I hear money. In business, the term 'fund' refers to the pool of financial resources available for near-term use. The organisation's funds include cash on hand—of course—available for immediate use but also other liquid assets that will become cash in the near term as needed. If people saw the word 'fund' they would expect to see something in it, a dollar figure or, in the case of a budget over four years, an indication that money was going to come into it in the near term.

Here is another sham: these funds are political spin, scams, shams, swindles, tricks, frauds and hoaxes. Over the next four years how much will actually be in the Hospital Building Fund? Not the \$2 billion promised, not \$1 billion, not even \$1 million; there will be nothing, zero, nip, nada. In the supposed \$1 billion Housing Investment Fund, nothing; in the Carbon Reduction Investment Fund, again nothing; in the Path to Treaty Fund, nothing. I will be fair, the government did set aside \$500 million for the Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund and there was already \$500 million in there, but that still leaves the sum of \$1 billion outstanding.

Queensland, do not be conned. This government is not going to build new hospitals from this fund. This government is not going to build new social housing from this fund. This government is not going to restore land from this fund. This budget is not what the Treasurer, the Premier or the government say it is. It will not end our ambulance ramping and health crisis. It will not stem the debt. It will not work, in the words of Ben Chifley, for the betterment of mankind. It will not even build the infrastructure we need in Glass House, let alone across the Moreton Bay and Sunshine Coast regions, or indeed across the state.

In fact, the government has cut \$4 billion from infrastructure over the course of this budget. The amount of \$1 billion equates to about 10,000 infrastructure jobs. That is the equivalent of 40,000 jobs that have gone begging or, more likely, gone to New South Wales at a time when we need to invest in

transport and road infrastructure. We have a burgeoning population, particularly in the region I represent, that is desperate for a better, shorter, easier commute. If we are to host the Olympics in 2032, we need to catch up and get ahead fast when it comes to infrastructure investment.

Everything mentioned in this budget for the Glass House electorate is either already underway or nearly completed—or in some cases already finished. These are projects like the resurfacing and road widening on the D'Aguilar Highway; the traffic lights at Beerwah State School; the new Maleny Fire and Emergency Services complex; the Bruce Highway upgrades, which, by the way, were 80 per cent funded by the federal government—thank you, Scott Morrison; the widening of Steve Irwin Way—again, with federal government investment; and the north coast rail duplication—again, with federal government investment.

All of these projects are needed, but all have been announced multiple times already. There is nothing planned. There is no vision. There is nothing new. The government has not even brought forward the funding for the much needed Maleny Kenilworth Road upgrade at Cambrook. It is still not slated to commence until 2023-24. There is nothing for Mount Mee Road at Ocean View, for lights at the intersection of Campbells Pocket Road and the D'Aguilar Highway at Wamuran, for Maleny Kenilworth Road at Witta or for the Maleny Hydrotherapy Centre. There was no mention of a review of the school transport system sought by the parents of students from places like Ocean View, Mount Mee, Delaneys Creek, Peachester and many other locations not only around Glass House but also around the entire state.

This budget demonstrates that terms such as 'light on the hill' do not belong to those opposite anymore. They have not lived up to that promise. They have not lived up to that dream, to that vision. When they use words like 'XYZ fund' and do not actually fund the fund, they show that they have abandoned these ideals in the name of cronyism, trickery, personal ambition and political spin. By the way, in Ben Chifley's speech, when he spoke about the light on the hill and vision, he followed with a warning and said—

If it were not for that, the Labor movement would not be worth fighting for.

It is clear: Chifley's warning has come to pass. In contrast, a Crisafulli LNP government will deliver transparency, services, a strong economy and jobs. It will deliver on the true legacy of the great visionaries of our political past—something this Labor government cannot.



Hon. LM ENOCH (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (12.22 pm): I rise to speak in support of the 2021-22 appropriation bills, a budget that will deliver great outcomes for the people of Queensland. As a Labor government, we believe that all Queenslanders deserve a safe place to call home. Unfortunately, the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and an increase in interstate migration have made that more difficult than ever, especially for the most vulnerable in our community. For that reason, this budget's \$2.9 billion total housing investment is the largest concentrated investment in social housing in Queensland's history. It will deliver more homes for vulnerable Queenslanders sooner.

With a \$1.9 billion investment over four years, we are increasing the supply of social and affordable housing by almost 10,000 homes over the life of our Housing Strategy, including 7,400 new builds over the next four years. This is a net increase of 4,323 new social and affordable homes than was originally committed under the Queensland Housing Strategy in 2017. We will achieve this through our new Queensland Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2021-2025.

Supporting this investment is the establishment of a new \$1 billion Housing Investment Fund. This fund is a first for Queensland and it will deliver returns that will support increased social housing across Queensland and provide the certainty that our industry partners and providers have been calling for. The fund will have its capital value maintained over time, with returns on its investments generating a perpetual source of funding, initially up to \$40 million per annum. This will support the commencement of 3,600 social homes by 30 June 2025 through partnerships with community housing providers, non-government organisations and the private sector. Later this year we will go out to the market to seek partnerships that deliver real housing outcomes for Queenslanders.

As a government we are constructing new social housing to boost our supply of homes for people and families across the state. In fact, of the total state budget funding for housing, \$1.813 billion will be used to boost housing supply. Our four-year action plan puts people first and is focused on increasing housing supply across all parts of Queensland by bringing real investment to the regions as well as South-East Queensland. By doing so, this action plan will help us deliver on our plan for Queensland's economic recovery through the creation of construction jobs as we build new homes.

As I have travelled the state I have met countless Queenslanders whose lives have been changed by having access to housing support. This investment really is about people. It is about providing the dignity of a safe, secure home to those who need it most. With an investment of \$60 million over two years to quickly get more social and affordable housing available for tenants and to prepare a pipeline of construction work for future years, we are moving quickly to address immediate challenges.

Through the action plan we have also introduced the new Queensland Housing Investment Growth Initiative. This initiative will support a quick response to emergent housing needs in priority locations. Complementing the Housing Investment Fund, our new QuickStarts Qld program will bring forward planned construction and maintenance projects through targeted capital investment. The Helping Hand program will also source private rental properties for supported head leases to meet emergent housing needs. Importantly, we are also working in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities and the new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland peak body to respond to the unique housing experiences and aspirations of First Nations people.

On top of the boost to social housing supply and in addition to our annual investment to address homelessness, an extra \$94.9 million over four years has been allocated in this budget to support essential housing and homelessness support services. It includes specific service responses for people experiencing and at risk of homelessness, and women and families experiencing domestic and family violence.

Unfortunately, what we have seen from the opposition's contribution to the budget is that they fully intend to return to the bad old days of the Newman government. Their plan was to get rid of 90 per cent of Queensland's social housing stock. We know that Logan Renewal was just going to be the start and Gold Coast was next on their hit list. The member for Everton was incorrect in his contribution when he said that I supported Logan Renewal back in 2015. I absolutely did not. What I support is strong investment in more social and affordable housing, not the wholesale giveaway of public assets.

The Leader of the Opposition talks about the rate of increase in social housing. We have built more than 3,000 new social homes and started another 448. Let's remember the position we started from. We inherited a situation whereby, under three years of the Newman government, the amount of social and community housing in Queensland decreased by 428 properties, so we had to build back all those properties and then continue to invest. Meanwhile, the Leader of the Opposition has put the same person who was responsible for that decrease back in the shadow housing portfolio. Mark my words: the worst thing that could happen to social housing in Queensland is another LNP government. They cut, they sack and they sell. That is all they know how to do. We can see from past experience and from their words in parliament this week that they would cut social housing yet again.

The Deputy Speaker has reviewed and approved my 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—

Arts

Speaker, arts and culture are also at the centre of the state's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through the 2021–2022 Budget, we are backing Queensland's arts sector with more than \$90 million over four years to drive economic recovery, social outcomes and create jobs.

We are injecting new money into the state's live music industry to secure its continued sustainability, investing in major cultural tourism initiatives across Queensland, and providing significant investment in our cultural infrastructure.

This budget acknowledges the significant impact of the pandemic on the arts industry and the importance of investing in the sector to build back better than ever before.

The arts are key to delivering our plan for economic recovery, each year contributing \$8.5 billion into the state's economy and supporting more than 92,000 jobs for Queenslanders.

We have amped up investment to Queensland's live music industry with an additional \$7 million in 2021-22 to support the sustainability of the sector.

This vital industry supports strong economic outcomes in Queensland, with Brisbane's music industry alone worth an estimated \$428 million to the Queensland economy.

With this new investment, the government's dedicated Arts and Cultural Recovery Package, implemented last year to quickly address the immediate needs of the sector, will now deliver almost \$30 million in critical support across Queensland's arts and cultural sector. This Package is an important down payment on Creative Together, the Queensland Government's 10-year Roadmap for Arts, Culture and Creativity.

The budget continues to invest in key events that generate cultural tourism and economic outcomes, with \$9 million over three years to support the Queensland Museum Network's delivery of the popular World Science Festival, in regional Queensland as well as Brisbane.

Holding this festival in Queensland bolsters our knowledge economy, shares the latest discoveries and advancements that will impact our lives and continues to engage Queenslanders of all ages with the power of science.

As the only World Science Festival held outside of New York, this event has attracted audiences of more than 800,000 visitors in Brisbane, Toowoomba, Chinchilla, Townville and Mackay since 2016.

And it has generated more than \$32 million in economic impact for the state.

In addition, new Blockbuster funding of \$6 million over three years, from 2022-23, will enable the Queensland Art Gallery/Gallery of Modern Art to continue to attract Queensland-exclusive internationally significant exhibitions.

It was blockbuster funding that secured the European Masterpieces from The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York which opened last weekend, and I can inform the House that it had more than 5,000 visitors through the doors over its first weekend.

The Queensland Government's blockbuster investment, together with support from Tourism and Events Queensland for exclusive exhibitions through QAGOMA has generated more than \$85 million in economic impact since 2016.

We have also reinforced our commitment to the growth of regional arts with continued support of \$6 million over four years for the Regional Arts Services Network (RASN).

The network's successes include the development of signature cultural tourism projects including Trailblazing the West in Western Queensland and the Savannah Way Art Trail in Far North Queensland.

We are also committing a further \$61.7 million over four years to invest in our cultural infrastructure..

This includes almost \$40 million for critical maintenance and upgrades across the heritage-listed Queensland Cultural Centre, and \$9.1 million for critical maintenance activities for the Queensland Museum Network in Brisbane, Townsville, Toowoomba and Ipswich.

This is a significant investment by our government in the arts sector across the state.

Digital Economy

Speaker, this Budget also invests \$17.3 million over five years to the Digital Archiving Program to ensure the State's culturally and historically significant digital records are safe, secure and accessible to Queenslanders in years to come. Most records are now created digitally, with the number growing exponentially each year.

This funding will boost the Queensland Government's capacity and capability to securely store and provide access to what are known as 'born-digital' records.

This means they will be preserved for future generations.

Additionally, we've allocated \$12 million over three years to continue to improve digital connectivity in Queensland – including mobile coverage in regional areas.

We know that improving digital connectivity improves social inclusion and safety for Queenslanders, increases the productivity of businesses in our state, and enables better access to government services.

Mobile services are essential, particularly during natural disasters when fixed lines may be impacted.

Queensland has co-invested more than \$25 million over the past four years to leverage a package for our state, totalling more than \$104 million from the Commonwealth.

The COVID-19 pandemic proved the value of phone and information services for Queenslanders, particularly for seniors and more vulnerable members of our community.

Smart Service Queensland (SSQ) has been delivering the latest information and services to Queenslanders through the 134-COVID and Community Recovery hotlines, the Check in Qld App, quarantine wellness checks and the dedicated COVID-19 website (COVID19.qld.gov.au).

The State Budget recognises the importance of these services, with funding totalling \$11.3 million in 2021–22.

It also recognises the importance of cyber security measures through an investment of \$11 million over the next two years.

This is in addition to the \$20.3 million already allocated from 2019-20 to 2022-23.

Communities

Speaker, the 2021-22 State Budget is investing in quality community services that support the social and economic inclusion and wellbeing of people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.

This Budget ensures that Queenslanders can continue to access the services and supports they need to thrive.

As a government, we have reiterated our commitment to ensuring the continuation of the Community Transport scheme across Queensland.

The Community Transport scheme provides transport services for people with disability who are not eligible for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

The service also supports other vulnerable and socially disadvantaged people under the age of 65 who have limited or no access to appropriate and affordable transport.

Speaker, this year's Budget includes a \$7 million annual funding commitment for this service. Speaker, Queenslanders are strong and resilient in the face of the many challenges that come with living in our state.

Through fires, floods, cyclones, hailstorms and drought, and the COVID-19 pandemic, Queenslanders have rallied to rebuild, recover, and boost their resilience for future disasters.

However, we recognise the devastating and ongoing impact that the drought has had on communities right across the state.

That's why we are continuing to invest in our successful Community Drought Support Program.

The 2021-22 State Budget includes \$5.2 million annually for this program, as part of the Queensland Government's overall annual drought support package.

The program provides flexible financial assistance, such as vouchers and food hampers, and support for events and activities including local agricultural shows, rodeos and sporting events.

Under the previous round of this funding, 61 organisations shared in almost \$5 million.

We know that there are many Queenslanders in our communities who have been doing it tough.

The State Budget invests in services and supports that individuals and families need to get back on their feet.

Algeria Electorate

Speaker, I am pleased the State Budget also delivers for the people of the Algeria electorate.

Those who call the Algeria electorate home know the importance of staying connected to each other, especially during COVID-19. That is why the State Budget will deliver \$2.5 million to support the Digital Infrastructure and Connectivity Program which will identify the current and future digital infrastructure requirements.

As well as staying connected digitally, the Algeria electorate will see the benefits of greater transport connectivity.

Speaker, the Greenbank RSL Park n Ride will see \$3.4 million in 2021-22 out of a total \$21 million total spend to upgrade the facility, allowing commuters to get to and from home and work quicker and safer. The Greenbank RSL Park n Ride will host 600 car parks, greater security measures, a bike riding facility, more bus routes and even greater connection to Brisbane city and surrounds. This is a huge achievement for locals and with construction already underway, it won't be long until locals are able to utilise the Park n Ride.

In addition, Speaker, commuters will be thrilled with the \$724, 220 allocation to works for the improvement of Johnson Road and Mt Lindesay Highway on-ramp intersection at Hillcrest.

This improvement project forms part of the Palaszczuk Government's record \$27.5 billion, four-year roads and transport investment plan, which is supporting 24,000 jobs and driving Queensland economic recovery. The improvement works will include a new, staggered pedestrian crossing on the western arm of the intersection to make it safer and easier for people walking in the area, new drop kerbs and older electrical infrastructure, including traffic signal lanterns and pedestrian push buttons, will also be replaced.

\$30,000 will also deliver the final elements of the Griffith arterial Cycleway at Granard Rd from Ipswich Motorway to Balham Road.

Speaker, in an exciting addition to electorates in Brisbane's South, an allocation of \$5.5 million to planning the Salisbury to Beaudesert Rail Line will increase connectivity and ease congestion.

In a huge win for locals, this rail line planning will ensure we are equipped to deliver a rail line that connects locals to Brisbane city and surrounds. Speaker, in addition to connection, the Algeria electorate is an electorate that cares deeply about education. With 6 State schools within the electorate and several others within close proximity, it is only fitting that the State budget will deliver funding across the electorate.

More than \$12.9 million has been allocated in the 2021-22 budget for Algeria State Schools. Acacia Ridge State School will receive \$850,000 to refurbish existing classroom facilities, \$700,000 for a much-needed security fence which I have worked tirelessly with the School to secure.

The 2021-22 budget will also deliver \$80,000 of a total \$150,000 for a new playground area at Acacia Ridge State School – that is \$780,000 worth of shovel ready projects. This means students will learn and play in brand new facilities. Additionally, Algeria State School will receive \$120,000 to remove outdated classrooms as part of the School Infrastructure Enhancement Program; Calamvale Community College will see a whopping \$6.1 million of a total \$7.04 million for the construction of new classrooms to meet the increasing student population.

Calamvale Special School will see \$3.9 million of a total \$12.9 million also for additional classrooms. Watson Road State School will also receive more than \$500,000 for a new school security fence and shade covering for their outdoor area, another shovel ready project.

Speaker, in addition to the funding I've outlined, State Schools in the Algeria electorate will also receive \$625,000 for maintenance and minor works during 2021-22. This funding will support greater learning and playing options for students across the Algeria electorate. This is a budget that knows the importance of delivering on education.

Conclusion

Speaker, I commend the Treasurer on an outstanding budget for the people of Queensland.



Mr RUSSO (Toohey—ALP) (12.28 pm): I rise to speak in support of the 2021 appropriation bills. I am deeply honoured to be able to stand here as the representative for the seat of Toohey, where we are extremely fortunate to have a diverse, vibrant and active multicultural community. If people want to see multicultural diversity working, I invite them to come and visit the amazing retailers and small business operators across my electorate.

I offer my congratulations to the Treasurer, Cameron Dick, for his outstanding effort in once again looking after the future of all Queenslanders. This budget is another great outcome for Queensland and is in direct contrast to the previous cut-and-burn actions of the LNP government. Our Labor government is leading the way by investing in jobs, supporting business and manufacturing, and looking after workers and their families and those who are vulnerable and disadvantaged while strengthening the future of Queensland. As a direct result of this budget, my school communities will receive a total of over \$8.285 million for upgrades, refurbishments and maintenance. MacGregor State School, MacGregor State High School, Moorooka State School, Sunnybank Special School, Sunnybank State High School and Warrigal Road State School will be receiving over \$7.16 million and the remaining \$1.12 million has been set aside for maintenance and minor works across all schools. This is a great outcome.

The students and teachers at the schools across Toohey will also see the benefits of the Cooler Cleaner Schools program, which has been rolling out across the schools. This \$477 million program is on track to be completed across the state by mid-2022. Some of my schools were recording temperatures in the 40 degrees in classrooms. This was not good for students and it was not good for teachers, but all of that has changed thanks to the Palaszczuk government. This program is well supplemented by the \$168 million Advancing Clean Energy Schools program to install solar panels on school rooftops. This is over half a billion dollars invested in improving the learning environment for students. The P&C associations across the schools in my area are all very excited because not only do they no longer need to fundraise to bring air conditioning to their schools but they are also pleased the costs for running the air conditioning will be offset by installing solar panels. Their fundraising can now be targeted at achieving other valuable outcomes for the students and their school communities.

Support has been given to teachers and teacher aides. Since 2015 the Palaszczuk government has employed over 6,000 new teachers and 1,500 teacher aides. Let us compare this to the previous LNP government, which cut teacher numbers and slashed frontline workers at schools. What a difference this has made. Here in Queensland we now have the lowest teacher-to-student ratio in the country.

One of my personal favourite programs amongst those on offer through our world-class education system is the program supporting at-risk secondary students to engage them and lead them back into learning, training or work. There are two schools in my electorate offering support for young people, with a third one just getting underway. The Sunnybank State High School's SunnyFutures program is a wonderful program to engage young people in finding work. It was only a few weeks ago that I was at the school for the launch of its Canstruct Intensive Care Unit and the launch of its community services gateway to industry project. The dedication shown by the school executive and the teachers is brilliant. Carinity Education Southside is supporting young and vulnerable teenage girls get an education which will put them in a good position for their futures. The BUSY school is establishing a campus in Salisbury.

It was tremendously pleasing to learn this budget includes an investment of \$320 million over four years and \$80 million each year ongoing for the flagship Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative. Up to 15,000 disadvantaged Queenslanders each year will benefit from targeted Skilling Queenslanders for Work programs designed to equip jobseekers with the skills, qualifications and experience needed to enter and stay in the workforce. This builds on the \$430 million investment by the Palaszczuk government since 2015 in Skilling Queenslanders for Work.

Everywhere I go across Toohey there are people who tell me how great the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program is. This is the program the LNP cut in 2015. It just does not get it. Since Labor brought back the program, over 35,000 disadvantaged Queenslanders have been helped into work. That is 35,000 Queenslanders who have been provided with dignity through work so they can put food on their family's table and a roof over their heads. You cannot put a price on someone's self-esteem and dignity, but you also cannot explain these concepts to the LNP, which sacked workers and cut back on programs that were helping people find work.

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

The speech read as follows—

The 2021-22 Budget continues to provide significant funding to protect communities and keep Queenslanders safe, as well as underpin the government's ongoing effort to revitalise frontline service delivery.

The Palaszczuk Government continues to focus on ensuring strong and effective frontline service delivery, including significant investment in new facilities for staff and to support communities that need government assistance.

The 2021-22 Queensland Police Service capital program of \$156.1 million supports quality frontline services and will fund police facilities, motor vehicles, vessels and other essential equipment.

This Budget continues to increase the number of police officers as part of the government's 2020 election commitment to hire an additional 2,025 police personnel over the next five years.

The Budget also continues to support the hiring of additional firefighters as part of the 2020 election commitment to increase fire personnel by 357 over five years to help the community prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from the impact of fire and emergency events.

This budget sees the introduction of the Palaszczuk government's flagship Queensland Jobs Fund. The first recipient under this program will be the Translational Research Institute (TRI) at Woolloongabba.

The Translational Manufacturing Institute (TMI), will be built with a \$20 million investment from the Queensland Jobs Fund.

Scientists at TRI are already inventing the treatments of the future and the vaccines of the future. This investment will allow them to manufacture them here instead of sending the local knowledge and research results overseas.

We will finally realise a local domestic vaccine manufacturing capability. TMI at TRI will support our start-ups and will allow us to do advanced commercialisation. In the process, we will create 500 jobs over the next 10 years. Our biomedical sector continues to grow. It already employs 10,000 Queenslanders across 1,200 different companies.

Can you imagine where we would be today if the Labor Palaszczuk Government had not provided support for Queenslanders across the state?

The 2021-22 Budget provides more than \$6.1 billion in a range of concessions and support measures primarily designed to lower the cost of living. This includes a range of energy rebates, targeted discounts, subsidies, and concessions including ones dedicated to eligible seniors, pensioners, veterans and low-income families.

Support is also provided to lower the costs of water, transport, education and housing. The majority of Queenslanders receive at least one Queensland Government concession and, in many cases, may benefit from multiple concessions each year.

The Budget continues to support social housing in Queensland, including the establishment of a \$1 billion Housing Investment Fund to drive new supply to support current and future housing need.

Returns of \$160 million over 4 years are anticipated from the Fund. The Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2021-25 provides \$1.9 billion over 4 years to boost housing supply and increase housing and homelessness support across Queensland.

This is comprised of \$1.8 billion of expenditure over 4 years to increase the supply of social housing and to upgrade the existing social housing property portfolio.

There will be \$60 million over 2 years, with \$30 million in 2021-22, to fast-track immediate social housing projects and initiatives and to prepare a pipeline of work for future years.

An amount of \$94.9 million over 4 years, with \$23.7 million in 2021-22, will support the housing and homelessness service system and deliver better outcomes for Queenslanders. This initiative includes \$20 million over 4 years to expand domestic and family violence support services; \$20 million over 4 years for homelessness initiatives including through headleases and crisis housing and supports; and an amount of \$54.9 million over 4 years to fund essential continuing services delivered through the First Housing Action Plan 2017-2020.

Small businesses employ nearly one million people across Queensland. One million people who faced tough times when the pandemic shut business down. There was over \$196 million provided by the Palaszczuk government through grants to help small business stay open. So many people have told me the support they received under the adaptation grants were the difference between closing and paying a bill or even changing the way they did business because they were able to explore other ways to keep trading such going online. We were there for them and they appreciated the support. But it doesn't stop there. There is a further \$140 million under the Big Plans for Small Business strategy. Only my government has the plans that will take us forward and lead the way to full economic recovery.

It is widely known I hold a long-standing interest in refugees and asylum seekers. In case anyone doesn't know I was even involved in a legal case that made international headlines. I will always ascertain that anyone seeking refuge or asylum should be treated with dignity and respect.

To say I am appalled at the way the Morrison Coalition Government is handling the way asylum Seekers and refugees to our country are being treated is an understatement.

We know the federal Government has vacated both their moral and financial responsibilities for these people. I am pleased the Queensland Government stepped up to provide necessities such as food, housing and even medication to people seeking asylum. The Queensland Government, yet again, is picking up the baton for the Commonwealth and will continue to support this important work through to 2024-2025.

It gladdens my soul that the community I represent is so multiculturally diverse. My community is like a mini united nations in good working action. Every year I have seen the expansion of multicultural festivals and community events across the southside.

It is through the knowledge and engagement with each other's cultures that we grow and provide strength to create a better outcome for all.

I am very pleased to see the Celebrating Multicultural Queensland Grants continue. I see wonderful results of this grants program and I look forward to attending many more festivals and community events that will be held as a result of this funding being made available.

When we look at how Queenslanders are commuting the data shows there has been an increase in cyclists out and about. Even during the COVID shutdown people were taking to bikes for exercise. Investing in bike riding means better health, and better communities. In a typical week there are over 800,000 Queenslanders riding bikes. We know it is important to create safe ways for cyclists to get around. There have been over 250 projects funded by the Palaszczuk government including the dedicated cycleway the V1—Veloway 1—from Eight Mile Plains to South Brisbane. I have seen many commuters using the V1 as a quick and easy way to get from home and into the city for work and recreation.

Another fantastic project that is rolling out is the Cross River Rail project which will provide greatly appreciated benefits to my electorate. We are future proofing our rail system. In 2021-22, \$1.5 billion has been allocated to the continued construction of the \$6.9 billion Cross River Rail project in Brisbane.

The project will introduce a new world-class signalling system, deliver three new Gold Coast stations at Pimpama, Helensvale North and Merrimac, and significant upgrades to eight above-ground stations at Salisbury, Rocklea, Moorooka, Yeerongpilly, Yeronga, Fairfield, Dutton Park and Exhibition.

Cross River Rail will support up to 7,700 full-time equivalent jobs and 450 new apprenticeship and traineeship opportunities during construction. This is amazing project will be boosting the economy every single day.

I have been receiving briefings on the roll-out and I am looking forward to seeing the new stations in my area which include disability access allowing greater accessibility for more Queenslanders and visitors to travel across the region and down to the Gold Coast.

I haven't even touched on the Coopers Plains Level Crossing. I campaigned on this issue back in 2015 when I was first elected. Older residents have told me this level crossing has been an issue for over 40 years!

In the lead up to the election last year I was able to make the first commitment from the state government towards a joint initiative across all three levels of government. The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) are currently undertaking a business case for the rail level crossing project. The business case will confirm project viability and the cost of the preferred option. Considerations will include corridor constraints, road user and active transport needs, engineering, community, environmental and other factors.

This year the Boundary Road Coopers Plains rail level crossing funding commitment will receive \$5.7 million out of \$146 million total towards upgrading the rail level crossing.

This project will be delivered in partnership with the Australian Government, and TMR will continue to work closely with Brisbane City Council who control the roads surrounding the level crossing, and Queensland Rail, as planning progresses.

There are big plans underway for the QEII Hospital in Coopers Plains. One of the seven new satellite hospitals included in the \$265 million dollar investment will be co-located at QEII Hospital. This is a \$37.5 million investment and a fantastic outcome for my southside community. The satellite hospitals project at QEII alone will support 75 full time equivalent construction jobs over the life of the project and will further support local small businesses, building material suppliers, plumbers and other trades people.

The \$100 million Care4Qld package will provide for an additional 26 beds at the QEII Hospital with a suite of wrap around services for patients also included in the Care4Qld package. The bed ward fit out will support an additional 34 jobs just at the QEII.

And I haven't stopped there. Metro South Health have identified a need at the QEII hospital for an increase in the number of car parks at the hospital. It is no surprise the Palaszczuk Government has listened and there are plans being reviewed for a multi storey car park to be built at QEII.

Things are moving and the Palaszczuk Government is continually planning for future projects to revive and to grow our health system. This vital work was needed after the previous LNP Government sacked 4,800 health staff and cut \$1.6 billion out of the Health Budget. And, if that wasn't enough they then attacked doctors pay and conditions.

The Palaszczuk Government, my government, has a strong commitment to improve infrastructure and grow jobs and the economy, across all sectors. We are standing shoulder to shoulder with our communities. Our Government is not leaving workers, their families, or the vulnerable or disadvantaged in the community behind. We're standing shoulder to shoulder with them to get things done. We're in this, together, for the long haul.

I commend these bills to the House.



Dr ROBINSON (Oodgeroo—LNP) (12.34 pm): I rise to speak to the 2021-22 budget. Having been in this place for 13 budgets—10 of them Labor—I can agree that this is a typical Labor government budget. It is a budget in which it is losing control of law and order, housing, the health system and state government finances. In terms of the state finances, we typically see debt and deficit blowouts, a long-range surplus projected but not worth the paper it is written on, living beyond our means, high taxes, new taxes, and investment in infrastructure is light, delayed and recycled. Regarding debt in those 10 Labor budgets, I have seen state debt blow out year upon year via the Labor way because the underlying attitude is, 'It's only government money. You can always get more. We'll increase taxes on the rich or just keep going back to business—the cash cow—because they can afford it,' like there is a government money tree.

This laissez-faire attitude to government finances means that our grandchildren will be saddled with the government debt in the range of \$127 billion and rising, and that says, 'Let future generations of Queenslanders pay for the financial ineptitude of long-term Labor governments.' Some have described this Labor way as stealing from our grandchildren. Next week I will become a grandfather for the first time. Poppy Robbo and Grandma Julie will be pouring out love and gifts on Junior, but the last thing we want to do is to burden our son and his wife and their first child with the debt of our generation. But that is what Labor is doing and has been doing now in two long-term Labor governments—the Beattie-Bligh Labor government of roughly 14 years duration and now this Palaszczuk Labor government that will be of 10 years duration by the time we get to the next election. This government has been racking up generational debt for a long time—long before COVID, long before the GFC. These are systemic issues, and when will Labor governments learn to live within their means over the long term and balance their books like everyone else has to—every family, every business and every government?

Building job-creating, big-ticket infrastructure items and keeping them on budget and on time is critical. We see Labor's 'rail fail' at another level in this budget when we consider Cross River Rail. The government's \$5.4 billion Cross River Rail project has blown out to \$6.88 billion and rising despite assurances that it will be delivered on time and on budget. As I have said in this House, and just this week again, Queenslanders are carrying the Palaszczuk government's failures on the economy like a ball and chain around our ankles. Labor went broke in the Bligh era in a mining boom before the GFC. It lost our AAA credit rating. It sold \$15 billion of assets and spent it all without paying debt down, and all with debt hurtling toward \$100 billion before COVID.

As I have said, Labor's policies have stifled the tourism industry recovery and it wants the feds to solve the problem that it has partly created. Shutdowns without notice nor communication like the Straddie camping ground shutdown at Easter hurt small tourism operators and other small businesses that rely on those bookings and rely on the certainty, and the workers who rely on the work remain underemployed. International education is also doing it tough. ABS data says that Australia's onshore international education sector was worth \$40 billion prior to COVID. It has fallen since to approximately \$31 billion as at April 2021 and heading further south. Queenslanders had a good share of that industry, but this government has failed to position Queensland well for when the international borders open up and we can take students again and rebuild this job-creating industry.

While I am no fan of Labor in Victoria, Victoria has taken steps to position itself comparative to Queensland for when the doors reopen. One step was to put together a detailed proposal for a quarantine hub, one that addressed the issues that satisfied the federal government's requirements to keep us safe and other logistical issues. In contrast, despite repeated requests for the same detail, the Queensland government was unable to do so and has therefore failed to establish a plan for a hub. States like Victoria will be prepared and able to take international students once they are vaccinated and through the quarantine hubs, which will give Victoria an advantage over Queensland education operators, all while the Queensland government dithers. This multibillion dollar industry will go south unless corrective action is taken. I call on the Palaszczuk government to do better and to do more in this preparation.

The budget does have a little good news for the Redlands Coast. The Redland Hospital upgrade may finally be happening, though the ICU may still be some years off. There is no evidence, sadly, of an increase in palliative care funding, though I still hope to hear further about that, nor a plan to end the ambulance ramping in this upgrade. In terms of marine infrastructure, I have mentioned the Harold Walker Jetty is to be restored. The budget papers also reveal in terms of Wellington Point High something I have been calling out for for some time, which is an upgrade to the deteriorating hall. The government finally appears to have agreed to that by providing \$800,000. I am assuming that it is to that particular building though it is not clear yet. It is not enough. It will help. We need to see more detail.

The situation in relation to the Mount Cotton fire station is an absolute farce. Before the election the member for Springwood, Minister de Brenni, promised a new fire station in Mount Cotton. He named the road it would be on in Mount Cotton. The budget papers reveal it is going somewhere else, not to Mount Cotton in the Redlands—another broken election promise.

This budget was a missed opportunity for many projects and services that I will keep fighting for such as the Wellington Point breakwater project, facilities and air conditioning for all of the schools in the Oodgeroo electorate—which is a program that is going along but going along very slowly in my electorate for some reason, slower than it is in the electorates of the three Labor members in the Redlands; I will let people come to their own conclusions on that—police resources for community safety, and sustainable fishing, including artificial reefs. I have regularly mentioned koala protection

measures, water quality in terms of run-off into Southern Moreton Bay, turtle, dugong and other marine and fisheries research and more targeted funding to North Stradbroke Island with the economic transition coming close to an end.

In terms of jobs and businesses, small businesses and tourism operators are doing it tough in the Redlands. Tourism has been hammered. The government must work more effectively with the chambers of commerce and all businesses so that all can prosper on North Stradbroke Island and the Redlands Coast. I have spoken about it several times and I will continue to call for the funding to be returned to the North Stradbroke Island Chamber of Commerce that was cut so that they can continue to support and help grow the businesses that Labor has deserted.

In terms of transport and roads infrastructure, major state arterial roads in the Redlands Coast are choked and clogged with traffic. State Redlands roads have fallen into disrepair over decades. They need hundreds of millions of dollars to catch up. The state government is conducting very little roadwork on major arterial roads. It is disappointing that the government is working at a snail's pace on the upgrade of the Cleveland-Redland Bay Road. It is the only major upgrade of road that we can see in the budget at this point, with only \$14.6 million allocated in this budget out of \$110 million promised. We need to move at a faster pace than that. The Thornlands section has been cut from this project meaning it is only a partial duplication, not the full duplication. One other section of road where our pressure did provide a result was the Gateway Motorway onramp upgrade at Old Cleveland Road.

