



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

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## TUESDAY, 31 AUGUST 2021

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The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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

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

### ASSENT TO BILL



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from His Excellency the Governor a letter in respect of assent to a bill. The contents of the letter will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the letter for the information of members.

The Honourable C.W. Pitt MP

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Parliament House

George Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

My dear Mr Speaker

I hereby acquaint the Legislative Assembly that the following Bill, having been passed by the Legislative Assembly and having been presented for the Royal Assent, was assented to in the name of Her Majesty The Queen on the date shown:

Date of Assent: 24 June 2021

A bill for an Act to amend the Defamation Act 2005, the Heavy Vehicle National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2019 and the Limitation of Actions Act 1974 for particular purposes

This Bill is hereby transmitted to the Legislative Assembly, to be numbered and forwarded to the proper Officer for enrolment, in the manner required by law.

Yours sincerely

Governor

24 June 2021

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 24 June 2021, from His Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to a certain bill on 24 June 2021 [[1246](#)].

### ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF STRETTON

#### By-Election, Return of Writ



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to report that the writ issued by His Excellency the Governor on 29 June 2021 for the election of a member to serve in the Legislative Assembly for the electoral district of Stretton has been returned to me with a certificate endorsed thereon by the Electoral Commission of Queensland of the election, on 24 July 2021, of James Robert Martin to serve as such member. I table the endorsed writ for the information of the House. I now call the honourable member forward to take the oath of allegiance and of office.

*Tabled paper:* Endorsed Writ for the election of the Electoral District of Stretton [[1247](#)].

### MEMBER SWORN

Mr James Martin, having waited at the bar of the House, was invited by Mr Speaker to enter the chamber.


Mr Speaker administered the oath of allegiance and of office to Mr Martin, who then signed the Roll of Members.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on behalf of the parliament, I welcome to the Queensland Legislative Assembly the new member for Stretton.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!


## PRIVILEGE

### Comments by Member for Currumbin, Clarification and Apology

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (9.34 am): In the debate on the Defamation (Model Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill on 15 June 2021, my reference to 'all other jurisdictions' was made to the three states outlined by the member for Clayfield. This was not intended to be a sweeping statement to reference every other Australian jurisdiction. My remark was made off the cuff. I accept that without context it could have appeared to be misleading and I apologise for that. However, I can assure you, Mr Speaker, that I did not intend to mislead the House.

## REPORT


### Office of the Speaker

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I lay upon the table of the House the *Statement for public disclosure: Expenditure of the Office of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021*. It is down! Former treasurers have to say these things.

*Tabled paper:* Statement for Public Disclosure: Expenditure of the Office of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 [\[1248\]](#).


## APPOINTMENT

### Panel of Temporary Speakers

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, in accordance with standing order 11, I advise that I have discharged Mr Les Walker, member for Mundingburra, from the Panel of Temporary Speakers and I have appointed Mr James Martin, member for Stretton, to the panel.

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS


### Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner, Appointment

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I report that, pursuant to the relevant provisions of the Crime and Corruption Act 2001, Mr Michael Woodford has been appointed as the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner for a term of three years, commencing 22 August 2021.

Mr Woodford was admitted to practice as a barrister of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 1998. Throughout his 22 years of practice, he has worked for the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and at the private bar. He has extensive experience in criminal litigation including appellate work and administrative law matters, as well as being retained as counsel in various inquest and inquiry matters.

This appointment of Mr Woodford has the bipartisan support of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee. On 19 August 2021, I tabled the relevant notice of appointment as required under the act.

### Thompson, Mr T, Banning Order

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 27 May 2021, the Ethics Committee tabled its report No. 206 which dealt with allegations made against the member for Mirani and Mr Troy Thompson. The committee found Mr Thompson in contempt for disorderly conduct and recommended that the Speaker ban Mr Thompson from the parliamentary precinct under section 50 of the Parliamentary Service Act 1988. Accordingly, I advise the House that, on 16 July 2021, I issued a direction which provides that Mr Thompson should not be permitted to enter the Queensland parliamentary precinct. This direction is intended to apply indefinitely until revoked.

## PRIVILEGE

### Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 19 July 2021, I tabled a ruling regarding matters of privilege relating to a complaint by the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning alleging that the member for Ninderry deliberately misled the House on 25 May 2021. I ruled that the matter did not warrant the further attention of the Ethics Committee. I now refer to the matter so that if any member wishes to exercise their rights in respect of that matter under the standing orders they should do so immediately.

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

### School Group Tour



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Nundah State School in the electorate of Nudgee.

### Speaker's Tie



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to draw your attention to the tie I am wearing today. Honourable members interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I try! Members, I purchased this tie at an opportunity shop. It bears the Queensland emblem, the coat of arms. I mention this to the House today because it is important to note that once upon a time a public servant of some description—an anonymous person—wore this tie doing their job for the state of Queensland. It is very important to note that that tie is now being worn by the Speaker of the Queensland parliament. It is also very important to note that we are all on the same team. We are all here to serve the people of Queensland.

## PETITIONS

The Clerk presented the following paper and e-petitions, lodged and sponsored by the honourable members indicated—

### Gympie Hospital, Paediatric Services

**Mr Perrett**, from 4,205 petitioners requesting the House to provide Gympie Hospital with a paediatric doctor and ward [[1249](#), [1250](#)].

### Bellflower Road, Sippy Downs, Noise Abatement Barriers

**Mr Mickelberg**, from 499 petitioners, requesting the House install noise abatement barriers along Bellflower Road, Sippy Downs [[1251](#), [1252](#)].

The Clerk presented the following e-petitions, sponsored by the honourable members indicated—

### Rookwood Weir, Capacity

**Mr Andrew**, from 363 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure that the height of Rookwood Weir's wall is raised by a full one metre to restore the weir's capacity to the original promised volume of 76,000 m<sup>3</sup> [[1253](#)].

### David Drive and Bruce Highway, Curra, Road Safety

**Mr Perrett**, from 236 petitioners, requesting the House to investigate the numerous accidents and near misses at the David Drive and Bruce Highway at the Puma service station at Curra, Queensland and to reduce the speed limit from 100 kph to 80 kph around the site [[1254](#)].

### Charters Towers, Residential Accommodation

**Mr Katter**, from 586 petitioners, requesting the House to repurpose the vacant Eventide Residential Aged Care Facility's hostel accommodation area at Charters Towers as desperately needed residential accommodation for elderly low income earners [[1255](#)].

### Troubled Tenants

**Mr Hart**, from 275 petitioners, requesting the House to review the existing conditions of placement of identified troubled tenants to make sure they are located in supervised appropriate accommodation [[1256](#)].

### Burleigh, Youth Crime

**Mr Hart**, from 1,274 petitioners, requesting the House to change the bail act and introduce a range of measures to halt the increase of youth crime in the electorate of Burleigh [[1257](#)].

**Lake Hugh Muntz, Water Quality**

**Mr Stevens**, from 514 petitioners, requesting the House to allow the recommendations of the Griffith University Research Team regarding the condition of the water of Lake Hugh Muntz in Mermaid Waters to be immediately actioned and maintain that budget annually until the lake has been restored [\[1258\]](#).

**Gatton, Truck Decoupling Facility**

**Mr McDonald**, from 1,933 petitioners, requesting the House to acknowledge the Warrego Highway truck de-coupling facility in Gatton as the truck driver's workplace and install adequate toilet facilities for these workers [\[1259\]](#).

**Polkinghorne, Ms C**

**Ms Pugh**, from 548 petitioners, requesting the House to establish a statue of our most capped Queenslander, Clare Polkinghorne, at Suncorp Stadium [\[1260\]](#).

**Moreton Region, Community Legal Services**

**Hon Ryan**, from 925 petitioners, requesting the House to increase funding for community legal services in the Moreton Region [\[1261\]](#).

**Palm Beach, Light Rail**

**Mr Hart**, from 1,422 petitioners, requesting the House to hold a public meeting in Palm Beach to listen to local residents and answer their questions on the plan to extend the light rail south along the Gold Coast Highway through Palm Beach, Currumbin and Tugun [\[1262\]](#).

**Vehicle Manufacturers, Electronic Warning Devices**

**Mr Dametto**, from 3,051 petitioners, requesting the House to legislate that all vehicle manufacturers must provide electronic warning devices in new vehicles that alert the driver to children who are left unattended in a vehicle [\[1263\]](#).

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

**Dogs, Breeding**

3,021 petitioners, requesting the House to demonstrate compassion and care by legislating to strengthen 'puppy farm' laws [\[1264\]](#).

**Strata Legislation, Smoke Penetration By-Laws**

820 petitioners, requesting the House to replicate NSW's 2016 legislative changes and amend strata legislation to provide model by-laws that can be adopted by "Special Resolution" to protect lot owners and tenants from smoke penetration from other lots or common property [\[1265\]](#).

**Ripley Valley State School, Pedestrian Crossings**

89 petitioners, requesting the House to install pedestrian crossings at both car park entry points at Ripley Valley State School [\[1266\]](#).

**Manufactured Home Parks, Price Fixing**

4,792 petitioners, requesting the House to amend the Manufactured Home Residential Parks Act to protect residents from unscrupulous price fixing in and alleviate unwarranted pressure on the QCAT grievance processes [\[1267\]](#).

**Litter**

562 petitioners, requesting the House to address the problem of litter by undertaking a statewide litter awareness and education campaign, increase litter fines, strengthen litter laws to allow on-the-spot fines, and to adequately resource local government to enforce litter legislation devolved to them by the State [\[1268\]](#).

**Channel Country, Petroleum and Gas Mining**

2,296 petitioners, requesting the House to legislate to respect advice of the independent scientific panel commissioned by the Queensland government which recommended a ban on petroleum/gas activities and the unacceptable risks associated with gas fracking in the Channel Country of Queensland—the flood plains of Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre Basin [\[1269\]](#).

**Caravan Parks**

751 petitioners, requesting the House to mandate local councils to allocate 25% of council owned caravan parks as permanent housing [\[1270\]](#).

**Citizens Initiated Referendums**

720 petitioners, requesting the House to consider giving the people the choice of more direct democracy in our systems of government and a voice on contentious issues by introducing citizen's initiated referendums [\[1271\]](#).

**Housing, Solar Power and Wood-Burning Fires**

229 petitioners, requesting the House to alter the various state and council housing guidelines and laws and make compulsory the installation of solar panels and batteries for all new, used and rental houses before contracts are signed and to remove all wood burning fires and stoves and not allow them into new buildings [\[1272\]](#).



**Coalmining, Licences**

547 petitioners, requesting the House to implement the duty of care imposed by Justice Bromberg by stopping all new coal licences which have not begun mining coal and take other measures to lower emissions throughout the state [\[1273\]](#).

Petitions received.

**TABLED PAPERS****PAPERS TABLED DURING THE RECESS (SO 31)**

The Clerk informed the House that the following papers, received during the recess, were tabled on the dates indicated—

21 June 2021—

- [924](#) Response from the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (Hon. Dr Miles), to an ePetition (3493-21) sponsored by the member for Bonney, Mr O'Connor, from 1,230 petitioners, requesting the House to investigate the appropriateness of the level of community engagement undertaken by the Gold Coast City Council before signing off on the City Plan amendments for Labrador, Biggera Waters and Southport
- [925](#) Transport and Resources Committee: Report No. 6, 57th Parliament—Examination of Auditor-General Report 11: 2020-21—Energy 2020
- [926](#) State Development and Regional Industries Committee: Report No. 10, 57th Parliament—Examination of Auditor-General Report 14: 2019-20—Evaluating major infrastructure projects

22 June 2021—

- [927](#) Murray-Darling Basin Authority—Annual Report 2019-20
- [928](#) Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 10, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 14 April 2021 and 11 May 2021

24 June 2021—

- [929](#) Response from the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (Hon. Dr Miles), to a paper petition (3547-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(3), from 324 petitioners, requesting the House to define and cost an acceptable Queensland standard of service delivery for water, wastewater, roads and waste in the North Burnett Regional Council community
- [930](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3487-21) sponsored by the member for Moggill, Dr Rowan, from 521 petitioners, requesting the House to review the current animal advisory and motorist safety signage in place along Mt Crosby Road

29 June 2021—

- [931](#) Letter and Gazette Notice for the Queensland Government Gazette, dated 29 June 2021, advising that His Excellency the Governor, acting by and with the advice of the Executive Council and pursuant to the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003, has approved a payment of \$125,598,389.68 (GST inclusive) from WorkCover Queensland to the Office of Industrial Relations, Department of Education, in 2021-22 for the prevention of injury to workers and related education, compliance and regulatory functions delivered by the Office of Industrial Relations under the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 and Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003

30 June 2021—

- [932](#) Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee: Report No. 106, 57th Parliament—Review of the Crime and Corruption Commission's activities

5 July 2021—

- [933](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (The Australian Institute of Building Surveyors Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2021, No. 91
- [934](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (The Australian Institute of Building Surveyors Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2021, No. 91, explanatory notes
- [935](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (The Australian Institute of Building Surveyors Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2021, No. 91, human rights certificate
- [936](#) Professional Standards Act 1994 (NSW): The Australian Institute of Building Surveyors Professional Standards Scheme [Refer subordinate legislation No. 91]
- [937](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (Australian Property Institute Valuers Limited Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2021, No. 92
- [938](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (Australian Property Institute Valuers Limited Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2021, No. 92, explanatory notes
- [939](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (Australian Property Institute Valuers Limited Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2021, No. 92, human rights certificate
- [940](#) Professional Standards Act 2003 (Vic): The Australian Property Institute of Valuers Limited Professional Standards Scheme [Refer subordinate legislation No. 92]

9 July 2021—

- [941](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 10, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 21 April 2021 and 15 June 2021

13 July 2021—

- [942](#) Takeaway liquor authority notice number 18 issued in accordance with section 235D and 235F of the Liquor Act 1992 by the Commissioner for Liquor and Gaming
- [943](#) Takeaway liquor authority notice number 19 issued in accordance with section 235D and 235F of the Liquor Act 1992 by the Commissioner for Liquor and Gaming