With respect to the Cleveland line duplication from Manly to Cleveland, I have raised this infrastructure project many times and I continue to call on the government to provide it. It has been promised before by Labor governments and was costed at approximately \$170 million. It was cancelled by Labor. It will now cost approximately \$300 million or even more. For the Redlands Coast to participate in the Olympics via sporting venues, this needs to be built and work started sooner rather than later. For Cross River Rail to be of any value to Redlands Coast commuters, the Cleveland line duplication is critical and should have been built concurrently with Cross River Rail or even before.

While speaking of Cross River Rail, I again repeat what transport experts say: that the government's promise of a 14-minute time saving on the Cleveland line is contingent upon the line duplication occurring when Cross River Rail opens. As I mentioned in my address-in-reply speech, the member for Capalaba promised at an election that when Cross River Rail is built it will save 14 minutes on the train commute to the city. Labor has not since repeated that election promise, certainly not recently, and locals are wondering if it is still an active promise or is it a broken promise. I call on Labor to tell us which one it is at the next opportunity.

I was glad to hear the member for Capalaba finally join my call for the Eastern Busway to be built in time for the Olympics. In the lead-up to the budget Labor members suddenly rediscovered the Eastern Busway in their language and locals read that as a possible budget announcement. Hopefully this Donny-come-lately attitude actually has some substance behind it and is not just Labor words. In terms of the Olympics, the budget has proved a missed opportunity for Labor to show us the money: to provide proof that they are going to be inclusive of the Redlands Coast in the Olympics infrastructure commitments; the evidence of funding, even planning, design, refreshed business case funding et cetera, even in the forwards and beyond, for the Eastern Busway, the Cleveland line and state arterial road duplications in support of the Olympics in the future so that the Redlands can provide sporting venues and to alleviate the current congestion as soon as possible.


With this budget opportunity now gone, in question time this morning I called on the Premier to at least confirm that these key public transport infrastructure items are included in the Olympic bid proposal to put it beyond doubt and to provide us with costings and construction time lines on these projects so that we know the Redlands Coast has been included and that everyone from the Redlands Coast, the city council, the businesses, families, commuters and others can start planning around these developments and pipelines of work. Sadly, today the Premier refused to confirm the situation. Locals are watching with a heightened expectation of Labor delivering and I am sure if this state government lets them down they will send them a clear message at the 2022 federal election and the 2024 state election.

Recently in this House I spoke on a motion about various aspects of health. I encourage people to read that so that I am not repeating myself. Redlands is part of the health crisis. As I said, I do not want to repeat everything I have said in previous speeches, but Labor is losing control of health in Queensland—in the Redlands—whether it is emergency department times, whether it is elective surgery, dental surgery, mental health incidents, ambulance ramping or palliative care provision. Sadly, every metric is blowing out at Redland Hospital. Ambulance ramping at Redland Hospital has become

as high as 51 per cent, which is as bad as it has ever been in our area to my understanding. There are long waits to get a car park, which will be paid parking at best. The government needs to confirm what that fee will be and whether the current free parking will be continued or some of that taken out.

Under this Premier, like under Anna Bligh, Queensland Health is a basket case and getting worse. That is despite the hard work of our overstretched doctors, nurses and allied health professionals. The government claims a record health budget will fix it, but we have heard the same thing year upon year. It is not only about money, but our frontline services having access to the specific resources they need and Queenslanders having access to a world-class health system.

If the government wanted to do something about bed blockage it could expand the Redland Residential Care centre, a state facility on the Redland Hospital precinct. That would be a great help. The government could expand palliative care as well. In terms of this state budget, it is a typical Labor budget that does little to get Queensland through the difficult times that we are in. It is full of broken promises to the Redlands. It provides little relief for Redlanders and does not deliver our fair share of infrastructure and services. Redlanders can only hope that the desire to hold a successful Olympics will force the government to act on big ticket infrastructure items.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (12.49 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Appropriation Bill 2021 and start by congratulating the Treasurer and his team. There is a lot to celebrate in this budget. It is a traditional Labor budget with record spends and investment in health, education, infrastructure, jobs and renewables. This budget is about maintaining a strong Public Service and a traditional workforce while creating policy settings and investing in emerging industries. As we have already heard from the Treasurer, Queensland is in an enviable fiscal position and leads the nation across a number of indexes. This year, Queensland's economy will grow by 3¼ per cent, which is more than double the national growth and 13 times faster than predicted. It is predicted that over the next four years 200,000 jobs will be created. Over the same period unemployment is projected to be down by five per cent.

I am not sure about other members in this place, but as the Treasurer was speaking earlier this week I felt a real sense of pride for being part of a Palaszczuk Labor government that is delivering such an outstanding budget. I am also really proud of the people of Queensland because without their respect for what is going on globally and certainly locally we would not be in a position to deliver a budget such as this. I was overwhelmed by that feeling as well as a real sense of hope for our future and the direction of this state.

I know this is my first budget proper and I might need some expectation management, but I was a little disappointed to see some of the strategies used by those opposite to destroy confidence in the government. Obviously, the LNP has taken a look at the budget and, frustrated with how fantastic it is, thought, 'How are we possibly going to destroy confidence in this budget? I know! We will come up with a one-liner. Let's go with "don't trust Labor". Well, we can't do "don't trust Labor" because we have done that before and unfortunately it didn't work at the polls. They were returned with an even stronger majority so we won't do that. Let's go with "smoke and mirrors" and perhaps that will help to dampen the enthusiasm of people.'

They also realised that they probably needed some kind of gimmick to distract people. They asked, 'Where would we get some kind of gimmick from? I don't know. We're all pretty sensible people in here, but don't fear: we've got the member for Kawana who has something special just for this occasion.' It was some kind of chook-affle swinging-game thing. I have never seen anything like it outside of a bingo hall. I do not know where it came from—presumably the back seat of his car. He was waiting for the perfect occasion on which to use it and to also use some of his scrapbooking techniques. Members opposite have hopped on social media—those who know how to use it. I have looked at photos of members of parliament—desks stacked high with budget papers—looking forlorn or confused about what is going on in this budget.

Unfortunately for them and despite their best attempts, none of that has worked. As we have heard from the Premier and the Deputy Premier this morning, there has been broad support for the budget from QCOSS, Micah, AgForce and the list goes on. I have spoken on the phone with people in my electorate and I can tell the House that they are excited about what the budget offers not only to them locally and across the Brisbane city area but also across the entire state.

Not willing to give up easily, the LNP obviously got on the phone and called up their friends in the Greens political party. I have taken a look at posts from those opposite. I thought the member for Maiwar did a reasonable job of trying to unpack the budget and what it means for his electorate. Not all of us get everything that we wanted and I thought he did a reasonable job of particularising that.

However, I was disappointed to see that unfortunately the member for South Brisbane had drunk the Kool Aid and was picking up the LNP's smoke-and-mirrors message. Initially she was happy with the budget, but unfortunately she changed tack and went with smoke and mirrors.

That really should not surprise us because the Greens political party would know all about smoke and mirrors. After all, they are the party that went to the election with the mantra that they do not accept corporate donations; however, only a few years ago accepted the largest single political donation made by a corporation in Australia at that time—but let's not tell the voters about that! The entire campaign strategy of the Greens political party is one of smoke and mirrors. They are right: it is politics done differently; it is done with less transparency, less accountability and less integrity. However, I digress.

As I was saying, there is a lot to celebrate in this budget, including a \$50 billion infrastructure guarantee to ensure that vital infrastructure and job-creating projects will go ahead. We are giving permanency to Skilling Queenslanders for Work and Back to Work programs to help address the current labour shortages that I know are being faced right throughout the state, including in my electorate of Cooper. There is \$2 billion for commercial renewable energy and hydrogen projects to help provide cheaper, cleaner and reliable energy to Queenslanders while driving down carbon emissions.

We have some of the strongest environmental protections in the nation, including a \$500 million carbon reduction investment fund. The proceeds of that fund will provide certainty for land restoration projects now and into the future. There is \$270 million over five years to maintain the Queensland Reef Water Quality Program. Last week I had the benefit of hearing from the WWF about some of the impacts that they are seeing that program deliver, particularly with local farmers changing some of their practices so that they are able to diversify and compete locally and globally. We are cleaning up water. We are cleaning up habitats. We are restoring ecosystems. It is a fantastic program.

We are continuing to set aside funding for the management of native title compensation claims in Queensland, which is an essential measure as we move towards truth telling.

We will continue to support people with disability in Queensland with \$22.7 million to support peak and advocacy services in the disability sector, which we know is vital. I have met with a number of advocates in the disability sector and I know they rely on that funding.

There is a near-record investment of \$6.1 billion in discounts, rebates, subsidies and concessions. This is about putting money back into people's hip pockets.

There is a continued focus on women's issues and safety, including \$155 million to tackle domestic and family violence and the continuation of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce.

I am particularly thrilled about our announcement to establish the \$300 million Path to Treaty Fund. I particularly acknowledge the work of the Treaty Advancement Committee: Dr Jackie Huggins, who calls my electorate of Cooper her home, Mick Gooda, Michael Lavarch and Sallyanne Atkinson. After the Treasurer's announcement I was able to spend a few moments with the minister and Jackie. She had tears in her eyes and said that she had not expected that. I think all of us on this side are really thrilled with what that announcement has brought.

People in Cooper will benefit from a number of city-wide projects. Cross River Rail is a \$6.8 billion project that is fully funded by the state government. It will transform how we move around Brisbane. The \$2 billion Hospital Building Fund will provide for an additional 174 beds in South-East Queensland and deliver satellite hospitals in Bribie, Caboolture, Brisbane South, Pine Rivers, Ipswich and the Redlands. For us, that will take the pressure off the RBWH. The \$2.6 billion Building Future Schools Program will deliver a further 10 schools, again easing the pressures on our inner-city schools. There is a \$2.9 billion total housing investment, which is the largest concentrated investment in social housing in Queensland's history. That is something that people speak to me about and we are all very passionate about making sure that we are getting vulnerable people into Queensland homes sooner.

We are continuing our investment in the arts. We are delivering a new \$175 million state-of-the-art theatre to be collocated with QPAC and we are contributing a further \$7 million to extend our support for live music venues. In my electorate a number of venues have benefitted from that. I know how vital that is, particularly for the inner-city suburbs. There is continued investment in stadiums, including the Ballymore precinct, which will undergo a major redevelopment transforming it into a home for the National Rugby Training Centre, women's rugby, the Pacific Pathways program, the Queensland Reds and Queensland Rugby Union. It is easy to imagine that a 10-year-old from my electorate who is now playing in GPS Rugby, having benefitted from this budget, could go on to represent Australia at the 2032 Olympics. This is such a phenomenal time to be a Queenslanders.

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 in the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

Speaker additionally, funding for the following electorate-specific projects are guaranteed in the 2021-22 budget:

- \$7.5m investment in local Cooper schools, including
 - The Gap State High school—additional classrooms \$6m for classroom, sports and tuckshop upgrade
 - Milton State School—\$747,000 for additional classrooms
 - Upgrade to Block 1 and Prep Classrooms for Hilder Road State School
 - Ithaca Creek State School—\$221,000
- Funding to finalise the GPS Rugby and Valley's Cricket facilities upgrade and nets
- \$420,000 contribution to replace the Gresham Street bridge
- Ashgrove Advance Queensland of \$78,000
- Support for local arts sector, including \$35,000 for Blue Roo Theatre and \$62,500 for Toplogy
- \$278,871 for Bardon Community Services Grant
- Bardon Meals on Wheels \$5,289
- Home Assist Secure Ashgrove \$291,000

Overall, this budget is about delivering productivity enhancing economic and social infrastructure, supporting economic recovery and unlocking the productive capacity that will drive sustainable growth, increased employment and quality of life for all Queenslanders.

I commend this bill to the house.

Sitting suspended from 12.59 pm to 2.00 pm.



Hon. CD CRAWFORD (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.00 pm): The 2021-22 state budget delivers a solid plan to protect our health, create jobs and work together as Queenslanders to recover from the economic impact of COVID-19. We have seen Queensland recover economically faster than other states and countries around the world. This has only been possible due to the Palaszczuk government's sensible and staged approach to mitigating the pandemic's impact on Queenslanders and the efforts made by Queenslanders to contain the virus by following the health advice and supporting each other through the pandemic. I particularly want to acknowledge the efforts of local government mayors who worked with us to ensure that there was not one single case of COVID-19 in a remote or discrete Indigenous community in Queensland.

This budget outlines the continued steps that the Palaszczuk government is taking to build on that recovery effort. This state budget demonstrates the Palaszczuk government's commitment to continue supporting and safeguarding Queensland communities. It supports the delivery of the promises we made to the people of Queensland at the last election, especially our most vulnerable—our seniors, our Queenslanders with disability and our First Nations Queenslanders. Through this state budget, we are providing funding that will enable Queenslanders, regardless of their ability, age or where they live, to participate and be included in their communities, to be resilient and to enjoy social wellbeing and economic security.

The COVID pandemic has seen our state having to implement a savings and debt plan. Fortunately my department will achieve its savings targets without affecting frontline services for our seniors, people with disability or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Queensland seniors have repeatedly acknowledged the efforts of the Palaszczuk government to keep them safe during the height of the COVID pandemic. Ensuring Queensland seniors can live their lives free from physical, emotional and financial abuse and scams is a top priority for this government, unlike those opposite who had no minister for seniors, who slashed the Office of Seniors' budget by 63 per cent, who planned to scrap pensioner concessions leaving seniors on a fixed income looking at significantly reduced quality of life just to pay their bills, and had no policy plans to make Queensland seniors' lives better or recognise the contribution they make to our state and communities.

The Palaszczuk government is continuing to provide \$423 million in seniors' concessions and rebates to more than 839,000 Seniors Card holders. This supports our seniors to access medical aid, to pay their power bills, car registration or to access public transport, and access museums and galleries, also helping to reduce the effects of social isolation.

We know that older people are vulnerable to exploitation and abuse as a result of aging and fear of homelessness and social isolation. Elder abuse is an abhorrent act which causes harm to an older person and, sadly, is most often perpetrated by a family member or friend.

Earlier this week on 15 June, we launched our Elder Abuse Awareness Campaign to mark the anniversary of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. The theme for this year's campaign is 'Together we can stop elder abuse'. The Palaszczuk government is committed to doing our bit to stop elder abuse and to raising awareness of this issue in our communities. This is why we are investing \$4.8 million over four years and \$1.2 million per year ongoing for seniors' legal and support services, financial protection advice and a scams and fraud protection helpline for our seniors.

In 2012, we saw the LNP cut \$642 million from disability services and \$368 million from NGOs providing disability supports. The Palaszczuk government is committed to supporting the almost 96,000 Queenslanders with disability.

The state's role in disability service has changed significantly since the transition to the NDIS full scheme agreement in October last year. That is why we are providing funding of \$14.6 million over four years and \$3.6 million ongoing to support peak and representative bodies to build the capacity of the disability and community care sector to deliver viable, cost-effective and quality services.

We are working proactively with the Commonwealth through Minister Reynolds and all jurisdictions to ensure that the Queensland government investment of more than \$2 billion annually is delivering the reasonable and necessary supports that Queenslanders living with disability require. We are also continuing to invest in positive behavioural support for Queenslanders with disability by providing funding of \$6.6 million over two years from 2021-22.

There are some Queenslanders with disability who are not eligible for the NDIS. Funds of \$7.3 million over four years and \$1.8 million ongoing will provide support for disability services clients who are ineligible for services under the NDIS, as well as funding of \$5.1 million over four years and \$1.3 million ongoing to advance disability services functions. We recognise the importance of advocacy to ensure Queenslanders with disability have access to the supports they need, whether or not they are eligible to access the NDIS.

This year's state budget will boost disability advocacy services to assist Queenslanders with disabilities to access mainstream services, safeguard wellbeing and to assist with NDIS related issues, thanks to additional funding of \$8.1 million over two years, commencing in 2021-22. This funding will assist people like Elliott, a 10-year-old with multiple cognitive impairments and living in a regional community who had previously attempted to access the NDIS. However, he was not able to source the necessary clinical assessments to provide the evidence to meet the NDIS access requirements. Thanks to those who advocated for Elliott, his application is now approved, assisting him and his family to connect with local support services for the very first time.

The Palaszczuk government recognises the importance of Queensland's rich Indigenous culture. That is why we are investing in the health and wellbeing of the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders. We understand that education is critical to securing positive futures for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people. This budget provides a funding boost of \$4 million in 2021-22 to the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation to increase educational choices for First Nations Queenslanders.

We know that overcrowded housing is a critical factor in the disadvantage experienced within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. In addition to the record \$2.9 billion investment in social housing for Queensland, the Queensland government will inject funding of \$4.5 million to address land administration requirements and land and infrastructure program planning initiatives in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. This investment will contribute to closing the gap and enable home ownership for First Nations Queenslanders in their communities. We are investing funding of \$800,000 over four years and \$200,000 ongoing to implement the Indigenous Languages Policy and Indigenous Languages Grants program supporting the preservation, revitalisation and maintenance of Indigenous languages.

I also acknowledge the contributions that are included in this year's budget from other portfolio areas delivering outcomes for First Nations Queenslanders, including those investments that support Indigenous employment and entrepreneurship, community development and access to justice. I am happy to see ongoing support for the Murri Courts and the extension of the Local Fare Scheme, both of which the LNP cut.

In our ongoing efforts to reframe the relationship with First Nations Queenslanders and promote reconciliation, we have committed \$27.6 million to managing native title compensation claims and a further \$1 million in additional funding over four years and \$300,000 ongoing for the continuation of reconciliation initiatives, including the Celebrating Reconciliation Grants Program and funding for Reconciliation Queensland Inc.

As the Premier has said, ensuring that reconciliation is more than a word, the Palaszczuk government is putting our money where our mouth is. We recognise that reconciliation must be grounded in genuine commitment and actions that facilitate truth telling and healing.

The establishment of a \$300 million Path to Treaty Fund honours those who for generations have called for treaty. It honours the knowledge, contribution and commitment of those 1,700 community members who contributed to the treaty report and recommendations. It honours the work that the Treaty Advancement Committee and Queenslanders are currently doing to progress the path to treaty. Returns will be used to support path to treaty actions and the government's response to the Treaty Advancement Committee report, expected to be provided to government later this year.

I am very happy with what this budget delivers for my electorate and for the people of Barron River. Firstly, I know that Barron River locals will be happy that we have secured \$1 million towards a much needed upgrade to the facilities at a local not-for-profit animal shelter—the Young Animal Protection Society, also known as YAPS. Some \$500,000 will flow towards that in this year's budget. The local boaties will be very happy to know that \$4.6 million has been allocated to construct the Yorkey's Knob boat ramp and floating walkways. For our Kuranda friends up the hill, I am pleased to announce \$12 million has been allocated for the Kuranda range and Kennedy Highway Intelligent Transport System, ITS, to improve safety and reduce the number of crashes on this stretch of road. Along with that, over \$1.3 million has been set aside for a study of the Barron River Bridge upgrade at Kuranda.

The Palaszczuk government continues to deliver for education, with just over \$2.5 million for ongoing works on Barron River schools, including upgrading halls at the Redlynch State College junior and senior campuses, creating a new out of school hours care facility at Machans Beach State School and new learning spaces at Freshwater State School. A further \$9.9 million will go towards construction of the 94 kilometre Wangetti Trail. This will not only increase local tourism and create jobs but also provide a huge economic benefit for First Nations people, including the Yirrganydji people, welcoming visitors onto their country and providing cultural education for future generations.

Cairns Hospital will receive a further \$46.1 million towards a new mental health unit, expansion of the emergency department and to continue with ongoing hospital improvements, including progression towards the Cairns University Hospital. The Cairns region wins from this budget with fantastic new infrastructure and capital works projects estimated to support around 3,900 jobs in this region.

Last, but certainly not least, I am extremely excited to say that this budget will provide the final \$31.3 million out of a total of \$164 million to complete the Smithfield Bypass. Some \$10 million has been allocated to continue upgrading the Cairns Western Arterial Road and \$14 million to upgrade and expand the Captain Cook Highway. I can assure the residents of my electorate that the Palaszczuk government takes improving our roads seriously. It is great to see the federal government come on board and contribute to funding for these arterials. I certainly welcome their support in helping to ease congestion in Barron River. I am pleased the Queensland government contributions are locked in over the forward estimates.

In conclusion, the Palaszczuk government is committed to creating strong, inclusive Queensland communities where everyone has an opportunity to succeed and grow. I support the budget.



Mr BERKMAN (Maiwar—Grn) (2.12 pm): I rise to make my contribution on the 2021-22 budget bills. This budget is like every other I have seen over the last few years. It includes some really welcome spending on important issues, but there is so much more that it does not do. It is the case year after year that these budgets represent a missed opportunity for Queenslanders.

This budget was an opportunity for Labor to show some courage and for bold ideas to drive our economic recovery, but they are playing it safe instead. Playing it safe might be great as an election strategy but Queenslanders deserve more than that. They deserve funding commitments that stand up to scrutiny—unlike the renewables and social housing numbers the government is touting—and they deserve a government with the courage to make big corporations pay a fair share.

The fact is that over the last financial year, the wealthiest corporations in the state only got richer. Mining corporations still exported a whopping \$45 billion worth of resources from Queensland. Despite all the talk about royalties falling, coal royalty figures are comparable to what they were as recently as 2015 or 2016. When the QRC, or whoever else it is that is writing the government's talking points for them, says those corporations cannot afford to pay a little bit more—in fact, they deserve a freeze on royalties—it is nonsense.

It is not just mining royalties. Labor's Victorian colleagues have recently introduced a developer tax, just like we have been proposing for years. That could raise billions of dollars in a budget like this. They could raise more than a billion dollars a year by imposing a modest levy on the big banks, just like their South Australian counterparts proposed. The reason this budget does not include higher mining royalties or a levy on big banks and developers is not because of COVID and it is not because these corporations cannot afford it, it is because those corporations own Labor, just like they own the LNP.

I wonder if that is also why they have to preface every commitment to renewable energy with a desperate reassurance that they still back fossil fuels. They are clearly still trying to walk that line between working with the environment sector and appeasing their big coal donors. Do not get me wrong, it is great that the government is finally putting some extra money towards renewables, but the numbers we have heard are phony. Despite all the media announcements about the \$2 billion Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund, that is just not what the budget says. Only half the much hyped \$2 billion fund is actually committed before the next election and just \$500 million of that is actually new money. The other half was already allocated under a different name. Instead of \$2 billion we are only looking at one quarter of that amount that is new and committed in this budget.

I will leave aside the fact that we need far more ambitious investment in publicly owned renewables for the moment, but if it is \$500 million of new money, why not just say that it is \$500 million of new money rather than peddling overinflated figures. I acknowledge and applaud the \$145 million of spending on renewable energy zones, including \$5 million of new money, to connect more renewables to the grid. Now, \$500 million or \$5 million, whatever it is, of new money is better than nothing, but it is completely undermined by the government's support for new coal and gas.

Last budget in 2020-21 Labor oversaw Stanwell and CS Energy spend \$312 million just on upgrades, maintenance and overhauls for the publicly owned coal-fired power stations and the publicly owned coalmines that feed them. This financial year they will spend another \$229 million keeping those power stations going. That is more than CleanCo will spend on building new renewable energy. It is also more than the \$225 million to be spent from the newish Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund.

If the government spends \$200 million, as one estimate has it, of taxpayer dollars rebuilding the exploded coal-fired power station, it would be just throwing good money after bad. We know that early closures will be necessary for the government to meet its 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030. Dividends from coal and gas based generators, Stanwell and CS Energy, are projected to decline to zero by next year's budget anyway.

Instead of patching up the out-of-date technology at Callide, we have proposed spending \$150 million building a big battery to replace the C4 turbine and using the remaining \$50 million to help those workers whose jobs would be affected. They should have the option of a job in another coal-fired power station while they are open, redevelopment elsewhere in the state government, retraining or early retirement for old workers as we have seen happen overseas.

Coal workers and communities have helped build this state so they deserve a fair go and they deserve a predictable, just transition into the future. Ultimately, without a plan to phase out coal and gas by 2030, including closing our coal-fired power stations and retraining or redeploying workers in the resources industry, Queensland will fall behind both economically and on our inadequate climate targets.

We also know we are falling behind on the nationally agreed 17 per cent protected areas target for the state. Far from investing to help grow our national parks, in this budget the capital purchases from the Department of Environment and Science will actually decline by more than a third from \$98.6 million to \$61.1 million in 2021-22. Of that spend, the amount going to acquire new protected areas and Great Barrier Reef island national parks will drop by nearly half from \$9.6 million to \$5.3 million.

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Gerber): Pause the clock. The cross-chamber chatter will cease.

Mr BERKMAN: That is despite the government going to the last election boasting about their 10-year plan to accelerate the growth of protected areas. For a bit of context, that spending on new national parks is less than 10 per cent of the money that the government is spending over the next two years on making big Hollywood movies in Queensland.

On social housing, I welcome the rhetorical commitment from the government after many years of urging by the Greens and the housing sector. It is great that the government has admitted that their Housing Strategy from 2017 was not enough. Accepting the truth is the first step in lots of very good programs. We welcome that.

It does not take a bleeding heart lefty like me to figure that out when there are 47,000 people on the waiting list, with more than 14,000 people in the very high need category as at June 2020. Just like the renewables numbers, when it comes to the government's housing commitments, the devil is in the detail. Even if we believe that the government can deliver the 6,300 social homes they are promising, we know that will not come close to meeting the full extent of the need.

Perhaps even more than social housing what is important to this government is that they build enough prisons to maintain their tough-on-crime image that they are cultivating for the Far Right. The Parole Board is completely overloaded. Instead of wondering how we can prevent so many people going to prison in the first place, they are going to fork out \$654 million for a new one and—this is particularly bleak—spend \$8 million to put bunk beds in existing cells. When children as young as 11 years old are sleeping in adult watch houses because detention centres are overcrowded, instead of raising the age of criminal responsibility or reducing the number of kids held on remand, they slap GPS trackers on some of them and throw others in a new short-term remand centre.

One thing I am pleased to see in the budget is funding for a new residential drug and alcohol treatment program for young people. I would like to hear more about this—about who will be eligible, how it will be reviewed and whether there are plans to expand this initiative. This is the crucial other side of the youth justice coin, but \$7.7 million for just 10 beds falls so far short of what is needed.

Around 76 per cent of children subject to supervised orders are dealing with substance misuse issues. Illicit drug offences account for 11 per cent of all offences committed by children. It is heartbreaking and confounding that we still criminalise children, or anyone for that matter, for a health issue like drug abuse. If we decriminalise drugs, we would have about 1,500 fewer people in Queensland's prisons right now. Perhaps we could spend that \$624 million I mentioned before on more alcohol and other drug treatments instead of a new prison. In fact, I wish we were spending the \$3 million that is going to new GPS trackers or the \$16.3 million this year for a new youth prison on more programs like this—programs that deal with the root causes of offending, not band-aids for a gaping wound at the end of the day.

If the government want to push this as a 'traditional Labor budget', I assume they will stand by all of their choices including the choice to leave Queensland state schools underfunded, at just 88 per cent of their needs based funding. We are still the third worst state or territory in the country, and the government does not have a plan to get us to 100 per cent. They have again ignored the calls from the Queensland Teachers' Union to fully fund state schools. Fully funding public schools means smaller class sizes, more teachers and teacher aides. It should also mean free school breakfasts and lunches and abolishing fees for public schools. I would love to see kids at Toowong, Indooroopilly, Ironside, Milton, Fig Tree Pocket, Bardon and Rainworth rolling in before school for a free breakfast and taking the stress out of school lunches for parents all over Queensland.

I would love to see school students using public transport for free. This budget leaves me once again wondering why this has not already been done. The government spent more than \$1.7 billion on public transport in South-East Queensland over the last financial year but collected only \$221 million in fares. That is not even 12 per cent of the total cost of these services—12 per cent of the total cost of public transport services. The big spending on Cross River Rail is great, but we will never get the most out of our public transport systems without it making it more affordable, or even free.

I will turn to some local budget allocations particularly in relation to local schools and transport spending in Maiwar.

Ms Grace: Free food, free housing, free environment, free education, free transport—everything is free! Free, free, free!

Mr BERKMAN: It is treated like a joke that a government could actually choose to prioritise the things that people need to make their lives better in Queensland. It is just insane.

The budget of course includes the previously allocated funding for the proposed new school in Maiwar which has become probably the biggest local issue in my electorate at the moment. It is clear to pretty much everyone that we desperately need this school to take pressure off the local primary schools, particularly Indooroopilly, Ironside and Toowong state schools.

It is equally clear that the decision a couple of decades ago to sell off land that was once the Taringa State School was an incredibly short-sighted decision. Yes, that school shrunk pretty dramatically through the nineties, and anyone who remembers that site in between Moggill Road and Morrow Street, would agree that it is not exactly an ideal location for a primary school, but the failure to plan ahead and acquire land for an alternative site is coming back to bite the department now.

I will put on record again my view that the government should stump up and buy land for the school site or at the very least offset any impacts on greenspace at the site they ultimately choose. I know this is a view shared by most in my community, and I wrote to the Treasurer asking for funds for this purpose. The same increase in population that is driving the need for a new school means our existing schools and greenspaces are all the more precious. It makes no sense to continue to carve them up in the search for a new school site. The pool of funds for land acquisition looks to have dropped to \$120 million in this budget—down from the \$146 million allocated in the last budget.

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Gerber): Pause the clock. Order, members! Comments will be put through the chair. I will tolerate a level of interjection so long as I can still hear the member on his feet.

Mr BERKMAN: As I was saying, the pool of funds for land acquisition has dropped by some \$26 million in this budget, but I would urge the government to keep up the search for land to locate the school and, again, at least offset any impacts on the ultimately selected site.

I am sure I am not alone in the view that a riverside park at the old ABC site would make a fine substitute for any parkland impacted near Toowong. The \$65 million allocated for the new school looks to me to have shrunk to more like \$61 million in the line item I found. That said, the minister's very helpful spreadsheet for all the school spending in Maiwar still says \$65 million, so I am sure I will hear an explanation for that sometime soon.

I am absolutely chuffed to see \$4 million allocated for upgrades to the administration facilities at Indooroopilly State School over the next year—a development that I am sure principal Deb Spanner and the rest of the admin team will be very grateful for. Funding is ongoing for upgrades at Indooroopilly State School and Ironside State School out-of-school-hours care facilities.

The final funding is delivered this year for new classrooms that are well on the way at Milton and Toowong state schools. I cannot wait to see the finished product at both of these schools. Scaffolding was off the buildings at Milton the other day. I am sure that Paul Zernike and Brendon Madden, the principals there, cannot wait to get kids and teachers into those classrooms and perhaps even more so to clear out the construction sites on their school campuses. All this growth in local schools is a consequence of the significant growth in Maiwar and points to the very real need for major investment in better public and active transport infrastructure.

There is ongoing funding for accessibility upgrades at the Auchenflower train station, with \$12 million to be spent this financial year. Unfortunately, there is still no commitment or funding to upgrade Taringa station, but I will keep making the case. Given just how well used that station is and how rundown the facilities have become and how completely inaccessible it is—there are massive long stairwells to get to any of the platforms—we have to see funding for an upgrade in the near future.


There are significant allocations again for the Centenary Bridge upgrade. Unfortunately, the government's inexplicable decision to rule out bus lanes on this bridge means it will not significantly cut congestion or make public transport better in the long term.

I was really glad to see state funding to design a shared cycle and pedestrian path to link the Centenary Cycleway and the new Indooroopilly Riverwalk. Now that the riverwalk is finalised, this missing link is all the more important.

There is a \$500,000 funding allocation to design the Indooroopilly Shopping Centre bus station upgrade, with \$150,000 of that allocated this year which is great to see.

There was unfortunately no funding for the Indooroopilly Bikeway stages 3 and 4 along Lambert Road. Anyone who has tried driving around that neighbourhood at school drop-off and pick-up times knows how desperately we need those bike lanes, especially in light of that area being the location for the new school.

I am yet to see any funding allocated for safety and pedestrian upgrades to MetRoad 5 or the Bardon roundabout, despite the fact that this is one of the biggest issues for people in my electorate. I look forward to discussing that with the department in coming weeks.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (2.27 pm): Madam Deputy Speaker, it is budget week and I will give you one guess what I want to talk about first. Of course it is the Jindalee Bridge on the Centenary Motorway. After announcing the project with the Premier and my good friend Milton Dick, the member for Oxley, last year, it was great to get an update on the project recently from Transport and Main Roads engineers. This project will cost over \$244 million in total. It is a fifty-fifty state and federal project. Of that total funding envelope, over \$20 million has already been spent by the Palaszczuk government on the business case and the detailed design work. The \$112 million of funding coming from the state government will be forthcoming over the coming years and construction is due to start next year. My community cannot wait! I know that the suburbs all the way through to Ipswich are equally excited about this project.


As I have said before, the western suburbs, in addition to being a wonderful place to live, are also an employment hub—from advanced manufacturing, innovation and light industry through to food like Bhuja snacks. That is right—those fantastic Bhuja snacks are manufactured in the electorate of Mount Ommaney. I know members would be familiar with them because you can buy them in most major retail stores. There are so many great jobs in Mount Ommaney. It is no wonder our motorway needs upgrading. Many of the jobs in private industry are also due to the fact that these companies are sometimes Queensland government suppliers. In fact, over 90 per cent of product for Transport and Main Roads projects, like the Centenary Motorway, in Queensland are manufactured in Queensland, keeping locals in my electorate in jobs.

I previously mentioned the Spacer Company, a local company in my electorate that supplies many Transport and Main Roads projects right throughout Queensland with little devices called spacers. The Spacer Company is just one of the many Mount Ommaney businesses that benefits from our Buy Queensland policy, of which I am an unashamed promoter and supporter. I understand that every year the Queensland government spends well in excess of \$100 million on procurement in the electorate of Mount Ommaney. That is an awful lot of spacers.