15 July 2021—

- [944](#) Response from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (Hon. Furner), to an ePetition (3502-21) sponsored by the member for Pine Rivers, Ms Boyd, from 646 petitioners, requesting the House to prevent the highly invasive plant known as Amazon Frogbit from being legally sold, propagated or traded in Queensland
- [945](#) Response from the Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts (Hon. Enoch), to an ePetition (3471-21) sponsored by the member for Mermaid Beach, Mr Stevens, from 847 petitioners, requesting the House to review the existing conditions of placement of identified troubled tenants in the public housing system within short-term and long-term accommodation to ensure they are located in supervised appropriate accommodation
- [946](#) Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (Hon. Fentiman), to a paper petition (3566-21) presented by the member for Southern Downs, Mr Lister, and an ePetition (3492-21) sponsored by the member for Southern Downs, Mr Lister, from 359 and 2,441 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to legislate to return the offence of breach of bail to Queensland law, and to prescribe sufficient mandatory penalties to ensure that the breach of bail by offenders is effectively deterred
- [947](#) Response from the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs (Hon. Scanlon), to an ePetition (3516-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) and a paper petition (3571-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(3), from 1,477 and 143 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to incentivise a circular economy by offering rebates on recycled plastic to businesses who choose recycled plastic that has been reprocessed in Australia from more than 50% locally sourced recycled materials
- [948](#) Response from the Minister for Resources (Hon. Stewart), to an ePetition (3518-21) sponsored by the member for Mansfield, Ms McMillan, from 437 petitioners, requesting the House to refuse the application seeking to renew Mining Lease ML1156 at 105-227 Gardner Road, Rochedale
- [949](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (3567-21) presented by the member for Lockyer, Mr McDonald, and an ePetition (3517-21) sponsored by the member for Lockyer, Mr McDonald, from 26 and 177 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to implement measures to control unlawful heavy vehicle movements on Murphys Creek Road
- [950](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3523-21) sponsored by the member for Surfers Paradise, Mr Langbroek, from 592 petitioners, requesting the House to install permanent speed cameras along both inbound and outbound stretches of road into Surfers Paradise on the Gold Coast Highway
- [951](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3532-21) sponsored by the member for Coomera, Mr Crandon, from 1,100 petitioners, requesting the House to provide a dedicated slip lane from the northbound Exit 41 to Norfolk Village at Yatala
- [952](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3540-21) sponsored by the member for Coomera, Mr Crandon, from 326 petitioners, requesting the House to provide a regular daily bus service to connect the transport hub of Ormeau and the Pimpama shopping precinct
- [953](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3541-21) sponsored by the member for Coomera, Mr Crandon, from 169 petitioners, requesting the House to upgrade bus services between Beenleigh Railway Station and Ormeau Railway Station
- [954](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3542-21) sponsored by the member for Coomera, Mr Crandon, from 254 petitioners, requesting the House to upgrade bus services between Ormeau Railway Station and Coomera Railway Station
- [955](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3535-21) sponsored by the member for Hinchinbrook, Mr Dametto, from 404 petitioners, requesting the House to improve marine access at Forrest Beach and Cassady Beach, Allingham

16 July 2021—

- [956](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (3568-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(3), and two ePetitions (3514-21 and 3534-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 547, 1,958 and 1,354 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to work with the Sunshine Coast Regional Council to remove the light rail mass transit option along the beachfront and support a regional electric/hydro bus network connecting all towns and communities from the coast to hinterland
- [957](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3435-20) sponsored by the member for Coomera, Mr Crandon, from 1,312 petitioners, requesting the House to reduce the yearly road toll to 5% of current numbers of deaths by 2030 by implementing more driver awareness education
- [958](#) Response from the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services (Hon. Ryan), to an ePetition (3522-21) sponsored by the member for Surfers Paradise, Mr Langbroek, from 1,594 petitioners, requesting the House to provide the Queensland Police Service on the Gold Coast with additional personnel and associated resources to make communities safer

[959](#) Response from the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services (Hon. Ryan), to an ePetition (3441-20) sponsored by the member for Mirani, Mr Andrew, from 693 petitioners, requesting the House to recognise the countless acts of courage and sacrifice of volunteers and undertake a range of measures to ensure all rural fire brigades are properly resourced and equipped for the upcoming bushfire season

19 July 2021—

[960](#) Ruling by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt—Alleged deliberately misleading the House by the member for Ninderry

[961](#) Response from the Acting Premier (Hon. Dr Miles), to an ePetition (3552-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 443 petitioners, requesting the House to amend sessional orders to remove prayers from the start of each sitting day and have the parliament comply with the separation of Church and State and the spirit of section 116 of the Commonwealth Constitution and an ePetition (3561-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 5,405 petitioners, requesting the House to continue the tradition of opening parliament with the saying of a Christian prayer and not order this to cease

[962](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3491-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 2,755 petitioners, requesting the House to reject the two-lane bypass proposal for Tiaro and instead support the construction of a four-lane highway as part of the Bruce Highway—Tiara Flood Immunity Upgrade (Tiara Bypass)

20 July 2021—

[963](#) Auditor-General Report 1: 2021-22—Enabling digital learning

[964](#) Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes, 8th Edition, 2013 (updated 2021)

22 July 2021—

[965](#) Transport and Resources Committee: Report No. 7, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 24 February 2021 and 15 June 2021

[966](#) Department of Transport and Main Roads: Maritime Safety Queensland—Marine incidents in Queensland, 2020

28 July 2021—

[967](#) Transport and Resources Committee: Report No. 8, 57th Parliament—Examination of Auditor-General Report 16: 2019-20—Licensing Builders and Building Trades

29 July 2021—

[968](#) Mt Gravatt Showgrounds Trust—Annual report year ended 30 April 2021

3 August 2021—

[969](#) Letter, dated 3 August 2021, from the Chair of the Committee of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt, to the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Neil Laurie, advising of the committee's determination to extend the reporting date of the Community Support and Services Committee's inquiry on the Housing Legislation Amendment Bill 2020

[970](#) Controlled Operations Committee—Annual Report 2019-20

6 August 2021—

[971](#) Transport and Resources Committee: Report No. 9, 57th Parliament—Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021

[972](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 11, 57th Parliament—Public Health and Other Legislation (Further Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2021

9 August 2021—

[973](#) Education and Care Services National Law: Education and Care Services National Amendment Regulations 2021

[974](#) Education and Care Services National Law: Education and Care Services National Amendment Regulations 2021, human rights certificate

12 August 2021—

[975](#) Queensland Police Service: Annual report for assumed identity authorisation and use—2020-2021

[976](#) Queensland Police Service—Dangerous Attachment Devices 2020-21

13 August 2021—

[977](#) Takeaway liquor authority notice number 20 issued in accordance with section 235D and 235F of the Liquor Act 1992 by the Commissioner for Liquor and Gaming

[978](#) Takeaway liquor authority notice number 21 issued in accordance with section 235D and 235F of the Liquor Act 1992 by the Commissioner for Liquor and Gaming

[979](#) Takeaway liquor authority notice number 22 issued in accordance with section 235D and 235F of the Liquor Act 1992 by the Commissioner for Liquor and Gaming

16 August 2021—

[980](#) Community Support and Services Committee: Report No. 7, 57th Parliament—Housing Legislation Amendment Bill 2021

[981](#) Community Support and Services Committee: Report No. 8, 57th Parliament—Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation (Tenants' Rights) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021

19 August 2021—

- [982](#) Notice of appointment—Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner, Mr Michael Woodford, commencing 22 August 2021

20 August 2021—

- [983](#) Transport and Resources Committee: Report No. 10, 57th Parliament—2021-22 Budget Estimates
- [984](#) Transport and Resources Committee: Report No. 10, 57th Parliament—2021-22 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information
- [985](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 12, 57th Parliament—2021-22 Budget Estimates—Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2021
- [986](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 13, 57th Parliament—2021-22 Budget Estimates—Appropriation Bill 2021
- [987](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report Nos 12 and 13, 57th Parliament—2021-22 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information
- [988](#) Community Support and Services Committee: Report No. 9, 57th Parliament—2021-22 Budget Estimates
- [989](#) Community Support and Services Committee: Report No. 9, 57th Parliament—2021-22 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information
- [990](#) Education, Employment and Training Committee: Report No. 8, 57th Parliament—2021-22 Budget Estimates
- [991](#) Education, Employment and Training Committee: Report No. 8, 57th Parliament—2021-22 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information
- [992](#) Queensland Family and Child Commission—Summary report: Keeping school-aged children with disability safe
- [993](#) Queensland Family and Child Commission—Summary report: Keeping school-aged children with disability safe, government response
- [994](#) Health and Environment Committee: Report No. 10, 57th Parliament—Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021
- [995](#) State Development and Regional Industries Committee: Report No. 11, 57th Parliament—2021-22 Budget Estimates
- [996](#) State Development and Regional Industries Committee: Report No. 11, 57th Parliament—2021-22 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information
- [997](#) Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 11, 57th Parliament—2021-22 Budget Estimates
- [998](#) Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 11, 57th Parliament—2021-22 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information
- [999](#) Health and Environment Committee: Report No. 9, 57th Parliament—2021-22 Budget Estimates
- [1000](#) Health and Environment Committee: Report No. 9, 57th Parliament—2021-22 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information

23 August 2021—

- [1001](#) Community Support and Services Committee: Report No. 10, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 24 February 2021 and 25 May 2021

24 August 2021—

- [1002](#) Transport and Resources Committee: Report No. 11, 57th Parliament—Inquiry into vehicle safety standards and technology, including engine immobiliser technology—interim report

25 August 2021—

- [1003](#) Overseas travel report: Official visit to Tokyo, Japan by the Premier and Minister for Trade (Hon. Palaszczuk), 18-25 July 2021

27 August 2021—

- [1004](#) Consolidated Fund Financial Report 2020-21
- [1005](#) Consolidated Fund Financial Report 2020-21: Erratum
- [1006](#) Overseas travel report: Official visit to Tokyo, Japan by the Premier and Minister for Trade (Hon. Palaszczuk), 18-25 July 2021: Addendum
- [1007](#) Gold Coast Waterways Authority—Gold Coast Waterways Management Strategy 2021-2020

30 August 2021—

- [1008](#) Queensland Government: Radiation Safety Act 1999, Radiation safety standard—Standard for ionising radiation apparatus—medical imaging (2021)
- [1009](#) Queensland Government: Radiation Safety Act 1999, Radiation safety standard—Standard for non-ionising radiation apparatus—medical or cosmetic procedures, or related practices (2021)
- [1010](#) Queensland Government: Radiation Safety Act 1999, Radiation safety standard—Standard for premises—ionising radiation sources (2021)
- [1011](#) Queensland Government: Radiation Safety Act 1999, Radiation safety standard—Standard for premises—non-ionising radiation apparatus (2021)
- [1012](#) Queensland Government: Radiation Safety Act 1999, Radiation safety standard—Standard for radiation sources—industrial, mining, manufacturing, and other practices (2021)

- [1013](#) Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency—Code for Radiation Protection in Planned Exposure Situations—Radiation Protection Series C-1 (Rev. 1)
- [1014](#) Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency—Code of Practice and Safety Guide: Radiation Protection in Dentistry—Radiation Protection Series No. 10
- [1015](#) Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency—Code of Practice: Exposure of Humans to Ionizing Radiation for Research Purposes—Radiation Protection Series No. 8
- [1016](#) Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency—Code of Practice and Safety Guide: Portable Density/Moisture Gauges Containing Radioactive Sources—Radiation Protection Series No. 5
- [1017](#) Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency—Recommendations: Discharge of Patients Undergoing Treatment with Radioactive Substances—Radiation Protection Series No. 4
- [1018](#) Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency—Code for Radiation Protection in Medical Exposure—Radiation Protection Series C-5
- [1019](#) Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency—Code of Practice and Safety Guide: Safe Use of Fixed Radiation Gauges—Radiation Protection Series No. 13
- [1020](#) Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency—Security of Radioactive Sources—Radiation Protection Series No. 11
- [1021](#) Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency—Code of Practice and Safety Guide: Radiation Protection in Veterinary Medicine—Radiation Protection Series No. 17
- [1022](#) Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency—Code of Practice: Radiation Protection in the Application of Ionizing Radiation by Chiropractors—Radiation Protection Series No. 19
- [1023](#) Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency—Code for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material—Radiation Protection Series C-2 (Rev. 1)

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#### STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Duties Act 2001, Land Tax Act 2010, Mineral Resources Act 1989, Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999:

- [1024](#) Revenue Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 60
- [1025](#) Revenue Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 60, explanatory notes
- [1026](#) Revenue Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 60, human rights certificate

Queensland Future Fund (Titles Registry) Act 2021:

- [1027](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 61
- [1028](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 61, explanatory notes
- [1029](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 61, human rights certificate

Queensland Future Fund (Titles Registry) Act 2021:

- [1030](#) Queensland Future Fund (Titles Registry) (Transitional) Regulation 2021, No. 62
- [1031](#) Queensland Future Fund (Titles Registry) (Transitional) Regulation 2021, No. 62, explanatory notes
- [1032](#) Queensland Future Fund (Titles Registry) (Transitional) Regulation 2021, No. 62, human rights certificate

Racing Act 2002:

- [1033](#) Racing (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 63
- [1034](#) Racing (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 63, explanatory notes
- [1035](#) Racing (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 63, human rights certificate

Racing Integrity Act 2016:

- [1036](#) Racing Integrity (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 64
- [1037](#) Racing Integrity (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 64, explanatory notes
- [1038](#) Racing Integrity (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 64, human rights certificate

Ambulance Service Act 1991, Food Act 2006, Private Health Facilities Act 1999:

- [1039](#) Health Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 65
- [1040](#) Health Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 65, explanatory notes
- [1041](#) Health Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 65, human rights certificate

Weapons Act 1990:

- [1042](#) Weapons (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 66
- [1043](#) Weapons (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 66, explanatory notes
- [1044](#) Weapons (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 66, human rights certificate

## Disaster Management Act 2003:

- [1045](#) Disaster Management (Further Extension of Disaster Situation—COVID-19) Regulation (No. 2) 2021, No. 67
- [1046](#) Disaster Management (Further Extension of Disaster Situation—COVID-19) Regulation (No. 2) 2021, No. 67, explanatory notes
- [1047](#) Disaster Management (Further Extension of Disaster Situation—COVID-19) Regulation (No. 2) 2021, No. 67, human rights certificate

## Disaster Management Act 2003:

- [1048](#) Disaster Management (Disaster Districts) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 68
- [1049](#) Disaster Management (Disaster Districts) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 68, explanatory notes
- [1050](#) Disaster Management (Disaster Districts) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 68, human rights certificate

## Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994:

- [1051](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Tourism Business Professional Advice Rebate Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 69
- [1052](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Tourism Business Professional Advice Rebate Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 69, explanatory notes
- [1053](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Tourism Business Professional Advice Rebate Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 69, human rights certificate