Buy Queensland is the Palaszczuk government's commitment to put Queenslanders, Queensland workers and Queensland businesses first—businesses like Photograde, which has had a Queensland Mines Inspectorate contract for over 10 years. Through the QTenders portal, any Queensland business can, and should, sign up to supply the Queensland government with their products. The Queensland government is the largest procurement agency in Queensland. Wherever possible, our dollars should be spent with Queensland businesses. This policy creates jobs. It means Queensland businesses need to put on more staff, helping the Queensland economy build back better after COVID-19. Yesterday we got the truly wonderful news that the Queensland unemployment rate has dropped to 5.4 per cent—way ahead of where we had hoped to be at this time. This is against the backdrop of a global pandemic and an increased participation rate. The Palaszczuk government is also helping businesses grow with grants like the Ignite Ideas Fund, Made in Queensland and our fabulous Buy Queensland Procurement Policy.

I will conclude my contribution today by reflecting on the \$200,000 in funding that was allocated to Kuraby State School. As members would be aware, this is not in my electorate; it is in fact in the electorate of Stretton, represented until last week by my very good mate, Duncan Pegg. I visited this particular school with Duncan when he was newly elected and I was his assistant electorate officer. Duncan loved visiting schools. On this day we visited the school assembly and he handed out certificates to the kids. He was really proud to do so, and he was so proud of their pride in their fantastic state education. He was proud because their efforts showed how proud these kids were of their school. I know that Duncan cared so deeply about his community and worked so hard every single day to get what was best for his community. He never stopped.

I know that towards the end he thought about who the best person would be to continue this hard work in Stretton. I know that he believed his great mate, James Martin, would do a wonderful job in hitting the ground running because he has been working in the Stretton community for years. I want to say congratulations and well done to Duncan for securing that funding. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (2.32 pm): I rise today to give my support to the 2021-22 Queensland budget. I want to thank the Premier and the Treasurer for their hard work in delivering this budget and putting Queensland on the road to recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic. The Palaszczuk government works hard every day to invest in projects that deliver jobs for every community across Queensland. The 2021-22 budget builds on our strong economic plan to invest in increased services, more infrastructure and more jobs for Queenslanders. It is a budget that is meeting the demands of a changing economic environment. It invests in our people with record health and education spending and a massive boost to infrastructure and vital frontline services.

Ipswich is looking to move on from COVID-19, and there are optimistic signs that we are getting back to normal. Last month we saw thousands of visitors flock to Ipswich for the Ipswich Show and the Gathering Celtic Festival. Just last week thousands of visitors came to Ipswich to attend the Winternationals at Willowbank Raceway, and this weekend thousands more will turn up for the annual Ipswich Cup race. These events, which were all cancelled last year, show that Ipswich is a resilient community that can take a few knocks and quickly get back on track. On top of the enormous challenges we faced over the past year and a half we have also had to deal with rapid population growth in our region, with around 10,200 people moving to the Ipswich local government area in the period from July 2019 to December 2020. The challenge in the immediate future is facing this rapid growth head-on by investing in infrastructure and services that will drive local economic growth and job creation.

One of the biggest areas of investment will be in health, with the Queensland government committing \$22.2 billion statewide for our hospitals and health services. In Ipswich, our health system is not only facing enormous challenges brought on by the rapid population growth but also an ageing population which has increasingly complex health needs. That is why I was so pleased to hear the Treasurer announce that in this budget a \$2 billion Hospital Building Fund for Queensland will be established to help address growth pressures across our health system.

In Ipswich, health infrastructure spending is already well underway with stage 1 of the \$166.9 million expansion and upgrade of the Ipswich Hospital. This budget will deliver a massive \$101.6 million to continue this upgrade, which includes construction of the new acute mental health facility as well as the new 26-bed hospital ward which is due to open in September. I also want to assure Ipswich that our government is responding to growing demands on our local emergency services, with the announcement made late last year that we will invest \$11 million to expand the Ipswich Hospital emergency department.

In this budget I am pleased to see an investment in health infrastructure for the Ripley Valley PDA with \$5 million being delivered to kickstart the new \$40 million satellite hospital which, I am pleased to announce, will be built in Ripley. This satellite hospital, along with the new public hospital to be built at Springfield, will alleviate growth pressures on the Ipswich Hospital. In previous speeches in parliament I have spoken about the record growth we are seeing in the Ripley Valley and the need to invest in public services and infrastructure in this area. Building the new satellite hospital in Ripley will ensure that people living in this major growth suburb will be able to access quality health care close to home. The construction of the satellite hospital will also support 166 full-time jobs.

In this budget I am pleased to see an investment of \$2.5 million towards the construction of the new \$5 million Ripley ambulance station, which will operate 24/7 and improve ambulance response times in Ipswich.

These investments in health care are what Labor governments do best because we understand that protecting the health of Queenslanders, no matter where they live, underpins a successful economy. We saw that with our government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We understood that protecting the Queensland population from COVID-19 meant a faster return to normal and a faster economic recovery. It also means more jobs and improved frontline services for Ipswich. Our track record speaks for itself. Since 2015 the Palaszczuk government has delivered an extra 596 nurses.

This budget's record \$2.9 billion investment in social housing and homelessness in Queensland will ensure affordable housing is accessible for all Queenslanders. I am pleased to see that \$1.9 billion of that investment will be spent on building more social housing and building the capacity of our homelessness support services across Queensland. I was really pleased to have the Minister for Housing visit my electorate recently and open the social housing units that were completed at the end of last year. We have named that building after a really important figure in our community: Aunty Jill Davidson. It was a fabulous event that was enjoyed by all. This is the kind of thing that Labor governments do, and I am really proud to have that in my electorate.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the Speaker has reviewed and approved my budget speech for incorporation, and as such I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated.

The speech read as follows—

Communities

Speaker, at our core, Labor Governments understand that building housing and infrastructure also builds communities.

In our new residential suburbs, it's even more important to build infrastructure that brings communities together.

As I mentioned earlier in my speech, one of the fastest growing suburbs in Ipswich, Ripley, will be the site of a new Satellite Hospital and a new Ambulance Station.

But it will also be the site of a new \$25 million Police Station, and in this budget we will be investing \$500,000 to kickstart the planning of that facility.

Further, I welcome the \$1.27 million delivered in this budget to kickstart the building of the new \$4.1 million Ripley Neighbourhood Centre.

In our new suburbs, it's so important to have public, non-commercial spaces that give people a sense of belonging.

I can't wait to see the new Ripley Neighbourhood Centre open in a few years' time, and I know Ripley residents will also be excited to hear of this great budget announcement.

Our public libraries are also another great community builder, and I welcome the \$948,000 allocated in this budget to supply resources to the Ipswich Library network, and another \$171,000 in First Five Forever Grants to help the Ipswich Library supply resources and materials that will support young readers in Ipswich.

Education

Speaker, Labor Governments understand that a good quality education is the best foundation for a thriving economy and helps children from all walks of life achieve their dreams and ambitions.

Across Ipswich, families are putting their trust in public education to ensure their children get the best start in life.

This budget's \$18.3 billion record investment in education will ensure all Queensland kids can access quality learning and educational experiences that prepare them for the future.

Included in that record investment is \$6.2 million allocated for state primary and secondary schools in the Ipswich electorate including \$3.2 million for Claremont Special School to build additional classrooms, and \$700,000 for Churchill State School so that they can build an outdoor learning area, refurbish amenities, and reconfigure learning spaces.

Ipswich East State School will receive \$350,000 to make their learning areas accessible for all students, and Bremer State High School will receive \$65,000 to build an outdoor learning and play space.

Silkstone State School will also receive \$19,000 to expand capacity at their Outside School Hours Care facility.

Across the Ipswich electorate, Ipswich primary and secondary schools will share in \$1 million to help deliver maintenance and minor works.

Here in Ipswich, we have some of the oldest schools in the state. Our oldest schools come with unique challenges, and this funding will help these schools adapt to the demands of a 21st Century learning environment.

To add to the growing number of new schools across Queensland, the Queensland Government has announced in this budget an additional 10 new schools to be delivered in 2023-24 including a new primary school in Ripley opening in 2023.

This is great news for Ipswich, and will help alleviate some of the enrolment pressures placed on our older schools. It's also great news for young families in Ripley who will be able to send their kids to a school closer to home.

Employment, Skills and Training

Speaker, education is not the only building block of a strong economy. To really drive our economic recovery, we need to invest in skills and training.

When Labor came into government in 2015, we were picking up the pieces of a Newman LNP government that decimated our public services, sold off our assets, and sacked 14,000 workers.

They also got rid of the incredibly successful Skilling Queenslanders for Work program which was helping disadvantaged jobseekers with training and employment.

The Palaszczuk Government re-instated Skilling Queenslanders for Work in 2015, and since then, it has successfully helped 36,000 Queenslanders into jobs, including thousands of Ipswich jobseekers who have participated in the program.

In this budget we are investing \$320 million into Skilling Queenslanders for Work, with \$7.32 million of that funding allocated for the Ipswich local government area to assist up to 1,374 people get job ready skills to secure employment.

I'm also pleased to see in this budget \$140 million for the successful Back to Work program which has helped 25,000 unemployed Queenslanders into work and supported 11,800 employers.

\$8.7 million of that Back to Work funding will be allocated across the Ipswich local government area to help 406 employers hire 717 previously unemployed jobseekers.

Infrastructure

Speaker, our budget is spending big on infrastructure because Labor Governments understand that infrastructure grows our economy, connects communities, and creates jobs. It is also incredibly vital for our rapidly growing state.

That's why I'm pleased to see the welcome investment in hospital and school infrastructure in Ipswich, as well as the investment our government is putting into community infrastructure.

The COVID Works for Queensland Program will see Ipswich City Council receive \$1.77 million in this budget to support the delivery of new job creating infrastructure projects, maintenance, and minor works across Ipswich.

And through the South East Queensland Community Stimulus Package, \$3.35 million will be given to Ipswich City Council to support investment in new infrastructure and community assets that create jobs and drive local economic recovery.

To help support the delivery of 10,800 new homes in the Ripley Valley, we are allocating \$45 million for catalyst infrastructure to unlock local road networks. Construction of Binnies Road West is progressing following a \$7.14 million investment in 2019, and work is now progressing on the \$15.9 million Cumner Road supporting 53 jobs during construction. Construction is also soon to commence on the \$5.91 million Barrams Road.

In total, this budget is committing \$954 million for productivity-enhancing infrastructure projects across Ipswich supporting 2,900 jobs.

Transport

Speaker, investing in transport and improving urban connectivity is what drives local growth and helps make it easier for people to access to job opportunities and essential services.

In this budget, we are allocating \$6.31 million to continue work on the \$37 million upgrade for East Ipswich Train Station to improve safety and accessibility for commuters.

We are also investing in road safety with a spend of \$1.13 million out of a total \$4.8 million spend to deliver safety barriers on the Cunningham Highway between Redbank Plains Road and Ripley Road.

The \$10 million project to upgrade the East Ipswich Fiveways intersection will receive \$800,000 in this budget to continue ongoing planning.

And \$605,000 has been allocated over three years for intersection safety upgrades at the Limestone Street and East Street intersection, and the Thorn Street and Brisbane Street intersection in the Ipswich CBD.

Above all, we have not lost sight of the need to deliver the Ipswich to Springfield rail line and are allocating \$130,000 in the 2021-22 financial year to continue planning this vital piece of infrastructure.

This rail line is absolutely essential for connecting Ipswich to the fast growing areas of Springfield and Ripley, and I can assure people in Ipswich that I will continue fighting for it to be delivered.

Conclusion

Speaker, this budget highlights the Palaszczuk Government's commitment to creating jobs and investing in infrastructure and services.

In Ipswich, we face a great number of challenges brought on by massive growth in our region. However, many of us also see great opportunities.

There is growing excitement that Brisbane could win the bid for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic games, and with our close proximity to Brisbane, Ipswich is in a good position to capitalise on the wave of growth opportunities the Olympics will bring.

This budget puts Ipswich in a strong position to jump on future opportunities that benefits our community.

Speaker, I commend the 2020-21 Queensland Budget to the House.



Mr LISTER (Southern Downs—LNP) (2.37 pm): Before I begin my contribution, I would like to follow in the footsteps of many of the members of this House in acknowledging Duncan Pegg and expressing my condolences to his family and friends. He was a very, very clever man. We all liked him. He was a particularly fierce fighter for his views and his electorate. I remember that in the last term, when I sat where the member for Mount Ommaney now sits, he was just across the aisle from me. I can see a knowing smile from the member for Maryborough. He used to get in my ear. He used to have a nuanced way of interjecting and whispering that put me off what I was saying. It was infuriating. All I could do was bellow at him, but it never seemed to work. I really liked Duncan. I was terribly sad to hear of his passing. I was incredibly proud to have known him, particularly in the way that he faced his impending death from cancer. I think he was a great Queenslander and he will be sorely missed by many.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Mr LISTER: I rise to make my contribution on the budget bills on behalf of the people of Southern Downs. The electorate of Southern Downs is a great producer of minerals, food and fibre. It is comprised of a number of communities that are particularly based around agriculture. We make a great contribution to this state, so whenever I look at the budget I am always looking for what is going to be there for us. I am disappointed that in this budget there has not been what I feel we deserve in Southern Downs.

Whilst I am critical of the re-announcement of funding and projects which have already been put forward—one of my local papers, the *Daily Journal*, described it as an Aladdin's lamp where the lamps are repolished and put back on the shelf, which is true to some extent; I am talking here about funding for the police station in Warwick, Warwick State High School's new building, Emu Swamp Dam, Coolmunda Dam and the water projects which were announced recently by the minister for water, the member for Gladstone—I would like to say that I do appreciate those things.

I would like to thank the government for those announcements for Warwick, particularly a water treatment plant to enable the people of Allora and Warwick, which share a common pipeline, to have water of a drinking standard. There are extra bores for those towns which will mean the towns will rely

less on Leslie Dam and there will also be water security for John Dee meatworks, which employs 600 people. That water security is very important. There is also funding for a really detailed business case into the possibility of a pipeline connecting Warwick and Toowoomba. That will give the Southern Downs Regional Council and Mayor Vic Pennisi the opportunity to work out what is in the ratepayers' interests. I thank the government for those things.

Overall, I feel we have not got what we deserve. I reflect on the debt situation in the state. If we are going to be \$120-odd billion in debt—and that is going to take a long time to repay, generations in fact, and it will go to our kids and grandkids—I want to see some of that spent on the Southern Downs. I am particularly thinking about something which affects everyone, and that is the highways—the Gore Highway, the Cunningham Highway and the New England Highway. In some places they are in pretty bad shape. I know that the department do their best to run a rolling program of maintenance to fix problems where roads are collapsing and there are potholes, undulations and so forth. There needs to be big money spent, particularly considering that the Gore Highway is now increasingly important for interstate trucks which are using the second range crossing. There needs to be more than just a patch job or a couple of million dollars spent here and there; it needs to be rebuilt, particularly around the Wyaga crossings. I will continue to argue with the government that that should be a priority.

Some work is being done on the Cunningham Highway between Yelarbon and Goondiwindi, which is great to see. I will be keen to see whether those works are of a standard which will prevent future collapses of the road. Similar to the Wyaga Creek crossings of the Gore Highway, water flows underneath the road, it is black soil and it ends up with these undulations which are pressed in progressively by the trucks that are going across them.

I have mentioned the New England Highway in passing to the minister and I have written to him and been in touch with the regional office about this. Work has been going on between Stanthorpe and Ballandean, and the roadworks there appear to be functionally complete. The contractor has been telling locals that they are upping sticks as soon as they put white lines and cats' eyes on the road and that has alarmed the local residents. The people of the southern Granite Belt have made it abundantly clear to me that they are very concerned about this. I acknowledge that a departmental officer will be going to meet with the chairman of the chamber of commerce on the Granite Belt, Graham Parker, so that the concerns of the businesses and locals who use those roads can be shared. I am hoping that what we see now will not be the finished product for the New England Highway.

In education, one of the things I have gleaned from my visits to the 40-odd schools in Southern Downs—most of which are state schools—is that there is increasingly a need for younger students to have access to a community nurse in their schools for referrals and looking after their medical welfare. Many of the teachers have said to me that they are teaching professionals, not health professionals, and that they feel, understandably, uncomfortable delving into some of the matters that the young people are facing.

One thing is for sure: a growing number of increasingly younger children are coming to school with mental health issues. Some are traumatised, some are neglected, and that could be for a variety of reasons. We all agree that early intervention is important, so I would like to see the state government invest money in community nurses. I do not just mean in high schools for a day or two a week; they should also be in primary schools. I spoke to the principal of one of the prep to year 10 schools in my electorate who said that they were increasingly seeing children in years 4 to 6 or younger who need that attention. I have written to the regional director about this, and I will be happy to take it up with the minister in due course if necessary.

There has been a lot of talk about health, and there is a very sad situation with health in this state. There are so many people on waiting lists and there is so much ambulance ramping happening. I have been looking at what the statistics are saying: that an alarming percentage of patients are being ramped, up to 40 per cent; that 23 per cent of patients are not being seen within the clinically recommended time; and that the waiting list is at almost 55,000. That is about double what it was when the LNP left government in 2015. I do take the point that we are in a different time with different circumstances, but the government must react to this. I am not satisfied that record spending, record spending and record spending is the answer; we need record output. We need to be judging the system by what it produces, and we require a record output—

Mr Krause: And record outcomes.

Mr LISTER: And we require record outcomes; I take that interjection from the member for Scenic Rim. That is what we should be focusing on. Throwing money at the problem alone is not the answer, because the Health budgets will become unsustainable. We need to be smarter about how we deliver health services. I note that my predecessor as member for Southern Downs, the Hon. Lawrence

Springborg, was very successful in cutting waiting lists and getting rid of ramping. He did that by simply taking a farmer's approach—by representing the taxpayer, by representing the patient, by saying, 'This is what we require of Health. The purpose of Health is to make people well,' and not all of the other considerations which seem to infiltrate the way the Labor government administers health.

Dr Rowan: What about maternity services?

Mr LISTER: I take that interjection from my honourable friend the member for Moggill. He is a doctor, although I do not know if he delivers many babies. The good folk in communities west of the Great Dividing Range are entitled to know that they can have their babies close to home wherever possible. The withdrawal of maternity services from places like Chinchilla is a bit of a slap in the face, which indicates that Labor does not prioritise looking after people regardless of where they come from, as the Premier always says.

I want to add a personal dimension to this issue of ramping. My wife, Belinda, broke her leg very badly at work some years ago. Because the Air Force base where we were stationed did not have the facilities for that level of trauma, she was taken from the medical centre at the base in a Queensland ambulance to Ipswich Hospital. That was done on the premise that when you are really sick you go to a proper public hospital because they will have the resources and the capability to look after you. When I got there after my wife had arrived, I saw a car park full of ambulances—from memory, there would have been a dozen at least—and each of them had two paramedics attached to them. When I went inside and was finally reunited with my wife, there was a queue of patients on stretchers waiting to be seen, with two paramedics next to each one. That is what ramping means.

My wife had a very serious leg fracture in two places but she waited for four or five hours before she was seen. The result of that was that she developed fracture blisters and she could not have her leg set and operated on that day. She had to wait for three weeks in hospital before she was ready to have the surgery. She also ended up developing a bone infection. When patients are ramped, it is not an abstract topic on which we throw mud at one another across the floor of the House. It matters to people. It mattered to my wife. My family and my wife went through a great deal of difficulty. The pain and suffering that my wife endured as a result of being ramped at Ipswich Hospital will never be forgotten. I am sure in saying that that I speak for thousands of Queenslanders who have experienced the trauma of being injured or sick and going to hospital and waiting while their paramedics, who are being paid and who have an ambulance sitting idle outside, stand next to them. It has to stop.

If Lawrence Springborg—a farmer with a grade 10 education—can take on the Department of Health and practically eliminate ramping, then this government can do it too. I know that the LNP will grasp the nettle and make Health function for the people who need it. There are no other considerations. The Department of Health is there to make people well, and that should be the only focus of the government in funding health services.

I now wish to talk about police. We always hear about record budgets in these departments. Goondiwindi is in my electorate and it is a fantastic town. Bernard Salt, the esteemed demographer, said that it is the greatest town in Queensland, and who can argue with him? It is a fantastic place with great people.

Mr Molhoek: I think he says that about every town.


Mr LISTER: I assure the member for Southport that it really is true in the case of Goondiwindi.

We have a crime problem in Goondiwindi, which is a blight on an otherwise fabulous town. I see the police devoting enormous amounts of their time and absorbing the budget to simply rearrest offenders who have been let out time and time again, slapped on the wrist by a magistrate, allowed to leave and rejoice on the steps at how they have received no penalty and they are out on bail again only to commit the same crimes night after night: assaults, thefts, vandalism. If you are a tradesman and you have lost your ute because some scallywag has stolen it and put it in the Macintyre River or burnt it, this is a serious matter. This is a question of people's livelihoods. It is a great moral injury to have someone steal your goods or break into your house. In the case of the 5 Star supermarket in Goondiwindi, I was talking to Chris Henry. He and his wife, Gail, run a small supermarket. They had some kids steal a vehicle, back it into the front of the shop and steal some lollies. That caused \$20,000 worth of damage and it was not the first time. We all pay for that in increased insurance premiums and the costs of operating businesses.

To say that we cannot incarcerate or have punitive penalties for those who commit these crimes because it does not do them any good misses the point. It is not right that those people who live by and uphold the law should be told to be patient and tolerate the crime until we fix the problems that have caused it. That is not on. The first duty of the government is to protect those law-abiding citizens who

do the right thing from those who do not. I know I speak overwhelmingly for the population of Goondiwindi and other towns in saying that because I just presented a 3,000-signature petition before the House calling for breach of bail laws to be brought back in. If somebody has breached the privilege of being on bail and they are put away, within a few weeks in a town like Goondiwindi there will be no-one left to commit the crime. If anyone opposite wants to pooh-pooh me and say that is not the approach to take, I ask them to come to Goondiwindi and ask the locals who have had their car stolen or their businesses broken into, who have been assaulted or had their houses entered, how they feel about those things.

There is a lot more I would like to say, but time is against me. I thank the House for the opportunity.

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—ALP) (2.52 pm): This is a budget that backs education, invests in health, delivers jobs and builds housing. This is a budget that delivers for Queensland and it delivers for Stafford. This is a strong budget; it is a responsible budget; it is a people focused budget. This is a Labor budget.

During my short time in this chamber I have said time and time again that one of the core driving motivations for my involvement in the Labor Party and, in turn, in putting myself forward for public service is my belief in the fundamental power of education to change people's lives, to give Queenslanders a good start in a job and the opportunity to build a better life. Not only does this budget deliver right across the state; it delivers locally for Stafford schools.

This government is delivering: \$250,000 for an outdoor learning area at Kedron State School; \$300,000 to make the school hall at Wavell Heights State School fit for purpose; the \$8 million Wilston State School hall, including the first \$300,000 specified for this year for planning and early works, a wonderful way to celebrate the 100th year of that school—in particular, I say thank you to the education minister for her input in that regard—\$500,000 for improvements for the home economics area at Craigslea State High School; \$500,000 for the refurbishment of the science rooms at the Kedron State High School; and on top of that, \$650,000 across the electorate for minor works and maintenance for our local schools. All of these investments are a win for families, students and staff at local schools. Of course, it is also a win for local tradies as we create jobs on these local projects on the way through.

I am proud to be part of the Palaszczuk government that is investing in our world-class public healthcare system across the state and locally in Metro North. The government is delivering \$4.7 million this year of the total \$91 million for the Prince Charles Hospital. This will deliver construction projects to improve services at our iconic local hospital including the new car park. It delivers on our election commitment—what this Palaszczuk government is known for. It is great for staff, patients, families as well as local residents as it takes pressure off local roads. Importantly, it will be built and run by the HHS, meaning it will stay in public hands, owned by Queenslanders. That will also ensure that fees will be capped so that staff and long-term visitors will receive accessible and reasonable parking. I thank the doctors, nurses, allied health professionals, cleaners, wardies and support staff who make the place run, including those who have stepped up and managed the very busy vaccination centre which has developed a very effective pathway for vaccination patients. I say thanks to those who have adapted what is normally a community health facility to provide a COVID testing centre, also co-located on the hospital site. I also welcome the extra investment at the RBWH: \$5.4 million out of a \$24.3 million investment in construction projects to improve services at the Royal.

Compare that to those opposite. When the Leader of the Opposition is specifically asked to rule out cuts, he says he would not be savage. That sends a shiver up the collective spine of our health workforce. The 1,400 health staff who lost their jobs under the Newman government in Metro North alone know exactly what that means. The 750 nurses included in that mass toll know exactly what that means. The staff and families who saw the Newman government shut the Barrett centre without a replacement know exactly what that means. I am so proud to have the wonderful Jacaranda Place built by the Labor government that is serving our community and our young Queenslanders most in need. It is co-located on the Prince Charles Hospital campus.

I am also very proud to be part of a government that is investing in social housing at record levels. Indeed, our Labor government is investing \$1.9 billion in social housing, delivering some 7,000 social and affordable homes for Queenslanders. I have spoken in this place before, including as early as my first speech, about the type of dynamic, inclusive community that Stafford residents have proudly built and love. That absolutely includes support for vulnerable Queenslanders through social housing. Our community is not segregated into ghettos. We proudly have social housing, first home buyers, young families, retirees and large family homes with city views all in the same street. I think that is one of the reasons why we have such a strong sense of community.

I thank the housing minister for this significant investment as well as the investment in social housing to date. I recently met with her department and local contractors to see the latest development of a fantastic new social housing complex. Despite the weather issues in the first half of the year, the project is coming along very well. In thanking the minister for the great progress, I put her on notice that I will be knocking on her door to support the rollout of this fantastic extension of social housing across the north side of Brisbane.

On a separate issue, I also briefly recognise our collective and personal loss of Duncan. We go back a long way. There will be time to say a lot more. I say today that my thoughts and love are with his family at this terribly sad time.

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*.

The speech read as follows—

SQW:

I'm proud that this budget is locking in funding for the very successful Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. I am very proud to have been part of the team of the Training Minister who reinstated SQW, after it was disgracefully axed by the LNP Newman government.

This despite the fact that it returns 8 dollars to the economy for every dollar invested.

I thank those local community organisations in Stafford who partner with the government to deliver this fantastic and dynamic program—a chance for Queenslanders to get the skills and experience they need to get a job, provide for their family and contribute to our community.

For example, the Multicultural Centre at Newmarket runs a very successful SQW program that has exceptionally high success rates in moving graduates into meaningful employment. Often, this is the first time they have had access to their own source of income, and the independence and empowerment that that brings.

Another great example is the work done at the Kedron Lions AFL club. Utilising SQW funding and in partnership with the Active Queenslanders Industry Alliance, trainees and young Queenslanders learnt real-life, on-the-tools training, while providing minor works and great improvements for community clubs. Talk about a win-win-win!

These are just a small insight into the fantastic results this government is delivering through our investment in skills and training.

Transport:

The government is delivering better public transport in my electorate and across the northside, with the \$24 million Northern Transitway bus priority works—including better access for local residents, such as longer turning lanes, as well as more bus stops being included in Kedron that will give access to express services.

This budget also delivers funding for improved and safer bus platforms for services in and around the very busy Cherside Westfield interchange. As north-siders know, it is a real hub for the northside and better public transport and pedestrian access will greatly improve our community.

Footpaths:

Likewise, the budget delivers funding for footpath infrastructure in the Stafford electorate. I look forward to working with the community to deliver this very grass-roots, local and important investment.

Economic:

This is a government that since 2015 has maintained its clear focus on—and commitment to—creating and supporting jobs. Data just in from the Australian Bureau of Statistics show, beyond doubt, 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.

Additional health services:

I would also like to thank local health staff who have develop the new 'Safe Space' area in the Prince Charles Hospital—to appropriately divert patients who need mental health and wrap around support with more effective treatment and an environment better suited than the noise and lights of the Emergency Department. It's another example of what can be achieved with a deep and lasting commitment to patient services.

Statewide services:

S/ while I proudly serve in this chamber as the member for Stafford, born and bred in my community, I also thank the Treasurer for delivering across the state.

I strongly believe that it is only a Labor government that shows it can govern for the entire state—and this budget does just that.

I know when regional Queensland does well, our state does well.

I also recognize that investing in infrastructure and important industries across the state actually helps us all.

Take for example this budget's investment in jobs. Our \$3.34B Queensland Jobs Fund includes \$350M Industry Partnership Program and \$2B Queensland Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund. This is driving better results for consumers, regional jobs and, of course, better environmental results and that's a win for us all.

The government is also acting to protect our precious Great Barrier Reef and Queensland's natural environment. Our government has already invested \$400 million to protect the Reef since 2015. This budget builds on our record by investing \$270 million over five years for the Queensland Reef Water Quality program and a \$55 million capital works program to protect and restore our natural environment.

Thanks:

I would like to congratulate and thank the Treasurer for delivering this fantastic budget that, as I said, delivers for Queensland and delivers for Stafford.

Delivering two budgets in six months is no easy task and I thank the Treasurer, his office, Ministerial colleagues and officials at Queensland Treasury for their dedication and hard work in delivering this great outcomes for Queenslanders.

I recommend the Bills to the House.



Ms KING (Pumicestone—ALP) (2.58 pm): I want to briefly place on the record my sadness at the passing of the member for Stretton, Duncan Pegg. I and other new members may not have had the time we would have liked to get to know Duncan well, but I respected him very much as a brilliant political mind and somebody who had the respect of members right across this chamber. I reflect what a valuable and impressive thing that is and only hope at the end of my time in this place I, too, could achieve that.

I love Queensland and it is the greatest honour of my life to have been elected to work hard for the people of Pumicestone every single day and for the people of Queensland. On this side of the House we are all proud of our communities, proud of Queensland and proud to serve our great state. The last 18 months have seen Queensland's greatest challenge of COVID-19. Because we do care about our communities and about Queensland, when COVID-19 hit we did not call 64 times for our borders to be opened. We did not put big business first; we put Queenslanders first and we followed the health advice. We kept Queenslanders safe and we protected our economy. Those choices were the best possible choices for Queensland's economy, and the positive impacts of those choices show in our 2021-22 budget.

I sat through the opposition leader's budget reply and I heard nothing of inspiration—no values, no vision. He said that he wanted to give Queenslanders hope, but then he proceeded to repeatedly talk down Queensland. I realised from that that the member for Broadwater does not like Queensland very much. He does not believe in our state. I could add that members of the Greens political party, whom we heard from earlier in this debate, also do not seem to like Queenslanders very much, or Queensland for that matter. They do not like people outside their own bubble. They certainly do not seem to like or value our institutions of parliament very much. It does make you ask why they bother to take up two seats in this place.

On the Labor side, though, we know that at heart the LNP and the member for Broadwater have only two main policies—only two things they care about: talking down Queensland and our world-class health system and sniffing around for jobs and services they can cut, whether you call cuts 'tough love', like the member for Chatsworth did, or 'trimming the fat', like Lawrence Springborg once did. Then we have the member for Clayfield, who boasted about his shrunken capital program. As Campbell Newman once said of his heartless decision to sack 14,000 Queenslanders—

... many people often thank me for giving them an opportunity to start a new business or new career.

I wonder if they are thanking the former LNP premier now! On Wednesday we got to hear the LNP's brand new cuts formula, announced by the member for Broadwater himself: cuts, but not savage cuts. Of course, one of the first cuts the member for Broadwater announced when he started his new job as Leader of the Opposition was his \$3 million cut to a replacement Bribie Island Bridge. I ask the member for Broadwater now: does cutting support for a replacement Bribie Island Bridge count as a savage cut? I suspect that the people of Pumicestone would say that it does.

I return to the all-important issue of health for my constituents in Pumicestone. Because Labor does love Queensland and Queenslanders, because we back Queenslanders, we have delivered another record health budget: \$22.2 billion in 2021-22. I will repeat those three words: record health budget. The LNP does not like that phrase much because, goodness knows, it never delivered a record health budget. Its health budgets meant one thing: cuts. There were cuts to services and facilities, like when it closed the Barrett centre with tragic results, and cuts to health workers, like the 732 nurses who were marched out the door in my local health area. One after another, opposition members have stood up in this House and talked down our world-class health system. As part of our record health budget, I am so proud—the member for Southport is going out the door—

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

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can pre-empt what you are going to say. Member for Pumicestone, there is a convention in this House that we do not—

Mr Langbroek: It is extremely disorderly.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I do not need instructions.

Ms KING: I apologise. I did not intend any reflection on the departure of any member.

Mr Langbroek: Remember the rules.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Surfers Paradise. That really was unnecessary. If that continues, you will be warned.

Ms KING: Our new satellite hospital on Bribie is just what the doctor ordered for our ageing community. I was delighted this week to be able to stand with the Premier and announce that we now have a site. The site is the perfect place for our satellite hospital to be built. It is well located. It is close to public transport. It is the next step for our community to get more health care closer to home. In this budget we see \$15 million dedicated to the beginnings of construction of our satellite hospital. I could not be more delighted. I will keep working hard to keep our satellite hospitals, both on Bribie and in Caboolture, on track. I cannot wait to see them delivered in 2023.

The 2021-22 budget also has \$121 million dedicated to continue our massive redevelopment of Caboolture Hospital. I recently visited with our minister. Caboolture Hospital is looking to be doubled in size under the commitment of this government. We are adding 130 new beds, a new cardiac unit, a new NICU, a bigger and better emergency department and a whole range of new services.

I remind those opposite that, while they have stood in this place and purported to advocate for people in Caboolture, it was only three years ago that they likewise stood in this place and said that our massive redevelopment of Caboolture Hospital was a political stunt and that it was not necessary. It is quite extraordinary to me that on the one hand you say that you are advocating for people to get better health care while on the other hand you claim that a really important piece of local health infrastructure, Caboolture Hospital, does not need a desperately needed upgrade. It is absolutely extraordinary.

Members opposite talk down our health system but, when it comes down to it, there is one simple thing they could do that would make a very real difference. They could pick up the phone, speak to their federal LNP colleagues and ask them to fix the GP crisis that so many communities right across Queensland are facing. They should pick up the phone, talk to federal health minister Greg Hunt and ask him to put our communities back on the GP priority health status lists. Communities in my electorate of Pumicestone were removed from that list in 2019. Since then, wait times for GP services have blown out to up to four weeks. That is leading to a lot of the pressures we are seeing right across our hospital system. Have those opposite taken that simple step? I would suggest that they have not. I have certainly not heard a word from them about it. They are very happy to talk down our health system, but when it comes down to it what do we hear but silence? While they are at it, if the LNP actually care about Queenslanders' health they should tell Scott Morrison that his attacks on Medicare are absolutely unacceptable.