## Water Act 2000:

- [1054](#) Water (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 70
- [1055](#) Water (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 70, explanatory notes
- [1056](#) Water (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 70, human rights certificate

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- [1057](#) Water Plan (Fitzroy Basin) Amendment Plan 2021, No. 71
- [1058](#) Water Plan (Fitzroy Basin) Amendment Plan 2021, No. 71, explanatory notes
- [1059](#) Water Plan (Fitzroy Basin) Amendment Plan 2021, No. 71, human rights certificate

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## Disability Services Act 2006:

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- [1066](#) Adoption (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 74
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## Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999, Explosives Act 1999, Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999, Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004:

- [1069](#) Resources Safety and Health Legislation (Fees and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 75
- [1070](#) Resources Safety and Health Legislation (Fees and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 75, explanatory notes
- [1071](#) Resources Safety and Health Legislation (Fees and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 75, human rights certificate

## Fisheries Act 1994:

- [1072](#) Fisheries Legislation Amendment Declaration 2021, No. 76
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- [1074](#) Fisheries Legislation Amendment Declaration 2021, No. 76, human rights certificate

## Public Health Act 2005:

- [1075](#) Public Health (Further Extension of Declared Public Health Emergency—COVID-19) Regulation (No. 2) 2021, No. 77
- [1076](#) Public Health (Further Extension of Declared Public Health Emergency—COVID-19) Regulation (No. 2) 2021, No. 77, explanatory notes
- [1077](#) Public Health (Further Extension of Declared Public Health Emergency—COVID-19) Regulation (No. 2) 2021, No. 77, human rights certificate



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- [1078](#) Planning Legislation (Fees and Other Amounts) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 78
- [1079](#) Planning Legislation (Fees and Other Amounts) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 78, explanatory notes
- [1080](#) Planning Legislation (Fees and Other Amounts) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 78, human rights certificate

State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999:

- [1081](#) State Penalties Enforcement Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 79
- [1082](#) State Penalties Enforcement Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 79, explanatory notes
- [1083](#) State Penalties Enforcement Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 79, human rights certificate

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- [1084](#) Fire and Emergency Services Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 80
- [1085](#) Fire and Emergency Services Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 80, explanatory notes
- [1086](#) Fire and Emergency Services Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 80, human rights certificate

Electrical Safety Act 2002, Labour Hire Licensing Act 2017, Work Health and Safety Act 2011:

- [1087](#) Electrical Safety and Other Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 81
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- [1091](#) Public Health Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2021, No. 82, explanatory notes
- [1092](#) Public Health Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2021, No. 82, human rights certificate

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- [1093](#) Energy and Public Works Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 83
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- [1096](#) Justice Legislation (Fees, Allowances and Other Amounts) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 84
- [1097](#) Justice Legislation (Fees, Allowances and Other Amounts) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 84, explanatory notes
- [1098](#) Justice Legislation (Fees, Allowances and Other Amounts) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 84, human rights certificate

Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966, Animal Care and Protection Act 2001, Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008, Biosecurity Act 2014, Brands Act 1915, Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Act 1988, Drugs Misuse Act 1986, Fisheries Act 1994, Food Production (Safety) Act 2000, Veterinary Surgeons Act 1936:

- [1099](#) Agriculture and Fisheries Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 85
- [1100](#) Agriculture and Fisheries Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 85, explanatory notes
- [1101](#) Agriculture and Fisheries Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 85, human rights certificate

Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994:

- [1102](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Work in Paradise Incentive Scheme and Another Matter) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 86
- [1103](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Work in Paradise Incentive Scheme and Another Matter) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 86, explanatory notes
- [1104](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Work in Paradise Incentive Scheme and Another Matter) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 86, human rights certificate

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- [1105](#) Housing Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 87
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- [1108](#) South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Regulation 2021, No. 88
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- [1112](#) Further Education and Training (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 89, explanatory notes
- [1113](#) Further Education and Training (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 89, human rights certificate

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- [1114](#) Environmental Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 90
- [1115](#) Environmental Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 90, explanatory notes
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- [1117](#) Cross River Rail Delivery Authority (Gold Coast Infill Stations Project) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 93
- [1118](#) Cross River Rail Delivery Authority (Gold Coast Infill Stations Project) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 93, explanatory notes
- [1119](#) Cross River Rail Delivery Authority (Gold Coast Infill Stations Project) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 93, human rights certificate

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- [1120](#) Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment (Postponement) Regulation 2021, No. 94
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- [1123](#) Proclamation fixing the day on which references terminate under section 6, No. 95
- [1124](#) Proclamation fixing the day on which references terminate under section 6, No. 95, explanatory notes
- [1125](#) Proclamation fixing the day on which references terminate under section 6, No. 95, human rights certificate

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- [1126](#) State Penalties Enforcement (Electoral) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 96
- [1127](#) State Penalties Enforcement (Electoral) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 96, explanatory notes
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- [1130](#) Corrective Services Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 97, explanatory notes
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- [1133](#) Corrective Services and Other Legislation Amendment (Postponement) Regulation 2021, No. 98, explanatory notes
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- [1139](#) Legal Profession (Society Rules) Amendment Notice (No. 2) 2021, No. 100, explanatory notes
- [1140](#) Legal Profession (Society Rules) Amendment Notice (No. 2) 2021, No. 100, human rights certificate

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- [1141](#) State Development and Public Works Organisation Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 101
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## Forestry Act 1959, Nature Conservation Act 1992, Recreation Areas Management Act 2006, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995:

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- [1147](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Variation of Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 103
- [1148](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Variation of Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 103, explanatory notes
- [1149](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Variation of Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 103, human rights certificate

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- [1150](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) (Heathlands and Jardine River Resources Reserves) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 104
- [1151](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) (Heathlands and Jardine River Resources Reserves) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 104, explanatory notes
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- [1155](#) Water Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2021, No. 105, human rights certificate

## Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008:

- [1156](#) Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Regulation 2021, No. 106
- [1157](#) Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Regulation 2021, No. 106, explanatory notes
- [1158](#) Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Regulation 2021, No. 106, human rights certificate

## Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991:

- [1159](#) Queensland Building and Construction Commission (Mechanical Services Licences) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 107
- [1160](#) Queensland Building and Construction Commission (Mechanical Services Licences) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 107, explanatory notes
- [1161](#) Queensland Building and Construction Commission (Mechanical Services Licences) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 107, human rights certificate

## Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994:

- [1162](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Horticulture Irrigation Pricing Rebate Scheme and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 108
- [1163](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Horticulture Irrigation Pricing Rebate Scheme and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 108, explanatory notes
- [1164](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Horticulture Irrigation Pricing Rebate Scheme and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 108, human rights certificate

## Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994:

- [1165](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (COVID-19 Business Support Grants Scheme (August 2021)) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 109
- [1166](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (COVID-19 Business Support Grants Scheme (August 2021)) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 109, explanatory notes
- [1167](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (COVID-19 Business Support Grants Scheme (August 2021)) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 109, human rights certificate

## Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994

- [1168](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Variation of COVID-19 Business Support Grants Scheme (August 2021)) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 110
- [1169](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Variation of COVID-19 Business Support Grants Scheme (August 2021)) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 110, explanatory notes
- [1170](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Variation of COVID-19 Business Support Grants Scheme (August 2021)) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 110, human rights certificate

## Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998:

- [1171](#) Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Regulation 2021, No. 111
- [1172](#) Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Regulation 2021, No. 111, explanatory notes
- [1173](#) Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Regulation 2021, No. 111, human rights certificate

Photo Identification Card Act 2008, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, Tow Truck Act 1973, Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994, Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994, Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995, Transport Planning and Coordination Act 1994:

- [1174](#) Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Driver Licensing) Regulation 2021, No. 112
- [1175](#) Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Driver Licensing) Regulation 2021, No. 112, explanatory notes
- [1176](#) Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Driver Licensing) Regulation 2021, No. 112, human rights certificate

Environmental Protection Act 1994, Food Act 2006, Forestry Act 1959, Motor Accident Insurance Act 1994, Nature Conservation Act 1992, Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991, Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, Summary Offences Act 2005, Tow Truck Act 1973, Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994, Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995:

- [1177](#) Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2021, No. 113
- [1178](#) Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2021, No. 113, explanatory notes
- [1179](#) Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2021, No. 113, human rights certificate

Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, Tow Truck Act 1973, Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994, Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995:

- [1180](#) Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Standards and Safety) Regulation 2021, No. 114
- [1181](#) Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Standards and Safety) Regulation 2021, No. 114, explanatory notes
- [1182](#) Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Standards and Safety) Regulation 2021, No. 114, human rights certificate

## Attorney-General Act 1999:

- [1183](#) Attorney-General Regulation 2021, No. 115
- [1184](#) Attorney-General Regulation 2021, No. 115, explanatory notes
- [1185](#) Attorney-General Regulation 2021, No. 115, human rights certificate

## Criminal Code (Consent and Mistake of Fact) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2021:

- [1186](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 116
- [1187](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 116, explanatory notes

## Land Court Act 2000:

- [1188](#) Land Court Regulation 2021, No. 117
- [1189](#) Land Court Regulation 2021, No. 117, explanatory notes
- [1190](#) Land Court Regulation 2021, No. 117, human rights certificate

## State Buildings Protective Security Act 1983:

- [1191](#) State Buildings Protective Security Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 118
- [1192](#) State Buildings Protective Security Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 118, explanatory notes
- [1193](#) State Buildings Protective Security Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 118, human rights certificate

## Public Records Act 2002:

- [1194](#) Public Records (Queensland Coal Mining Board of Inquiry) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 119
- [1195](#) Public Records (Queensland Coal Mining Board of Inquiry) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 119, explanatory notes
- [1196](#) Public Records (Queensland Coal Mining Board of Inquiry) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 119, human rights certificate

Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa (Torres Strait Islander Traditional Child Rearing Practice) Act 2020:

- [1197](#) Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa (Torres Strait Islander Traditional Child Rearing Practice) Regulation 2021, No. 120
- [1198](#) Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa (Torres Strait Islander Traditional Child Rearing Practice) Regulation 2021, No. 120, explanatory notes
- [1199](#) Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa (Torres Strait Islander Traditional Child Rearing Practice) Regulation 2021, No. 120, human rights certificate

Vegetation Management Act 1999:

- [1200](#) Vegetation Management (Regional Ecosystems) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 121
- [1201](#) Vegetation Management (Regional Ecosystems) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 121, explanatory notes
- [1202](#) Vegetation Management (Regional Ecosystems) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 121, human rights certificate

Statutory Instruments Act 1992:

- [1203](#) Statutory Instruments (Exemptions from Expiry) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 122
- [1204](#) Statutory Instruments (Exemptions from Expiry) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 122, explanatory notes
- [1205](#) Statutory Instruments (Exemptions from Expiry) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 122, human rights certificate

Duties Act 2001:

- [1206](#) Duties (Declared Public Unit Trusts) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 123
- [1207](#) Duties (Declared Public Unit Trusts) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 123, explanatory notes
- [1208](#) Duties (Declared Public Unit Trusts) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 123, human rights certificate

Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004:

- [1209](#) Petroleum and Gas (Royalty) Regulation 2021, No. 124
- [1210](#) Petroleum and Gas (Royalty) Regulation 2021, No. 124, explanatory notes
- [1211](#) Petroleum and Gas (Royalty) Regulation 2021, No. 124, human rights certificate

Radiation Safety Act 1999:

- [1212](#) Radiation Safety Regulation 2021, No. 125
- [1213](#) Radiation Safety Regulation 2021, No. 125, explanatory notes
- [1214](#) Radiation Safety Regulation 2021, No. 125, human rights certificate

Building Act 1975, Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990, Major Sports Facilities Act 2001, Planning Act 2016, Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999:

- [1215](#) Building Regulation 2021, No. 126
- [1216](#) Building Regulation 2021, No. 126, explanatory notes
- [1217](#) Building Regulation 2021, No. 126, human rights certificate

Coroners Act 2003, Justices Act 1886, Supreme Court of Queensland Act 1991:

- [1218](#) Criminal Practice (Fees and Allowances) Regulation 2021, No. 127
- [1219](#) Criminal Practice (Fees and Allowances) Regulation 2021, No. 127, explanatory notes
- [1220](#) Criminal Practice (Fees and Allowances) Regulation 2021, No. 127, human rights certificate

Witness Protection Act 2000:

- [1221](#) Witness Protection Regulation 2021, No. 128
- [1222](#) Witness Protection Regulation 2021, No. 128, explanatory notes
- [1223](#) Witness Protection Regulation 2021, No. 128, human rights certificate

Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966:

- [1224](#) Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Regulation 2021, No. 129
- [1225](#) Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Regulation 2021, No. 129, explanatory notes
- [1226](#) Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Regulation 2021, No. 129, human rights certificate

Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009:

- [1227](#) Greenhouse Gas Storage Regulation 2021, No. 130
- [1228](#) Greenhouse Gas Storage Regulation 2021, No. 130, explanatory notes
- [1229](#) Greenhouse Gas Storage Regulation 2021, No. 130, human rights certificate

Biodiscovery Act 2004:

- [1230](#) Biodiscovery Regulation 2021, No. 131
- [1231](#) Biodiscovery Regulation 2021, No. 131, explanatory notes
- [1232](#) Biodiscovery Regulation 2021, No. 131, human rights certificate

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Act 2021:

[1233](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 132

[1234](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 132, explanatory notes

Radiation Safety Act 1999:

[1235](#) Radiation Safety (Radiation Safety Standards) Notice 2021, No. 133

[1236](#) Radiation Safety (Radiation Safety Standards) Notice 2021, No. 133, explanatory notes

[1237](#) Radiation Safety (Radiation Safety Standards) Notice 2021, No. 133, human rights certificate

Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994:

[1238](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (COVID-19 Marine Tourism Assistance Scheme—Round 2) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 134

[1239](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (COVID-19 Marine Tourism Assistance Scheme—Round 2) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 134, explanatory notes

[1240](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (COVID-19 Marine Tourism Assistance Scheme—Round 2) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 134, human rights certificate

Fisheries Act 1994:

[1241](#) Fisheries (Saucer Scallops) Amendment Declaration 2021, No. 135

[1242](#) Fisheries (Saucer Scallops) Amendment Declaration 2021, No. 135, explanatory notes

[1243](#) Fisheries (Saucer Scallops) Amendment Declaration 2021, No. 135, human rights certificate

#### MINISTERIAL PAPER

The following ministerial paper was tabled by the Clerk—

Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey)—

[1244](#) Transport and Resources Committee: Report No. 9, 57th Parliament—Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021, government response

#### MEMBER'S PAPER


The following member's paper was tabled by the Clerk—

Member for Gympie (Mr Perrett)—

[1245](#) Nonconforming petition regarding the reduction of paediatric services at the Gympie Hospital


## SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

### Speaker and Deputy Speakers, Wearing of Masks

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I advise that I will be not wearing a mask for the duration of preliminary business and throughout my time in the chair. This may also apply to other members who are in the chair at certain periods. The reason is that it is very unexpectedly that we are interrupted. As you are aware, there are no standing orders which allow for any interjections of any kind whatsoever, but they do apparently occur from time to time. That will be the way we will proceed going forward.

## MINISTERIAL PAPER


### Ministerial Expenses

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.45 am): I lay upon the table of the House the *Public report of ministerial office expenses for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021*. The report shows the government's office expenses for the period before and after the 2020 general election. The report shows higher charter costs and domestic travel due to increased travel for official purposes during the period of the election, as is the case every election year. I commend the report to the House.

*Tabled paper:* Public Report of Ministerial Expenses for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 [[1274](#)].

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Coronavirus, Update; Coronavirus, Vaccination Hubs

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.46 am): Queensland has recorded no new cases of COVID overnight; in fact, it is a double doughnut day. We love those! I am very proud of Queensland. We have 23 active cases. We have had 1,979 total cases since the


pandemic began and we had 11,257 tests yesterday. I urge Queenslanders to, if they are feeling sick at all, please go and get tested. Some 15,621 vaccines were administered yesterday by Queensland Health. I can advise that in Queensland 51.3 per cent of eligible people have now had one dose of the vaccine—we have hit that magical 50 per cent mark—and 31.76 per cent have had two doses, so that is great news today.

Queensland can be proud of its handling of this pandemic. While COVID's delta strain brings fresh waves of concern, especially in New South Wales, Queensland was able to contain our delta outbreak in little more than a week. I thank all of those families who participated in home quarantine. As I have said many times, the credit for this belongs to every single Queenslanders in this state. Nine days after the first case of our delta outbreak we were out of lockdown. We have now gone nearly four weeks without a case in our community.

If you compare Queensland with New South Wales and Victoria, our children are at school, our businesses are open and our restrictions continue to ease. The clear lesson is that if you go hard and go early you can get on with life, but no-one pretends that the sacrifices necessary for our safety are easy or that our battles with this virus are over. We must make the most of this window of opportunity to encourage as many people as possible to get vaccinated. This week I announced that a new mass vaccination hub will open at the Boondall Entertainment Centre, eventually adding 3,000 vaccinated Queenslanders a day. Further announcements will follow in coming weeks, making the process of registering easier.

No-one wants another outbreak. I know the decisions we have made to keep Queensland safe are tough. I know the impacts on families are hard. Starting next week we will begin a trial to allow children in boarding schools in hotspot areas to return to their families in time for the September school holidays. They will be allowed to quarantine with their families at home. We will use technology that will help in the supervision and care of these families. We will also closely monitor trials that are currently being conducted in South Australia. As difficult as these days are, they are better than the havoc caused by massive outbreaks that have cost dozens of lives, shut entire jurisdictions and left families completely unable to live as we do in Queensland.

### Coronavirus, Quarantine Facilities

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.49 am): Our quarantine hotels, which have been our front line of defence during the global pandemic, were never made for quarantine. As Australia contends with the dangerous and deadly delta variant, including the very concerning growing outbreaks down south, we are finding it increasingly difficult to contain the spread. We are stretched to the limit. We must have alternatives to our hotel quarantine system that better protect Queenslanders.


As this House knows, we have been calling on the federal government to establish fit-for-purpose regional quarantine facilities for a long time. After all, quarantine is a federal government responsibility. While we welcome the recent signing of an MOU with the Commonwealth to build a quarantine facility at Pinkenba, a regional quarantine facility like Howard Springs in the Northern Territory has always been our goal. It is a no-brainer—away from dense populations where people can be spread out, with lots of fresh air and right beside an international airport. Two facilities are better than one. A 1,000-bed Queensland Regional Accommodation Centre at Wellcamp, jointly with the Wagner Corporation, will greatly reduce reliance on our hotel quarantine system.

The first stage is set to be delivered for use by the end of this year—before any other planned facility. We are getting things done. The AMA president, Dr Omar Khorshid, welcomed the announcement, saying it was good news. He said—

... we desperately need fit for purpose facilities as part of our longer term COVID strategy: to open up but remain safe.

This pandemic is unpredictable. We do not know what is around the corner. None of us thought we would still be here 18 months on dealing with delta. Quarantine remains our first line of defence and we will continue to do everything we can to keep Queenslanders safe.

### 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.50 am): I am proud to represent this state every day, but I have never been more proud than at the moment Queensland was chosen to host the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. For months leading up to the announcement people would say to me, 'Do you really think we can do it? Do you think Queensland can actually host the 2032'—

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** You have no idea.

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

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The 100-metre dash has not started yet.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** It was almost as if they dared not dream such a thing was possible, but the Olympics are all about dreams that come true—but only if you work for them. I will never forget watching images of the celebrations back home here at South Bank as the decision was announced. To see the people erupt in celebration told me how special this achievement is to all of us. The Olympics is the biggest event on the planet. It has an audience of billions and, as we saw in Tokyo, the ability to lift and unite us like nothing else.


Our pitch was simple. We are a sports-loving, open, welcoming, inclusive place, optimistic about the future and how we can make it better. The fact that we are also one of the most beautiful places on the planet is the icing on the cake. Only 23 cities in the world are Olympic cities. For Brisbane to join them gives us enormous advantage as our economy recovers from the pandemic. These advantages include: over \$8.1 billion in infrastructure, economic and social benefits; a \$4.6 billion uplift in tourism and trade; and more than 100,000 jobs. But it gives us something else. It gives us hope.

We alone have become the beacon of 2032 to aim for. It marshals the cooperation of all levels of government and all sides of politics to work towards a common goal. Businesses large and small are eager to share in the transformational opportunities the games represent. Our mayors and local councils are already planning for the economic uplift, but there is another advantage. It is the power of the games to inspire us all.

It was only a few weeks ago that we watched and cheered, and wept, as the Olympic story was retold in Tokyo—faster, higher, stronger, together. If Queensland was a country, we would have finished seventh in the medal tally—ahead of the Netherlands, Germany, France and Italy. This is an outstanding achievement. These were the Olympic ideals on display, along with exemplary sportsmanship and sportswomanship. We shared the bursting pride of their families, their loved ones, their coaches, their whole team. This is the Olympic flame that is most important to keep burning. It is for every Queensland child doing that extra lap of the oval or the pool, dreaming that it could be them in 2032, but this time the stands will be filled with their families.


The medal tally is continuing to grow at the Paralympic Games. Today I am proud to confirm that Queensland's inspirational Olympians and Paralympians will be welcomed back with a parade through the Brisbane CBD on 8 October. I hope as many people as possible come and show them our appreciation and enthusiasm for the day when it will be our turn to be the Olympics host. I have always said that Queensland's best days are ahead of us. Now they include the biggest event in the world in Brisbane, Queensland in 2032.

### **Afghanistan, Returnees**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.54 am): We have all seen the distressing scenes in Afghanistan in recent weeks. My heart goes out to the people of Afghanistan and our Afghan community here in Queensland who I know are worried for their family and friends facing upheaval in these uncertain times. I also know many of our Australian Defence Force personnel past and present—particularly from Townsville—have served in Afghanistan and will be struggling with the recent developments.


Queensland is assisting with the Australian government's evacuation of Australians and Afghan nationals who worked alongside our troops. A flight of evacuees has already arrived in Queensland and two more will be arriving in the coming days. They will quarantine in a combination of Queensland government run and Australian Defence Force run hotel quarantine, outside of the international air passenger arrivals cap. We will continue to work closely with our local Afghan community and the federal government to support the evacuation and settlement of refugees and to ensure those people who arrive in Queensland have access to the support that they need.

### **Australian Defence Force, Deaths**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.55 am): Yesterday I received the tragic news that two Queensland based soldiers had died in an Army vehicle rollover near Dotswood outside of Townsville. The soldiers—a 40-year-old warrant officer and a 29-year-old private


from the Brisbane based 7th Brigade—were reportedly in the region participating in an exercise. ADF set up a major incident room at Lavarack Barracks and the QPS forensic unit is investigating the incident. I extend my sincere condolences to their family and friends and the entire ADF community who are mourning the loss of two of their own in such tragic circumstances.

### **Pegg, Mr D; Martin, Mr J**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.55 am): Since we last met, family and friends of our dear colleague Duncan Pegg gathered at the Gabba for his memorial service. Later this week there will be a condolence motion when we will have the opportunity to say more in this House. Let me say today that the event at the Gabba was a moving celebration of his life—a fitting farewell for Duncan at Queensland's home of the sport he loved. Of course there were tears but there were wonderful stories—inspirational memories, beautiful music and a video montage of Duncan's greatest hits in parliament. Duncan's brother Graham gave us a meaningful insight into the strong family foundation that guided his life, and it was my honour to speak at his service. It was a privilege to have Duncan as Stretton's representative in our government.

Today it is a great honour to welcome the new member for Stretton, James Martin, to our team. James was elected in the by-election held on 24 July. While there are big shoes to fill, Stretton is in safe hands with a strong local member to carry on Duncan's great work. James has worked closely with Duncan since Duncan was first elected. He has been there every step of the way, fighting for quality schools, health care, better roads and public transport. He will continue on the path that he and Duncan set for Stretton. I am sure members will join me in congratulating and welcoming the new member for Stretton to the Queensland parliament.

### **2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games**

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) (9.57 am): Since we last gathered at our last parliamentary sitting, Brisbane has become an Olympic city. Like Paris 2024 and Los Angeles 2028, the world is watching us prepare for Queensland's biggest project. We are focused on getting our state ready for the 2032 Olympics and Paralympics and the opportunities the games will bring to Queensland. The global exposure will be four times greater than the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games. The games will be our biggest job-creating project, surpassing both Cross River Rail and Queen's Wharf Brisbane.


Current modelling puts the total economic and social benefits for Queensland from hosting the games at \$8.1 billion, and 91,600 full-time-equivalent jobs are expected to be created. There will be a 10-year pipeline of construction industry jobs, trade and investment opportunities, and legacy projects. Major projects include the athletes village development within the Northshore Hamilton PDA, a project of the state development department's Economic Development Queensland.

The Northshore Hamilton PDA is one of the largest waterfront urban renewal projects in Queensland, with an expected end value of more than \$5 billion. Northshore Hamilton will undergo a spectacular transformation. The games will do for this precinct what Expo 88 did for South Bank. In legacy mode, the village will deliver housing supply across many key markets, including aged care, retirement living, social and affordable housing, key worker, hotel, build-to-rent and traditional residential.

We are also creating a world-class sporting venue and an amazing sporting legacy for Brisbane, the south-east and the state at the Gabba. The Gabba pedestrian plaza will provide the link to Cross River Rail as part of our upgraded and integrated South-East Queensland transport network. Roma Street will become the state's biggest public transport interchange. The finalised scheme for the Roma Street priority development area offers easy access to a new key Olympics venue, new housing and expanded parklands. More than two hectares of new publicly accessible space will be added to the Roma Street Parkland as well as new residential buildings that will include social and affordable housing.

The Palaszczuk government is ensuring the games becomes the catalyst for strong economic growth, more jobs and better connected communities as part of our COVID-19 economic recovery plan.

### **Coronavirus, Economy**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (10.00 am): COVID-19 continues to pose new challenges for Queensland, but I am pleased to report that our economic recovery plan is working and our state's performance is strong. There is no question that

prolonged lockdowns in New South Wales and Victoria are hurting our economy, in particular our tourism and hospitality sectors. Unlike their counterparts in Sydney, Canberra or Melbourne, thanks to our strong health response to the pandemic Queensland businesses can operate freely in our state. To help them, we are delivering a jointly funded \$600 million support package for Queensland businesses. That includes grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$30,000 for businesses that have seen a 30 per cent fall in turnover because of lockdowns. It includes \$1,000 self-assessable grants for sole traders, and I am pleased to inform the House that applications for those grants open today.

The \$600 million package is on top of our \$50 million tourism and hospitality sector support package. This package included the waiving, refunding or deferring of a range of state fees, charges and taxes for tourism and hospitality businesses across Queensland. A \$20 million COVID-19 cleaning rebate scheme is also available to help cover the cost of professional cleaning for businesses with a confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case.

Our government's economic policies are working. Employment in July was up 95,000 compared with March 2020 and the unemployment rate was 5.2 per cent, having fallen in recent months to its lowest level since 2009. Queensland has still created more jobs than any other state or territory since the onset of the pandemic. Not only have we created more jobs than any other state or territory; we have created more jobs than all states and territories combined. Retail trade in July 2021 was up 11½ per cent compared with its pre-COVID level, with the housing sector also performing strongly. This is no wonder, with Queensland being one of the few places in the world to have crushed a delta outbreak in just eight days.

We know how dangerous delta is. We see what delta is doing to other jurisdictions. The people of New South Wales deserve all our sympathy and support. However, the actions of their government must be questioned. The New South Wales government did not go hard. The New South Wales government did not go fast. Now as they drag down the national economy and the morale of their own people, all they talk about is opening up regardless of the health consequences. It is an obsession shared by the federal government.

Scott Morrison botched the vaccine rollout. Scott Morrison botched international quarantine. It is no accident that these LNP governments keep falling into these errors. That is because these LNP governments are chock full of crazies. They do not believe in border controls. Some of them do not even believe in COVID. When these crazies complain about businesses or borders, they are using code. What they are really complaining about is that they do not want us to fight the virus. They want us to run up the white flag and open the borders to an uncontrolled outbreak in New South Wales just because they say they have hit their vaccination target. What the last two years have shown is that a health disaster quickly becomes an economic disaster. Our government will not subject Queenslanders to an uncontrolled outbreak of the virus and the needless disease and suffering that follows. We are not going to subject Queenslanders to needless economic destruction and mass unemployment that would result from an uncontrolled COVID outbreak.