Our budget also delivers on key road upgrades that matter so much to people in Pumicestone. I worked hard to get funding for a new \$4.284 million project to upgrade the dangerous intersection of D'Aguilar Highway, Dances Road and Pumicestone Road at Caboolture. That intersection is on the list of the top 10 problem intersections in Queensland. Fixing it will make a real difference in getting people in Pumicestone home sooner and safer. I am absolutely delighted to see that work beginning in this budget.

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—

We've got real money invested in the design work for a future new Bribie Island Bridge.

There's funding for the upgrade of Regina Avenue at Ningi begins in this budget, as does our Beachmere Road upgrade funding.

We've got the Stage 2 works funding for the upgrade and dual laning of the Old Toorbul Point Rd intersection project, plus our huge job-creating Bruce Highway upgrades from the Bribie Island interchange to Steve Irwin Way.

What a contrast with the LNP, who oversaw \$13.6 million cuts to Bribie Island Road upgrades and \$1.6 billion from roads right across Queensland.

Speaker, Queensland's Economic Recovery Plan is clearly working—we're leading the way across Australia when it comes to falling unemployment.

Labour force data shows we're the first State to have improved on our pre-COVID employment figures, with unemployment now at 5.4%

That's a drop of half a percent in just one month.

Queenslanders have confidence in our great State of Queensland.

Australians have confidence in Queensland, that shows in the large numbers moving here.

But not the Queensland LNP, they don't have confidence in Queensland.

They see Budget week as nothing but an opportunity to talk down Queensland.

They talk down our surging economy, where under Palaszczuk Labor government, employment increased by more than 1,000 jobs created every single day last month.

This Budget continues the good work of backing jobs with continued investment in key local infrastructure projects.

The LNP even talking down the value of our Queensland Titles Office—but their disbelief at the independent valuation is really nothing more than a cloak thrown over their disappointment.

They're disappointed that thanks to Labor's actions they won't be able to sell off our Land Titles Office like their mates in NSW did.

Housing pressure is a very real issue in Pumicestone, and I'm incredibly proud that this Budget is delivering \$1.9 billion over four years to increase the supply of social housing by 6,365, upgrade the existing stock of dwellings, and deliver critical housing and homelessness services to vulnerable Queenslanders.

It's the biggest concentrated investment in social and affordable housing in Queensland's entire history, it's very much needed and I'm proud to have advocated on behalf of the Pumicestone community, sharing the stories and struggles they have shared with me, to help get us to this point.

A case in point is the \$633,000 in funding for the Caboolture Emergency Youth Shelter that will make a big difference to our most vulnerable.

I'm delighted by the commitment of \$500,000 to my friends at Bribie Island Voluntary Community Help Association for Home Assist and the other important community-centred services they provide to help people stay well and in their homes safely, like taking people to health appointments and to access community services.

In other positive news, Skilling Queenslanders for Work funding has now been made permanent, with \$320 million over 4 years, \$80 million ongoing each year. This program is a real driver of hope and attending graduation ceremonies where so many young people are going on to work or further training is one of my happiest responsibilities as the Member for Pumicestone.

Under Labor's Budget, Queensland is now predicted to return to operating balance in 2024-25 with a modest surplus of \$153 million, the first of the four largest economies in Australia to reach surplus.

And we've done it with no cuts to services, continued record infrastructure investment and—unlike the LNP—without sacking staff or selling off assets.

Speaker, I promised I would work hard every day to make Pumicestone better for us.

That I would work every day for the infrastructure upgrades that will enrich our community life, to deliver our satellite hospitals, build the roads we need, make sure we have strong public services, vibrant schools and good local jobs.

And Speaker, I'm proud to be able to say that's exactly what our Palaszczuk Labor Government's 2021-2022 Budget does.

I commend the Appropriation Bills to the House.



Mr MICKELBERG (Buderim—LNP) (3.07 pm): With the indulgence of the House, I too would like to place on the record my condolences after the passing of Duncan Pegg. As many have already said, Duncan was a passionate and hardworking local member who loved the Stretton community. Duncan was a passionate and genuine advocate for the multicultural communities which are such a significant part of Stretton. I know that Duncan was more than a colleague to many in the parliament; he was a mate. I hope that Duncan's mates, his family and his friends find comfort during this difficult time in the knowledge that Duncan's life of service to his community was a life well lived.

This is the latest in a long line of what those opposite love to describe as another 'good Labor budget'—another Labor budget of debt and deficit.

Mr Saunders: It's a great budget.

Mr MICKELBERG: I take that interjection: it is a great budget of debt and deficit—another Labor budget that is light on detail and heavy on spin, another Labor budget that fails Queenslanders waiting for surgery, another Labor budget that fails residents across the south-east who sit in traffic day after day, another Labor budget that ignores the cries for help from Townsville residents under siege by young criminals, another Labor budget that fails to plan and fails to act on the multitude of issues that make life harder for Queenslanders every single day. Queenslanders deserve better.

This is a budget that relies on what can most kindly be described as creative accounting or what might be more accurately described as deception. The Treasurer has sought to hoodwink Queenslanders into thinking he is doing something about addressing Labor's escalating debt situation. Perhaps the Treasurer's motivation was to ensure that ratings agencies do not hit Queensland with a ratings downgrade, which would decimate his chances of being next in the line of succession for the Labor leadership.

It says much about Labor that rather than fixing the problem it has sought to use trickery and deception to hide the problem. Just three weeks ago the land titles office was worth \$4.2 billion. It was a lofty valuation when one considers the fact that in 2019 the land titles office generated around \$300 million in revenue, so it beggars belief that Labor has, three weeks later, jacked up the valuation of the titles office to around \$7.8 billion. At that valuation, if the land titles office was a listed entity, it would be the 69th largest listed company on the Australian Stock Exchange—larger than well-known companies like Channel 7, Ampol, Aurizon, Harvey Norman, Bank of Queensland, AGL, JB Hi-Fi and Channel 9, just to name a few. It simply does not stack up.

To make matters worse, on the basis of this rubbery valuation, the Treasurer has then ripped \$1.5 billion from defined benefit superannuation assets to pay back the government \$1.8 billion, so it begs the question where the cash came from to fund this \$1.8 billion that is to be retained by the government from this transaction. I suspect the answer is in the fact that the government does intend to rip the liquid assets out of the Future Fund which would mean the government is going to again raid funds set aside to meet the superannuation obligations of public servants. It is nothing more than the latest Labor money-go-round.

We have heard the Treasurer come in here and scream and shout about how we are all wrong. He has thrown around lots of thinly veiled threats about highly paid consultants, but if the Treasurer really wants to show that we on this side of the House are wrong there is a simple course of action that he can take, and that course of action is to table the valuation. That will detail how his tenuous valuation was arrived at for the lands title office. It is time for the Treasurer to put up or shut up.

The government has made much of its investment in this budget in training and support—an investment that has been underwritten by the Morrison LNP government through its \$2 billion JobTrainer investment which has supported every single state. Of the \$460 million that the Minister for Training and Skills Development and her colleagues have been crowing about, \$384.8 million is being funded by the LNP federal government. That equates to more than 83 per cent of the funding coming from the federal government, with less than 17 per cent coming from the state government. It is clear who is doing the heavy lifting when it comes to investment in training and skills in Queensland, and it is most certainly not the Labor state government.

Ms Boyd: Who is it?

Mr MICKELBERG: Who is it? I hear the interjection from the member for Pine Rivers. It is the federal government—more than 83 per cent of funding for this Labor state budget.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Comments will come through the chair.

Mr MICKELBERG: I will be watching intently the government's expansion of the Back to Work program. I note the minister's comment that 'wherever you are in Queensland you deserve the chance to get a good job'. I agree. Unfortunately, as I raised in estimates in December, what we have seen with the Back to Work program is cherry-picking by the government in relation to which regions get support and which regions miss out. I look forward to programs like Back to Work being available to all regions of Queensland.

Unfortunately this budget fails to provide any measures to support small businesses that are identified as COVID exposure sites despite the consistent calls from businesses that have had their life turned upside down when identified as a potential COVID exposure site. Many small businesses, through no fault of their own, have been left to carry the can when they have shut down as a consequence of public health directives. I note that many of those businesses are located in seats held by Labor members of this House, yet their silence on this issue is deafening, particularly the member for Pine Rivers, where many of the most recent businesses impacted by the Brisbane lockdown were sited.

Business owners like Maree from the Gin Gin Bakery feel abandoned by this state government and it is time that the government listens to their cries for help. The government could start by providing better information and specific grants to help small businesses meet the costs of cleaning, increased staff costs and to make up for lost revenue when businesses are identified by Queensland Health as COVID exposure venues. It is disappointing that the government continues to ignore the cries for help

from these small businesses like the Gin Gin Bakery. I do not believe it is unreasonable to ask that funding for such a grant be established, noting that it will only be required whenever cases arise in the community. The assumptions that underpin this budget assume that there will be no significant COVID outbreaks, so if the government has confidence in these assumptions then it should have no hesitation in setting aside a relatively small sum of money to support businesses when they need it most.

Turning now to my open data responsibilities, in this budget we can see just how little importance the government places on the digital economy and on the principle of transparency. In this budget we see no mention of how the government is going to enable business innovation and entrepreneurship through the release of government data. We see no initiatives to improve public confidence in the delivery of government services with data that is more timely and easier to digest. Along with the LNP leader, David Crisafulli, I have been calling on the government to follow the lead of other states and implement real-time reporting of hospital emergency data. Queenslanders want to know that when they go to a hospital they will get treatment when they need it.

If we are to look at Townsville as an example, it is pretty clear that the Labor government is losing control of Townsville's health system just like it has lost control of crime in Townsville. Townsville has the worst record of treating elective surgery patients on time. More than one out of every three patients does not receive surgery in the clinically recommended time frame. That is more than 4,000 North Queensland locals who are suffering with their condition longer than a doctor has recommended. It is not much better in the emergency department in Townsville, where 18.1 per cent of patients were not seen in the clinically recommended time frame. That is an increase of more than eight per cent since February last year, and we only know this information because the government was dragged kicking and screaming to release hospital performance data by the shadow minister for health and I.

Townsville's health crisis is replicated across the state and the initiative that was announced today by the Minister for Health will do nothing to resolve the crisis or improve public confidence. Queenslanders deserve better than to be kept in the dark about the performance of their local hospitals. We know that a culture of secrecy pervades the government from the top down, but hospital data is not being shared and it should be. I call on the state government again to get serious about transparency and to commit to publishing real-time hospital performance data for the benefit of every Queenslanders.

Turning now to my local electorate, I am pleased to see some funding committed for the construction of a new Palmview state high school which the Palmview community and I have been fighting to get built for years. A new high school is desperately needed to cater for the increased student numbers which are the consequence of thousands of new residents moving to the Sunshine Coast each year. What is disappointing is that the construction of a new high school has been delayed and will only open in January 2023. The Harmony development in Palmview is the fastest selling development in Australia. Just last week people were camped out trying to buy blocks in Harmony. In 2017 when I was elected to this place there were no residents in Palmview at all and now 5,000 residents call Palmview home, so the need for a new high school has been self-evident for some time.

All that said, where we are now is that the high school will open in January 2023, so I ask the Minister for Education to work with me to find a solution to support the small cohort of year 6 students who are enrolled at Palmview State Primary School. These students will need to go to their third school in three years if they are to attend the new Palmview state high school in 2023. The fact that planning for a new high school has been inadequate does not mean that the impact should fall on students who have already dealt with considerable disruption moving to a new school this year, so I again call on the Minister for Education to work with me and members of the Palmview Learning Community, including parents, teachers and school leadership, to find a way to mitigate the considerable impact which these year 6 students, who are now thriving at Palmview State Primary School, will experience.

I am pleased to see funding allocated in the budget for construction of new school halls at Buderim Mountain State School and at Chancellor State College Secondary Campus. I have been working with both the Buderim Mountain and Chancellor school communities since I was elected to deliver school halls for both.


I spoke in my last budget debate speech about how disappointing it was to see schools like Caloundra State High School that has 560 students have extensions to their existing hall funded ahead of Chancellor State College and Buderim Mountain State School, both of which do not have a school hall and have a combined student population of around 3½ thousand students. One might ask what the reason was, apart from the fact that Caloundra was a marginal seat that the Labor Party was seeking to gain. Nonetheless, the government's funding allocation for the construction of new school halls will be important additions to my community which will result in better access to opportunities and learning outcomes for students.

Turning now to the Mooloolah River interchange, where we see a \$4 million commitment from the government to upgrade this important stretch of road in the centre of the Sunshine Coast which is choking business and choking our community, the government has taken three years to finalise a business case—which we still have not seen, I might add. I have very little faith that the government is genuinely committed to upgrading the Mooloolah River interchange despite the fact that the federal government has stumped up half the cost to upgrade what is purely and solely a responsibility of the state government, it being a state road.

Mr Bailey: That was a good deal, wasn't it?

Mr MICKELBERG: I take the interjection from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. The federal government has offered the state a good deal and they would be well served to take that good deal and start building the road. On the plus side, I notice there is \$15 million allocated in the budget for upgrades to the Sugar Road-Mooloolaba Road intersection, which is known as the Buderim-Mooloolaba interchange. I acknowledge the Minister for Transport and Main Roads who is currently in the House and place on the record my thanks to him for coming out to that site with me and inspecting the problem on the ground. I welcome the action to get work started and I note that there is a considerable allocation—I think it is a tad over \$3 million this year—to get work started.

This is a budget that fails Queenslanders. This is a budget that puts the interests of Queenslanders second to the interests of the Labor Party. The government has chosen to use a policy that seeks to obscure the true state of the Queensland economy and the expenditure of the Queensland government. Queenslanders deserve better.

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (3.20 pm): I rise to support the appropriation bills. This is a budget that delivers for the environment, investing over \$1.4 billion. Before I detail where that investment is focused on I wanted to respond to some of the comments made by the member for Bonney yesterday. I was looking forward to his speech because on social media he was showing happy snaps of him writing his speech in the Botanic Gardens. He probably needs to go outside of this chamber because we know that any good ideas on the environment are certainly not welcomed in this place by those opposite. I was not surprised to hear that there were no new ideas, no real commitments to climate change or protecting our rich biodiversity, from those opposite.

I want to address a few particular points, starting with our protected area estate. I did a bit of research and, in fact, our national park overall spending is up 24 per cent since 2015 after the Newman government cut 500 jobs within the Department of Environment and Science. It is one thing to grow the protected area estate, which of course we are doing through a \$60 million strategy, but they also have to be managed—to have planned burns, to control pest plants, install and maintain park infrastructure—and all that is pretty hard to do when you sack the very people who are working on the front line in our national parks.

The second point I wish to respond to is in relation to the waste levy. Who could forget that it was those opposite who made Queensland become the dumping ground of the country when they scrapped the waste levy. We saw dump truck after dump truck drive here from Sydney and other states clogging up our roads and throwing their rubbish into our landfill.

Mr Krause interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Member for Scenic Rim, I will ask that you stop interjecting. If you have a point of order you are welcome to make it, otherwise I ask that you stop interjecting across the chamber.

Ms SCANLON: Since then we have implemented sensible reform and waste from interstate and from construction and demolition has fallen by 65 per cent. Over the last couple of days there has been a lot of scaremongering about this section of the budget from the LNP and, frankly, it has been disappointing. I want to be very clear that the government remains committed that there should be no impact on households as a result of the waste levy. We are continuing the 105 per cent advanced payment—around \$160 million—in the 2021-22 financial year. There is another year's worth of funding that takes us up to next year's budget. In the meantime we will be undertaking a review of the levy as prescribed in the legislation. I know those opposite do not like reading very much, but it is section 73E. For future reference, there is this great trick called control F on your computer that can make sure that you find it online if those opposite are wanting to look for it.

We are very proud to be delivering in the resource recovery space in this state which is helping us reduce emissions, create three times as many jobs as compared to if we put waste into landfill, whilst also protecting our environment. Through programs like our Food Rescue Project, which I announced

recently with the member for Toohey, we have provided \$200,000 to OzHarvest to purchase two new trucks, one that will be based in Brisbane and the other in Townsville, to help them feed hungry bellies, as well as \$200,000 to FareShare to help them purchase more coolrooms so that they can produce more food for vulnerable Queenslanders.

Recently I had the privilege of announcing a number of food and garden organic trials to be delivered in partnership with councils. I look forward to updating the House with further initiatives very soon. Unlike those opposite, who saw a 43 per cent increase on electricity bills and slashed \$60 million from council grants and subsidies, we will actually work with local government, our community and industry to drive down the amount of waste that is going to landfill while creating more jobs in more industries.

To conclude I will turn to the Carbon Reduction Investment Fund. I do not know how we can be more clear on this fund. I am happy to bring some crayons to the next sitting to explain it in detail for the member for Bonney. To be fair, we know that acting on climate change is a bit of a foreign concept for the LNP. They seem to be struggling with it. I am incredibly proud that we have set up this \$500 million fund that provides continued certainty for land restoration carbon farming across this state which was a flagship project that was developed by this government and that the Commonwealth is now copying.

I would like to conclude by saying how proud I am to be a part of the Palaszczuk government to deliver this record investment in the environment. We have the most biodiverse state in the country. I take this opportunity to thank my staff, the Department of Environment and Science staff and the many organisations and community members who all helped inform and deliver a record investment for the environment. 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—

As Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, I'm proud that this budget will invest a record \$1.4 billion for the environment as part of the Palaszczuk Government's plan for economic recovery from COVID-19.

Thanks to the efforts of all Queenslanders, we've been able to get on with the job of creating jobs and protecting some of the world's most precious natural assets.

As someone who was driven to politics as a teenager by a desire to see action on climate change – I'm honoured to be able to work with hundreds of dedicated staff from the environment department, conservation groups, the community, business and industry to drive down emissions, continue protecting the reef, reduce landfill, regenerate land, care for wildlife and create jobs.

This is the second budget of the Palaszczuk Government since COVID-19 hit our shores, and again is one that makes sure protecting our environment remains a key pillar.

Together with record investments in this budget for renewable energy through the \$2 billion renewable and hydrogen energy fund, this budget will help Queensland to meet its emission targets.

Not only that, it will drive job growth in Queensland, which already has seen employment in the sunshine state risen to 253,200 since the depth of the COVID-19 crisis in May 2020, a greater rebound than any other state or territory.

It was great news to hear today that Queensland added over 1,000 jobs each day through May – demonstrating that our plan for economic recovery is delivering for Queensland families right around our great state.

Those are figures that will continue to grow with the Palaszczuk Government's latest budget.

A budget that will also grow our environment.

A budget that confirms another \$270 million for our Great Barrier Reef to build on the \$400 million already invested by the Palaszczuk Government since 2015.

Funding that will go towards improving the water quality of this heritage-listed area, and supporting the \$6 billion economy and 60,000 jobs that rely on it for generations to come.

A budget that will establish the landmark \$500 million Carbon Reduction Investment Fund – a dedicated fund that will invest returns back into our Land Restoration Fund.

A fund that will additionally see a further \$60 million made available to partner with farmers and other landholders for land restoration and carbon farming.

That \$60 million shot in the arm also includes seed funding to co-invest in even more projects with businesses and farmers through a new Queensland Natural Capital Fund.

Adding to that, we'll also invest in more for our national parks.

We know that our national parks generate more than \$2.6 billion for Queensland's economy and indirectly support tens of thousands of jobs right across our state.

To support our job creation and tourism industry – while also making sure we protect the natural beauty of our national parks – we'll invest an additional \$8.6 million for better infrastructure, visitor experiences and to employ more First Nations rangers.

A further \$254 million from the Department of Environment and Science will go towards our war on waste.

Queenslanders have been right behind our ban of single-use plastics and have driven a recycling revolution by exchanging more than four billion containers recycled through our popular Containers for Change program.

And we've seen other state follow suit declaring they'll too ban single-use plastics.

This budget puts the pedal to the metal on waste reduction with our funding to help capture and recycle more 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.

We'll also lock in \$3.7 million for the next four years and more than \$900,000 per annum ongoing to support koala conservation projects.

And that's just some of the highlights, to name a few.

As Minister for Science, I'm extremely proud of our scientists and health experts who have continued to steer Queensland through COVID-19.

During uncertain times we looked to the experts, the science and scientific research - decisions that have allowed us to kickstart an economic recovery focussed on jobs.

Decisions that have seen Queensland become the place to be with 33,000 people moving to our state in just the past year, while another 86,000 more expected over the next four years.

Which is why I was proud to see Deputy Premier announce as part of this budget and of our flagship Queensland Jobs Fund will invest \$20 million to ramp up the development and manufacture of vaccines.

This will accelerate development of one of the State's most important health-research precincts and ramp up Australia's capacity to develop our biomedical industry and manufacture vaccines - supporting an estimated 500 jobs over 10 years.

In this budget, we will also see Queensland's scientific capacity bolstered with a further \$7.7 million over three years for research into disaster management, water quality modelling and sediment management.

This almost \$8 million in additional funding will support the 300-plus scientists who work tirelessly in the pursuit of scientific excellence.

And as Minister for Youth Affairs, I'm equally as proud to see this budget focus on supporting the next generation of Queenslanders.

As I speak with young people they have made their voices clear that they want to have the opportunities they need for a good education and a stable job, and access vital services.

This week, the Palaszczuk Government delivers a budget that focuses on ensuring young people can achieve those goals, and that they are a central focus of Queensland's economic recovery.

This budget ensures that from the moment a young child enters school, they're supported with a record \$15.3 billion investment in school and early childhood education.

With \$1.9 billion of that going towards new and upgraded infrastructure like school halls, it also means hundreds of young tradies and apprentices will be able to cut their teeth with meaningful work.

That'll be joined permanent funding for the successful Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative, with ongoing funding of \$80 million each year.

This shot in the arm will give young Queenslanders the key to unlock new skills and traineeships that will lead jobs at a time when we need them most.

Already we've seen more than 36,200 participants go on to receive employment or further training thanks to this program – and I have no doubt, even more young people will benefit from this announcement.

I'm pleased to hear that it'll also be complemented by a \$140 million injection for a revitalised Back to Work program.

This package will provide wraparound support through mentorships and assistance in obtaining things like a driver licence and blue card.

We'll also see free TAFE and apprenticeships for Under 25s continue under this government alongside \$100 million for vital TAFE infrastructure.

The TAFE priority skills fund will help young people go into new and emerging industries with \$32 million, while \$25 million will be invested in the pre-apprenticeship support program.

But this budget goes beyond equipping our young people with the skills they need.

Speaker, as Youth Affairs Minister, young people have told me that one of the biggest issues for them continues to be housing affordability.

It's why I'm working with the Housing Minister develop a Youth Homelessness Policy.

Young Queenslanders – and Queenslanders a whole - will see \$2.9 billion committed to build more affordable housing.

That's \$1.9 billion to increase social housing stock, and \$1 billion for the Housing Investment Fund.

It's hard to finish your studies or hold down a job, if you don't have a safe, secure home – which is why this funding is so important.

I've been fortunate to see the benefits of this government's investment into affordable housing already with the Gold Coast Youth Foyer.

And I look forward to this record investment benefitting thousands of young Queenslanders moving forward.

I also look forward to seeing this government focus on mental health – another key issue that has been raised with me in speaking with young people.

This budget will see ongoing funding towards mental health services that are just so vital to helping young Queenslanders who need that support.

And of course Speaker, I'm especially proud as the Member for Gaven that this budget invests more into our community, into local jobs, vital services like health and into education:

That includes:

- \$24 million for more classrooms at Pacific Pines State High School
- \$300,000 for Gaven State School for shovel ready projects
- \$591,000 for Nerang State High School to upgrade the existing hall facility
- \$350,000 for Nerang State School –for the prep playground upgrade and last night I had the privilege of sharing the good news with Belinda the School Principal that this budget will also provide \$1m through our School Infrastructure Enhancement Program
- \$700,000 for William Duncan State School for shovel ready projects

In TAFE:

- The revitalisation the Marine Centre of Excellence at Coomera
- The revitalisation of the Plumbing Tower at Ashore TAFE
- TAFE for our Future – New Robina Campus Fitout


In health:

- Funding for the delivery of a new Satellite Hospital
- Upgrades for the Gold Coast University Hospital, including a new secure mental health unit

And that's only just a portion of what we're investing in our community.

Speaker, Queensland's economic recovery will be driven by young Queenslanders, by science, by the hardworking local of Gaven and by continuing to protect our environment.

And this budget proves that it's the Palaszczuk Government that will continue to back them with record investment.

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (3.26 pm): Before I proceed to make my contribution to the budget debate I put on the record that I intend to talk about an election commitment that Labor made to the people of Currumbin Valley to acquire 148 hectares of parkland and turn it into ecotourism. I declare that, like a number of my constituents, my husband is an employee of a company that is associated with the entity that owns that land.

Promises have been made by this government and then those promises have been broken. To begin with, allow me to mention the positives for my community in this budget. That will take a whole of two seconds. In my budget reply speech last year I said that I aspire to be the kind of representative who acknowledges when the government commits to something that my community has called for. That is what government should do. It is the very minimum that this government should do. It is in that spirit that I want to express my delight that \$452,000 has been allocated out of the maintenance fund for the Elanora State High School to refurbish their home economics centre. This is fantastic. They have been patiently waiting on a waiting list for this money for over a decade. Sadly, this is the only bit of new money in this year's budget for Currumbin electorate schools. The little of what is funded in this budget was, in fact, promised in last year's budget and is only now being delivered. I am grateful for the promises that are actually being funded because there are a lot of promises that have no funding in this budget.

The promises that are actually being funded, such as the outside hours school care facility for the Currumbin State School, the upgrade to the toilet block for Elanora State School and the upgrade to the administration block for Tallebudgera State School, are all investments that these schools have been crying out for for a long time now. I am grateful that they are now receiving it. The commitment of \$2 million to the Currumbin Beach Vikings Surf Life Saving Club to build a new nippers club is another commitment I am happy about. As a teenager I earned my bronze medallion at the Vikings. They

needed a new nippers club then. I was delighted that last year the LNP committed \$2 million to upgrade the Vikings junior nippers club and Labor matched it and now they are getting that funding. I am very grateful that is happening.

Why, do members ask, am I so grateful for the promises that are actually being funded? Because there are so many promises this Labor government has made to my Currumbin community that are not being funded. In the 2020 election, Labor unequivocally promised that 'a re-elected Palaszczuk government will deliver a local satellite hospital for Tugun.' They plastered it all over promotional material. I table a document stating that the Premier came down and announced it. I also table another document stating that there will be a satellite hospital for Tugun. It was all in an attempt to win Currumbin in the state campaign.

Tabled paper: Bundle of extracts from the Facebook page of Kaylee for Currumbin, in relation to the Premier and health services [916].

Tugun needs that satellite hospital. They need the investment and they need the 924 jobs that will be created. That is why it is so disappointing to see this state Labor government unable to provide any detail around where the satellite hospital will be located. Following last year's budget I expressed my dismay that the Labor government is shying away from that promise.

Mr Krause: 'Dismay'?

Mrs GERBER: I know: 'dismay' is conservative. I was absolutely disgusted and six months on I am still facing this dilemma. In last year's budget papers not only was the project renamed—no longer was it called the Tugun satellite hospital; it was called the southern Gold Coast satellite hospital—the project's location pin was dropped in Burleigh. In this year's budget there is no project location pin at all and once again the name has been changed. Now it is being referred to as the Gold Coast satellite hospital. If they plan on making good on their promise to build a satellite hospital in Tugun, why all the smoke and mirrors around the name?

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Pause the clock. Member for Currumbin, I apologise. Members on both sides, the noise is getting a bit much. Be mindful that I would appreciate hearing this speech in as much silence as possible.

Mrs GERBER: Thank you for your protection, Madam Deputy Speaker. Do members want to know why there is all that smoke and mirrors around the name when the locations of all the other satellite hospitals are known? I can tell members why. It is because this deceitful Labor government is trying to wriggle out of its promise because it no longer benefits it to build a hospital in Currumbin. My community want that promise kept. They want this government to know how much the commitment to a satellite hospital in Tugun means to them. I want to see this seedy state Labor government deliver on that promise.

The second major commitment that the government made to my Currumbin community and that they are hoping my constituents will forget about is their election promise to acquire 148 hectares of land in Currumbin Valley and turn it into an ecotourism park. Labor said they would buy that land. Labor said they would ensure the site would remain out of the urban footprint. They said they would transform all 148 hectares of Martha's Vineyard into one of the largest ecotourism parks in Australia. They called it an 'eco win' for Currumbin, and I table that article.

Tabled paper: Media article, undated, titled 'Eco win in Currumbin' [917].

Do members know how much money they have allocated to that project in the budget this year?

Mr Krause: How much?

Mrs GERBER: Zero! They plan to acquire a parcel of land for zero dollars. During the state campaign it became clear that the Labor candidate had plucked that commitment out of the air. The Labor candidate had not even consulted with the landowners before making that announcement.

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, I have spoken previously about the general noise level. I will start issuing warnings. There are a couple of people I am monitoring. You are cautioned.

Mrs GERBER: The land was purchased by the current landowner in 2019 for \$15.25 million. In last year's budget a measly \$500,000 was allocated for negotiations and in this year's budget there are zero dollars allocated. Even this out-of-touch Treasurer should know that \$500,000 is a far cry from the \$15.25 million that the land was valued at over two years ago. However, we all know that valuations are not this Treasurer's strong point. Maybe he thinks he can make the valuation up as he did with the

land titles office. I am sorry, Treasurer, but that will not fly in the real world where market valuations matter. How is this deceitful Labor government going to secure the land when they are coming to the negotiation table with zero dollars? It is another Labor promise that this Labor government is set to break for my Currumbin community.

There is a consistent theme here. The Treasurer promised \$2 billion for the Hospital Building Fund, but when we look to the budget for the money there is nothing there. In reality, for the whole year there is a \$74 million drop in actual expenditure for our hospitals and, of greatest concern to me, \$51 million of that reduction in expenditure affects the Gold Coast. In this budget the Treasurer promised \$1 billion for the Housing Investment Fund. However, if you flip through the budget papers and try to find the money it is not there. The Treasurer promised \$1.5 billion for the Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund, but there is only \$500 million in the budget for that. The budget is missing \$1 billion there. The Treasurer promised \$300 million for the Path to Treaty Fund, but again there is no actual funding in the budget. The truth of the matter is that Queensland and my Currumbin community have received a truckload of nothing from this state Labor government.

This budget does not reflect a government that supports small businesses. Faced with the disastrous impacts of the pandemic, we on the border called for targeted funding to help businesses directly impacted by border closures and restrictions. What we got from this state Labor government was a barely functional yet aptly named disaster hub. That was launched with typos, errors and the same lack of care that Labor has shown our small businesses all along, not to mention the false hope when they closed applications for the Business Basics grants a mere three hours after they opened.

As the shadow assistant minister for the night-time economy I am beyond disappointed in the lack of vision, the lack of planning and the lack of care given by this state government to grow the economy, let alone the night-time economy. It is past time that this government provide support to emerging industries such as that.

Further, the government must step up and do better to support local community groups in Currumbin. As the shadow assistant minister for youth I would love to see some funding provided to the incredible not-for-profit and volunteer-run organisations that service my community. One example of those is the incredible Fight 4 Youth, which is a multicultural youth charity that provides relief to young people in need. Leisa Logan, who founded Fight 4 Youth, is a qualified chaplain. When she is not volunteering her time at Fight 4 Youth to help youth live their best possible lives against disadvantage, against discrimination, against harm and against self-harm, she is working at the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre helping youths in detention. Leisa's whole objective is to reach the kids who need it, to empower them, to strengthen relationships, to inspire respect for themselves and for others, and to keep them out of detention centres. I want to see Fight 4 Youth supported. I am committed to helping Leisa however I can.

Further, as the shadow assistant minister for justice I cannot ignore this state Labor government's clear disregard for my community's safety on the policing front. The Gold Coast is the state's second largest city and accounts for 15 per cent of the population, yet the government has decided that a single increase in police resources on the northern Gold Coast is enough for the whole city. The budget sets aside \$156.1 million for the Queensland Police Service but the Gold Coast receives a mere \$51 million for one project and the Currumbin electorate is completely ignored.

The people of Currumbin and the wider Gold Coast community are also left to wonder if the roof over their head is there to stay and whether they will see any funding for the social housing that they need. Earlier this week, the ABC's Brisbane anchor, Matt Wordsworth, pressed the Premier where it hurt. He asked her about the government's welfare investment, which falls well short of what Queensland needs. He said, 'We've got a housing system on the waitlist', and he is right. The Premier could not stand that pressure. She snapped back, saying that she did not accept that. The Premier stated—

We're putting \$1.9 billion into housing. \$1.9 billion. Tell me which other government around Australia has put \$1.9 billion into social housing?

I can tell her. The Victorian government has! They are investing \$5.3 billion in social housing.

Madam Deputy Speaker, that is not the point. The point is the Gold Coast, which already houses 13 per cent of the state's population, only receives a mere seven per cent of the budgeted money to be spent on the construction of new social housing and only three per cent of the budgeted money to be spent on upgrading social housing. There are 25,000 people on the social housing waiting list. These Gold Coasters cannot wait on the state Labor government any longer.

The last point I want to make is one that is very close to my heart. For the past six months I have been fighting alongside the Gough family to see spinal muscular atrophy included in the newborn bloodspot screening process in Queensland so that another Queensland family does not have to suffer the way the Goughs have, so that another Queensland family does not have to watch while their child deteriorates from SMA when it could have been prevented with early detection at birth. I was hopeful the health minister might listen to the 14,500 petitioners who signed the petition and the 500 people who sent letters to the health minister imploring her to add SMA to the newborn screening process. Even the AMAQ has once again, in their budget submission, implored the health minister to include it in the budget. AMA has estimated this cost to be only \$700,000. Here is their budget submission in which they said—

AMA Queensland wants SMA testing introduced to the newborn heel prick test in Queensland so babies diagnosed with the disease can begin treatment early and have a better quality of life.