Queensland and Western Australia are the powerhouse states that now carry the nation. We have demonstrated that our way is the only way to protect jobs and the economy. It is now time that all LNP politicians stand up and unequivocally support the strict implementation of all health advice and, most of all, in this House. That includes—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Treasurer, do you have anything further to add? On reflection, I would also perhaps ask that you withdraw unparliamentary language. I believe in the current climate particularly, the term 'crazy' may reflect on people's mental health as referred to individuals as opposed to being used for an idea.

**Mr DICK:** I withdraw.

### Coronavirus, Education



**Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (10.05 am): I join the Premier and others in welcoming the new member for Stretton, James Martin. Our school students and principals, teachers and teacher aides, school leaders and support staff have shown great adaptability and resilience over the past 18 months in dealing with the reality of living through a world health pandemic. Our school communities, government and non-government, have worked together during this time to ensure minimal disruption to learning. This was on display again in the recent lockdown in early August.




Almost overnight our schools commenced remote learning for some 391,000 students across 575 schools in the 11 locked down LGAs, a truly magnificent effort. Of course, schools remained open for children of essential workers and vulnerable children, with attendance levels around six to seven per cent. All schools were prepared for the lockdown, with over 500 resources uploaded for students' remote learning and online resources for parents and carers also available. More than 150,000 bottles of hand sanitiser were delivered to schools, deep cleaning was undertaken and more than 1.7 million face masks, including more than 500,000 small child sized masks, were distributed to ensure our schools were COVID-safe. I am proud to advise that every one of these masks was manufactured locally in Brisbane. I thank students and staff for wearing their masks.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all staff, students and families particularly from Ironside State School and Indooroopilly State High School as well as Brisbane Grammar School and Brisbane Girls Grammar School. Both of these schools are in my electorate. Their willingness to do the right thing and follow isolation and quarantine directives meant Queensland was able to avoid further outbreaks and, incredibly, lift the lockdown.

We know that this has been a challenging period for many students and their mental health and wellbeing is paramount. That is why we are rolling out our nation-leading \$100 million student wellbeing election commitment to employ 464 additional health and wellbeing professionals in Queensland schools over the next three years. I am pleased to advise that a statewide recruitment exercise for the first tranche of these positions began on 9 August. The Student Wellbeing Package will also provide secondary students in 20 state schools of greatest need with free access to a GP based at their school. The expression of interest inviting schools to participate in the pilot closed on 20 August, and I am very pleased to announce that a total of 50 schools have applied. Because of these efforts, Queensland is the only state on the eastern seaboard of Australia with all schools fully open. I thank all staff and school communities for their magnificent efforts.

### Coronavirus, Vaccination

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (10.08 am): We know it is a matter of when, not if, COVID-19 returns to Queensland. That is why we need to get as much of the community vaccinated as quickly as possible. Queensland has come a long way in our vaccination journey over the past six months. From the beginning we have said that vaccinating our population will be no small feat, but today I am proud to say that the Queensland government has delivered more than 1.3 million vaccine doses. That is our amazing health staff in action.

This is in addition to the two million doses delivered by our GPs, community pharmacies and other providers. I remind everyone in this House that the only reason community pharmacies are vaccinating in Queensland and have led the way across the country is that the Palaszczuk government called for this to occur. Of course, we called for it to occur from February; we finally did get it approved. Queensland's vaccination rollout program continues to expand as we get more supply. This means that 3.4 million vaccinations have already been administered in Queensland. We are opening up more community vaccination locations, extending hours at existing centres, establishing more outreach clinics for rural and remote areas, setting up temporary pop-up clinics for at-risk communities and offering—

**Ms Boyd** interjected.

**Mrs Gerber** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Sorry, Minister. Member for Currumbin, you will—as you have done—put your mask back on, as I have requested members to do, and you will not quarrel across the chamber with the member for Pine Rivers.

**Mrs D'ATH:** We are establishing special walk-in weekends for our First Nations people. Last week Queensland Health administered 121,855 vaccine doses to Queenslanders, breaking the record for the greatest number of vaccines administered in a week. We are continuing to supercharge our rollout. We now have mass vaccination hubs that deliver an incredible 4,000-plus doses each day. In just over a fortnight more than 50,000 doses were delivered by our hardworking staff at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre's mass vaccination centre. As the Premier announced on Sunday, we are providing greater mass vaccination capacity by bringing the Boondall Entertainment Centre online next week. This will allow us to upscale even more capacity.

In addition to capacity, we are also scaling up accessibility to the vaccine. In the past couple of months we have rolled out new community vaccination locations in Rockhampton, Gladstone, Townsville, Cairns and Mackay, utilising showrooms, universities, community centres and

showgrounds. We have also ramped up our outreach clinics across the state. For example, we are rolling out outreach clinics in Ingham, Burdekin, Hughenden and Charters Towers throughout this month. We have been ensuring that our border communities have adequate protection against the threat of the virus emanating from New South Wales, with vaccination outreach clinics being stood up at Goondiwindi, Inglewood, Warwick and Mungindi.

In the state's Far North, our outreach vaccination teams have been visiting communities across the cape. Due to increased supply this month, we have been able to bring forward the vaccination rollout for the communities of Aurukun, Coen, Kowanyama, Lockhart River, Pormpuraaw, Hope Vale, Wujal Wujal and Laura. We are seeing very good uptake in these communities. For example, nearly 90 per cent of the eligible community in Pormpuraaw have now received their first dose, which is fantastic. Statewide, 51.3 per cent of Queenslanders have now received at least one dose, and 31.7 per cent are now fully vaccinated.

As we continue to get additional supply from the Commonwealth government we will continue to accelerate our vaccine rollout. I extend a heartfelt thank you to all the Queenslanders who have come forward so far to be vaccinated. I encourage every Queenslanders who is eligible to receive a vaccine to make arrangements to do so immediately. By registering with Queensland Health, talking to your GP or visiting a local community pharmacist, you can help lift Queensland out of the pandemic and get us back to normality.

### Road and Transport Infrastructure



**Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.12 am): I also welcome to the chamber the new member for Stretton after one of the best performances in a by-election one can recall. The infrastructure boom in Queensland is pushing ahead at a lightning pace thanks to Queensland's strong health response. Compared to other states like New South Wales, our construction sites remain open, with jobs surging ahead.

Last week I travelled up Queensland's coast to see the Palaszczuk Labor government's record investment in transport and roads, electrifying our economic growth. From Roma Street to Rockhampton, I met hundreds of workers in jobs because we are backing Queensland infrastructure. My week started underground at Cross River Rail's future Roma Street station, where tunnel-boring machine Merle broke through—an awesome sight as a three-tonne slab of rock cracked and broke off in front of us. It was quite a sight! I congratulate the 2,900 workers who have already worked on this transformational project with such a major milestone achieved.

My next stop was at North Lakes, with the member for Bancroft and the Assistant Minister for Hydrogen Development, the member for Bundamba, where the Palaszczuk Labor government is supporting Hornibrook Bus Lines to create Queensland's first all-electric, zero-emissions bus depot. Better yet, the 16 ebuses in the fleet will be manufactured in Queensland, creating dozens of jobs on the Gold Coast.

Further north, I joined the members for Nicklin and Caloundra on the \$301 million Bruce Highway upgrade between the Mons Road and Maroochydore Road interchanges, supporting 380 Sunshine Coast jobs. The next day, in Central Queensland I met 160 contractors at an industry breakfast, all of them to get a slice of the \$1 billion Rockhampton Ring Road, the city's largest ever road project, to start next year. This included Jono and Kelvin from a First Nations civil engineering company who are thankful that this government is creating jobs for Central Queensland workers. I also visited the \$194 million Rockhampton Northern Access Upgrade with the members for Rockhampton and Keppel. I am happy to report it is now open to traffic.

Going north, I then went to Mackay and the Whitsundays, where we have locked in more than a billion dollars of road and transport projects, an investment that I know the member for Mackay campaigned hard for. This includes \$31 million to duplicate Proserpine-Shute Harbour Road, a road the LNP cut funding to. That is where I met Myles, a 35-year-old road-working veteran who is supervising for RoadTek. Sadly, many people like Myles lost their jobs when those opposite sacked 700 RoadTek workers.

The last stop was the Far North, where I joined you, Mr Speaker, and the member for Cairns as work started on our separated cycleway as part of the \$481 million Bruce Highway duplication on the Cairns southern access. This will create one of regional Queensland's longest off-road cycleways, encouraging more active transport for both residents and tourists.

Our record investment in roads and transport is creating more than 24,000 jobs over four years, driving Queensland's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Unlike those opposite, we build. We build and they cut. That is the truth of it. The people of Queensland will never forget the cuts


made by those opposite under then premier Newman and his local government minister, now the Leader of the Opposition. Thanks to the Palaszczuk Labor government's strong health response, Queensland is open for business and infrastructure is booming.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before calling the next speaker, I wish to advise members that I did not waste my time while away from the parliament. I have done a course in lip-reading behind masks.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** So you are aware!

### **Housing and Homelessness Action Plan**

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (10.17 am): In June this year the Palaszczuk government launched the Queensland Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2021-2025, backed by a \$2.9 billion investment to help more vulnerable Queenslanders into homes sooner. This is the largest concentrated investment in social housing in Queensland's history and includes a new \$1 billion Housing Investment Fund to boost housing supply across Queensland. We are already making good progress on our commitment to fast-track projects and initiatives that will increase the supply of social housing.


I am pleased to announce to the House today that we are on track to go to market in October for expressions of interest for new social housing supply. We will be inviting the market to make project proposals that respond to any of the three elements of the Queensland Housing Investment Growth Initiative, those being Help to Home, QuickStarts or Housing Investment Fund. These projects will complement the work already underway by my department to increase the supply of social and affordable housing by almost 10,000 over the life of our Housing Strategy, contributing to Queensland's plan for economic recovery by creating jobs and supporting vulnerable Queenslanders.

In the first month of this financial year alone, we awarded contracts for the commencement of 65 new homes across Queensland in suburbs such as Zillmere, Varsity Lakes, Nerang, Redcliffe, North Toowoomba and Aurukun. This is on top of the 2,480 projects that are already commenced under the previous action plan. Our partnerships with community housing providers are supporting the construction of new social and affordable housing in Far North Queensland, Brisbane, the Sunshine Coast, the Gold Coast, Wide Bay, Townsville, Logan and Ipswich.

It is important to remember at this point that in 2013-14 those opposite commenced zero new social homes in Logan, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast or Ipswich. In contrast, the Palaszczuk government is growing our social and affordable housing stock. One example of this work is a partnership with Churches of Christ Care Housing Services to support the completion of 83 new homes on Bribie Island in June 2021. Last week I joined Churches of Christ housing to turn the first sod on a new development on the Sunshine Coast that will see 40 affordable homes built in Little Mountain. We also recently celebrated the completion of 16 new homes in partnership with Regional Housing Ltd in Bundaberg. Through these and other projects, we will continue to deliver more social and affordable housing in Queensland.

## **REPORT**


### **Office of the Leader of the Opposition**

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.20 am): I table the public report of office expenses for the Office of the Leader of the Opposition for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

*Tabled paper:* Public Report of Office Expenses for the Office of the Leader of the Opposition for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 [[1275](#)].

## **SPEAKER'S STATEMENT**

### **Absence of Member**

 **Mr SPEAKER:** I wish to advise honourable members that I have received from the member for Surfers Paradise advice that he will be absent from the sittings of the House occurring from 31 August 2021 through to 16 September 2021 and the member's notification complies with standing order 263A.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr SPEAKER:** Question time will conclude today at 11.20 am.

### Coronavirus, Queensland Border Restrictions



**Mr CRISAFULLI** (10.20 am): My question is to the Premier. At a time when Queenslanders are banned from coming home, why has the Premier prioritised a sporting entourage over everyday Queenslanders?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. Let me say from the outset that we want to see as many Queenslanders get home as safely as possible. That is why the government is already looking at additional hotels that we will be able to bring online to deal specifically with domestic travel. The reason the hotel quarantine system is packed at the moment is that we have had so many international arrivals. With the domestic arrivals, that has really stretched the resources. We have also been taking in extra charter flights above that international cap, so we would have charter flights coming in from overseas that we were not notified of until the day they arrived which meant that our people were scrambling.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Toowoomba South and member for Currumbin, my lip-reading is working.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** As those opposite would know, today we also announced that many parents have been contacting us about their children who are in boarding schools and we will be trialling home quarantine with a specified app to allow those students home. Some of them are minors and I had an example just recently—

**Mr Bleijie:** What about all Queenslanders coming home?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Kawana will cease his interjections.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We want people to come home when it is safe to do so.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr Bleijie:** They're Queenslanders!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Yes, and the mandatory quarantine is what is needed to keep Queenslanders safe. That is the advice of the Chief Health Officer.

**Dr Miles:** They never wanted the borders closed.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right; they wanted the borders opened. I might direct the member for Kawana to have a look at what is happening in New South Wales. There are reports at the moment that their hospitals—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:**—are struggling—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier! Premier, please resume your seat. Member for Currumbin, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Kawana, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Gregory, you are also warned under the standing orders. It was not immediate, but it did come.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Westmead Hospital is now only caring for those with COVID while other patients have been moved into makeshift ICUs. That is what is happening in New South Wales at the moment, and New South Wales will not reach its peak until October this year. It has been recording around 1,200 cases a day over the last couple of days. We have had 1,900 during the entire pandemic in Queensland, and the member for Kawana and those opposite are criticising us for keeping Queenslanders safe? Well, sorry, you are on the wrong side of the fence.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** I remind all members that comments will be directed through the chair.

### Coronavirus, Queensland Border Restrictions

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** My question is to the Premier. I refer to the Premier's comments that the sporting entourage is not counted in the cap. Sharon is a cancer patient stuck interstate following her mother's funeral. What does Sharon have to do to not be counted in the cap and return home to Queensland?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** People who have medical conditions are exempt from that cap. We have made that very clear—very clear that the exemptions are separate to that cap. In relation to that particular individual, the health minister has assured me that the exemptions unit is dealing personally with her, and that is the right thing to do—that is, to go through the exemptions unit. Let me quote this, and this is a very interesting quote. This is what someone said about the NRL. Let us be very clear—

Our people are passionate for the game, we've got the facilities and we're willing to play our role to keep the NRL season afloat. Who said that? Just look over there. The member for Toowoomba South. Those opposite come in here—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right; on that side of the House. Nice own goal there. You got into touch on that one. We will work very closely—

**Mr Watts:** Second-class citizens.

**A government member:** I wonder who that was.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Someone with a very deep voice.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I just remind those opposite to have a look at what is happening in New South Wales. That is not a laughing matter—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:**—and if Queenslanders had listened to that lot opposite, imagine where Queensland would be today in terms of COVID because they called for the borders to be opened 64 times. The Queensland Chief Health Officer takes all care in dealing with requests that come to her for a whole variety of reasons. The exemptions unit has been increased because we know this is a very concerning time for families and we have moved quickly today in looking at prioritising those minors who are isolated away from their families in boarding schools or in other parts of Australia who need to come home to their families. I remind those opposite, too, that, as the Treasurer said, it is states like Queensland and Western Australia that are continuing to function and our economies are open. People are enjoying our—

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:**—way of life—

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:**—and that would all be put in jeopardy by those opposite.

**Mr SPEAKER:**—and I ask her to resume her seat.

### 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games

**Ms RICHARDS:** My question is of the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier update the House on the regional benefits of hosting the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games?

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr Mander:** Ha-ha, it's all funny.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The Deputy Premier was making a joke.

**Mr Mander:** It's all fun, isn't it?

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Order, members!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am not the one wearing a flowery mask!

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, my back is feeling good today. I could stand up all day. When the Speaker stands—any presiding officer—the House will come to complete silence. There are no exceptions and I expect that that will be adhered to. Member for Everton, your interjections were designed to interrupt the Premier. You are warned under the standing orders. Member for Nanango, you are also warned under the standing orders. Premier, I ask you to withdraw the comment related to the member for Everton.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I withdraw.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, Premier. You have the call.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for the question. As the Deputy Premier was reminding me, to which I said I already know, it is the member's birthday today. Member for Redlands, happy birthday! He said, 'Isn't she lucky to enjoy her birthday with all of us?' to which I said, 'For her birthday, she can ask me a question.'

**Mr Dick:** Many happy returns!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Many happy returns. It is a significant birthday too.

**A government member:** 21!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Twenty-one! That is right. If only! The member has asked a really good question and that is about the impact that the Olympics will have right across our regions. The Redlands will be hosting the whitewater centre. It will be built for the canoe event. The venue will have a capacity of 8,000 with a mixture of permanent and temporary grandstands. After the Olympics it will continue as a whitewater centre for emergency service training and an adventure park. As we know, the Olympics will benefit all of the state with events across the south-east but also in Cairns, Townsville, Toowoomba, Ipswich, Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast. There is something in this for everybody.

Around 84 per cent of the venues are already built. That was received very warmly by the International Olympic Committee when we presented to them in Tokyo recently. There will be a whole lot of opportunities for Queensland businesses to also benefit from the Olympics in relation to procurement and making sure that they are able to tender for different works. The fact that it is 11 years away gives us time to plan. The other good news is, if you think about where the Olympics have been held, like Tokyo just recently, next is Paris and the next is LA, this is sending a signal to the world that medium sized cities such as Brisbane and a state such as Queensland can host such a magnificent, world-class event. The International Olympic Committee was also very positive towards the fact that we had hosted a very successful Commonwealth Games. The Olympics will generate up to 100,000 jobs and also over \$8 billion in economic and trade benefits for many, many years to come. I ask all members to get behind it and to continue talking about it right across the state.

### **Coronavirus, Queensland Border Restrictions**

**Mr JANETZKI:** My question is to the Premier. Where is the health advice that permits a NRL entourage to enter the state while grieving Queenslanders are locked out of their home?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for the question. There is an exemptions unit that deals with people who have either bereavement issues or medical issues. They are dealt with separately to the cap. This is a pause for two weeks to enable our hotels to cope. We were at the stage where there were over 5,000 people in hotel quarantine. There was one week where we had 1,900 people who rocked up to Queensland. We do not know when they are arriving. They turn up and then our agencies have to scramble for hotels.

The Chief Health Officer considers separate issues on a daily basis. I thank the Chief Health Officer for the outstanding work that she has done for the people of this state. Every day she gets up, like me and everybody else on my team, and we thank Queenslanders for the work that they are doing. In terms of having a double doughnut day—zero cases—the fact that Queensland was able to get on top of that delta outbreak so quickly, to go so hard and so fast, enables our economy to open up. We have seen how good the economy is going with 5.2 per cent unemployment and more than 90,000 jobs generated since the pandemic began.

This is in stark contrast to what is happening in New South Wales and Victoria. We have not seen anywhere near the peak in New South Wales. If members want to see a health system in crisis they will see it in the very near future in New South Wales. Queensland stands ready to help, as does every other state and territory, when that time comes. We do not know what the future holds. This book has not been written. These are uncharted waters. We will do everything in our power to make sure that Queensland continues on the path that it has been going down. The exemptions unit will deal with exemptions and the Chief Health Officer will make decisions in the best interests of our state.

### Job Creation

**Mr SAUNDERS:** My question is to the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier update the House on how the Palaszczuk government's economic recovery plan is delivering and creating jobs for Queenslanders, and is the Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Maryborough for the question. Our economic plan is working. Our economic plan is working because we have been able to get on top of the health issues and deal with COVID. In Maryborough we have the example of the \$600 million rolling stock expansion project where we are procuring an initial 26 new six-car passenger trains to be manufactured in Maryborough, which was an election commitment, but also, too, we are seeing support going to the local Maryborough Hospital and upgrades to roads and schools. Every time I go to Maryborough the member has something new to show me, such as Works for Queensland money going into local parks. This is a member who delivers for his community. He puts Maryborough first.

We know that one minute those opposite are all together and the next minute they are split apart. It was really interesting to see some comments that were made around the time of the Stretton by-election. I think those opposite had a one-in-a-million candidate. The day after the by-election someone had a bit of a dummy spit: Campbell Newman. Do not get too excited, because I would not be surprised if it is just a LNP set-up. Once with the LNP, always with the LNP. Newman's apprentice over there, the old right-hand man, probably said, 'Just pretend to leave the LNP. Just go over there. Knock up some fringe votes for us and then you will be able to come back.' Honestly, it has to be all prearranged. We smell something that is not quite right.

**A government member** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right. We will see what has happened.

**Ms Grace:** He was calling for the borders to open on the weekend.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right. They used to call for the borders to be opened. It will be interesting to see where he is getting his instructions from. This side of the House will continue with our economic recovery. We will continue to make sure that we have growth across our state, we will continue with our strong health response and we will continue to put in place those necessary measures that are needed to keep Queenslanders safe.

### Coronavirus, Queensland Border Restrictions

**Mr BLEIJIE:** My question is to the Premier. If Queensland hospitals are for Queenslanders, why are not Queensland quarantine hotels also for Queenslanders?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before calling the Premier, Leader of the House, you will put your comments through the chair.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** In case the member for Kawana was not listening, there are exemptions for people who need access to medical services and who have bereavement issues. That is separate to the cap. We have a pause at the moment so our quarantine system can ease. One of the reasons there has been pressure on our quarantine system is that we are taking above the cap that has been set for international arrivals. If the cap falls below what it is supposed to be we can take more people into Queensland. Perhaps the member for Kawana might want to pick up the phone to his friend the Prime Minister down in Canberra and ask him why that is not happening.

We are getting charter flights that we are finding out about on the day and scrambling to get hotels because this is above the cap that was set by the federal government. I again clarify for the House in relation to refugees coming from Afghanistan, that is separate to the cap. We are trying to do everything we possibly can, but over 5,000 people coming into Queensland was going to put stress on the system, it was going to stretch our resources and we had to get that under control.

### Coronavirus, Quarantine Facilities

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

**Dr MILES:** I thank the member for Ipswich West for his question. He knows that keeping Queenslanders safe is the foundation of our economic recovery. If we are going to continue to keep Queenslanders safe, we need fit-for-purpose quarantine facilities. Hotel quarantine was incredibly

valuable in the early stages of the pandemic but it has let us down with the delta strain. Leaks from hotel quarantine have led to outbreaks here and more devastatingly in New South Wales. We need new options for quarantine and it is not just urgent; in fact, it is overdue.

That is why last week I was pleased to join the Premier at Wellcamp airport to announce that we will build a new purpose-built accommodation facility in what is the perfect location: it is adjacent to an international airport, it has a buffer from residential areas, it is a greenfield site that is ready to build on and, in fact, construction is underway right now. The Doherty Institute says that quarantine will continue to be necessary even when we meet the vaccination targets. If we had received the go-ahead to build it when we first suggested it in January, it would be built right now. We would be using it right now.

We became sick of the excuses from the political masters of those opposite. Let us run through the Prime Minister's excuses. First of all he said there was not enough detail so we gave him a lot more detail. Then he said big planes could not land so we sent him a picture of his big plane after it had landed on the tarmac. Then he said that it is in the desert and we said, 'No, Toowoomba is not in the desert.' When we announced it, what did he say? 'You should've done it months ago!' After all the excuses he said that we should have done it months ago.

Where they are failing, we are acting. Where Morrison has failed on the vaccination rollout, Queensland Health has stepped in and is delivering. Where Morrison failed on quarantine, we are stepping in and we are building a dedicated quarantine facility. The first 500 beds will be ready by Christmas and the next 500 will be ready in the first quarter of next year. That will be months ahead of the Commonwealth's proposed Pinkenba facility, which will not be online until closer to the middle of the year.

Interruption.

## **SPEAKER'S STATEMENT**

### **Parliamentary Precinct, Lockdown**



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, apologies for the interruption to question time. We have received advice from the Queensland police of possible protest activity including attempted intrusion of the precinct. As a precautionary measure, Queensland police advise that the precinct should be locked down until the protest activity has ceased. I have directed the implementation of this advice. This includes no access into or out of the precinct during the lockdown period and further advice will be provided as it comes to hand.

## **QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

Resumed.

### **Caboolture Hospital, Patient Safety**



**Ms BATES:** My question is to the Minister for Health. Can the minister guarantee all surgeries performed at the Caboolture Hospital have been done by surgeons qualified to perform them?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for her question. The issues raised in media reports both yesterday and today are very serious allegations. When I was first contacted in mid-July in relation to these allegations, I sought advice from the Caboolture Hospital and Metro North HHS in relation to those specific allegations and those were the ones that were reported yesterday. I can advise that each of those allegations was thoroughly investigated by the Caboolture Hospital's performance management committee. At least one of those cases has gone to the coroner and the coroner has chosen not to investigate further in relation to that particular deceased person. Of course, the Department of Health, through Clinical Excellence Queensland, has been doing additional work.

However, additional claims have been made today. In addition to the information I received yesterday, today's media report said that there were people coming forward on social media to raise concerns about the care they received so I can advise today that we are setting up a phone line for people because I want to know if there are issues. I do not make any preconceived allegations around Caboolture Hospital. I know the staff there work extremely hard each and every day to provide quality care to the patients. I want to make sure that if there are people who do not believe they have had the care at the level they believe they deserve, they should come forward and provide us with the information so it can be properly considered. I want them to do that. It needs to occur not just on social media or through media reports; it needs to come forward to the authorities.



I advise the House that Queensland Health is establishing a dedicated phone line that will be available to anyone who wants to raise concerns about the treatment they have received at Caboolture Hospital. They can phone 36479559. The line will be available from midday today. It will be open from 8 am to 5 pm, seven days a week. It will be staffed by a clinical nurse consultant. I am setting this line up to ensure that anyone who has any genuine complaints can come forward so they can be properly considered and investigated.

**Ms Bates:** Did the hospital refer anybody to Ahpra or to the Health Ombudsman? Did the hospital refer anybody?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I advise the member that I have been advised by the Department of Health—

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I am answering the member's question.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mrs D'ATH:** There are various bodies that complaints can be raised to. As the member knows, both the hospital—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members. Members to my left! The minister's time has expired.

### **Far North Queensland, JobKeeper**

**Mr HEALY:** My question is to the Treasurer and Minister for Investment. Will the Treasurer update the House on the impact the federal government's withdrawal of JobKeeper is having in Far North Queensland?

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am sorry, Treasurer. Members to my left, questions will be heard in silence. That includes no moaning, no groaning or any other interjection.

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Cairns for his question. It is a very serious question about the impacts on the people of not just the Far North but all parts of Queensland. The member for Cairns knows full well the burden COVID-19 has had on Far North Queensland, going right back to the start of last year when it was known only as a novel coronavirus. Far North Queensland was the first place where the Palaszczuk government announced an economic support package and, credit where credit is due, the federal government's JobKeeper program enabled many businesses in Cairns and the region to keep their head above water. That is exactly why our government pleaded with Scott Morrison to continue JobKeeper.

One thing we have learned from COVID is that the virus is relentless. It mutates. It seeks to infect every human being it comes into contact with. Today businesses in Cairns are open and able to trade because the people of the Far North defeated the latest delta outbreak. However, their customers cannot reach them because of the closure of international borders and, of course, severe lockdowns—long and prolonged lockdowns—in New South Wales and Victoria.

That is why JobKeeper should never have been withdrawn. That is why JobKeeper is required right now. As much as it has ever been, it is required right now. That should come as a surprise to no-one. It comes as no surprise to the member for Cairns, the member for Cook, the member for Barron River or even you, Mr Speaker, yet somehow it came as a surprise to Warren Entsch. Moments after we announced a jointly funded \$600 million package, what did he do?

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Treasurer, please resume your seat. Member for Buderim, you are warned under the standing orders. You are making no attempt, besides the mask, to mask the interjection.

**Mr DICK:** He missed the unique opportunity to stand up for his region, to do his job. We all know that Warren Entsch was very happy to use his power and his number in the party room to bring down Malcolm Turnbull. He is the fellow who caused Malcolm Turnbull to lose the prime ministership, but when he is called on to stand up for his community he does absolutely nothing. It is typical of the spinelessness of the LNP.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Those comments are unparliamentary. I ask you to withdraw.

**Mr DICK:** I withdraw. It is typical of the lack of courage, the weakness and the cowardice of the LNP. Call it what you may, that is typical of the LNP. Today I call on Warren Entsch to do his job.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** Of course, the Leader of the Opposition will do nothing. He is happy to bleat in this House and is happy to interject, but he will not stand up for Queensland. The Leader of the Opposition will not stand up to Warren Entsch. He will not call on him to use his power to bring back JobKeeper. I say to Warren Entsch and Scott Morrison: do your job and bring back JobKeeper.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, you are warned under the standing orders.

### **Caboolture Hospital, Director of Surgery**

**Dr ROWAN:** My question is to the Minister for Health. Can the minister confirm that there was not a permanent or acting director of surgery at Caboolture Hospital for five months in 2020?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I am happy to follow up on that for the member.