I will table that for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Extract from AMA Queensland Budget Submission 2021-22, titled '5. Boost specialist care for regional maternity patients', p. 8 [\[918\]](#).

There is no commitment or certainty in this year's budget for testing for SMA. I am devastated by this. We must not let another Queensland family or baby go through what baby Oakley is going through. I know the health minister is still open to considering this, and I hope with all my heart that the government will act on this because it is above politics; this is a matter pertaining to the life and death of children in Queensland. For a test that costs \$10, this is something that this government should be doing. This is why I will not stop fighting for it and it is why we must continue to push this government to move for Oakley and include testing for SMA as part the newborn screening process in Queensland.

I will conclude by saying this budget is one of the worst budgets for my Currumbin community and it is one of the worst budgets for Queenslanders. Not only has it let my Currumbin community down full of lies and deception—

(Time expired)

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (3.41 pm): I congratulate the Treasurer on a fantastic Labor budget. It is a budget with a laser-sharp focus on recovering from COVID-19. The economic policies of this government are helping our great state power forward. We have nation-leading interstate migration, nation-leading economic growth, nation-leading housing starts and nation-leading retail spending.

I was pleased to see this week our unemployment rate dropping to 5.4 per cent, which is especially good considering the participation rate is higher than the national average. We are the first of the major economies in Australia with a path back to surplus.

As I see it, there are three reasons for the economic success that our state is experiencing: firstly, we entered the pandemic in a strong economic position; secondly, the Premier made the right calls at the right times during the heat of the pandemic; and thirdly, we have a strong economic recovery plan to drive forward Queensland.

This budget recognises the importance of social and community support. Queenslanders know the government will deliver for, and always protect, those most vulnerable.

I was really pleased to see our \$1.9 billion investment in social housing over four years and the new \$1 billion Housing Investment Fund to support housing supply and increase housing and homelessness support across Queensland. I congratulate the Treasurer and the minister on that. This will mean thousands of new builds over the next four years.

This financial year our economy will grow by 3.25 per cent, more than double the national growth rate. This is even more impressive given our economy contracted less than the national average over the last year. By the end of the forward estimates our economy will still be growing faster than the national average.

Of course, because of COVID-19 the economic recovery has not been able to benefit all industries equally. Live music has taken a big hit since COVID hit, particularly indoor venues. While it has been difficult for many across pubs, clubs and nightclubs, those whose main business is putting on gigs have been particularly affected. That is why I was very pleased to see the Premier, Treasurer and Minister Enoch announce \$7 million in support to be delivered by Arts Queensland this coming financial year for live music venues. I thank Angela Samut and John Collins from the live music sector in particular for working with us on this package. Now we just need the federal government to hurry up and sort out their vaccine supply so that these venues can fully get back to normal.

More broadly, pre-COVID, Queensland Labor governments were delivering surplus after surplus and we are on track to get there again. Federally, the LNP have not delivered a surplus since four Liberal prime ministers ago. Morrison—nope; Turnbull—nope; Abbott as pm with sloppy Joe Hockey—nope. In Queensland, of course, the Newman government never delivered a budget surplus, despite promising to do so.

Earlier this week on Sky News, the Leader of the Opposition, when asked if he would rule out cuts, said, 'I'm ruling out being savage.' So those opposite are happy to do cuts, just not savage cuts. When you think of the Leader of the Opposition, the word 'savage' does not come to mind—more Savage Garden than savage, I think.

I was very shocked to hear the Leader of the Opposition yesterday in his budget reply talk about a lack of housing options in Aspley. I have a couple of points to make about that. Firstly, if the LNP care about housing affordability in Aspley, they really should talk to the person directly responsible for town planning and housing developments for the better part of the last decade in Aspley and indeed across all of Brisbane, and that is their last candidate for Aspley. The LNP imply that planning is broken in Brisbane and then they run the person who ran planning in Brisbane as a candidate in their most marginal seat in Brisbane. The mind boggles. Secondly and perhaps even more shamelessly—

Mr Power interjected.

Mr Watts: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There was unparliamentary language just a moment ago from behind me.

Mr Power: I am happy to withdraw.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Thank you.

Mr MELLISH: I do not know what is going on over there. Perhaps more shamelessly, if the LNP think there is a lack of housing options in Aspley, then why have they been opposing the Carseldine Village in the heart of Aspley? This is a project that will provide a range of affordable housing products directly linked to public transport and adjacent to sporting and transport infrastructure that we are building. They say in here that they support public housing, they say in here that they support affordable housing, but then they do not have the courage to say they support it in the suburbs.

This budget has plenty of great funding for local Aspley roads with continued funding for the Beams Road overpass, the Bald Hills Diverging Diamond—a fantastic project; I turned the sod with the member for Sandgate recently—jointly funded with the federal government. We have Linkfield Road Overpass funding. We have funding for the Albany Creek Road-Bangalow Street intersection—some really great projects.

I am particularly happy about some local education funding. Aspley Special School and Geebung Special School are great local schools which work really well together and they service not just my electorate but the broader north side. I was really pleased to see \$5 million this year as part of a total commitment of \$11.4 million for additional classrooms for Aspley Special School. That is a really great commitment. Also in this budget we saw \$4 million this year for Geebung Special School out of a total commitment of \$7.9 million for additional classrooms. I have spoken to the schools this week and they are really pleased with those commitments.

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—

This budget hits the mark on many fronts:

- A \$3.34 billion Queensland Jobs Fund – including a new \$2 billion Queensland Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund.
- A record \$22.2 billion health investment, plus a \$2 billion Hospital Building Fund to help meet growth pressures across the health system. Prince Charles hospital on the northside doesn't miss out.
- An infrastructure spend of \$14.688 billion in 2021-22. Over \$50 billion over the forward estimates.
- And once Cross River Rail opens, pending our successful Olympics bid of course, we will be rebuilding the Gabba on the surface, creating a fantastic new area which will be very very well connected.
- Homebush is nice, but it's on a spur line more than half an hour from the city. You could not be closer to the heart of the city at the Gabba, and importantly you could not be better connected to public transport, with the labor built busway network and the labor built cross river rail right there.
- \$16.8 billion to improve education outcomes for students and teachers

And this is a Budget that invests in growth. Growth in jobs. Growth in services, including health. Growth in vital infrastructure. Growth across Queensland

Because we have got this economy moving again

A strong health response has directly led to a strong economic response.

Ms LEAHY (Warrego—LNP) (3.47 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the appropriation bills. This is a typical Labor budget—cuts to infrastructure spending of \$4 billion, black holes, blank lines and dodgy asset sales to themselves.

I wish to commend the opposition leader David Crisafulli and the Deputy Leader David Janetzki on their budget reply speeches. They have the attention of my former constituents with the independent Parliamentary Budget Office to bring Queensland into line with the Commonwealth and other state jurisdictions.

One of my constituents, Louise Travers, has made comment about the budget. She wants a bit of truth about the finances and the promises that have not happened, for example, the Toowoomba Hospital. It is a fair question, too.

This government has been saved by Queenslanders—Queenslanders who have been working hard during COVID, Queenslanders who have been innovative and Queenslanders who are paying taxes to the state government. These same Queenslanders are paying the waste tax, the waging tax, the land tax, the property investor tax and the car stamp duty tax, and all of these taxes were introduced by the Palaszczuk Labor government.

It looks as though there is another tax on the way for Queenslanders, and the government's own budget documents point to this. It is the rubbish bin tax, and it is coming to households across the state in 2022-23. I will elaborate more on this shortly.

Mr Watts: Rubbish.

Ms LEAHY: It is a tax on rubbish.

I firstly want to deal with the sham in this budget—the sham sale of the titles office. The dodgy part of this sale is the value on the titles office of \$7.8 billion. Two weeks ago in parliament the Treasurer said the titles office was valued at \$4.2 billion. What happened in the past two weeks? I wish I could get a revaluation that quickly. Using this dodgy figure, the Queensland government has sold the titles office at an overinflated price to itself to wipe debt from the books. The sale was made from the Queensland government to Treasury but no money changed hands. It sounds dodgy, and that is because it is.

Through this sham sale, the Queensland government just reduced its debt figure without reducing the level of debt it must repay. It moved the debt sideways, not down.

Mr Tantari interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Pause the clock. Member for Hervey Bay, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms LEAHY: Thank you for your protection, Madam Deputy Speaker. Through this sham sale, the Queensland government just reduced its debt figure without reducing the level of debt it must repay. It moved the debt sideways, not down. It is phoney accounting while the state still careens towards record debt. It is Labornomics as per usual, and it just does not add up.

This state Labor government has failed to answer one simple question: where is the money in this budget to pay for the billions of dollars of promises? The Treasurer made nearly \$6 billion in announcements that cannot be delivered in this term of parliament. If it is not in the budget, it does not exist. For the benefit of the House, let me list which funds we have from those opposite without funding. There is the Hospital Building Fund. There is nothing in the budget. It did not even rate a mention as a line item. There is the Housing Investment Fund. There is nothing in the budget for that. The Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund is missing \$1 billion in the budget. The Path to Treaty Fund has nothing in the budget. The carbon reduction investment fund has nothing in the budget. It truly beggars belief. Where is the money?

There is a need for real truth about the finances and the promises of this government. I table for the information of the House a media release published by the Minister for the Environment who was quoting figures of nine years of funding as one year's expenditure in this year's budget.

Tabled paper: Media release, undated, by the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs, Hon. Meaghan Scanlon, titled 'Review to strengthen Queensland's war on waste' [919].

The minister said that the funding for councils in this year's budget for Works for Queensland is \$900 million—wrong; it is \$100 million. She says COVID Works for Queensland is \$200 million—wrong; this program finishes in 2020-21. She says Building our Regions in this budget is \$418 million—wrong; this year it is \$70 million. She says local government grants and subsidies are \$286 million—wrong;

this year it is \$25 million. But wait, it gets better. I am pleased to see the Minister for Transport is in the House. She said that the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme, TIDS, is \$700 million in this year's budget—wrong; it has not increased since 2015 and in this budget it is \$70 million. If the government's own ministers get it wrong and do not know how to read a budget, how are the public supposed to get the full facts on the state of the finances?

When it comes to the Works for Queensland program, the government would have us believe the rivers are flowing with gold to local governments across Queensland. That is not so. What the budget documents tell us is that Works for Queensland drops to \$70 million in 2022-23. It is further cut to \$30 million in 2023-24. There is a similar story for the South East Queensland Community Stimulus Program. That package drops back to \$40 million in 2022-23 and is further cut to \$10 million in 2023-24.

There is no way that councils will be able to support 26,000 jobs in the future across Queensland with less than half the funding. This budget tells us the Labor government have cut back local government's sacred cow—Works for Queensland. Queensland's local governments have been short-changed. They will not be able to keep up with the demands of population growth for local infrastructure like parks, footpaths, kerbing and channelling or security lighting.

Mr Power interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Pause the clock. Member for Logan, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms LEAHY: Whilst I am on local government issues, what an appalling attack we had this morning from the Treasurer on the Brisbane City Council mayor and councils in receipt of the waste levy advance payment. The Treasurer said—

Councils should be so lucky—taking credit for a rebate that the Labor government is giving to households via them.

Why is it that Labor governments hate councils so much? What we have learned from this budget is that waste levy advance payments for councils are only confirmed for 2021-22. There is no commitment to continue these payments beyond 2022 to 39 local governments. In future councils will be forced to hike rates to meet the forward revenue estimates for Labor's waste tax. Councils will become the tax collectors for the state government in the future.

Mr Perrett interjected.

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

Ms LEAHY: Councils will be forced to collect approximately \$1 billion for the state government waste tax over the forward estimates. The rubbish bin tax will be the sixth tax from this Labor government. This waste tax has already shovelled millions of dollars into the Labor government coffers, and Labor has failed to drive the investment into recycling and resource recovery. Local governments are once again faced with doing the heavy lifting on tax collection in the future for the failures of the state Labor government.

What we know is that this Labor government has misled Queensland local governments and every Queenslanders who has a wheelie bin. They are treating local governments like a poor cousin once more, and they are treating honest Queenslanders as fools. Aged-care homes and the not-for-profits will have to pay for the rubbish bin tax in the future.

We already know the member for Gaven is not good with figures—that is clear to see—so how will she now explain to her Gold Coast constituents that they will now have to pay another \$88 per year for the rubbish bin tax? I look forward to how the Premier will explain to her constituents why they are going to pay \$88 per year for their rubbish bins, when she was the one who gave the commitment that Queensland families will not face the cost of this levy. The budget papers tell us this is a broken promise.

How will the member for Bundaberg explain to his constituents that in future they may have to pay more than \$88 per year for their rubbish bins? That is not the only explaining the member for Bundaberg will have to do. I table a copy of last year's budget where the Bundaberg flood levee was clearly articulated as a budget line item.

Tabled paper: Extract from 2020-21 Queensland State Budget—Service Delivery Statements, titled 'Table 1.1 Expense measures', p. 1-5 [\[920\]](#).

The Bundaberg flood levee has vanished as a line item from this year's budget. That is right; there is no line item for the Bundaberg flood levee. Here we have the member for Bundaberg who made great promises at the state election, but he has lost the money for the Bundaberg flood levee from this budget. Let us not forget that he lost his level 5 hospital as well.

We have heard a lot in this parliament about the Roma Hospital. Just for the record, this hospital redevelopment started under former minister for health, Lawrence Springborg. This was a hospital where people could put their hands through the walls to the daylight on the outside. It was riddled with concrete cancer. It would have started to collapse if it were not for the redevelopment that started under the LNP. Successive Labor governments drove the infrastructure into the ground, literally. I want to place on record my thanks for a person who was not at the opening, however was pivotal in guiding the hospital through the funding gates. Former CEO Glynis Schultz was tireless in her drive to achieve a new hospital for Roma. Without her, this hospital would not have happened. Thank you Glynis.

We heard the Premier say this week that no matter where across our state families live, they should have a good quality health system. Premier, there needs to be some more support for local health professionals in Roma to deliver that good quality health system. Just ask William Titmarsh of Roma, whose original referral for a hip replacement was to the Roma Hospital in September 2019. Finally, after my representations, he has made it onto the waiting list for the Brisbane Mater Hospital for elective surgery. He may well have to wait another 365 days for his surgery. That is about three years since his first appointment before he even looks to get his surgery. I do not agree that this is a good quality health system, nor does Mr Titmarsh who has had that long wait. Whilst I am on health, the Tara Hospital is crying out for more support from the government. More nurses are desperately needed due to an increase in population across that region.

In the time I have remaining, I have some constituent budget requests that I wish to address. Councillor Robyn Fuhrmeister wants a guaranteed advance waste levy payment to councils for more than a year. Well, Robyn, this budget clearly shows that in 2022 the rubbish bin tax will start.

Lesley Cook wants the lack of affordable medical assistance and lack of birthing services at the Chinchilla Hospital addressed. Lesley, I too am passionate about returning the birthing services to Chinchilla; however, this government does not seem to share our passion.

Angie Hockaday wants more dollars or subsidy to transport recycling from the south-west to the east for processing. Angie, that is a great suggestion. The government have had three years to pick up this initiative for recycling; however, they have done nothing.

Sally Hemming wants to talk about the poor condition of regional roads, especially for heavy vehicles that use these roads. Sally, unfortunately, there is a \$6 billion maintenance backlog on the state controlled roads system. This budget falls short of addressing that backlog.


Mr Krause: How much will it go up this year?

Ms LEAHY: I take that interjection. How much will that maintenance backlog on state controlled roads go up this year?

Andrew and Wendy Henning said it would be wonderful if rural and remote education in Queensland could be considered in the budget. Andrew and Wendy, the budget has a record spend on education. However, some of the more immediate issues, like water supply for schools, have not rated a mention, nor has accommodation for school camps for distance education students.

Liz Hill wants affordable housing for small rural towns. Liz, there is a Housing Investment Fund promised. However, there are no funds in this budget for that fund. I think Liz will have some real difficulty trying to get that Housing Investment Fund out in the regional areas.

This is truly is a typical Labor budget—a typical Labor budget that disappoints.

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (4.00 pm): Queensland continues to lead the nation in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our ongoing response is one of strength, solidarity, determination and commitment. It is typical of our great state, and these very same characterises shine bright in our 2021-22 budget.

This budget delivers a fair go for our local community of Bundamba both now and into the future. New schools, healthcare upgrades and major infrastructure investments will support thousands of new secure local jobs at a time when we need them most. We have delivered a record \$22.2 billion health budget that delivers record services and frontline health staff for our local community. It means \$750 million for local Ipswich health services—an increase of \$59.45 million from last year's budget alone and a whopping 64 per cent increase since the Palaszczuk Labor government was elected. It includes \$101.2 million for construction projects to expand and improve facilities at the Ipswich Hospital precinct, including a new acute new mental health unit and \$1.6 million for The Park—Centre for Mental Health.

This budget also commits \$7.2 million towards the 26-bed expansion at Ipswich Hospital and \$5.3 million to secure additional bed capacity. There is also initial funding towards a brand new dedicated alcohol and drug rehabilitation centre.

In a huge boost for our local community, South Ripley will be home to the brand new Ipswich satellite hospital at Barrams Road. A business case is now being prepared for the 2.7-hectare site for community health care including ambulatory and low-acuity day therapy like renal dialysis, chemotherapy, complex wound management, and urgent care for minor injury and illness. Our local community will also be supported by \$177 million for a 174 public-bed expansion at Springfield Hospital. This means more world-class health services closer to home in our community. The budget also delivers \$3 million to progress a new ambulance station and police facility in Ripley.

We have a record \$15.3 billion education budget which will see new schools open in Ripley and Augustine Heights by 2023, along with two new schools in the Bellbird Park, Collingwood Park and Redbank Plains areas by 2024. Our existing schools will benefit from a further \$39.8 million, supporting the expansion and upgrade of schools in Bellbird Park, Goodna, Redbank Plains, Redbank and Ripley Valley. We are also backing training and apprenticeships, with \$3.3 million to expand the metal trades centre and deliver a new manufacturing and robotics centre at the Ipswich TAFE campus at Bundamba.

We are investing a massive \$2.9 billion for social housing through \$1.9 billion over four years to increase social housing stock and a new \$1 billion Housing Investment Fund to support current and future housing need. Through this, we are fast-tracking more supply of almost 10,000 social homes over the life of our Housing Strategy—that includes almost \$52 million in this budget for Ipswich. We recently opened facilities at Bellbird Park and Redbank, with an additional two sites at Redbank currently under construction.

Cheaper, cleaner energy is what Queenslanders need to get ahead as we continue our focus on the post-COVID economic recovery. This budget commits a record \$2 billion record energy investment to continue powering our economic recovery. Our commitment to publicly owned power assets and home-grown Queensland renewables continues to keep power prices down for local homes and businesses.

We are investing \$15.2 million in our local Swanbank E Power Station, publicly owned by CleanCo, to support a major overhaul that will deliver local jobs. We have installed 536 solar panels at Bundamba State Secondary College, joining 270 panels at Kruger State School, as part of our landmark \$97 million Advancing Clean Energy Schools program. Our nation-leading \$2 billion Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund will drive local supply chains and advanced manufacturing jobs.

We have the skills and workforce to manufacture the components and new technology Queensland needs to meet our renewable energy target. Solar panels, electrolyzers, wind turbines and batteries can and should be made right here in Queensland. This budget delivers the investment our publicly owned energy companies need to support our 9,500-strong energy workforce, supercharge job creation and put Queensland jobs front and centre of the renewables revolution.

This is a budget for the Bundamba community and all Queenslanders that continues our great state's strong recovery by delivering more health care, education, community services, housing, roads, infrastructure, renewables and, most importantly, jobs.

The Deputy 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—

We have a huge boost for local roads and public transport.

Sections of River Road and Moggill Ferry Road at Riverview will be upgraded to the tune of \$1.14 million; \$1.13 million will improve safety along the Cunningham Highway between Redbank Plains Road and Ripley Road and \$38M Bundamba train station upgrade will start with \$461,000.

There is also \$50,000 to progress the park 'n' ride business case at Redbank station.

We're also supporting Ipswich City Council with \$3.35 million under the South-East Queensland Community Stimulus Package; \$1.77 million in COVID Works for Queensland funding; more than \$1.1 million for our libraries; and almost \$100,000 in Advance Queensland grant funding.

Small businesses are the lifeblood of communities right Queensland and employ nearly one million people.

Our new Small Business Strategy, which outlines how \$140 million of support for small business alongside a new Workforce Summit that will take place later this year.

The strategy includes a \$100 million Business Investment Fund, \$30 million to increase small business skills and capability, and \$10 million to make it easier to do business with government including making the Queensland Small Business Commissioner role permanent.

The Back to Work initiative has been extended with \$140 million over four years for targeted employer payments to help businesses recruit and retain young people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people with a disability or the long-term unemployed.

We're also investing \$31.2 million to extend the 50% payroll tax rebate for apprentice and trainees to June 2022.

We are home to some of the world's oldest continuing living cultures, and I'm incredibly proud to be part of an inclusive, respectful and forward-thinking government that has established the \$300 million Path to Treaty Fund.

The returns from this fund will progress our Path to Treaty and support our response to the Treaty Advancement Committee report.

This is another step forward in our treaty journey as we work to acknowledge and address past injustices and create a new future between First Nations and non-Indigenous Queenslanders.

We're also investing almost \$6 million towards language, education, culture, and reconciliation initiatives across the state, supporting efforts to Close the Gap for better economic, employment, health and housing outcomes.

A further funding boost of \$4 million to the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation continues our commitment to provide educational opportunities for more First Nations Queenslanders.

These important scholarships give families increased educational choices and life opportunities and recognise the importance of language, culture and identity and their impact on the health and wellbeing for current and future generations.

There's also \$1 million in increased funding over four years and \$300,000 ongoing to continue reconciliation initiatives across Queensland in communities like Bundamba.

We're a diverse, vibrant and proud local community, and this budget represents a huge investment in our area as all Queenslanders continue our safe and strong economic and employment recovery from the COVID pandemic.

This budget recognises the importance of language, culture, and identity, and its impact on the health and wellbeing for current and future generations.

Speaker, in conclusion, this budget represents a huge investment in our local Bundamba community as Queenslanders continue our safe and strong economic and employment recovery from the COVID pandemic.

I commend the bills to the House.



Mr KRAUSE (Scenic Rim—LNP) (4.07 pm): This budget is a sham. It is full of smoke and mirrors and shonky propositions. The biggest shonky proposition put out there by the government is this \$7.8 billion net debt reduction associated with the land titles office—plucked out of the air in the form of a transfer of the land titles office, from one government section to another government section, to reduce the debt figure in the budget. This is without actually reducing by a single cent, not one cent, the actual dollar amount of debt to be paid by Queensland to its creditors. This is tricky accounting but, sadly, it is the latest in a long line of trickery and cover-ups when it comes to budgets from this government.

I think people need to ask: if the government is shuffling the titles office around, how long will it be until it is flogged off? Queensland knows that the Labor Party has form in selling assets. Who sold the assets? Labor sold the assets. They sold Queensland Rail. There is a long list of them: the Port of Brisbane, Queensland Motorways, Forestry Plantations Queensland. Labor sold the assets. I can see it now: Treasurer Dick getting it ready, fattening it up for sale in the future—just like New South Wales has and just like Victoria has. Why else would they go through the process of this shonky accounting procedure?

Mr Hinchliffe interjected.

Mr KRAUSE: Who sold Queensland Rail? Answer that, Minister Hinchliffe. Queensland Rail was sold by the Labor Party. Why did they do it? They did it because they were under duress. The creditors were coming to get them. They had already lost the AAA credit rating when they sold Queensland Rail, but they were trying to do something about debt back then. They were concerned about the debt levels of government. Interest rates are low now. How long until they go up again? There seems to be some consensus out there in the financial community, especially in the light of opinion put forward by Terry McCrann, that inflation is going up around the world. When that hits Australia we are going to see interest rates go up as well. What is that going to do to the Labor budget then? It will blow it out of the water.

The servicing of that debt will go through the roof and then we will see this government looking for things to do. It will either raise taxes or sell assets, and the titles office will be ready because the Treasurer has got it ready for sale. I think we need to look at that very carefully in the future when it is going to be sold off, cashed in, to reduce the crippling interest bills that Queensland is going to face in the future.

A government member interjected.

Mr KRAUSE: I will take that interjection. Maybe you should rule it out, because I do not think he has ruled it out at this point in time.

Mr POWER: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. We just debated a bill where we legislated that it be preserved. He is misleading the House.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Gerber): Member for Logan, there is a process to follow if you allege the member is misleading the House. If you feel that has occurred, you can write to the Speaker.

Mr KRAUSE: Cameron Dick has laid the groundwork to sell the titles office just like they sold assets before. As I said, there is a long line of budget trickery. We had the cancelled budget, when the government chose to deliberately hide the financial position from Queenslanders before the election. We should have had the budget before the election, but they hid the state of the finances from Queenslanders. Then they sprung \$28 billion worth of extra debt on people after the election, which was not promised. Before that there was the raiding of the Public Service super fund defined benefit scheme, so now according to reports there is a one in two chance of that going into default in the future. Then we have the blowout in Cross River Rail costs as well, which the member for Chatsworth has highlighted very well.

There are a lot of questions about this budget—a lot of questions about the finances of Queensland, in fact. Revenue is up in this budget, according to the budget papers, but infrastructure spending is down. As far as I can see, health spending is stagnant if you take out the additional money that has been given to the state by the LNP federal government. Thank you to the Canberra government for doing that. The Treasurer says that you cannot build Cross River Rail twice, and that may be why there is a dip in infrastructure spending, but I am not sure if they will build it for that budgeted figure. But that is no excuse for a cut—a savage cut, in fact—to the infrastructure budget of Queensland. It is a savage cut to take out \$4 billion from infrastructure spending when there are so many other things it could be spent on.

We have a nearly \$6 billion backlog on the maintenance of state controlled roads and a whole heap of other major road infrastructure projects that could be invested in, but they are not in the forward estimates because they are not budgeted for. Obviously there is going to be a cut to infrastructure spending across the state just at the time we need it. For example, we desperately need an investment in the Cunningham Highway and we need more on the Mount Lindesay Highway, but that is not in the forwards either.

Why should we be surprised about this, especially when it comes to the Cunningham Highway. We have Labor MPs in Ipswich who refuse to stand up for their community time and time again to get action on the Amberley interchange. That project remains in the never-never in this budget because of the inaction of this government in bringing forward a costed design they can seek funding from the federal government for. I was appalled by Labor members. I refer especially to the member for Ipswich West, who did not mention the Cunningham Highway once in his budget reply speech even though it runs to the Amberley air base, which is on the side of his electorate, and thousands of people go there every day. From what I recall, the member for Ipswich did not mention it either.

That is a disgrace, because in this chamber just a few weeks ago they had the gall to mention the Cunningham Highway as an issue with the federal budget. The federal government has money on the table for that highway, but there is nothing to build in that part of the world, and that lies at the feet of this government here in Brisbane. Even Shayne Neumann, the federal Labor member for Blair, knows this is the problem, but this government and those members refuse to do anything about it because they always take Ipswich for granted. It is an absolute disgrace. They need to get on with a project that can be built there before someone else is killed. People have been killed there before. We do not want to see that again, whether it is in my electorate or the electorate of Ipswich West or Ipswich. Sadly, I do fear that at this point in time that is exactly what it will take to get the attention of this government to that part of the world.

There have been roadworks carried out in my electorate of late, and I appreciate the efforts of Transport and Main Roads officers to get those projects funded through a combination of state and federal funding. I need to emphasise federal funding on the Boonah Ipswich Road. Of the \$7.9 million total, \$3.7 million came from Canberra. On the Beaudesert-Beenleigh Road \$12 million has been spent, 50 per cent of which came from Canberra. There has also been a significant investment of around 80 per cent from the federal government in road safety projects along that stretch. Nothing would be happening without the injection of funds from the Commonwealth, and that is a disgrace which again lies at the feet of this government here in Brisbane. They need to invest more in our roads. When you see there is an infrastructure cut, it makes it even more disgraceful.

There has been some talk about the waste tax in this chamber in the last few days. It has not slowed down the growth in dumps in Ipswich. There are three dumps proposed in my electorate at this point in time. There is a major court action going on at the moment that the Ipswich City Council is

defending on behalf of the ratepayers of Ipswich, but it is costing hundreds of thousands of dollars—if not millions—for the council to defend those actions. I have called on this government repeatedly to call in those projects and knock them on the head for the benefit of those people who live near those proposed dump sites. They will not do it because the waste tax has always been, and always will be, just another source of revenue for this government. We see that again in this budget. In the forward estimates there is no revenue at all for the continuation of payments to councils to offset wheelie bin costs, and if it is not in the forwards it is not in the budget. Householders have every reason to fear they are going to see an increase in their wheelie bin charges next year because it is not in the forwards, and if it is not in the forwards it is not in the budget.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr KRAUSE: I hear the minister say ‘nonsense’. If it is nonsense, Minister, they should have had funding in the budget to continue that subsidy into the future.

I will also mention the irrigation tariffs. The minister who oversees electricity in the state has spoken about the additional subsidies or measures that are going to be put in place for irrigators and other special users who are going off transitional tariffs in the Ergon area. This completely ignores the fact that there are hundreds of farmers in South-East Queensland who have been using those transitional tariffs which have been maintained by energy retailers even when the regulatory regime was discontinued three or four years ago. They have been continuing those tariffs because they know they are beneficial to those farmers.

The new measures put in place by the government completely ignore farmers in South-East Queensland, and that should be accounted for because we all need to support our farmers in South-East Queensland, the Scenic Rim and Lockyer or the Somerset area, which the member for Nanango represents. They need those night-time tariffs and low-cost tariffs because of the inherent uncertainty involved in agriculture. They have been ignored by this government, even though they surely would have known that it is an issue for the Energex area as well. I look to the minister to come up with a solution which puts them on the same footing as the people in the Ergon area or better. I know that the member for Lockyer would like to see a better situation for our farmers, but at the moment they are being completely ignored.

I want to talk about the Mount Lindesay Highway again because it is a major issue for the Scenic Rim electorate. I see that the member for Logan is perking up because he wants to have a go at me. What I will say about the member for Logan is that he remains the luckiest state MP in Queensland because he has been allowed to escape responsibility for the Mount Lindesay Highway. The federal government has stepped up to the plate with 80 per cent funding for a lot of sections along that road, even though this member and his predecessors—and some of you across there were responsible for this as well—caused all of the problems on the Mount Lindesay Highway. The federal government is chipping in to the tune of over \$100 million at the moment and we are starting to see some progress on that road. It is very slow progress, and the member for Logan takes responsibility for that slow progress and getting planning going.

I will just give the House an example. There is \$97.87 million in the budget for that highway at the moment, and \$80 million of that is federal funding. That is \$80 million out of \$97.8 million. I know that the member for Logan will keep trying, but thank God for the federal government and Scotty Buchholz and Scott Morrison coming to the party. When we look at the aspects of the Mount Lindesay Highway that are actually paid for by the state, they are few and far between and they are minuscule compared to the federal funding. There is some planning work going on between North Maclean and Camp Cable Road, with \$1 million in 2021-22 and I think a similar amount in 2022-23, but why is it so slow? Get on with it. This road has been shocking for the last 30 years and they are still drip-feeding planning money to get it out there. There is \$2 million for safety works between Beaudesert and the border, and that is timed for 2022-23 and beyond in the outyears. That is a disgrace. They are tiny amounts compared to what needs to be done and they are in the outyears.

We see on a different side of the electorate work around Warrill View Peak Crossing Road with \$232,000. That is necessary work but it is delayed until 2022-23. When we are trying to generate jobs and get infrastructure spending going, why put such a small amount in the outyears? There are also issues with the Beaudesert Boonah Road at Coulson, and there is \$2.65 million for that. There are issues with that road that need fixing but, again, they are way out to 2022-23 and beyond. There is nothing for Boonah Rathdowney Road, which is like a goat track in some parts. Caravans and other tourists very regularly have near misses on that road. The minister should get that onto the agenda quick smart, but it does not even feature at all. There is nothing more for Ipswich Boonah Road, after the feds came to the party so handsomely with works there in the last few months.

I mention specifically the work that is programmed now for Beaudesert State High School to fix their exit. Main Roads has programmed a few hundred thousand dollars in work there to commence in July. This is something I first raised with the government in about this month in 2015, so it has only taken six years to get a few hundred thousand dollars worth of work done. I thank them for it, but perhaps next time we have a safety and congestion issue that needs to be fixed they might be able to get onto it quicker than six years. It is an absolute disgrace that it took that long.

There is also funding from the local government minister to upgrade facilities at Lake Moogerah. Thank you for that. Now perhaps we can get Seqwater and the council to work together to reinstate all of the camping places that were taken away through a new agreement last year where the number of campsites went from about 400 to fewer than 100, depriving our area of so much tourist income. If we are going to get those new facilities, we should increase those numbers again.

In the time remaining, I will mention the fire ant program fail. Fire ants continue to spread. The program have put out a call this week to rejig the national agreement. That means they need more money because they have wasted all the money they have had and fire ants still continue to spread. We need the Auditor-General to look at that.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): I commend the member for Logan for his constraint.



Hon. CW PITT (Mulgrave—ALP) (4.22 pm): I rise to make a contribution to this cognate debate, including the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2021. The budget bills before the House again support Queensland's economy during this time of global crisis and importantly support jobs today and future employment opportunities in our growing communities. To this end, I wish to speak about the support for the growing film industry in Queensland and especially in Far North Queensland.

A few weeks ago I was excited to be appointed as the Far North Queensland Screen Champion. I am already working on attracting productions to create jobs and maximise opportunities for the vibrant Far North Queensland screen sector. Beyond regional strengths in tourism and agriculture, the Far North is increasingly recognised as an attractive and safe destination for local and international film and television production. The natural breathtaking scenery in the Far North provides the perfect backdrop.

I was proud to launch with the Premier the Far North Queensland Screen Strategic Plan in 2019 to boost professional capability, support local creatives and foster a positive screen culture in the region. As treasurer, I was proud to fund our Production Attraction Strategy in 2015, which has now seen \$100 million of support provided.