### **Education, Year 12 Exams**

**Mr MELLISH:** My question is of the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Can the minister advise the House of the arrangements made to adjust the year 12 exam timetable and accommodate the people's long weekend at the end of October?

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Nanango, you are on a warning. You can leave the chamber for one hour.

**Ms Grace:** Oh!

**Mr SPEAKER:** Feel no pity, member for McConnel. The member knows full well.

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

**Ms GRACE:** I thank the member for Aspley for the question. I know that his constituents are very much looking forward to the public holiday on Friday, 29 November. It coincides with World Teachers' Day.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms GRACE:** Listen to those opposite already. They have no vision and no alternatives. There is nothing coming from them. All these north coast and south coast MPs are complaining that their hotels are full! From what I have heard, on the day after we announced the date, the traffic on holiday letting websites went up 6,000 per cent. Let me say that again—6,000 per cent. What did we hear from the members on the Gold Coast? Nothing. Did they say, 'Come to the Gold Coast on the long weekend. We will welcome you'? No. There was nothing at all. The member for Currumbin has a lot to say about lockdown, helping those New South Wales people over the barricades into Queensland: 'Do you want a leg-up? I'll give you a leg-up. Come on in. You're fine.' Yet when it comes to the economic boost that moving this public holiday is going to give to Queensland, there is silence from both the Sunshine Coast and the Gold Coast members.

We are here to look after those businesses. It was wonderful to work with the minister for tourism. We spoke to the tourism sector. They were very keen on the economic benefits that occurred after the Ekka was unfortunately cancelled last year and we moved the public holiday to the Friday. The economic benefits were incredible, and they were keen to repeat that with another Friday public holiday.

The school holidays finish on 5 October. When you look at the window of opportunity between that date and schoolies starting in mid-November, you realise that there are not a lot of Fridays and Mondays. For the shadow minister for education to suggest that somehow we left any stone unturned in deciding on this date is completely wrong.

I welcome the QCAA, the non-government sector and the government sector coming together. It was very easy. We moved the exam period. I addressed that at the press conference, I might add. I addressed it straightaway. As if we did not know about the exam period! It was a very simple thing to do, to move it from the 29th to the 22nd, and I thank them very much for doing that.

Rather than those opposite whingeing and whining, you would think they would have some vision. You would think they would want to have the economic boost that this public holiday will provide to the tourism sector, but what do we get? Stony silence.

*(Time expired)*

### Hospitals, Patient Safety

**Mr POWELL:** My question is to the Premier. Who is ultimately responsible if it is found that botched surgeries cause death in Queensland public hospitals?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** If the member has any allegations, we are happy to look at those allegations. The member opposite might want to have a close look at what is happening in New South Wales at the moment and the overwhelming response to the delta virus. My understanding is that in some hospitals they are not doing any surgeries. People have COVID and they are dying from COVID. They are not even at the peak. The peak will be in October. If the member has any allegations about anything specific, he should raise it with the health minister and the health minister will get back to him.

There seems to be denial on the other side of the House about what is happening in New South Wales and Victoria—an absolute denial about what is happening there. We on this side of the House will do everything we can to prevent a delta outbreak here. We will be ready in case it comes and we will once again go hard and go fast. I thank Queenslanders for their hard work.

**Ms GRACE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I think I may have inadvertently said '29 November' at some stage. It is Friday, 29 October. I just want to correct the record.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** That is not the worst mistake you can make, Minister—an extra public holiday!

Members, if you are interjecting, please do not remove your mask, for two reasons: one, it is a health issue and, two, it is very obvious.

### Health System

**Mrs MULLEN:** My question is of the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Can the minister update the House on the pressures on the health system in Queensland and how they compare to those in other jurisdictions?

**Ms Palaszczuk:** I started that one for you.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I take the Premier's interjection. I thank the member for Jordan for her question. As we know, all health systems across the country are under incredible strain right now.

**Ms Bates:** Queensland Health was in trouble long before COVID, Minister.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I take that interjection. It was not in a good space under the LNP, that is for sure.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Mudgeeraba, you are warned under the standing orders. Those comments were clearly not directed through the chair; they were directed towards the minister.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I do not think the LNP can talk about the health system when they still have not acknowledged and apologised for what they did to the health system and for the sacking of staff. The health system has been under incredible pressure. We are very proud of the investment that we have made, including in this year's budget, and the additional funding we have put in to open up additional beds. In fact, on top of the \$100 million allocated prior to the budget to care for Queenslanders, an extra \$163.5 million has been allocated to provide another 351 beds which will be available in the next 12 months.

This will help with some of those pressures. We also need to understand that there are peaks and troughs with these pressures. The reason being our staff are doing an incredible job of playing catch-up and then we end up with an outbreak and lockdowns. The most recent lockdown not only slowed down elective surgery but also saw us with 400 health workers in quarantine. Due to the outbreak that started on 31 July, we still have some health workers in quarantine today. They are family members of the Indooroopilly cluster. That had a significant impact as well.

We know that jurisdictions across the country are doing it tough. Prior to the two most recent cases in Western Australia it had announced that they were suspending elective surgery. In Sydney they are actually turning away COVID patients. It is so distressing to hear what is happening in Victoria and New South Wales right now. People are being turned away. Sadly, people who are being managed by the health system in their homes are dying from COVID. One in five people who have died from COVID in the current New South Wales cluster, which is now at over 20,000, actually contracted it while in hospital.

This is what we have fought for 19 months to stop happening. This is why we have tried so hard. We have stockpiled, we have trained and we have converted and transitioned our hospitals to have negative pressure rooms to do everything we can so that people do not die at home, people who test positive do not get turned away and we do not run out of ventilators. That is what we have done and worked hard to avoid.

I am very proud of our health workers. I am proud of our Chief Health Officer. I am proud to be part of the Palaszczuk government and a part of the great work we are doing.

### **Naloxone**

**Mr BERKMAN:** My question this morning is to the Minister for Health. Today is Overdose Awareness Day. Despite Queensland being the second highest state for pharmaceutical overdose deaths we are the only state without any federal or state funding to supply Naloxone which reverses the effects of opioid overdose. Will the minister commit to funding frontline alcohol and other drug workers to supply free life-saving Naloxone or is the government too afraid of being seen as soft on drugs?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for his question. Putting aside the cheap political comment at the end there, this is a very serious issue. When we talk about mental health, when we talk about crime, when we talk about youth crime and when we talk about homelessness, we have to talk about drugs and alcohol. We have to acknowledge that they form part of all of those issues and they are all interlinked. In fact, I raised this with the Commonwealth assistant minister responsible for mental health, saying, 'With the National Partnership Agreement on Mental Health that we are negotiating now, will there be a dedicated funding stream for drug and alcohol support? Will the Commonwealth step up and support us in targeting this area, understanding how important it is in the mental health area?' The answer was, 'No. We are not having any dedicated funding in this space. We will continue to talk about the funding as a broad concept, but we are not funding any particular programs or facilities.'

We have strategies around drugs and alcohol, but the job is never done in this space. It is a very difficult area and we know it is a growing area. We can talk about drugs. We only need to listen to the Queensland Mental Health Commissioner who tells us the consequences of alcohol abuse and the impacts that that is having on our community. The impacts can be far greater. We have to tackle both of these areas. I do not think any government should be closed off to any ideas. We have to be willing to look at all models, all initiatives, what works and what does not around the globe. No-one has had all the answers to this. No-one has solved the problem of drug and alcohol abuse and addiction. We are absolutely committed to working on these issues—working with stakeholders, both public and private, and working with all three levels of government.

Importantly, I hope that the member is ensuring that his colleagues are asking these questions of the Commonwealth. I know those opposite will not ask those questions. They will not ask why the Commonwealth is not investing in drug and alcohol programs, why they are not playing their part and why they are not considering this as part of the negotiations under the National Partnership Agreement on Mental Health. I will continue to raise the issue because we cannot do this alone. We cannot fund everything on our own. The Commonwealth keeps stepping back from all of their responsibilities when it comes to health, mental health, the NDIS and aged care.

**Mr Dick:** Housing.

**Mrs D'ATH:** All of these areas. Housing—I will take that interjection from the Treasurer. We need more support and financial resources from the Commonwealth because this is not just a Queensland problem; it is a national problem.

I say to the member that we are committed to looking at all initiatives. I will not rule anything in or out, but I am not playing cheap politics with this issue. I am not too scared to look at anything. We will look at what works and what does not. We will make sure we work on evidence based policy because that is what the Palaszczuk government always has done and always will do.

### **Regional Queensland, Road Infrastructure**

**Ms LAUGA:** My question is of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Can the minister update the House on the government's record investment in regional roads?

**Mr BAILEY:** I thank the member for Keppel for her question. She is a great advocate for regional roads. She is getting a lot done in her electorate of Keppel.

Over the last 18 months we have seen more than \$1.5 billion in new and accelerated funds going out onto regional roads as part of this government's response to the COVID pandemic. As part of our four stimulus packages we are seeing more than 270 jobs directly supported. Anyone who goes out into rural Queensland and country Queensland can see how much is getting done. The positive feedback from mayors is very strong. More than 95 per cent of this is outside TMR's metropolitan region. Most of the \$1.5 billion is going out—

**Mr Lister** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, please resume your seat. Pause the clock. Member for Southern Downs, you are warned under the standing orders.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for McConnel.

**Mr BAILEY:** It is good to see the enthusiasm from the member for Southern Downs. We are very much committed to road safety. Some \$1.7 billion over four years has been allocated to road safety initiatives specifically. That means more overtaking lanes, better intersections, widening and sealing. We are going to seal \$100 million worth of dirt roads as part of the stimulus package.


In the Callide electorate we are doing 55 road upgrades worth almost \$200 million over the next four years. This is something the member for Callide does not inform his electorate of at all. I make that point because only weeks ago the estimates committee process happened. The member for Callide is on the committee. He is paid \$24,000 annually to be on the committee and contribute. He did not ask one question. He did not say one word.

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Chatsworth will cease his interjections.  
Interruption.

## PRIVILEGE

### Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.07 am): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. The minister had indicated on Twitter that this was the case. I corrected him because I looked at *Hansard*. The member for Callide did ask questions during the estimates. I believe—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Please resume your seat, member for Kawana. That is not a point of order.


**Mr BLEIJIE:** I will be writing to you because I believe the minister has misled parliament.

**Mr SPEAKER:** That is a separate issue. I will look at your correspondence and give it consideration at that time.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

### Regional Queensland, Road Infrastructure

Resumed.

 **Mr BAILEY:** The member for Callide did not ask me a single question in the four hours of the estimates committee hearing—not one. He talks big on social media, but he is as quiet as a church mouse when he comes to parliament. He wants to take that silent treatment to Canberra, running for the federal seat of Flynn. He wants to be elected. He calls himself the voice of rural Queensland but he is more Marcel Marceau. Maybe Canberra needs a Marcel Marceau, but that kind of silent treatment is fake. It is not good enough to go out there on social media and be all tough and then come in here and not do your job and dish out the silent treatment.

The roads in Callide are so good that I hear the former member for Sandgate under the Newman government is being encouraged to join the Chinchilla branch of the LNP—travelling along our regional roads to join the Chinchilla branch of the LNP and run in case the member gets up in Flynn. They cannot even find a local candidate in Callide. They have to import a former Newman government MP from South-East Queensland into the Chinchilla branch. That is how bare the cupboard is.

(Time expired)

### **Caboolture Hospital, Surgical Deaths**

**Mr MANDER:** My question is to the Minister for Health. Can the minister confirm that all surgical deaths at Caboolture Hospital in the past 12 months have been fully investigated?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for Everton for his question. As the member should be aware, not every death is investigated. Unexpected deaths are automatically referred to the Coroner and the Coroner makes decisions as to whether there is an investigation that needs to occur in relation to those deaths. I am aware that one of the three deaths that were referred to in the *Courier-Mail* article yesterday was referred to the Coroner and they chose not to further investigate.

I have no information before me that in any way says that any deaths that are unexpected have not been referred to the relevant authorities and properly investigated and considered by the Coroner. In putting the question to me, if the member is asserting there has been, by all means contact my office today and provide me with that information. Simply putting these questions and making statements about bungled surgeries and deaths without any evidence—

**Mr Mander:** It's so annoying, isn't it?

**Mrs D'ATH:** It is an offence on the people who work every day in our public health system to attack them and make allegations without making sure they have the evidence to back that up. They come in here asking these open-ended questions which do make an imputation on the health system. These questions today are making an imputation about the quality of care being provided by the health system.

As the health minister, if there is not care being delivered at the quality and the standard that we expect, I want it investigated and I want action, but let us make sure that it is not done on a letter that says, 'I have it on good authority'—which is what I was sent in mid-July: 'I have it on good authority this has happened.' Make sure that the information is brought forward to the relevant authorities, whether it is to the HHS, whether it is to the director-general of the Department of Health, whether it is to the Health Ombudsman, whether it is to the Coroner, whether it is to my office. There are many channels to raise allegations around genuine complaints about the quality of care in any public health facility in Queensland, and they will be investigated. Do not simply come in and say, 'Have any of these deaths been investigated?'—putting out there that somehow there are unexplained deaths that have been shoved under the carpet.

The fact is that there are processes in place that the hospital and the HHS are required to follow. If those on the other side have any information that says that has not occurred then by all means bring it forward—and bring it forward to the CCC if you think there are any serious corruption allegations. Do not just do it through the media and in this parliament.

*(Time expired)*

### **Renewable Energy**

**Mr O'ROURKE:** My question is of the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement. Will the minister update the House on how important its policies to develop Queensland as a renewable energy superpower are to Queensland's economic recovery?

**Mr de BRENNI:** I acknowledge the member for Rockhampton's dedication to his role as one of Queensland's three hydrogen champions. The question is important because our nation is at an historic crossroads. It is important because we know that the policy decisions that we make now will determine the future for generations to come.

History will record that in Queensland we have made the right policy decisions. It will show our historic economic recovery. It will show our historic jobs growth—300,000 more Queenslanders in jobs now than before the pandemic. It will show historically high levels of investment in Queensland. From this, it will show historically high levels of investment in renewable energy projects in Queensland—in fact, 192 projects proposed at the moment. It will show the largest energy budget in Queensland's history. History will record that under the Palaszczuk government investment in renewable energy is at an historic high—in fact, 60 gigawatts of renewable energy projects proposed.