The government's investment in the Far North Queensland screen industry has already delivered results. Since the start of 2020, we have seen extraordinary interest and investment in Queensland's screen industry, with 39 productions secured by Screen Queensland, injecting an estimated \$437 million into the local economy and creating more than 5,500 jobs. Recent productions in the Far North include *Dive Club* airing on Network 10 and Netflix, *Strait to the Plate* on SBS and NITV, and crime drama series *Troppo* and the drama series *Irreverent*, both to air on the ABC.

This budget lays down a further \$71 million, including \$53 million for the Production Attraction Strategy and \$4 million earmarked specifically for developing the industry in the Far North. I look forward to working with Screen Queensland and key stakeholders to champion investment in the Far North's screen sector, support jobs for local screen practitioners and drive the delivery of state-of-the-art production facilities in the region. As Screen Champion, I will also be an advocate for local storytellers, including First Nations writers and directors who are bringing stories of the Far North to screens across the world.

We should not underestimate the growing demand for new screen productions. The growing demand for content on Stan, Netflix and other streaming services requires new film production facilities. That is why I am proud to be working to deliver the government's election commitment for a \$6.8 million production facility in the Far North. As chair of the implementation group tasked to deliver the facility, I will be working with Screen Queensland to provide the Far North with a facility to drive more local screen productions of global quality. Importantly, the new Far North Queensland production facility will become a vital piece of economic infrastructure, supporting screen projects that will support local jobs and businesses. The new Far North production facility will further strengthen and diversify the Far North economy, and I look forward to the day when the screen industry is seen as one of the key industries of our local economy.

As the Speaker of the Queensland Legislative Assembly, I also wish to make a few specific remarks about the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2021. The Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2021 makes provision for \$106 million for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service for the 2021-22 financial year, a funding level commensurate with 2020-21 funding levels. The 2021-22 funding includes

a capital spend of \$7.9 million. Capital projects include continuation of an upgrade to critical building infrastructure and services supporting the Parliamentary Annexe, the ongoing electorate office accommodation improvement program and replacement of precinct information technology network infrastructure.

The most important commitment made in this budget cycle is the \$41 million investment to refurbish the Parliamentary Annexe commencing in 2022-23. The Parliamentary Annexe is now over 40 years old. It is in need of significant repair and refurbishment. The work needed is not a question of aesthetics; it is matter of workplace health and safety. I thank the government for their commitment towards ensuring that the facilities that parliamentarians use are fit for purpose. I also thank the opposition for their support for refurbishment of the Annexe ensuring this project has bipartisan support. I believe we can deliver a value-for-money outcome that will extend the life of the Annexe at a fraction of the cost of replacing the building.

The \$41 million refurbishment of the Annexe will commence the second stage of the Critical Infrastructure program. The first stage of this program has been underway since 2019-20 and will conclude in 2021-22. The first stage was supported with total funding of \$14.493 million over three years, with the final \$4.862 million provided for in this year's budget. The first stage involved a major upgrade and replacement of central mechanical services supporting air-conditioning systems, which is now completed. Ongoing works include upgrade of fire protection systems in the Annexe and major upgrade and replacement of electrical switchboard systems. I can report that the first stage is on track for final completion in June 2022 within budget.

The second stage of the Critical Infrastructure Program which the government has committed to will be far more wideranging in scope. The program will deliver a significant midlife refurbishment to and upgrade of major infrastructure to extend its life and bring it in line with current safety and technology standards. The Annexe upgrade consists of two main components. The first component is an upgrade of the building facade to replace deteriorating concrete exteriors and to improve acoustic noise reduction to members' bedrooms and office floors. The second component is an upgrade of existing members' offices and accommodation on floors 9 to 23. The office and accommodation upgrade will address the current dated condition, providing equitable access and the flexibility to manage future increases in the number of members. Planning for stage 2 of the Critical Infrastructure Program would commence in the second half of 2021-22. Practical work would commence in July 2022 over a period of 12 months.

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—

I now turn my attention to my region of Far North Queensland and my electorate of Mulgrave.

Mulgrave and Far North

I am pleased to see that my electorate of Mulgrave and the Far North continues to receive the investment it needs to thrive in these uncertain times.

I am extremely buoyed by the investment which the Queensland Government is injecting into Cairns Hospital which ensures that the Far North has a world class health facility.

\$46.1 million is being delivered in 2021-22 as part of a \$133.9 million total spend for construction projects to improve facilities at the Cairns Hospital site, including a new Mental Health Unit and expansion of the Emergency Department.

The 2021-22 Budget also continues to deliver funding for the Cairns Convention Centre expansion & refurbishment with \$74 million in 2021-22 out of a \$176 million total spend.

The upgraded Cairns Convention Centre will boost Cairns tourism offering for conference and convention events. Indeed it would be wonderful if the upgraded Cairns Convention Centre could host this House again when Regional Parliament returns to the Far North this term.

This year's budget also delivers on the promised funding for the development of the Cairns Marine Precinct.

\$24.5 million will be spent in 2021-22 out of a \$28 million total spend to deliver two new wharves for the Port of Cairns. A project that is supporting 150 jobs.

An additional \$1.6 million will fund a business case to grow the Cairns Marine Precinct further as a key centre for maintaining and repairing large defence vessels.

This investment will enhance the economic value of the Port of Cairns and the jobs that it provides through tourism, superyachts, cruise ship visits and now marine vessel maintenance.

I am also excited by another innovative tourism venture which is being backed in the Queensland Government

This year's budget delivers \$660,000 in 2021-22 out of a \$6.6 million total spend for Dreamtime Island, an offshore activity pontoon showcasing indigenous culture and incorporating a reef science hub to focus on sustainable eco-tourism.

This investment is delivered through the Growing Tourism Infrastructure program, which is improving our tourism offering all across the state.

This year's budget also delivers for new police infrastructure for the Far North.

I am pleased to see this year's budget will deliver the bulk of funding to replace the police facility at Woree with \$6 million in 2021-22 out of a \$11.4 million total spend.

\$7.4 million is provided in 2021-22 out of a \$17.4 million total spend to progress the upgrade of the police facility at Cairns.

This year's budget also provides investment for future industrial enterprises and the future jobs they can provide.

\$9.5 million will be provided in 2021-22 out of a \$31.5 million total spend for the Cairns Regional Industrial Estate.

The Cairns Regional Industrial Estate preserves land for future strategic industrial use to help create future economic development in the Cairns region.

The 2021-22 Budget also includes funding for upgraded education facilities in Mulgrave.

Projects funded include;

- \$340,000 this year towards a \$600,000 new skills development and training facilities at Bentley Park College.
- \$400,000 funding to increase the capacity of Outside School Hours Care at Hambeldon State School
- Almost \$900,000 towards the Sports Hall Extension and Courts Upgrade at Hambeldon State School
- \$350,000 towards refurbishment of the computer labs at Gordonvale State High School
- \$500,000 towards refurbishment of science labs at Gordonvale State High School
- \$340,000 this year towards a \$980,000 upgrade skills development and training facilities Woree State High School.
- \$280,000 this year towards a \$1,700,000 upgrade of the school hall at Woree State High School.

I am also pleased to see continued funding for road improvements across the Mulgrave electorate in this year's budget.

As has been the case for many years which I have been the Member for Mulgrave, the Bruce Highway Southern Access is receiving funding for an upgrade to meet the growing population centres to the south of Cairns.

This year's budget provides state funding towards 3 stages of the jointly federal state funded project, specially;

- \$481 million stage 3 to duplicate the highway from 2 to 4 lanes from Edmonton to Gordonvale. Currently the busiest two-lane section of the Bruce Highway in the State.
- \$123.7 million stage 4 to widen the highway from 4 to 6 lanes as part of the Cairns Southern Access Corridor from Kate Street to Aumuller Street near the Port of Cairns and wharf precinct.
- \$225 million Stage 5 for the Foster Road intersection upgrade.

It is with pride that during my time as Member for Mulgrave, I have been able to work with State and Federal Governments to deliver this massive capacity upgrade for the Bruce Highway on the Southern Approach to Cairns.

A better Bruce Highway approach to Cairns makes a material difference to people who travel to the Cairns CBD and beyond to work, study or do business.

Building a better Bruce Highway is not just for vehicles, cyclists are also going to benefit with the Cairns Southern Access Cycleway.

Located next to the Bruce Highway, the Cairns Southern Access Cycleway will provide about 20kms of direct cycleway from Gordonvale all the way through to Cairns CBD.

The project will deliver a safe off-road facility for bicycle riders of all abilities, including school children and the active recreation community. An exciting development for all cyclists.

The new cycleway will also deliver a direct and continuous route with limited intersections to encourage bicycle riders to use the new off-road facility.

This budget provides \$10 million in 2021-22 towards the Cairns Southern Access Cycleway as part of \$24 million overall investment.

This budget also provides upgrades for other roads in Mulgrave.

The \$500,000 upgrade of the intersection of Windarra Street and Rigg Street, Woree is funded in this budget by the Government and this will be a great development for the people of Woree.

The intersection services both Woree State School and Woree State High School and on school days is an intersection that has a high volume of traffic.

The investment in this intersection will mean better traffic flow and a safer intersection for Woree primary and secondary school communities.

\$610,000 will be invested in a replacement Behana Bridge No. 2 on Behana Gorge Road which services Aloomba.

Yarrabah outcomes

Mr Deputy Speaker, members will be aware I am very proud to have the community of Yarrabah as part of my electorate of Mulgrave—the largest mainland Aboriginal community in Australia.

I am pleased that this budget continues to provide investment in to the Yarrabah community with a further \$2.2 million towards the \$11.5 million jetty project .

Piling works on this much anticipated project have commenced, bringing opportunities for increased tourism and commuter services to Australia's largest mainland Aboriginal community.

It's just over 10 years ago that I outlined why a water-based transport solution was needed for Yarrabah and in 2015 as Treasurer I was proud to announce the first allocation of funding.

Piling works on this much anticipated project have commenced and it is very satisfying to see work starting on the 165-metre-long jetty at Gribble Point, adjacent to the Yarrabah township.

Both myself and the State Government have been working closely with council and Gunggandji Aboriginal Corporation throughout the project's planning and design.

Not only will this project support local employment opportunities during the construction phase, but the legacy of providing a viable transport option directly to the Cairns CBD will create access to employment and study opportunities for years to come.

This budget also provides \$1.3 million of investment this year to the Pine Creek—Yarrabah Road which is so vital to the Yarrabah community.

This budget also provides funding to the Yarrabah Arts and Cultural Precinct redevelopment which will provide a focal point for visitors and artists to the Museum/Art Centre precinct and an outdoor function area and stage.

Conclusion

Deputy Speaker, this budget delivers new investment into Mulgrave and the Far North. It provides support for the region's economy now and into the future for recognised strengths such as tourism and for new opportunities such as the screen industry.

The Budget also provides needed investment into this place, the Parliamentary precinct to ensure that our Parliament is a workplace fit for purpose.

I commend the bills to the House.



Mr BOOTHMAN (Theodore—LNP) (4.28 pm): Before I start my budget speech, I would like to offer my condolences to Mr Duncan Pegg's family. He was a great member of this chamber and his life was taken too soon. I served with him on a committee for quite some time and I always enjoyed his company. He was a very decent human being and his family should be very proud of everything he achieved over the years.

Before I commence the main part of my contribution today I want to highlight an issue that has come to my attention through some of my constituents. That issue relates to a cut to a program on the northern Gold Coast with Gold Coast health. This is an important program for newborn children born to vulnerable families with high needs. This program is going to cease at the end of this financial year. Quite a few residents have been pleading with the government to extend the funding. These are vulnerable children—infants up to the age of two—that this program looks after. In this program nurses make home visits to ensure the children are safe and well and to give support to the families.

We talk in this place about saving money, but when it comes to a very small cost burden on Queensland Health—in this case, Gold Coast health—the home visiting program should be continued. I ask the minister to please look at the budget and continue funding for this program. It is having a great impact on the northern Gold Coast and it is well worth continuing. We should not be cutting programs that protect the most vulnerable in our society. I again ask the minister to please talk to her departmental officers on the Gold Coast and reinstate this funding so this program can continue.

The Theodore electorate is situated on the northern Gold Coast, a place I am very proud of. It is a beautiful electorate. We have suburbia and the rolling hills of Mount Tamborine in the back areas. It is a very diverse area with multiple suburbs dotted throughout the electorate such as Pacific Pines, Oxenford, Wongawallan, Guanaba, Clagiraba, Coomera, Upper Coomera, Helensvale and Maudsland. Each area has its own specific needs. I want to talk about the roads budget because obviously roads are a very important connection piece for all of our electorates.

When it comes to the roads budget for the Theodore electorate, there is a roads project coming up soon, which I do appreciate. It is something for which I have been pushing the department for quite some time. That is the Beaudesert Nerang Road and Maudsland Road intersection which is receiving signalisation. That is a very dangerous intersection and I am happy it is finally receiving funding. It certainly does warrant it. However, when I look at the QTRIP information package I see that most of the projects in the Theodore electorate are being posted into the never-never.

Mr Minnikin: Smoke and mirrors.

Mr BOOTHMAN: That is right. It is smoke and mirrors. I take that interjection. One example is the riverbank upstream from the John Muntz Bridge. This is a very important issue for my constituents. Back in 2017—and I have said this in this chamber so many times—the riverbank washed away which cut the connection road on the western side of the bridge over the Coomera River. When that connection road was cut it caused a catastrophe for residents from all over the northern Gold Coast, in the areas of Upper Coomera, Tamborine Mountain, Wongawallan, Guanaba and Maudsland because it is the main thoroughfare. Around 10,000 to 13,000 cars travel across that bridge per day. The government made a promise at the last election—they decided to listen to the LNP—to fix this. However, they have pulled the funding out to 2023-24 and 2024-25, so it is literally in the never-never. Every time there is a flood, more of the riverbank is washed away, which costs more money than it would have to fix it in the first place.

The problem is that we are reaching the point where we will have to replace the bridge. If the government had spent \$920,000 back in 2017 fifty-fifty with the Gold Coast council to repair it, that would have cut it. However, since then the cost has gone up dramatically because we have lost upwards of 100 metres of riverbank. A total of \$2 million is not going to cover fixing the riverbank anymore. We are looking at three times that—potentially \$6 million to \$8 million to fix it. That is a problem that the government needs to address. If we allow more riverbank to wash away, it is going to cost the taxpayer even more to rectify. Potentially, the government may have to spend \$50 million to build a whole new bridge the full length of that flood plain to protect that vital arterial link that services the tourism areas of Mount Tamborine. When the bridge went out of service last time, it crucified those businesses. Those people do not deserve to go through that again. They do not deserve to have their visitor numbers collapse because this government has not done its homework and did not fix it when it should have.

Some funding has also been allocated for Tamborine Oxenford Road and Michigan Drive, which is a very dangerous intersection. Again, this \$2 million has been put out into the never-never. This is a very dangerous intersection for motorists turning right out of Michigan Drive onto Tamborine Oxenford Road. That is a very busy road that carries 10,000 to 13,000 cars a day and is part of a major transport network for buses. Those buses can sit waiting at that intersection for 15 minutes before a gap appears, which puts their timetables out. That then ruins their timetabled connections with trains. This is a project that needs to be undertaken sooner rather than later. Whilst people are very cautious when entering that intersection and we have not had a fatality there, there will be one in the near future.

Then there is Charlies Crossing, which I know is not on QTRIP. It also desperately needs an upgrade. Ever since the Gold Coast city council allowed the new service station to be constructed on the state controlled road—and Main Roads ticked off on it and said they just had to do a minor upgrade—it has caused traffic chaos for anybody trying to turn right out of Charlies Crossing Road. People are getting to the point where they are absolutely fed up with waiting. They are also worried about kids crossing that road. There is a bus stop on each side of the road and in the mornings and afternoons kids actually run across that road. It is so dangerous. This needs to be made a priority. It needs to be put in the QTRIP budget for this year, but that is not going to happen. Many of my residents feel they are being left out.

There is some money for safety works on Henri Robert Drive, but there is still no money for a safe left-turning lane into Henri Robert Drive from the gorge road. It is needed because it is on the reverse side of a blind hill. On many occasions I have seen near misses there when people decelerate to turn into Henri Robert Drive. They will be flying over the hill at 80 kilometres an hour, as everyone does, and a car will slam on their brakes because they are trying to make that turn. Many times we see cars swerve into oncoming traffic to avoid running into the back of another vehicle. It is a danger and it needs to be looked at.

On the subject of my local schools, I want to thank the Minister for Education for sending out a nice little spreadsheet and giving us an update about what is happening in our schools. However, we only received a very small amount of money for our schools. There are old schools in the Theodore electorate. One of the oldest schools on the Gold Coast is Coomera State School. It desperately needs some TLC and a lot of money spent on it. There are new schools being built around it. Parents will decide to send their children to the new schools because they do not realise that Coomera State School is a fantastic school. It does not have the brand spanking new buildings like Picnic Creek, but it is a fantastic school. Due to its age they have dealt with all the teething problems and the school is working well. However, this school desperately needs the extra funds spent on it.

The department should not be taking more students out of the Coomera State School catchment area. At the moment it has multiple classrooms sitting empty because the new schools are taking the children, who are now not going to the older school. I ask the Minister for Education to redraw the catchment boundaries in order to increase the population of that local school. Every time the school population falls they lose a deputy principal and skilled teachers, and they are very hard to replace. Those teachers have been there for many years and they know the environment; they know how to deal with the families and the children there. The department needs to allow that school to increase its population in order to keep those great teachers there.

Park Lake State School needs a facilities upgrade. The size of the staffroom needs to increase to facilitate professional development and aid learning outcomes for staff. Obviously the school has dramatically increased in size since it was first built, so that upgrade is well worthwhile.

Teachers and principals tell me that they need heads of year levels—master teachers to guide and give help to teachers and ensure they are supported to teach well. That is something the department certainly needs to look at. That is something my principals and P&Cs have been very vocal about over the years.

I mention sporting facilities in my electorate. I asked a question on notice of the Minister for Sport which highlighted the deficiencies at my local sporting clubs and the desperate need to upgrade their facilities. Coomera Hope Island Cricket Club desperately needs lighting and a clubhouse upgrade. Its clubhouse is an old wooden structure. The club wants to get a lot more female players involved, but it does not have the facilities to properly cater for them.


The Coomera Colts Soccer Club desperately needs to fix up its falling-down facilities. The old clubhouse has cracks through it and the toilet system does not work very well. It is a major issue. Coomera Colts is one of the largest soccer clubs in South-East Queensland and the largest soccer club on the northern Gold Coast. The Helensvale Hawks cricket club—

Mr Crandon: Pimpama's going to beat them eventually.

Mr BOOTHMAN: I do not take that interjection. Ormeau will not beat them. The Helensvale Hawks cricket club is after additional change rooms for its female players. The Coomera Magpies clubhouse is in desperate need of an upgrade.

I refer to public transport in the area. I highlight a desperate need to increase buses in the western areas and around Helensvale. Many elderly residents shop locally, at Sir John Overall Drive. Currently, they have to go along Discovery Drive and walk upwards of 1½ kilometres to get to the shopping centre. If they could go down the road I just mentioned, they would have a minute's walk to the shopping centre. That would make the lives of elderly residents in the Helensvale area so much easier.

We have a good wake park in the area. Bus transport into that wake park would make a huge difference, especially to young people in the area. It would help that business through this tough time but, most importantly, get young people involved in sporting activities. Wakeboarding is a fun sport. I encourage people to come down to that wake park.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (4.43 pm): It is an absolute honour to rise this afternoon to speak in support of this fantastic Labor budget. I start by commending the Treasurer on such a fantastic job. This budget delivers for Queensland from end to end. You know it is a really good budget when those opposite are tying themselves in knots trying to figure out why it is a bad one. It could just be that they fundamentally cannot comprehend debt reduction without actually sacking people, without decimating people's lives, without putting them out of house and home. It could just be that they do not understand how future funds work. I hear members opposite, even this afternoon, still asking questions about this, still putting questions to the minister, despite asking the same questions every single question time, multiple times this week.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms BOYD: The answers are sufficient. I recommend that those opposite think a little more about how budgets work. If they simply looked up the definition of 'budget' they would find—Investopedia I think had the best explanation; I really liked it and I think it is easy for those opposite to comprehend—that it is 'an estimation of revenue and expenses over a specified future period of time and is usually compiled and re-evaluated on a periodic basis'. That is exactly what this budget is doing. While those opposite say that it is smoke and mirrors, that it is just guesses, that it is full of holes, if they think back to what a budget is they will realise that it is based on estimates that Treasury make. We have economic managers—specialist experts—working in Treasury who figure this stuff out and provide it to government, and we figure out expenditure from there.

Those opposite should look at the facts in relation to the economic position Queensland is in right now. Queensland is creating more jobs than other states. Our employment is the fastest growing employment in the nation. Queenslanders today are paying less tax than the average Australian. We have lower property stamp duty than any other state. This budget delivers for all of Queensland.

I want to talk specifically about some of the health infrastructure in my electorate of Pine Rivers. This budget starts off our satellite hospital. I commend the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Health, the member for Redcliffe, on this fantastic, exciting initiative. It will free up our local hospital beds. It will ensure that people can access health services closer to home. My community is embracing it wholeheartedly. The satellite hospital, with the preferred location of the university campus at Petrie, will be a game changer for health service delivery in my local community.

The Prince Charles Hospital is our major hospital. The publicly owned car park will be a transformative piece of infrastructure at that facility. I have spent a lot of time in that hospital car park over the last few months. I know how expensive it is and I know what a burden that is on households right across my community. That is a fantastic deliverable in this budget.

The Pine Rivers community health building in Strathpine is receiving funding for major works to infrastructure, mechanical services, air conditioning and electrical infrastructure, along with the Caboolture Community Health Centre. The ambulance station in Petrie is being relocated to Gympie Road in Lawnton. It is a far better site—a site the Ambulance Service is already using for some particular services. I went and thanked those frontline service workers after the COVID pandemic had its peak. The workforce there—the officers and paramedics—are well and truly keen to move into the new facility in Lawnton.

This is a budget for education. We invest in education. We invest in our future generation. I thank the minister, the member for McConnel, for this education budget. There is an exciting build in my electorate at Bray Park State High School, which she visited only a few short weeks ago. We are putting in a new innovation centre. With additional classrooms and custom-made learning spaces, it will be a fantastic addition to Bray Park State High School which I know the growing school community absolutely needs. At Bray Park State High School we are delivering a new outdoor learning centre and refurbishing STEM classrooms. At Dayboro State School we are starting to build accessible pathways. We will also be building a new senior playground there. At Pine Rivers Special School we are putting in a new administration building and additional classrooms and at Strathpine West we are refurbishing the prep block as well as expanding the outside school hours care, something that it so desperately needs.

Road infrastructure is always important in my electorate given its size and diversity. I want to thank the member for Miller for his investment and his continuing work on some of these projects that we just have to tweak. The budget delivers for road and transport infrastructure right through our community—from the upgrade at the Strathpine Shopping Centre bus facility through to the park-and-ride at Ferny Grove. The member for Ferny Grove is in the chamber and I know that the minister has worked hard to achieve this project, one that members in the Samford community will absolutely benefit from. There are roadworks at Mount Nebo, Mount Glorious, the Samford Road upgrades and safety works along Eatons Crossing Road. The member for Aspley has worked hard, along with the member for Sandgate, for the Gympie Road arterial upgrades on Strathpine Road and Linkfield Road.

I want to thank the member for Morayfield, our police minister. He is investing in a new Dayboro police station. We are going to kick off the consultation soon. Dayboro is a really special community. We want to make sure the facade of that police station is right and the interior is fit for purpose for Sergeant Ken and the team. I also want to thank the member for Sandgate and the Deputy Premier for the investment that they are making in the Nolan Park track. It is a Pine Rivers BMX track that we are relocating for the community. It is a fantastic partnership program—one that will have a world-class facility for our local community right in the heart of Brendale.

In the couple of minutes I have left I want to thank the Treasurer and the Premier for this fantastic budget. I also want to recognise the member for Stretton. Although he is not here today, my Facebook memories showed a four-year memory where I delivered my speech on the budget and he was actually up the back, up to his usual mischief. It put a big smile on my face. He asked me to make a condolence speech for him, so I will do that at a later date. He is very dearly missed this sitting week and I pass along my condolences to his friends and family and his wonderful community that will miss him terribly.

The Deputy 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 Palaszczuk Government's 2021/22 Budget delivers for local governments and for jobs across our State.

From Torres Strait Island Regional Council and Torres Shire Council in the North to Burke Shire Council and Bulloo Shire Council in the West to Gold Coast City Council and Goondiwindi Regional Council in the South, we're delivering for Queenslanders wherever they live.

Through our signature \$1 billion Works for Queensland program, the 65 councils outside the South East corner are benefiting enormously through building and maintaining community infrastructure.

Across every council we are funding shovel-ready projects that are making a real difference in local communities and creating and supporting local jobs.

This latest \$200 million round of Works for Queensland includes funding for an Olympic standard 50 metre swimming pool in Bundaberg which I was pleased to announce with the Member for Bundaberg and Bundaberg Mayor Jack Dempsey just last week in Bundaberg.

This round will see councils build pump tracks in Hervey Bay, Maryborough and Mackay, a new nature-themed playground at Rockhampton Botanic Gardens and a new national level skate park in Townsville.

The decking around the Cairns lagoon will be replaced, upgrades at the Gladstone Aquatic Centre, the Airlie Beach Lagoon and the Gympie Saleyards, significant road upgrades in Yeppoon and a new multipurpose community and events space delivered in Mount Isa.

Council buildings are getting upgraded in Yarrabah, Aurukun, Charters Towers and Mapoon, smart water meters are being installed to save water and find leaks in Burke and Douglas Shires, new campgrounds in Lockhart River and the Stanthorpe Netball Club is getting a new clubhouse.

This 2021-24 round of Works for Queensland will help deliver 333 projects, which councils estimate will create or support more than 3600 jobs. These are real projects that will improve liveability in regional community and support local jobs.

We also have the hugely successful Building our Regions program which helps councils deliver major infrastructure projects, including water and sewerage infrastructure, with almost \$350 million already approved.

Since being appointed Assistant Minister for Local Government, I've spent a lot of time speaking with Mayors and Councils about their priorities, about what makes their communities unique, about what the important issues are in their communities and how we can work together to solve them.

In speaking with councils and the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ), the issue they raise with me the most is water and sewage. Almost every rural and regional council faces one challenge or another regarding their water and sewerage infrastructure.

These are long-standing issues that require genuine partnership to solve and that's why I'm so proud that as part of this Budget the Palaszczuk Government will support regional councils to improve water supply and security with a new \$70 million round of Building our Regions dedicated to water and sewerage infrastructure.

Regional councils will be able to bid for \$70 million in funding over three years to improve their water and sewerage systems.

This builds on the almost \$1.9 billion committed by the Palaszczuk Government to bulk water infrastructure like Rookwood Weir and Haughton Pipeline since 2015.

For most councils though, what they need is funding to improve or upgrade their water treatment plants, reservoirs and sewage treatment plants.

This round of Building our Regions entirely focused on water and sewage will deliver critical job-creating projects in regional communities that will not only improve water supply and water security but will improve the liveability and economic conditions in rural and regional communities.

It's just another way in which we are supporting local councils to build better, stronger communities and create and support local jobs.

Adding together all our funding programs including Works for Queensland, Building our Regions, our \$120 million Indigenous Councils Critical Infrastructure Program, the \$200 million COVID Works for Queensland program, and the \$200 million South East Queensland Community Stimulus Program, we have committed more than \$2 billion in capital funding to our local councils.

All of this is about genuine partnership with local councils to build stronger local economies, more liveable communities, and more secure, long-term jobs in every Queensland community.



Ms PEASE (Lytton—ALP) (4.51 pm): I, too, would like to echo the words of many members in this House who have acknowledged the great Duncan Pegg and thank him for his dedication to our great Australian Labor Party, to his community and to his family and friends. He was a great colleague and a great advocate for everyone in his community and he worked tirelessly, so he will be sadly missed. Rest in peace, Duncan.

It is really great to stand today to speak about a great Labor budget. I want to begin by acknowledging and thanking the Treasurer and his staff because I know that such an undertaking is a big ask, so I thank him for the great work that he has done. The world is inching towards a new normal

and 2021 is the year of the vaccination, and, like many, I have had my jab. Queenslanders have followed the expert advice, done the right thing and worked together. I saw my baysiders rally. We have connected, helped and supported each other and we are ready and stronger, and I thank them for this. The Palaszczuk Labor government gets it and we are on your side, and it is clear that the Queensland economic recovery plan is working. This plan recognised and acknowledged the issues that are important to all Queenslanders and all baysiders.

We also know that when we protect the health of Queenslanders then jobs will grow. The importance of exceptional health care and hospitals, schools that educate our kids for jobs of the future, safer roads and the importance of social and community support are the cornerstone of Labor values. This budget strengthens the core values of the Palaszczuk Labor government—health care, education, infrastructure, renewables and jobs. It is a true Labor budget. We are building more schools, we are building better roads and a workforce for tomorrow. We are equipping Queenslanders with the skills they need to succeed and unlocking the opportunities our state requires to grow and flourish. This budget is about jobs. It is about working with communities, businesses and industries across Queensland to create jobs and to recover. It is responding to the needs of Queenslanders setting out a clear economic plan—growing innovation, attracting investment and building infrastructure. It responds to the needs of Queenslanders and baysiders because everybody and every business matters.

With an eye to the future, the Palaszczuk government has allocated record education funding across the state, and bayside kids are really benefiting with Darling Point Special School receiving \$6 million and Manly State School receiving \$2.2 million for additional classrooms. Manly State School is also in line for a further \$500,000 for playground upgrades, with Manly West State School, Wondall Heights State School and Wynnum West State School all receiving funding for a range of projects including outside of school hours care amenities, playgrounds and other amenity upgrades. There is also \$850,000 allocated for maintenance across 11 bayside schools. This \$10.2 million commitment in the bayside to education will improve our education outcomes for teachers and students and create job opportunities for local tradies. It ensures that we are inspiring creativity, critical thinking and building resilience for every bayside student, and I reckon that report card is an A-plus, so thank you, Minister Grace.

I love the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program because I know how successful this program is and I am thrilled that this budget has announced \$320 million to continue the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative. BABI, our fabulous youth and family services organisation, is one local provider that has delivered Get Set for Work in the bayside, and these programs have seen over 300 young people assisted. Let us not forget the wonderful free TAFE program which has assisted 322 baysiders, 64 of whom are now in an apprenticeship.

Lights, camera, action: star spotting has become a favourite pastime in the bayside. Following a bumpy year for Queensland film, television and games production, the Palaszczuk government is injecting a further \$71 million as part of the state's economic recovery plan to continue growing Queensland's booming screen industry. Our very own Screen Queensland Studios—or what we baysiders like to call 'Hollywood in Hemmant'—has been an amazing success, creating over 1,000 jobs for actors, hairdressers, crew, caterers, makeup artists, tradies, extras and so many more.

The Palaszczuk government is investing \$2 million in the screen finance program to create screen projects and career pathways. There is a further \$5 million investment to support growth of the post, digital and visual effects industry by offering one of Australia's most attractive incentives to generate expenditure and jobs. This is attracting interstate and international productions to Hemmant, creating jobs, stimulating our economy and upskilling our local industry. With productions like *Young Rock* and *Joe Exotic* as well as *Love and Monsters*—which, might I add, is an Academy Award nominee for the VFX award—it is no wonder it is such a sought after location.

The Palaszczuk government understands that your family and your family's health is important. The great news for Lytton baysiders is that the budget makes a \$22 billion commitment to Queenslanders' health needs. Casuarina Lodge, our fabulous facility at Wynnum West, is receiving over \$600,000 for construction projects to improve facilities. The past 18 months have shown us that Queensland's frontline services keep us safe. The Palaszczuk government recognises this and since 2015 has increased Queensland's number of nurses by 30 per cent and the number of doctors by 36 per cent because we are always looking to enhance our frontline services. I understand and sympathise with how the last 18 months has been hard on my community, because I get it and I am always on their side.

The Speaker of the House 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—

Small businesses are the core of our economic recovery and jobs, the Palaszczuk Labor Government is responsive—\$140 million towards the Big Plans for Small Business Strategy, \$30 million allocated to increase small business capabilities through grants and other support and a revitalized Back to Work program to enable small business to employ people looking to re-enter the labour market. \$100 million is allocated to the Business Investment Fund to support small and medium size businesses to innovate and create more jobs and the facilitation of co-investment opportunities from \$2.5 million to \$10 million. Having previously owned a small business I know how crucial this support is to small business. Business owners have faced the challenge of the century and the Palaszczuk Government is helping them bounce back.

Building for the future, the Government is forging a wide range of infrastructure projects and delivering \$52.2 million, which includes \$40 million for Lindum train station for planning, accessibility upgrade and park 'n' ride. These capital works infrastructure projects are creating 46,500 jobs in Queensland.

In that bright future we need good and safe housing, so the Government has allocated \$1 billion for establishing a new Housing Investment Fund to boost housing supply and \$1.9 billion over four years by the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan through increased social housing supply. Baysiders have benefited with \$1,470,000 in funding being allocated to the Wynnum Community Rent Scheme and \$514,000 to Wynnum Homelessness Base—BABI.

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.

The Palaszczuk Government follows the advice of the medical experts and the advice of the Reserve Bank, understands Queensland and Queenslanders and responds with a clear and present purpose—let's get back to business, let's create jobs and let's look after each other. I commend the Bill to the House.



Mr WATTS (Toowoomba North—LNP) (4.58 pm): Before I start, let me give my condolences to Peggy's family and friends. We did not agree on much and we would often dispute each other's versions of how we should move forward, but he cherished this place and he should be remembered in it. So thank you, Peggy.

I rise to make a contribution to the budget debate. The first things I want to talk about are a couple of big-ticket items. These are statewide pieces of infrastructure. Inland rail is something that we need to hurry up and get on with because it will make a big difference in my region. The government should make sure that it does all it can to enhance the speed with which this gets delivered, particularly because the closure of the Acland coalmine is going to drastically affect the current railway line that is 150 years old.

Once the Acland mine shuts, the maintenance on that rail line will have to be borne by the current users. I do not see any additional allocation in this budget for that maintenance. I am very concerned as to how that will leave the rail line. I ask the minister to look at that. I thank the agriculture minister for the spending on the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries in Tor Street. It is a good facility. Allocating funding to keep it up to date is good because it is getting a bit tired. I would encourage the minister to move the whole department there because Toowoomba would love to be the home of DAF.

I note in the budget there are some local sporting facilities that have been upgraded for girls and women in particular. There is one in Toowoomba—not in my electorate—that I would encourage the minister to look at. The local club at Heritage Oval, home to the South Toowoomba Australian Football Club—the Bombers—the Toowoomba Bears Rugby Union Club and TCI cricket, could benefit from this program. I encourage the minister to look at that facility. Facilities at Captain Cook Reserve, home to the Garden City Raiders and Toowoomba Cricket, would also benefit. At Rockville Park, where the Diggers play cricket—and we delivered nets for them a number of years ago—and the Toowoomba Tigers Aussies Rules team play, the girls' and ladies' game is growing fast and the facilities were not

built for ladies. It would be good to see upgrades there. Likewise at Commonwealth Oval where the Rangers play baseball and the Willowburn Soccer Club play, and the Toowoomba Sports Ground where South-West Queensland Thunder and the Southern Suburbs Rugby League team play it would be good to see more money invested in facilities, particularly coming up to the Olympics.

There is some funding for social housing in the budget, which unfortunately falls tens of thousands of dollars short of what is required. Whilst that leaves many people homeless, I encourage the people at Lifeline Darling Downs, Derek and Matt, to continue doing the great job they are doing to find housing in the public and private sectors for those who are homeless and in hard times. Likewise at Base Services with Nat and Tiff. Nat will soon be having his annual sleepout and I will go and sleep out with him to raise money. They provide a great service for people who are homeless and unfortunately will not benefit from the very frugal amount that is being spent on housing in Toowoomba. Emerge, run by Jen Shaw and Penny Hamilton, do a fantastic job with young people in particular and I would encourage the minister to have a look at what they provide and how they operate. Likewise Protea Place looks after women who have experienced domestic violence and who are in danger of becoming homeless or are homeless. These are all facilities in our local region that could benefit from an extra injection of funds into social housing.

Let me turn to a couple of topics that I am concerned about. Everyone here has heard me talk about the Toowoomba Hospital. It is great news that we have \$40 million for the day surgery. That will take some pressure off day surgery. This in no way will help us from falling off the cliff of disaster around the services we have. I received an email just today from someone who works at the current hospital saying that the medical students do not know how to use the equipment they have there because the equipment they are trained on is so much more modern. They have to go through a familiarisation exercise in the emergency department. Our hospital is dated, our population is getting older and it is now time to build the new hospital. It will be an expensive proposition. I would encourage the health minister to look at a public-private partnership for funding solutions because we cannot wait any longer.

The second road to Highfields connecting Boundary Street and Old Goombungee Road is a critical piece of road infrastructure that has been completely overlooked. It is very disappointing because the New England Highway is choking. It is making it very difficult for all the people in North Toowoomba and Harlaxton to go about their daily business because of the traffic coming in from Highfields. It means that the people from Highfields are taking a lot longer to get home and to work. They are burning fuel. None of this is good for anybody. It is time to do a business case and secure the land for Boundary Street to connect up to the back of Highfields so that we can futureproof the growth in that suburb. It will also allow people from Highfields to access the second range crossing much easier.

I thank the minister for some education funding. Wilsonton State School is a great state school in my area. It has received funding. It was already announced at the election, but it is good to hear it confirmed. It will get arts and trades classrooms. I also thank the minister for the arts facility received last year by Toowoomba State High. At the election Toowoomba West Special School was concerned that only half the funding they needed for their projects and classrooms was in the election commitment. It is good to see some additional funding in this budget. Those are good things that I thank the minister for. There is one little school that I would like the minister to look at, one that has a lot of Yazidis and new Australians. Its population has grown. It does not have an indoor hall. Toowoomba North State School could really do with some TLC. It does a fantastic job in what is one of the toughest demographics in my electorate. It certainly should receive some additional care and attention.

There are some items in the budget that are good. There are other items that I would like to see included. We have heard a lot of conversation about how a government asset, the Titles Office, might be worth a certain amount. The government says it is doing a great job. I say that this is a binge not a boom. Since the Palaszczuk government has been elected our debt has increased by \$22 million a day, 365 days of the year—there is not a day off for Christmas—for every year that those opposite have been here. When people say we do not have enough social housing, how much could you build in one day with that debt increase of \$22 million? When people are talking about road upgrades, how many road upgrades could you have completed with \$22 million—just one day of the debt loading? My electorate would nearly be paved with gold.

We have seen debt of \$52 billion racked up and what do we have to show for it? We have ambulance ramping, a hospital that is old and no longer a built environment that our hardworking doctors and nurses can provide the service in that they should, road networks that are overburdened and struggling to deal with the traffic and education facilities that have some great upgrades coming but could always do with some more. There are many things that we could have done with \$22 million

a day. Let me be clear, the \$22 million a day does not include the little shell trick with the overvaluing of the Titles Office. People will say to me, 'But it has been valued by these people and those people'. What were the assumptions that those organisations were given to work out the valuation? I have only been in small business. I am just a humble hospitality guy. I have run a few pubs, a few cafes, that kind of stuff, but I can tell members now, I would never invest that amount of money to get that amount of return because there are many other businesses out there that would be a much better investment. I question the assumptions around the valuation.


Let me go back to the debt, because it is important. I am trying to help the people of my electorate and the people of Queensland understand what is going on. We have been bingeing not booming. We are spending not just the money of future generations but plenty more. Instead of spending an additional \$22 million a day, imagine if we could just get that to a \$10,000 surplus. We will save \$22 million plus \$10,000. How long would it take for us to get back to the debt level that the Palaszczuk government inherited when we left office? It would take 14,000 years.

They have been in government for six years and if we got to surplus, which is \$22 million away, it would take 14,000 years at \$10,000 a day surplus. That is the trouble that Queensland is in. That is why we need to look seriously at this budget and ask ourselves some questions. Where is the money going? I do not see the new hospitals. I do not see the new roads. I do not see all of the investment in the things that Queensland desperately wants. At \$22 million a day the Townsville stadium could have had been paid for in a week and a half. We could pay for the second M1 if we do not spend \$22 million a day more than we earn. That is the problem with a Labor government.

We have been told that this is a Labor budget and it sure is. Over the past six years their average scorecard shows that they have spent \$22 million more every single day on delivering worse health, worse roads and worse outcomes around crime for everybody in Queensland. Whether it be a helicopter for up north, a road in my electorate, a new hospital, new ambulances or more paramedics, teachers, nurses or doctors, let us think about what we could all do in our electorates with \$22 million a day, every single day, 365 days of the year for the past six years. We have to ask ourselves what we could do with that money and the people of Queensland also have to ask themselves what we could have been doing with that money. And then they should look at what we have done.

If the people of Queensland think that the \$22 million a day that they and future generations have invested in this government's leadership of the state and its governance of our finances is good value for money, good on them. However, by the time the next election comes round this equation will be worse and not better. I have not even gone into the raiding of the superannuation funds of public servants or the overvaluation. I am counting those things as read by the Treasurer, but still we spend \$22 million a day.

The kids at Toowoomba North State School just want a place to meet. We are not talking about much money. An hour of the overspending of this government would build their hall. If we do not spend that money for one hour, the kids would have a hall for 25 years. However, we do not have good management or good control. What we do have is a Treasurer who is too busy worrying about his social media platforms and whether he can trick everybody into thinking how clever he is. You do not have to be clever; you just have to spend less money than you earn. Unfortunately, this is a Labor budget and it is a terrible one.

 **Dr MacMAHON** (South Brisbane—Grn) (5.13 pm): I start by offering my condolences to the family and friends of Duncan Pegg. Duncan and I shared this chamber for only a short time but we attended many community events together over the years. I saw how much Duncan loved his community and how much they loved him.

I rise in response to the 2021-22 Queensland budget, a document that says absolutely everything about this government's priorities. This budget was an opportunity for the government to think big and show courage and bold vision to drive Queensland's economic recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, but that is not what we have. Instead, we have a budget that thinks small. It lumps everyday Queenslanders with cuts instead of making big banks, property developers and mining corporations pay their fair share to provide the essential services that Queenslanders need. Along with my Greens colleague, the member for Maiwar, I wrote to the Treasurer ahead of the budget urging him to prioritise investing in jobs, housing, schools, health and critical infrastructure. We could do all of that by making the big end of town pay its fair share.

The revenue measures that we took to the election are common sense: a bank levy of 0.05 per cent on the five biggest banks operating in Queensland; a developer tax on land value gains from up zoning applying to developers who are redeveloping the land; lifting the cap on infrastructure charges

so that local councils can charge developers according to the cost of delivering infrastructure; and, of course, ending the freeze on mining royalties and increasing them to ensure that mining corporations pay their fair share. The resources sector has been receiving red-carpet treatment for years now. The mining royalties freeze that my predecessor enacted in 2019 is still in play, while mining billionaires pocket billions of dollars that should be going to everyday Queenslanders. During 2020, when the rest of the state was in lockdown in the name of public health, the resources sector was designated as an essential industry and work continued unabated. The sector is not doing it tough. It exported \$45 billion worth of exports over the past year. Projections for coal exports are down but only to about 2015 levels and there is no excuse for not raising royalties.

The government will say it has to cut services or borrow more money rather than holding the big end of town to account and ending the free ride for their big corporate mates. And the result? This week we saw some of the most disgraceful and misleading claims from the Treasurer that we have seen in a long time in Queensland.

On Tuesday we were thrilled to hear the government announce more funding for social housing. That is something that we and the sector have been pushing for for years. In the midst of a housing crisis, with 47,000 people waiting for social housing, a third of Queensland renters in housing stress and a rising number of people in insecure housing or sleeping rough, that looked like a welcome announcement. However, a closer examination of the budget revealed a different story.

Capital expenditure for social housing by the department of housing has been cut by \$20 million from last year. The \$1 billion Housing Investment Fund is also a farce. Of that \$1 billion, Queenslanders will see only \$160 million, which supposedly will build 3,600 homes over the forward years, but only if the private sector gets enough incentives or enough handouts to make it happen. In the end super funds and private companies will be walking away with profits off the backs of some of the most vulnerable Queenslanders. We know what works: good quality public housing delivered by the government. Profit driven development of social housing will end up delivering shoddy homes and hand profits to corporations.

The story of the government misleading Queenslanders on public housing investment may not be new, but the proof will be in the pudding. With the housing crisis getting worse by the week, the test of the government's investment will be how many people are still facing homelessness when we head to the next election.

Every week my office staff help folks in housing stress. On the night of the budget we helped someone find crisis accommodation when he had nowhere else to go. Last month we negotiated to ensure a mother would not be evicted into homelessness. When we support someone who has been on the social housing waiting list for too long, someone who has nowhere to sleep at night or someone who is at the complete whim of their landlord about whether their home will remain their home, Queensland's housing crisis is not just a tagline or a political tool; it is a personal reality and we will keep fighting for those people.

I will keep fighting for the renters of Queensland who are struggling with an unjust system that is massively stacked in favour of wealthy investors and the real estate industry. Tenants Queensland has said that the budget does very little to support the 1.8 million Queenslanders who rent their homes. The 1.8 million Queenslanders who rent deserve security with rent caps, an end to rent bidding and a genuine end to no-grounds evictions. For two years in a row the government has capitulated to the real estate lobby rather than Queenslanders and then it wonders why it is losing progressive seats to the Greens.

This past year shows how vital our health system is. Can you imagine how it would look if mining corporations paid their fair share? If we raised revenue from the big end of town, we could create 21,000 more hospital beds, 1,000 more ICU beds and raise Queensland to world-best standard. We could employ at least 6,500 genuinely new nurses and 3,000 more doctors, expanding much needed emergency department capacity and improve nurse- and doctor-to-patient ratios. We could build hundreds of public health clinics with free publicly funded paid GPs and specialists to take the pressure off our hospital system.

The budget includes \$40.3 million for new hospital parking facilities, but no steps to ease the burden on Queenslanders with free hospital parking. Instead, the \$1 billion savings dividend remains in place, forcing frontline staff to do more with less. The budget papers themselves tell a story of outpatient and emergency waiting times. Only 65 per cent of specialist outpatient waits are within clinically recommended times. Only 70 per cent of emergency patients were transferred off the stretcher within 30 minutes.

The COVID-19 crisis was the biggest disruption to our health system and our economy in modern times. To power our recovery takes enormous investment in jobs and services. By increasing the number of frontline health workers, we can ensure our health system is resourced to do its job, while ensuring our job market and economy continue to recover.

I also note with sadness the closure of three regional Marie Stopes clinics this week, leaving just five abortion clinics remaining in all of Queensland. Despite finally decriminalising abortion in 2018, geography and finance remain barriers for many Queenslanders wishing to access reproductive health services.

Before I was elected, Labor continually told the progressive voters in my electorate that the Greens should not be running against a government that had delivered abortion law reform. But what is the point of making abortion legal if people in regional and rural areas have nowhere to access the services or cannot afford it? This budget saw no new money for abortion services and support. To truly deliver on abortion law reform, the government needs to imbed essential reproductive health care in hospitals and health services and ensure genuinely accessible and free termination services in Queensland.

Like universal public health, fully funded state schools are not out of reach either. Queensland has some of the most underfunded state schools in the country, and parents, teachers and children pay the cost. Over the past 10 years, state funding per public school student decreased by \$128, while funding for private and Catholic schools has increased by \$220 and \$246 per student respectively. In Queensland, we have no plan to reach 100 per cent schooling resources standard funding. We are at just 69 per cent of the 80 per cent we are meant to be putting into our state schools.

In a wealthy state like Queensland, there is no reason why our state schools should go underfunded. Brisbane State High School, my alma mater in South Brisbane, one of the biggest high schools in the country, is ironically one of the most underfunded. While infrastructure funding for Brisbane South State Secondary College, Buranda State School, West End State School and Dutton Park State School are all exceptionally welcomed, this does nothing to help parents with the everyday cost of schools. We can fully fund our public education system and bring the government's share of needs based schooling resources standard funding to 80 per cent by investing an extra \$1.5 billion a year, a fraction of what we could raise each year by raising coal, LNG and mineral royalties.

People with disabilities continue to face barriers in nearly all aspects of public life and should not have to fight for dignity. After a powerful campaign from disability organisations, the government committed to ongoing funding for advocacy services that I am pleased to see reflected in the budget. I am pleased to see \$7.3 million to support people who are ineligible for the NDIS, and I will be seeking details on where this money is going and who will be eligible.

I would like to note my dismay that Narbethong State Special School has not received any funding in this budget. Narbethong provides specialist teaching for students with vision impairment. They cater to a cohort of 50 students and 80 preschool aged students who have vision impairment and other disabilities. Many of these students have very high needs. The staff are exceptionally talented with their teaching model that is world renowned, but the school buildings were built in the 1960s and they are no longer fit to deliver for the safety and dignity of those students. This budget has allocated no extra funding for this school and, in a wealthy state like Queensland, there is no excuse for this. I will continue to push for Narbethong to get the funding that they deserve.

I also note East Brisbane State School will potentially be severely impacted by the redevelopment of the Gabba Stadium for the Olympics vanity project. I am disappointed that this school, students, families and the community have also been overlooked.


So, too, have other parts of my electorate. I wrote to the Treasurer ahead of the budget advocating for jobs, housing, schools and infrastructure to get the priority they deserve. For a start, we want to see funding for the Kangaroo Point River Walk expanded to meet its true cost. Given Brisbane City Council has failed to contribute funds, we want to see the state kick in more than the \$22.5 million it has committed, which is only a third of what this project would need.

Further, we want to see an investment in active public transport which sees the 192 bus service expanded and CityGliders introduced east-west and north-south. These routes would fill some of the biggest gaps in the inner Brisbane transport network and would connect thousands of Kangaroo Point residents with the new Cross River Rail station at the Gabba. To keep ensuring our cycling infrastructure is safe, we want to see specific funding for protected bike lanes along Vulture Street.

I also want to give credit to the work of a few organisations in my electorate that have not received extra funding but will continue to work tirelessly. The Mater Refugee Complex Care Clinic, an integrated refugee health service, provides vital care for people from refugee backgrounds, with a particular focus on those who cannot access Medicare.

Eating Disorders Queensland offers treatment for people living with and recovering from eating disorders, their carers and loved ones. Of the \$27 million allocated by the federal government for the treatment of eating disorders, some of which will be distributed by the states, I call on the state government to ensure that Eating Disorders Queensland gets an opportunity to administer funding via their programs. I will also keep advocating for increased funding for community centres like West End Community House and organisations like Community Friends that provide food relief for folks right across Brisbane.

Why should Queenslanders be waiting for essential health care when there has been a royalty freeze for the mining sector? Why should our schools be underfunded and our housing waitlist blow out when our government refuses to raise revenue from the big end of town? The options for increasing the state's revenue are all there and they are no secret. Levies on developers and big banks, as well as options for more effective mining royalties, have all been well tested in the marketplace of ideas. The case is there and the numbers are clear. I cannot stay silent while the government trumpets its progressive credentials and so many Queenslanders go unrepresented. This budget allows the big end of town to continue its free ride, and it is everyday Queenslanders who are left behind.

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (5.28 pm): I start by acknowledging my good mate and friend, Duncan Pegg, the member for Stretton. Budget week was Christmas week for Duncan. It was no coincidence that in his highlights video that was shown at his going-away event with his community the best hits come from this debate. He knew the politics of government finances better than anyone else I know. I miss his advice. I miss being able to talk to him during this week and ask him questions about many matters, but it is fitting that this budget still delivers for his community, particularly Stretton College, which is receiving \$8 million. It is also fitting that Stretton College named its recently built drama and artistic hall after Duncan Pegg. I have no doubt that our mate, James Martin, will pick up the baton where Peggy left off and will continue to deliver for the good people of Stretton.

Don again delivers a record budget for the Redlands. This is seven times in a row. It is fantastic that I can do it again. There is a record budget for health. This will see 32 new beds in our ICU and major upgrades. This is the biggest single investment in the history of the Redland Hospital.

We will also deliver a brand new car park. This has been an issue at the Redland Hospital for a numbers of years. Cars have parked up on the kerb. There have been parking problems down there. It is a Labor government that will fix the problem and deliver a car park. We have done a fantastic job. We promised that we would deliver five levels of car parking. When the tender came out we were able to deliver an extra two levels. I thank the health minister for that. That will mean an extra 270 car parks are delivered for exactly the same amount. It is fantastic.

There is going to be a satellite hospital delivered for the Redlands. Though it will not be in my electorate, it will take a lot of pressure off the Redland Hospital, especially when it comes to the growth area at the bottom part of the Redlands. I congratulate the member for Redlands for her advocacy in this regard.

Don delivers a vaccine hub that opened today in Capalaba. Don is going to vaccinate Capalaba. I will be down there on Tuesday to get my jab.

By contrast, let us look at the track record of the LNP when it comes to health. When they were in government they closed the Wynnum hospital and the Moreton Bay nursing clinic. I found it pretty outrageous that today the member for Oodgeroo asked us to open up more aged-care beds. He knows that the federal system is failing so that is why he has asked us to do it. When they were in government they shut them down. They shut down hospitals and sacked nurses. This put a heap of pressure on the Redland Hospital. They did no upgrades in their time. We have come along and we are doing major upgrades, building a car park and building a satellite hospital. This is in complete contrast to what they did in government. They have absolutely no track record when it comes to health.

There is record investment in education in this budget. There is funding for a brand new hall for Capalaba State College. I have been lobbying for this for a number of years now and have sat down with the P&C, parents and teachers of that school. The school has not been able to have a full assembly or awards night for a while now because of the growth in the area. Our investment is also important because the school has an excellence program in volleyball and basketball. They will love the indoor facilities that the hall will provide. It will also provide valuable basketball and volleyball facilities for the community outside of school hours. I thank the minister for that funding.

There is funding of \$800,000 for Wellington Point State High School. There is funding of \$9 million for Redland District Special School. There is funding for Alexandra Hills State School. There is funding for an outdoor learning area for Birkdale South State School. There is funding for the after school care service at Vienna Woods State School. There will be refurbishments happening at Hilliard State School. There are only one or two schools in my local area that do not have air conditioning. We are still delivering on our promise to air condition every single classroom across the electorate. I think I have one or two schools left to do in terms of our solar program. There is a record spend in education, delivering the vital services that my community deserves.

While talking about education, we are yet again delivering for TAFE in my local area. I want to make sure that from prep to gaining a job people can get their whole education in Capalaba. We are just about to open the \$10 million upgrade to the plumbing workshops and the nursing training facilities. The Premier is coming out on Tuesday to open them. I cannot wait for that. There is another \$1 million in the budget for wet trades. I know that it is pretty hard to get a tradie at the moment. There is a particular shortage when it comes to roofers and tilers. It is important that we facilitate this training. It is best for people to get their trade training at TAFE. I am looking forward to seeing more trades training at Alexandra Hills TAFE.

Contrast that to the record of the LNP. They had plans to sell the Alexandra Hills TAFE. They had gutted the place. There were two teachers left there when I got there. They did not have tools for the students. We turned the place around. We invested in it. We back TAFE. We will back it every single day of the week because it is the right thing to do. We know that if people get training in a trade they will get a job. We are backing our students and backing workers in our local areas.

In terms of infrastructure, there is \$30 million for the Eastern Transitway. There are billions of dollars coming for Cross River Rail. There is \$5 million for the Gateway on ramp that is just about to be completed. I know there are a lot of roadworks happening on Old Cleveland Road. I apologise to my residents for that. It just shows them how much I am delivering when it comes to Old Cleveland Road.

There is \$300,000 to do the design work on the Birkdale Train Station car park. For some unknown reason there is a fence around the concrete slab of my old preschool that separates the two car parks. I know I have sentimental memories of going to that preschool, but I do not need to keep the concrete slab. We are going to get rid of the concrete slab. We are going to do the design work to make sure we can join up the two car parks and get extra car parks. I am looking forward to that as well.

We also delivering with regard to my local community. There is \$300,000 for the Redland Community Centre. This is a fantastic centre that is there for people who are really doing it tough when it comes to food, homelessness and financial advice. They are there to make sure we have a safety net in Capalaba. There is \$2 million for social housing construction in my local area. It is very important that we have the social safety net to provide a house and a roof over the heads of the residents of my local area.

There is \$7 million for a new fire station that will service the rural blocks at the back of my electorate at Capalaba and Alexandra Hills. The member for Springwood and the member for Redlands are doing great work delivering for their local communities. I note that the LNP did not want this fire station. The LNP member for Bowman continues to say in the media this week that he does not want it. It is crazy that they campaign against fire stations.

Dr Robinson interjected.

Mr BROWN: I am coming to you, member for Oodgeroo.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Through the chair please, member for Capalaba.

Mr BROWN: I love hearing the contributions of the member for Oodgeroo. He comes in after the election and talks about all of the things he wants us to deliver for him. Everything that has been delivered in his electorate has been delivered by a Labor government. For the three years he was in government he did not deliver a single thing.

Dr Robinson interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member, your interjections are not being taken.

A government member: Big swing against him.

Mr BROWN: It was a big swing. In the lead up to the election there were no promises. After the election when we won government he came in here saying, 'You have to build this. You have to build that. You have to do this. You have to do that.' He did not back it up when he was in government or in the lead-up to the election.

Let us talk about the LNP in Redlands and look at the federal budget. Andrew Laming has put out his budget update for 2021. It used to be four pages and now it is down to—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, are you tabling that document?

Mr BROWN: Not yet.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member, either table the document or read from it. You cannot use it as prop, as you know.

Mr BROWN: If we look at the budget highlights we find it is only two pages. There is not a single item for Redland City—absolutely nothing. Obviously he is on the cooler in Canberra because he is not getting a single thing.

What did the LNP mayor say about not getting a thing from Canberra? Absolutely nothing because she does not want to get in trouble from her potential new boss. There was silence from her. When we handed down our budget this week, with record investment in the Redlands, do members know what she said? There are not enough dot points. It shows how a former independent mayor has turned into a typical Liberal and is not standing up for her local area. She will not stand up to Canberra, but she will complain about a couple of dot points in our budget. We are delivering record investment in health and record investment in education. This is what we do best on this side of the House. We have a Liberal mayor and a Liberal in Canberra delivering absolutely nothing.

The mayor put out an absolute doozy of a campaign video yesterday. It was emailed to the Liberal members in her area. I got the email about five minutes later because there is infighting within the LNP. They are leaking like a sieve. They emailed it to me and said, 'Get this into you, Brownie. Check this out.' They are fighting. Peter Dutton is not even backing the local candidates. He is not even backing Karen Williams. Let us have a look at the dot points in the transcript of Karen's local video. Her highlight over a 17-year career—nine years of which she was mayor—is: 'I bought a block of land.' She has the gall to attack my budget this year. We have record investment in Redland Hospital and record investment in education—but guess what? She bought a block of land. I table that for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Transcript of Ms Karen Williams LNP Preselection Candidature video, June 2021 [921].

The excuse that the mayor is giving for not delivering anything over a nine-year career of being mayor is that the Labor government has cut her off at the knees.


Dr Robinson interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member for Oodgeroo, your interjections are not being taken.

Mr BROWN: She has admitted that she cannot deliver. In her video she makes it plain and simple that she cannot deliver for her local area. It is plain and simple that she will not stand up to Canberra. I am calling on the mayor to resign now. She should put all her focus into becoming the LNP candidate because she has just stated in her video that she is not willing to work with the state government and she is not delivering for her local area. It is there in black and white in the transcript.

We are delivering. We are the only level of government delivering in the Redlands because we are a Labor government. That is the reason we are delivering in the Redlands. I congratulate the Treasurer and I congratulate the Premier on such a fantastic budget yet again for the people of Redlands. I commend both bills to the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call the next speaker, I want to remind the members for Hervey Bay, Logan and Gympie that you are currently on a warning.

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (5.40 pm): I rise to speak to the appropriation bills. From the outset, I thank the Treasurer for handing down this budget. I also thank the members of the CBRC—the Deputy Premier, Minister de Brenni and Minister Grace. I thank the ministry for all their hard work. A lot of preparation goes into the budget. I thank the assistant ministers and every single member of our government who strive every day to deliver for the people of this great state. The contributions from the government members in this debate have shown once again why Queenslanders have put their faith in our government to make sure that we, first, keep them safe—which is fundamentally important—and, secondly, get on with our economic recovery plan.

The Treasurer and everyone here today has been talking about the terrific news about the labour force figures—that record low unemployment rate of 5.4 per cent that shows our economic recovery plan is working in Queensland. As I said time and time again, this is a traditional Labor budget. It is focusing on health. It is focusing on education. It is focusing on housing. I am very proud of the investment in housing because I remember my grandfather always saying to me that there is nothing

more important than having a roof over your head, having food on your table and having your family. We know that there is housing stress out there. It is happening right across the state. We have to help those vulnerable Queenslanders who, through no fault of their own, are experiencing hardship and distress. I thank the housing minister for his great work and for delivering a housing strategy.

Our health system is incredibly important. We have a record health budget which will deliver those satellite hospitals over the next two years, making sure that we grow the number of beds in this state—over 1,000 beds are going to be delivered in the next four years right across Queensland.

I also want to mention that our education system is world-class, headed by Minister Grace Grace. We are giving young children the opportunity to achieve their dreams. Queensland is a place where they can be whatever they want to be if they put their minds to it. To that extent, I am really pleased that we have had a large injection of money into Glenala State High School. When I first became the member for Inala, we had an injection of money in that high school through an earlier program of renewal. Now through our government we have put nearly \$12 million into that high school.

Where once buses used to pass Glenala to take kids down the road to Corinda, they are now going to Glenala high school. They have had some fantastic principals. In fact, one is now a great member of this House—Corrine McMillan, the member for Mansfield. I am very proud of the work that she did there as well. It is about giving kids the opportunity. They have a skills and training facility that is going to link them with Rheinmetall as well, making sure they have a pathway to long-term, secure jobs.

We know how important the environment and the Great Barrier Reef is. It was something that was raised with me when the tourism minister and I presented about the Olympics. They asked us about sustainability and the Great Barrier Reef. We want to showcase the Great Barrier Reef to the world. Our funding for water quality enhancement is exactly what is needed. Of course our aim has always been to protect the Great Barrier Reef. To that extent, to my local electorate, the RSPCA is getting \$500,000 for the Wacol koala hospital, as part of \$6 million over four years. What great work the RSPCA does. I know that the member for Mount Ommaney often visits there as well, and I thank her for the work that she does.

This is a budget for Queenslanders. Honestly, no-one ever thought we would be going through a world health pandemic. No-one could have foreseen the situation where Queenslanders are today. That is because of the hard work every single Queenslanders has done. I am absolutely proud that, when I go to different events, when I go to cafes and restaurants, when I am out and about in the local community, I see people essentially living their lives with relative freedom compared to what is happening in the rest of the world.

Whilst the media may not be reporting those devastating impacts across the world as much as they could be, we have to think that we are very lucky to live in Australia. We are absolutely lucky to live in Australia. The work that all governments are doing in keeping Australians safe, not just Queenslanders, has to be commended. I could never have foreseen—I do not think federal treasury would have ever foreseen the economy bouncing back so strongly, with such resilience.

We will continue to support businesses. We will continue to invest in manufacturing. We will continue to make sure that young people are linked with skills and training. We will look to the future with renewables and investment. We have the biggest investment in renewables in this state that we have seen.

Mr Dick: In history.

Ms PALASZCZUK: In history. We will look to the future for hydrogen to make Queensland a super powerhouse.

I will end on this note: we are on the cusp of something great. I was getting a briefing before about the Olympics in Tokyo. This is the world's biggest event. There is nothing bigger than the Olympics. Never did I think when sitting over there with seven members that we would be on the cusp of hosting an Olympic games here in Brisbane, Queensland, in 2032. This brings so much opportunity to our state—one that I could never have foreseen but one that we will grab with both hands gladly because it is an investment in the future of this state. It will set this state up for the decades and the century ahead of us.



Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (5.47 pm), in reply: I thank those members of the House who have provided their support for the appropriation bills this year. I would also like to thank again the Treasury officers who brought the budget together and who have been conscientiously listening to the debate, including into the early hours of this morning.

As I said in my opening remarks, this is a Labor budget which is focused on Labor's enduring mission—delivering better, higher paying jobs for Queensland workers. There was no better endorsement of our job-creating budget and our government's economic settings than the latest ABS labour force data, which were released during the member for Broadwater's speech yesterday.

The data showed that Queensland's economic recovery plan is working, and our budget continues that good work. More than 32,000 jobs were created last month—more than 1,000 jobs created each and every day. Queensland is now 84,900 jobs above its pre-COVID level in March last year. We have added more jobs than any other state or territory. Our labour market performance takes the number of jobs created under the Palaszczuk government to 337,400—that is 12 times more jobs created under Labor than under the Newman LNP government.

Queensland recorded the largest fall in unemployment in the nation last month with the unemployment rate down to 5.4 per cent, which is below its pre-COVID level. The last time the unemployment rate was at 5.4 per cent was in April 2012, the first month of the Newman government. After that it was all downhill for the Queensland labour market in those dark three years. What makes our current labour market performance even more remarkable is that unemployment has fallen while the participation rate has risen. The share of people in work or seeking work rose to 66.6 per cent in May, almost half a percentage point above the national average. The Queensland labour market is recovering and our government is driving the upswing.

I would like to address some of the issues raised by members opposite during the debate. We have seen these issues litigated throughout budget week, both inside and outside the House. While my colleagues have very ably addressed them in their speeches, I will seek to summarise them in my remaining time. This is an unashamedly Labor budget! When the pandemic hit, our government made the deliberate decision to put the budget into deficit to protect jobs and livelihoods. Queenslanders have backed our economic response just as they backed our health response, and as a result our economy is coming back stronger than the rest of Australia and our government's fiscal position is being restored. Revenues are returning, deficits are narrowing and debt is coming down. This is a Labor budget!

Unfortunately, debt is a four-letter word for the member for Broadwater, who mentioned it just once in his speech. That is for one simple reason: it is because the LNP hates the fact that debt is lower under Labor. It is down by \$9.7 billion this year relative to the last budget. As I said on Tuesday, it is the greatest single fall in net debt in Queensland history. The member for Broadwater barely mentions debt not just because it is down under Labor but because he knows he is completely compromised on debt. He will go to Rockhampton and say we need to borrow more and he will come into this House and say we need to rein it in.

When it comes to debt, the Leader of the Opposition will rack it up in the regions but he will not back it up when he returns to this House. The LNP has exhausted their political capital on debt. They have failed to seduce journalists into believing that Queensland debt was as high as \$130 billion because the true figure reaches less than a third of that number. Let me say that again: the true figure reaches less than a third of that number at \$42.6 billion at the end of the forwards. Queenslanders have worked them out. Queenslanders know the LNP are phoneys. The LNP is stranded on the 'Island of Debt' and the good ship *Queensland* has sailed away without them.

The LNP hates the fact that there are no new or increased taxes in the budget, just as our government promised the people of Queensland at the last election. That is why the member for Broadwater and the shadow Treasurer, the member for Toowoomba South, mentioned tax just once in their replies. Our government has ensured that it is almost \$1,100 cheaper to live in Queensland than it is to live in New South Wales, even before accounting for higher costs of living and housing prices in New South Wales. Taxes are lower under Labor. To that end, I table the erroneous post from the LNP's Facebook page on the eve of the budget which reads, 'More taxes, more debt, more broken promises'. Like a postage stamp printed upside down, it is now a collector's item because of how completely wrong it is, and I table it for posterity.

Tabled paper: Extract from LNP-Liberal National Party Facebook page, dated 14 June, titled 'Tomorrow—More taxes, more debt, more broken promises' [922].

For the benefit of the House I offer a corrected version for the LNP's benefit: 'No more taxes, lower debt, kept our promises'.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Tomorrow—No more taxes, lower debt, kept our promises' [923].

The LNP hates the fact that Labor is projecting a return to surplus after the largest global health crisis in a century before the New South Wales government, before the Victorian government and before the Morrison federal LNP government. The LNP hates the fact that we are returning to surplus the right way—the Labor way—by growing the economy and growing jobs.

The member for Clayfield boasted in his contribution to the debate that when he was Treasurer in the last LNP government he managed to turn the state's operating losses around in just one year. What he did not say was how he did it. The LNP was only able to turn its record first year deficit into a second year surplus by sacking 14,000 workers, including 4,400 health workers.

Government members: Savage cuts!

Mr DICK: Savage cuts they were. We are not quite sure, because the Leader of the Opposition says he is happy to cut and cut and cut again just as long as it is not savage. I can assure you, Deputy Speaker, that from today until 26 October 2024 I will be reminding Queenslanders of the Leader of the Opposition's promises on savage cuts every single day. I will not forget, the government will not forget, and I can assure you that we are going to remind Queenslanders so they never forget.

The LNP fundamentally hates this budget not on any principle—how could they—but because this budget snatches away the lazy critiques they have always readily reached for in budgets gone by. They have had to get very creative in talking about this budget because their cupboard of criticism is completely bare. Their two-bit, bargain basement Baby John Burgess has spun his 'Wheel of Misfortune' and it has landed on 'lose a turn'.

Government members: Ha, ha!

Mr DICK: I enjoyed writing that; I enjoyed saying it even more. The most egregious and outrageous accusations levelled at this budget surrounded the valuations of the titles registry, a key component of our Debt Retirement Fund. As I noted in my budget speech, the \$7.8 billion valuation recorded in the budget is the result of detailed due diligence undertaken by the Queensland Investment Corporation and Queensland Treasury.

Can I say yet again that the QIC obtained advice from four independent firms: the Bank of America, BIS Oxford Economics, Allens Linklaters and Deloitte. Deloitte, if you can believe it, was cited approvingly in his budget contribution by none other than the shadow Treasurer, the member for Toowoomba South. So they can rely on Deloitte for what they want to say, but when the government relies on Deloitte to provide advice of course it is a trick. 'They are fraudsters; it is plain wrong', are the words the Leader of the Opposition used. I challenge him again to go out of this House in public and say that the managing partner and all of the partners of Deloitte in Queensland are fraudsters, tricksters and con artists and do not professionally discharge their responsibilities in providing professional advice to the government; that they are absolutely wrong. Of course EY and PwC verified the valuations.

Moody's and S&P Global confirmed they would view the transaction as providing an offset to state debt, and fundamentally that is what the Leader of the Opposition hates. He hates the fact that two of the biggest ratings agencies in the world have said that we will use this transaction to offset Queensland debt.

The member for Broadwater has been consistently flummoxed by the fact that Queensland was, in his words, 'selling the titles registry to itself'. It is almost as if he would sell it to someone else—like other people. It is almost as if the Leader of the Opposition would like to privatise it. I am not going to verbal the member for Broadwater like he verbals everyone else. I hope that even he can see the folly of selling off the silverware as New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia have done when our registry has been valued at two to three times the value of registries in other states. The member for Broadwater wants Queensland to be the best. Do you remember that? We heard that over and over again. This valuation puts that beyond doubt.

We have also heard the bold accusation from those opposite that the Debt Retirement Fund does not represent legitimate debt reduction. 'Not enough sackings,' they say. Let me spell it out for the LNP: the Future Fund is an offset to debt as assessed by international rating agency giants Moody's and S&P Global. At the same time as we kicked off the Future Fund, debt has fallen, because our health and economic management has steered us to relative safety from COVID-19. Moody's has put the lie to the specious accounting claims of the LNP by saying 'as a result of the revenue recovery'. There is no mention of the titles office, and no mention of the titles office valuation. Moody's states—

As a result of the revenue recovery, Queensland's general government borrowing requirement will be ... lower than we had previously expected over the forward estimates to June 2024.

The Future Fund is not some exercise in cooking the books, as the LNP said and those opposite are dangerously and, can I add, dishonestly alleging. It is not some accounting magic, like Campbell Newman and the Leader of the Opposition's hocus-pocus: 'Now you see 14,000 public servants; now you don't.' Do members remember Campbell Newman saying this to the people of Queensland: 'No public servant has anything to worry about from the government I lead'? All along, there was his

apprentice, the member for Broadwater, who was then the member for Mundingburra, standing next to him and nodding his head and agreeing with every single thing his mentor did. This is a legitimate exercise, backed in by independent bodies, keeping public assets in public hands and making public dollars work harder for Queenslanders.

The LNP has also taken issue with the budget's presentation of the sub-funds within the Queensland Future Fund. We are deep into the weeds now. The people of Queensland are absolutely riveted with this one. Unfortunately, it is not our problem that the LNP simply do not understand the budget. The ratings agencies understand it. The investment banks and accounting firms understand it. The investment committee at QIC understand it. Stakeholders like QCROSS understand it. St Vincent de Paul understand it. It is using the dividends available to solve a critical social and economic problem on an ongoing basis. I can tell the House who else understands it: the people of Queensland. Queenslanders want us to keep the dividends from our assets and reinvest in Queensland. They know what the LNP would do to our assets. The LNP would sell our assets again and again and again.

The LNP are pretending that they do not understand it because they want to sell assets. Everyone in Queensland knows how debt offsets work. Everyone in Queensland understands the critical need to invest in housing, in carbon reduction, in the Path to Treaty, in an ongoing, sustainable way, and that is exactly what these funds provide.

Members opposite have also taken issue with our government's \$2 billion Hospital Building Fund. Can I confirm for Queenslanders that this is real money being earmarked for real projects. This fund is a larger amount than Queensland Health's usual operating capital program, which is typically just \$1 billion per year but it is around \$1.3 billion for capital in 2021-22.

Initial investments from the \$2 billion fund—and I will explain this in a way that even members of the opposition can understand—include: \$42 million over the forward estimates for the Toowoomba Day Surgery, but there was the member for Toowoomba North blowing hard, saying, 'There's nothing for Toowoomba'—except a \$42 million Toowoomba Day Surgery; \$177 million for public health services at Mater Public Hospital Springfield, which was welcomed by all of the Labor members who represent the Western and West Moreton corridor; and \$120 million over the next two years for an uplift to the Queensland Health base capital program. This fund will provide a secure source of funds for Queensland Health to bring forward business cases and projects when they are ready.

More broadly, the LNP have attempted a half-hearted scare campaign on our \$52 billion infrastructure program. Again, the LNP have demonstrated they do not understand how the infrastructure budget works. They are seeking to confuse Queenslanders by talking about four years of spending from last year's budget and comparing it with four years of spending from this year's budget. Our bumper \$56 billion investment is for the four-year period beginning this financial year. We are talking about a different four-year period commencing next financial year—and for the benefit of those members opposite that starts in 12 days time. The new program reflects a different spending profile, notably the completion of Cross River Rail. Next year, the program will be a different number again, depending on the mix of projects. What does not change is the commitment of our Labor government to deliver a \$50 billion infrastructure guarantee to Queenslanders.

Our economic recovery plan had a \$51.8 billion capital program for the four years commencing 2020-21, and that was what we were elected on. The pledge was increased to \$56 billion after the election when we handed down last year's budget. Shamefully, the LNP reduced infrastructure spending in every single one of their budgets when they were in government. They made a virtue of it in the 2012 budget, where the LNP's Budget Paper No. 3 reads—

... the capital program will be smaller than in previous years, reflecting the determination of the Government to restore the State's financial position.

On infrastructure projects, the LNP thought they were onto something with the reporting of Cross River Rail in this year's budget. Sadly, all they succeeded in proving was that they did not just fail to read this year's budget but also failed to read last year's budget and the budget the year before that. The \$6.888 billion figure has been clearly reported in budgets since 2019. It consists of the state's capital contribution of \$5.4 billion and a \$1.5 billion financial contribution from the private sector. It is explained as early as page 5 of Budget Paper No. 2. They only had to get to page 5—

Dr Miles: That's a lot of words.

Mr DICK: It is a lot of words and a lot of numbers. I will take the interjection. I will read this for the public record and the record of this House. It commits the government to—

... \$1.517 billion in 2021-22 towards a total of \$6.888 billion for the continued delivery of Cross River Rail, including a capital contribution of \$5.389 billion along with financing of \$1.499 billion secured through the Public Private Partnership

The \$6.888 billion overall figure was published in the 2019-20 budget in Budget Paper No. 3 on page 104 and again in the 2020-21 budget. The LNP cut Cross River Rail not once, but twice—along with their \$1.6 billion in cuts to the roads and transport budget, while sending train-building jobs overseas.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member for Kawana, you have been interjecting repeatedly and most of it is of no relevance to the debate. I am warning you under the standing orders.

Mr DICK: Cross River Rail will transform how we travel to, from and through Brisbane in the future and it is critical to Queensland's bid for the 2032 Olympics. It is creating more than 7,700 jobs as we speak and is pumping more than \$4 million a day into our economy.

As I noted this morning, the government remains committed that there should be no impact on households as a result of the waste levy. We have an arrangement with councils to continue with the 105 per cent rebate through the current financial year. This is delivered in the budget with an allocation of \$160 million. As the opposition and the Lord Mayor know, the legislation requires a review of the levy by June 2022. That is what it says in the law of the land. That is what it says on the statute books of Queensland. We will work with councils through that review, and we will negotiate the arrangements that will apply after that period. This is a sensible and fair approach, but if they do not want the money we can provide it directly to households.

There was a paucity of policy ideas in the LNP's replies. One that caught my eye was the proposal for a parliamentary budget office. Fair enough that the LNP should suggest it, because when it comes to costings the LNP need all the help they can get. We all remember the train-wreck costings press conference from the member for Everton last year, where the \$13 billion Bruce Highway hoax was revealed as a mere \$50 million scoping study. It was only \$12.25 billion short—no, \$12.95 billion short. Missed it by that much! What about the big bold plan for Queensland? Queenslanders were subjected to that hoax from the LNP for a year. They talked about it and they talked about it, on and on. It was going to change the world. The \$15 billion fake Bradfield scheme evaporated into a \$20 million plan—only 1,000th of the dollars proposed. It is so small—1,000th of the dollars proposed. It is a drop in the proverbial inland sea.

When it comes to lecturing the government—this was all about transparency. They put forward this idea of a parliamentary budget office because it was all about transparency. I am being lectured to by the LNP on transparency. When it comes to being lectured to by the LNP on transparency, they are absolutely shameless. Their shamelessness knows no limits.

This is the LNP that dismissed the entire PCCC and changed the way the chair was appointed to avoid scrutiny. This is the LNP who sacked the head of the Ethics Committee that they themselves appointed. This is the LNP who, when the member for Kawana was attorney-general, appointed the Chief Magistrate as Chief Justice against all convention and advice. He was the attorney-general in a government that broke the confidence of the Supreme Court by leaking private conversations. They are the LNP—total phonies on transparency.

Another proposal that caught my attention was the social enterprise startup fund, and I spoke briefly about that earlier today. I am as big a supporter of the social enterprise sector as anyone would find, which is why in the budget I handed down our government announced and started delivering a Social Enterprise Jobs Fund last year. It led me to think for a moment—a brief moment—that I was being too harsh on the opposition. Maybe they do know how to read the budget papers. Maybe they are still making their way through last year's budget papers. That is a truly dismal performance by a party that is not just a step behind Queenslanders but a whole financial year. They are not fit to read and they are not fit to lead.

I would like to reflect for a few moments on the contribution of the member for Maiwar, who was very critical of our government owned corporations spending money maintaining our power stations. This government has a commitment to generating 50 per cent of our electricity from renewable sources by 2030 and we are leading the country with that policy position. That is something that the Greens will never ever be able to deliver because progressive, transformative policy is only ever led and driven by the Australian Labor Party.

Our power stations are going to be required to operate through to this time and beyond. They are large pieces of industrial machinery. I say for the benefit of the member for Maiwar that power turbines spin at 3,000 revolutions per minute. This kind of energy in such a large, heavy piece of machinery needs to be well maintained for the safety of workers and the stability of the electricity grid

in Queensland. We make no apologies for maintaining high safety standards across government owned power stations to protect the workers who contribute so much to our state. I know the Minister for Energy acknowledges that.

The member for Maiwar suggested that the \$2 billion renewable energy fund was inadequate or not spent soon enough. It is important for both our GOCs and the broader energy industry that they have visibility of our long-term strategy. Having a pipeline of funds available allows our GOCs to plan their investments accordingly. Stakeholder groups, including from the environment sector, have asked the government to do more planning on the pipeline of work necessary to reach our target. This pipeline of money should go a long way towards demonstrating our commitment to a renewable energy pipeline and a renewable energy future for Queensland.

If the member for Maiwar is truly concerned about reducing emissions, he should stop playing politics on these important energy issues and start working with the government to achieve practical solutions for the state's energy needs.

I conclude by saying this: this is a budget for all Queenslanders. It will benefit Queenslanders for generations to come. I am so pleased to say for the benefit of those members opposite but, more particularly, for my colleagues and friends in the government: this is a typical Labor budget. I commend the appropriation bills to the House.

Question put—That the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill and the Appropriation Bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.


Bills read a second time.

Referral to Portfolio Committees

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! In accordance with standing order 177(2), the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill and the Appropriation Bill are now referred to the portfolio committees.


COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (6.13 pm): I seek to advise the House of the determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved pursuant to standing order 136 that the Economics and Governance Committee report on the Public Health and Other Legislation (Further Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill by 6 August 2021; the Community Support and Services Committee report on the Housing Legislation Amendment Bill by 6 August 2021; and the Transport and Resources Committee report on the Resources and Other Legislation Bill by 6 August 2021.

MOTIONS

Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders


 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (6.14 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in the standing and sessional orders for this day's sitting, the House will not break for dinner at 6.30 pm but will continue to sit to conduct government business until the adjournment is moved.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendment to Standing Orders

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (6.14 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the standing rules and orders of the Legislative Assembly be amended by replacing schedule 7 with that circulated in my name effectively immediately.

Schedule 7—


omit, insert

“SCHEDULE 7—CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

In accordance with Standing Order 181(c), the following table lists entities to which direct questioning of Chief Executives at Estimates is to apply.

**Entities to which direct questioning of
Chief Executives at Estimates is to apply**

Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service	Queensland Art Gallery
Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service	Queensland Audit Office
Central West Hospital and Health Service	Queensland Building and Construction Commission
Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service	Queensland Bulk Water Supply Authority (Seqwater)
CleanCo Queensland Limited	Queensland Competition Authority
Coordinator-General	Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority
Crime and Corruption Commission	Queensland Electricity Transmission Corporation Limited (Powerlink)
Cross River Rail Delivery Authority	Queensland Family and Child Commission
CS Energy Limited	Queensland Human Rights Commission
Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service	Queensland Institute of Medical Research
Electoral Commission of Queensland	Queensland Mental Health Commission
Energy and Water Ombudsman	Queensland Museum
Energy Queensland Limited	Queensland Performing Arts Centre/Queensland Performing Arts Trust
Family Responsibilities Commission	Queensland Racing Integrity Commission
Far North Queensland Ports Corporation Limited (Ports North)	Queensland Rail
GasFields Commission	Queensland Reconstruction Authority
Gladstone Ports Corporation Limited	Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority
Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service	Queensland Theatre Company
Gold Coast Waterways Authority	Queensland Treasury Corporation
Health and Wellbeing Queensland	Racing Queensland Board
Land Access Ombudsman	Residential Tenancies Authority
Legal Aid Queensland	Resources Safety and Health Queensland
Mackay Hospital and Health Service	Screen Queensland Pty Ltd
Metro North Hospital and Health Service	South Bank Corporation
Metro South Hospital and Health Service	South West Hospital and Health Service
Motor Accident Insurance Commission	Stadiums Queensland
National Injury Insurance Agency, Queensland	Stanwell Corporation Limited
Nominal Defendant	State Library of Queensland/Library Board of Queensland
North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation Limited	Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service
North West Hospital and Health Service	Sunwater Limited
Office of Inspector General Emergency Management	TAFE Queensland
Office of the Governor	The Public Trustee of Queensland
Office of the Health Ombudsman	Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service
Office of the Information Commissioner	Tourism and Events Queensland
Office of the Integrity Commissioner	Townsville Hospital and Health Service
Office of the Queensland Ombudsman	Trade and Investment Queensland
Office of the Work Health and Safety Prosecutor	West Moreton Hospital and Health Service
Port of Townsville Limited	Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service
Prostitution Licensing Authority	
Public Service Commission	
QIC Limited	

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (6.15 pm): Schedule 7, of course, lists the chief executive officers that can be asked to be witnesses in the estimates process in the committee hearings. I note there are two noticeable absences from this year's estimates schedule 7, and that is the Productivity Commission and Building Queensland. The very bodies that the Labor Party established to get productivity working in this state are no longer on our estimates schedule—

Mr Dick: Hear, hear!

Mr BLEIJIE:—I take the interjection from the Treasurer, 'Hear, hear!'—considering it was a Labor treasurer that introduced the Productivity Commission. However, because he has the ego, he cannot stand any former Labor treasurer having any record on these sorts of things in this space and so he

has to abolish it. He abolished the Productivity Commission and now it no longer exists. That is the very body that should be giving this Treasurer advice, productivity commission advice. We know this Treasurer likes to hide things, likes to keep his department out of his office, puts electronic locks on his office doors, locks the doors from his department and he tried to hide the SPER debt when he was the attorney-general. We know he does not like accountability and transparency.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: All his childish interjections he has made just now show he is the worst treasurer in Australia with the biggest glass jaw.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): The House will come to order.

Mr BLEIJIE: He is the worse treasurer in Australia with the biggest glass jaw. He could not stand to be in this place when the member for Mulgrave introduced the Productivity Commission and now he has abolished it. Now it has been sneakily taken off the schedule 7 amendments. Of course, who can forget Jackie Trad's Building Queensland? It was going to get Queensland moving with all this construction. Of course, he cannot stand it, so it was abolished a few weeks ago in his non-debt and negligible savings bill that he introduced that was passed in the parliament.

I go off subject, but I make the point that the two bodies that were on the schedule last year—I might add that it was only December last year; we are only talking about six months ago—the Productivity Commission, which gives independent advice to Treasury and this Treasurer—and God knows he needs it. He cannot stand—

Mr Janetzki: He doesn't want to hear it.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the shadow Treasurer. He does not want to hear it. He cannot stand it because he does not like being told when he is wrong. He does not like the record of other Labor treasurers in this state, so he abolishes the Productivity Commission and Building Queensland. I just make the point that they are not on the schedule because this Treasurer, the worst treasurer in Australia, the most egotistical treasurer, does not like accountability and transparency, and that is why they are not on schedule 7.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

COMMITTEES

Estimates Hearings



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (6.19 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

1. That for the consideration of the annual appropriation bills for 2021-2022, so much of standing orders be suspended to enable:
 - (a) the portfolio committees to only hold hearings and take evidence within the time frames provided in Table 1, circulated in my name;
 - (b) the Leader of the House, after consultation with the Speaker, to issue a memorandum setting and, if necessary, changing the days for each hearing in Table 1;
 - (c) where a minister administers a number of distinct portfolio matters, matters relating to each portfolio area can only be raised during the period specified for that area in Table 1; and
2. That in accordance with standing order 177(5), each portfolio committee report to the House on the annual appropriation bills by 20 August 2021.

TABLE 1-ESTIMATES 2021

Area of Responsibility	Ministers	Hearing Times
ECONOMIC AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE—16 July 2021		
Premier and Cabinet Trade	Premier and Minister for Trade	Speaker 9am-9:45am BREAK: 9:45am-10am

Area of Responsibility	Ministers	Hearing Times
Treasury and Investment	Treasurer and Minister for Investment	Premier (Premier and Trade): 10am-11:45am
Tourism Industry Development, Innovation and Sport	Minister for Tourism Industry Development and Innovation and Minister for Sport	BREAK: 11:45am-12pm Premier (Premier and Trade): 12pm-1:30pm BREAK: 1:30pm-2pm Treasurer (Treasury and Investment): 2pm-4pm BREAK: 4pm-4:15pm Treasurer (Treasury and Investment): 4:15pm-6pm BREAK: 6pm-6:30pm Minister for Tourism Industry Development and Innovation and Minister for Sport: 6:30pm-9pm
STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE—28 July 2021		
State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning	Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning	Deputy Premier (State Development): 9am-10am Deputy Premier (Infrastructure and Planning): 10am-11:15am BREAK: 11:15am-11:30am Deputy Premier (Local Government): 11:30am-12:30pm BREAK: 12:30pm-1:30pm
Agricultural Industry Development, Fisheries and Rural Communities	Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities	Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (Agricultural Industry Development and Rural Communities): 1:30pm-3pm BREAK: 3pm-3:15pm Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (Fisheries and Forestry): 3:15pm-4:45pm
Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water	Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water	BREAK: 4:45pm-5pm Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water (Water): 5pm-6:30pm BREAK: 6:30pm-6:45pm Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water (Regional Development and Manufacturing): 6:45pm-7:45pm
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING COMMITTEE—29 July 2021		
Education, Industrial Relations and Racing	Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing	Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing (Education and Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority): 9am-10:30am BREAK: 10:30am-10:45am
Employment, Small Business, Training and Skills Development	Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development	Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing (Education and Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority): 10:45am-11:45am BREAK: 11:45am-12:30pm Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing (Racing): 12:30pm-1pm Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing (Industrial Relations): 1pm-2pm

Area of Responsibility	Ministers	Hearing Times
		BREAK: 2pm-2:30pm Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development (Training and Skills Development): 2:30pm-4pm BREAK: 4pm-4:15pm Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development (Employment and Small Business): 4:15pm-5:15pm
HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE—30 July 2021		
Health and Ambulance Services	Minister for Health and Ambulance Services	Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Department of Health, Hospital and Health Services, Health Ombudsman): 9am-10:30am BREAK: 10:30am-10:45am
Environment, Great Barrier Reef, Science and Youth Affairs	Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs	Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Department of Health, Hospital and Health Services, Queensland Institute of Medical Research, Queensland Mental Health Commission, Health and Wellbeing Queensland): 10:45am-12:15pm BREAK: 12:15pm-12:30pm Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Queensland Ambulance Services): 12:30pm-1:30pm BREAK: 1:30pm-2:30pm Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs (Environment and the Great Barrier Reef): 2:30pm-4:15pm BREAK: 4:15pm-4:30pm Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs (Science and Youth Affairs): 4:30pm-5:15pm
TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE—3 August 2021		
Transport and Main Roads	Minister for Transport and Main Roads	Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Transport and Main Roads): 9am-11am BREAK: 11am-11:15am
Energy, Renewables, Hydrogen, Public Works and Procurement	Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement	Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Transport and Main Roads): 11:15am-1pm BREAK: 1pm-2pm Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement (Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen): 2pm-3:30pm BREAK: 3:30pm-3:45pm Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement (Public Works and Procurement): 3:45pm-5:15pm BREAK: 5:15pm-5:30pm Minister for Resources (Resources): 5:30pm-7pm BREAK: 7pm-7:15pm Minister for Resources (Resources): 7:15pm-8:15pm
Resources	Minister for Resources	

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE—4 August 2021		
Justice and Attorney-General, Women and Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence Prevention	Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence	<p>Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence (Department of Justice and Attorney-General and Associated Statutory Bodies): 9am-10:30am</p> <p>BREAK: 10:30am-10:45am</p> <p>Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence (Department of Justice and Attorney-General): 10:45am-12:45pm</p> <p>BREAK: 12:45pm-1:30pm</p> <p>Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services (Police): 1:30pm-2:45pm</p> <p>BREAK: 2:45pm-3pm</p> <p>Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services (Corrective Services): 3pm-4pm</p> <p>BREAK: 4pm-4:15pm</p> <p>Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services (Fire and Emergency Services): 4:15pm-5:15pm</p>
Police, Corrective Services, Fire and Emergency Services	Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services	
COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND SERVICES COMMITTEE—5 August 2021		
Communities, Housing, Digital Economy and the Arts	Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts	<p>Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts (Communities, Housing and Digital Economy): 9am-10:45am</p> <p>BREAK: 10:45am-11am</p> <p>Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts (Arts): 11am-11:45am</p> <p>BREAK: 11:45am-12:30pm</p> <p>Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (Seniors and Disability Services): 12:30pm-1:45pm</p> <p>BREAK: 1:45pm-2pm</p> <p>Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Family Responsibilities Commission): 2pm-3:15pm</p> <p>BREAK: 3:15pm-3:30pm</p> <p>Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (Children and Youth Justice): 3:30pm-5:15pm</p> <p>BREAK: 5:15pm-5:30pm</p> <p>Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (Multicultural Affairs): 5:30pm-6:15pm</p>
Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships	Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships	
Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs	Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs	


The Palaszczuk government understands the importance of the parliamentary estimates period. I and my cabinet colleagues are looking forward to attending our respective estimates hearings to talk about how the Palaszczuk Labor government's budget is delivering for all Queenslanders. As members will see, the motion sets out the days and times for each of the estimates hearings. The times within the hearings are similar to what occurred in December, with only some minor changes.

As all members will be aware, the Palaszczuk government is fully behind the Olympics bid for Queensland in 2032. I note that the bid has received a bipartisan approach, not only across the political divide but also across all three levels of government. I am excited, like I know many in this chamber are, for the very real potential of Queensland and Brisbane hosting the Olympic Games.

As has been publicly canvassed, the Premier or the Minister for Sport will attend the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games to continue to do everything we can as a government to secure such an important world event right here in our very own backyard. As a result of this potential travel, the Economics and Governance Committee estimates hearing will move from the slated Tuesday, 27 July 2021 to Friday, 16 July 2021. To ensure there is no delay in the opportunity for those opposite to put thought-provoking questions to the Premier, the Treasurer and Minister Hinchliffe, the government has decided to bring forward the Economics and Governance Committee hearings to ensure that members are able to ask questions about the budget and how it is benefiting Queenslanders sooner rather than later. The alternative was for it to be delayed, and we would not want that.

I also put on the record that we have consulted with the Speaker about the date change as the Speaker's estimates is part of that hearing. I thank him for that feedback. The remaining estimates hearings will take place as planned.

This is a sensible approach. Members will also note that this motion enables the Leader of the House, after consultation with the Speaker, to change the days of estimates when the hearing is not sitting, if required. This is similar to sessional order 1B regarding amending the date and time of parliament when the House is not sitting. I want to stress that this provision is purely to ensure that the parliament has a method to change the dates and times if for some reason it cannot sit due to COVID-19 or a health related matter. This is the sole purpose of this provision. It is a contingency plan to ensure that, if for some reason something happens that would prevent the hearing from occurring, appropriate arrangements can be made to change the date to ensure members are able to ask the executive questions about the Palaszczuk Labor government's budget, which delivers for all Queenslanders. I commend the motion to the House.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (6.21 pm): I am disappointed because I was not consulted on these substantial changes to the estimates hearing dates. The Leader of the House says that she consulted the Speaker, but I was not consulted on the new provision they are inserting whereby the Leader of the House can basically, without notice, consult the Speaker and then just change the date of an estimates hearing. The Minister for Housing, say, may have a bad front-page *Courier-Mail* headline. The Leader of the House can just stop the estimates hearing on the day. Never before have I seen this. If this was COVID related the Leader of the House would have consulted me, like she has on every other COVID related issue this parliament has dealt with, or raised it at the CLA meeting we had today. This is the first I have heard about it.

This is the Tokyo amendment. We called out the Premier weeks ago with respect to the Tokyo Olympics and asked how the Premier would attend estimates, bearing in mind that the dates of estimates on the parliamentary calendar are 27, 28, 29 and 30 July and 3, 4 and 5 August. It was not like the government did not know when the Olympics were going to be held this year. We have been sitting in the parliament all year. There have been no restrictions on our sittings in the parliament. We have not missed a day's sitting. We have not done much work here, I might add—the government's agenda is pretty slack—but we have known about it.

This has all come about because the Premier has now decided that she wants to go to Tokyo. I suspect it is because the government just cannot work out whether it can trust to send the member for Sandgate to Tokyo by himself. The Premier has to go and hold the hand of the Minister for Sport. They are hedging their bets with respect to whether it is the Premier or the member for Sandgate who goes. The Leader of the House just explained that it may be the Premier, it may be the Minister for Sport or it may be both. The whole reason, Mr Deputy Speaker—you are going to ask me to get to the point, and I will—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I am.

Mr BLEIJIE: The whole point of this schedule is to bring the hearing forward by two weeks, to 16 July. As just pointed out by the Leader of the House, the reason they are bringing forward the hearing for the Premier, the Treasurer and the Minister for Tourism Industry Development and Innovation and Minister for Sport—two weeks before the rest of the estimates process—is the Tokyo Olympics. That was the reason the Leader of the House just gave. You are now going to have a period of about two weeks—

Mrs D'Ath: One week.

Mr BLEIJIE: A week and a half. I'll go you halves.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members' comments will come through the chair. Stop the quarrelling across the chamber.

Mr BLEIJIE: We will have this period of a week and a half between 16 July and—

Mrs D'Ath interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: The complaint is that there will be less time for questions on notice to be issued and answered. Last year the budget was handed down and we went straight into estimates, without questions on notice being answered. Now we will have a process whereby the budget is referred to committees tonight and within a short period of time we will be at the first estimates hearing. That is the first thing.

More concerning is the fact that the Leader of the House, without consulting the opposition or the crossbench, can just change the dates for each hearing. They could effectively say, 'There's been a case detected in Bondi Beach. We are worried about that. We are going to stop the estimates process in Queensland.' If you give the Labor Party the power, they will use it. They will take advantage of it, as we have seen in the past.

There is another thing the portfolio committees used to be able to do. If a portfolio committee decided that it wanted more testimony from a particular witness, it could decide to keep going. If the witnesses agreed, the portfolio committee could extend the time. This motion prevents that from happening. It says—

- (a) the portfolio committees to only hold hearings and take evidence within the timeframes provided in Table 1, circulated in my name;

There will be no ability for committees to determine their own destinies with respect to estimates. We will see a farce of a situation. As we have seen under this Labor government, the estimates process in Queensland has become such a farce. There is no accountability, transparency or integrity. When she was elected Premier Palaszczuk said, 'I'm going to lead differently. I'm going to be open and transparent,' but the first thing they do is curtail the estimates time lines and so forth. I have real concerns that the portfolio committees will no longer be able to determine, for whatever reason, to sit for another hour. They will not be able to do it.

The motion also provides that portfolio committees are only allowed to raise the matters specified in table 1. The portfolio committees have had the ability, while they have directors-general sitting there, to jump from issue to issue. These guys and girls are being paid a lot of money. They sit there. The portfolio committees could decide which witnesses to question. With the passage of this motion, that will no longer happen. It will be a case of, 'This 45 minutes is for this chief executive officer.' There will be no ability for the committees to change it.

We know why this has come about. I will not support this motion because, firstly, the opposition was not consulted. The Leader of the House talked about the Olympics bid being bipartisan. As this is the Tokyo amendment, I thought the government would at least have had the courtesy to let me know before moving this motion about the time lines of the committee and the new powers of the Leader of the House to decide something on a whim after consultation with the Speaker. I note that the motion does not say that the Speaker has to agree to a change; it just says 'after consultation with the Speaker'. The Leader of the House could just go to the Speaker and say, 'I'm moving this estimates hearing. I am pushing it back by two weeks.' Regardless of whether the Speaker agrees or not, the Leader of the House can determine it.

The reason this has come about is Tokyo. The Premier got in trouble a few weeks ago because she said that she had to get the Pfizer—

An opposition member: Not the AZ?

Mr BLEIJIE: No. I take the interjection—not the AZ. She had to get the Pfizer to go to Tokyo—

Mrs D'ATH: I rise to a point of order on relevance. The member should be brought back to the motion before the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): The point of order stands. I would bring you back to the motion.

Mr BLEIJIE: We are not going to support this motion, firstly, because we were not consulted and, secondly, the government is breaking up the estimates process just—

Ms Fentiman: Get on board!

Mr BLEIJIE: Here is what I am not going to get on board with. I am not going to get on board—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members. Your comments will come through the chair.

Mr BLEIJIE: I am not going to get on board with trashing this democratic institution. This is Queensland's Parliament House. This is—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: We are so close.


Mr BLEIJIE: The Attorney-General interjects, 'Just get on with it.' That is what those opposite do in this place. This is what we have come to in this state now. This parliament is just the Labor Party's political plaything. Do members know the question a lot of Queenslanders are asking and why they will say, 'Good on you for opposing this'? This is what Queenslanders will be saying. They will be saying, 'Why is it okay for the Premier of the state of Queensland to fly internationally when we're stuck at home and still in restrictions?' Why is my local business NightQuarter still prevented from having live music entertainment and yet the Premier can jetset off? The best advice you could give Queenslanders about this Premier is never get in the way of Annastacia Palaszczuk and her 747. We know that she has been waiting again—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. I will bring you back to the motion before us, member for Kawana. If you do not have anything further to add, you can cease your contribution.

Mr BLEIJIE: If someone moves an extension of time, we will go all night because I do not think there is enough time for the estimates committees in what has been scheduled here. If the estimates committees had the ability to amend their own times—decide their own destiny such as to sit another hour—let it be, but this is so stymied and so structural and so procedural. The estimates process in Queensland has become a bit of a farce. It is just a political plaything, and this just extends that. It is the government saying, 'We don't want to hear the questions from the opposition. We don't want the questions from the crossbench.' Basically, it is just, 'Let's get it done. We don't want to be here.' We know those opposite do not want to be at the parliament.

An opposition member: Chairs running interference.

Mr BLEIJIE: We have seen the chairs run interference. This will only enshrine that interference and protection racket even further. That is why we strongly oppose the time lines set out. We oppose the protection racket that we have seen over the last three years, particularly with this government and the protection racket that the estimates process has become. That is why we oppose this motion. We oppose the motion on the fact that the Premier gets to amend her estimates day to be done with everyone else so she can jetset off to Tokyo. Have a bit of accountability! When is accountability coming back in Queensland? Only under an LNP government!

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (6.32 pm), in reply: I just have to at least make one contribution in response to that fascinating debate we have just heard from the Manager of Opposition Business. Manager of Opposition Business, I think the people of Queensland and certainly this side of the House would trust our sports minister over your former sports minister, Steve Dickson, any day.

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

AYES, 50:

ALP, 50—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Madden, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.


NOES, 35:

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

Grn, 2—Berkman, MacMahon.

Resolved in the affirmative.

ADJOURNMENT

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (6.38 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 6.38 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly, King A, King S, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, MacMahon, Madden, Mander, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, 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