This government is taking another historic step. I can inform the House that for the first time in history structured consultation with regional communities across Queensland will maximise the local benefits from renewable energy developments. Regional communities can have their say now on how renewable projects are developed to benefit them and to benefit their families. Consultation is now

open. For the benefit of the House, I table this historic consultation paper. I urge members representing regional communities to encourage their constituents to have their say—to have their say about how they will truly benefit.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Government: Community Consultation Paper—August 2021: Local benefits in Queensland renewable energy zones: Principles for delivering local benefits in Queensland renewable energy zones (QREZ) [[1276](#)].

The other fact that history will record is this: when it comes to driving investment in renewables in Queensland, we are going it alone, just as Queensland is going it alone with the much needed Wellcamp quarantine facility. History will record that Prime Minister Scott Morrison just does not back Queensland, whether it is in the battle against COVID or supporting the job opportunities that come with investment in renewable energy.

History will also record it was the LNP in Queensland that wants to turn back the clock, backing nuclear not renewables, backing new coal causing existing plants to shut down. Regional Queensland should not be ground zero for dangerous, expensive or outdated technology. History will record that it was Prime Minister Scott Morrison who wanted to hold Queensland back on renewables, just as he has held this state back in the battle against COVID. His preferences for energy are discredited and dangerous, just like his rollout of the vaccine. History will record it was Prime Minister Scott Morrison who failed this nation on quarantine, on vaccine and on renewable energy.

### **Caboolture Hospital, Surgical Accreditation**

**Mr WATTS:** My question is to the Minister for Health. Can the minister guarantee that Caboolture Hospital will not lose its surgical accreditation with the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for his question. I understand reaccreditation is going on right now. A draft report has been provided that shows that it is a favourable outcome. I will wait for the final accreditation.

### **Marine Tourism, Berthing Costs**

**Mrs GILBERT:** My question is of the Minister for Tourism Industry Development and Innovation and Minister for Sport. Will the minister inform the House if there is any further assistance available for marine tourism operators with berthing costs for their vessels? Is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I thank the member for the question and acknowledge her keen advocacy for the recovery of the tourism industry in the Mackay and Whitsundays region and the advocacy of so many other members around this issue. The Palaszczuk government has committed \$1 billion in direct support for Queensland's tourism operators during the pandemic and we are continuing to listen. Marine tourism operators have told us that they need ongoing help with the cost of berthing fees in privately owned marinas.

The Palaszczuk government is, from today, rolling out a second, \$3 million round of our COVID-19 Marine Tourism Assistance Scheme. It will provide up to \$20,000 to operators up until 30 June next year. This is part of the government's recently announced \$47.75 million tourism and hospitality sector lockdown package. Last year's first round saw 130 applications approved from Port Douglas to the Fraser Coast. After feedback from operators, we have made this second round even easier. Marine tourism operators will no longer have to pay their berthing fees up-front to be eligible to apply.

This second round of support underscores the importance of marine operators to the industry in delivering first-class visitor experiences. We know lockdowns in New South Wales and Victoria have locked out more than 80 per cent of Queensland's tourism customers. That is having an ongoing huge impact on the industry. We equally know that industry has noted on numerous occasions that they want to see more action from the federal government. They want to see more action from the federal tourism minister, Dan Tehan. I note the remarks made by the Treasurer earlier today. That is why we need JobKeeper. That is why I have written to Mr Tehan, backing calls from Queensland's tourism industry for the federal government to deliver a targeted JobKeeper style wage subsidy.

Emergency measures are desperately needed to sustain Queensland's tourism and hospitality industry until business capacity, confidence and visitors are restored. It is also time for those opposite to put pressure on the federal government to step up while there is still a Queensland tourism industry to throw a lifeline to.

As the Treasurer said earlier, JobKeeper was an extraordinarily important package that sustained and helped all Australians so significantly through the desperate situation of the pandemic last year. It being cut off in the way that it has caused extraordinary pain, particularly to the tourism sector and other sectors of our economy that have not been able to recover in the same way due to the remaining closure of international borders, the extensive lockdowns we have seen in Victoria and New South Wales and the impact that has had particularly on our Queensland tourism industry. A targeted response that continues that sort of support not just to aviation workers but to others in our important tourism sector is what is vitally needed. I call on everyone for their support, to raise their voices up to the federal government—

*(Time expired)*

### Hospitals, Wait Times

**Mr MICKELBERG:** My question is to the health minister. Sunshine Coast resident Cynthia has been waiting on the Sunshine Coast hospital waitlist since September 2020. She has been told that she 'may be offered an appointment in January 2022'. How long will Cynthia have to suffer in pain while on Queensland's ballooning hospital waitlists before she can receive surgery?

**Mr SPEAKER:** The period for question time has expired. I am sorry, member, I did not want to interrupt your question. Members will leave the chamber quietly, if you are doing so, as a courtesy to other members.

## MOTIONS

### Business Program



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.20 am): I move—

That—

1. the Public Health and Other Legislation (Further Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill will be considered during this week's sitting, to complete all stages by 1.00 pm on Thursday, 2 September 2021;
2. the minister be called to reply at 12.10 pm;
3. if the bill listed in 1. has not completed all stages by 1.00 pm on Thursday, 2 September 2021, Mr Speaker:
  - (a) shall call on a minister to table any explanatory notes to their circulated amendments, any statement of compatibility with human rights or any statement relating to an override declaration
  - (b) shall put all remaining questions necessary to pass the bill without further debate
  - (c) may interrupt non-specified business or debate on a bill or motion to complete the requirements of the motion
  - (d) will complete all stages required by this motion notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders;
4. a condolence motion for the former member for Stretton will be considered during this week's sitting, with the following time limits to apply:
  - (a) total time before question put—3 hours
  - (b) the Premier and Minister for Trade—10 minutes
  - (c) the Leader of the Opposition (or nominee)—10 minutes
  - (d) all other members—5 minutes.

I know the opposition has been eagerly awaiting the chance to come back to parliament and have the debate on the business motion. In moving this motion I would like to congratulate James Martin, the new member for Stretton, on his election to the seat and wish him all the best moving forward. James and I got to work together many years ago, and it is wonderful to know that we now get to work together as members of parliament. I know he will do an incredible job. I know that he has big shoes to fill. It is a sad day but a happy day as well. I know that he will do Duncan proud in what he will do for his new community.

Turning to the motion before the House, members will note there is one bill for consideration during this week's sitting, namely, the Public Health and Other Legislation (Further Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill, within the motion. However, in addition to this bill the House will consider eight portfolio committee reports, noting that the Economics and Governance Committee has two reports into the recent estimates hearings, with debate on those reports commencing shortly. This will take just over 7½ hours to complete, and I look forward to hearing and contributing to this constructive debate.




This afternoon the member for Stretton will have the opportunity to deliver his first speech to this chamber—a speech which is certainly one of the highlights of any member of parliament's career—and I am sure that all honourable members will give the occasion the respect we have all been afforded during our first speeches.

Later this week the Premier and Minister for Trade will move a motion of condolence for the former member for Stretton, and I know there are a number of members who wish to contribute to that debate. As such, that condolence motion will be allocated three hours, with up to 10 minutes for the Premier and Minister for Trade and the Leader of the Opposition or nominee and five minutes for other members. This condolence motion is currently scheduled to take place from 3 pm on Thursday, and I have been advised that the former member for Stretton's family will be in attendance for the debate on this motion.

The sitting week after any break is always busy and this week is no different. I thank the members of the Business Committee for meeting last night to discuss the potential business of the House. I also thank the member for Kawana, who informed me via correspondence of the approximate number of members on their side who may contribute to the condolence motion this week and next week's sitting as well, where we will have a further condolence motion.

I know that the opposition and crossbench would prefer to see additional time to debate the public health bill. I know that the broader issue of COVID certainly warrants a lot of debate and discussion in this chamber and out in the broader community, but we must remember what the bill is doing. As much as we would like to talk about the broader consequences of COVID generally, the debate on the bill should be concentrated on the bill and what it seeks to achieve. Consequently, I do believe that the time we have allotted—being four hours for that debate—is adequate time to debate that bill seeing as it is an extension of existing public health bills. I do not say that lightly. I do not say that the extension is a trivial matter because it is not, but I do not think any of us here believe that COVID will be over in September. This is an important bill and it must be debated this week. Of course we have a very important debate to be had next week as well, so it is important this legislation goes through within the allotted time.

I know that the House will manage that time as we have been doing very well in recent times and that members will have the opportunity to speak and contribute to that debate and be mindful of the time allocated for that debate. I do ask that members support this bill. I will always be hopeful that the opposition will support it. I do not think on this occasion I will get that support, but I look forward to listening to the debate on the motion anyway.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.25 am): I strongly oppose this motion before the House. This motion before the House is one of the worst we have seen. We know it is a full week. We know we have to deal with the condolence motion of Mr Duncan Pegg, who recently passed away, so we will address that as we always do.

The committee meeting yesterday—and I note the member for Noosa will be speaking as well—was an absolute disgrace. The Minister for Health and Leader of the House, in allocating the timing this week, notified the committee yesterday that there would be three hours for debate on the extension of the Chief Health Officer's powers and directives, but if we get rid of the debate on committee reports on Thursday we will be able to have four hours. How generous of the government to get rid of an hour of committee debates, which it is also important for this House to debate, to give us another opportunity.

Less than a minute ago the health minister said that the Public Health and Other Legislation (Further Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill—which is the Chief Health Officer's powers bill—warrants a lot of debate. She said it 'warrants a lot of debate', yet we are given four hours in a week. The reason I strongly oppose this motion, which constrains debate time on the Chief Health Officer's extension of powers bill, is because—and it was raised yesterday in the Business Committee meeting—people are committing suicide because of these powers. Businesses are going broke because of lockdowns and restrictions.

**Mr Power:** In New South Wales.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** No, not in New South Wales: in Queensland. Whoever made that disgraceful interjection—member for Logan—Queenslanders are committing suicide. Queensland businesses are shutting down—not just in New South Wales, as he interjected. It is because of these powers and the extraordinary nature of these powers that this parliament should debate them. We should debate fully whether they should go until April next year, as we will debate this week—

**An opposition member:** We will stay all night.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** We will stay all night. We are happy to work through the lunch break, happy to work through the dinner break. We are happy to work all night to allow members the opportunity to speak on this. We are getting feedback from our constituents in our communities. The anxiety, the stress—

**Mrs GERBER:** Depression.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection: the depression. During question time this morning I received emails from my constituents who are now refugees. They are stuck over the border and they cannot come home! They cannot come to their own homes! This government says, 'You can have two hours to debate these restrictions which allow the Chief Health Officer and the government to have border restrictions, lockdowns and other business restrictions.' It warrants more than two hours of opposition debate time for the sake of the people who have lost their lives not because of COVID but because of suicide, mental health, small businesses going broke and the financial suffering of our constituents.

The government says we have four hours to debate when there are serious questions about the length of time these powers should operate to. Members will not be afforded the opportunity to have that debate this week. Of all the issues we have to debate this year it is probably the most serious debate the Queensland parliament will have, as I have said, because of those issues.

People are stuck over the border. The government says that these are New South Welshmen and Victorians moving to Queensland. These are Queenslanders who live in Queensland and who have been denied the opportunity to come to their own home. We know people who have been attending funerals in New South Wales and cannot get home. They are happy to do the two-week quarantine, but they cannot get to their own home. What a disgrace. We are in a society now where the Queensland government does not allow its own citizens back into their own home state, and we deserve more time to debate it than what we are given. I move the following amendment—

Omit the words:

"all stages by 1.00 pm on Thursday, 2 September 2021.

2. That the minister be called to reply at 12.10 pm.

3. If the bill listed in 1. has not completed all stages by 1.00 pm on Thursday, 2 September 2021, Mr Speaker:"

and insert in their place the words:


"all stages by 6.00 pm on Thursday, 2 September 2021.

2. That the minister be called to reply at 5.00 pm.

3. If the bill listed in 1. has not completed all stages by 6.00 pm on Thursday, 2 September 2021, Mr Speaker:"

If the government are not happy to stay past hours, then all I would say to the government is, please, give us a few more hours of debate time to stand up for our communities who are suffering under these extraordinary Chief Health Officer powers at the moment.

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (11.30 am): What an extraordinary contribution from the member for Kawana—and probably not for the reasons that he would suggest. Aside from the obvious point—that 99 per cent of the time he opposes our business motions because he likes to grandstand and that this is his little amateur theatre and we know his amateur thespian tendencies—what we have this week is a range of extra measures that we necessarily need to deal with. We have the estimates reports coming out of the estimates process. We do have the unusual and very difficult circumstance of a condolence motion for someone who served in this term, and we obviously need more time than what might be usual in a condolence motion because we all knew Duncan.

Aside from those points, the public health and other legislation amendment bill is largely the same as it has been. It is largely a turnover. There are a couple of variations and a few issues there, but largely it is a known thing. We had the postulations of the member for Kawana—getting his blood going up a bit there to try to look a bit convincing—but this is a known quantity.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at what the minister said and I ask him to withdraw.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Kawana has taken offence, Minister. Will you withdraw?

**Mr BAILEY:** I withdraw—a new level of sensitivity.

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

**Mr SPEAKER:** Without qualification.

**Mr BAILEY:** I withdraw without qualification. The member for Kawana has just outlined that there are suicides happening because of this power and that businesses are going broke because of these powers. He talked about anxiety and depression. These are important issues, but they are not due to these powers. They are due to the pandemic. We can compare this state to any other jurisdiction when it comes to dealing with this virus which kills people. These people die long, painful, lonely deaths necessarily because of the contagiousness of the disease. We have tragically lost seven people in Queensland, but if we compare that to New South Wales and any other country, our measures have been highly responsible. That is not to say we do not help people who might be struggling in other ways. Of course we do. We do that absolutely. The contribution from the member for Kawana betrays some of his and the opposition's views of undermining the health response here in Queensland, and we have seen it. They called for the borders to be opened 64 times—

**Mr Lister** interjected.


**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Southern Downs, you are on a warning. You are interjecting. You will leave the chamber for one hour. I have made my directions on this matter clear over many months.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Southern Downs withdrew from the chamber at 11.33 am.*

**Mr BAILEY:** We have dealt with this pandemic in the best possible way we can, and that is saving lives. These measures are largely a rollover and we will continue our health response. Premiers in most other states, not all, are very clear that the next three or four months are incredible periods of risk. If we look at the states in the US which have higher vaccination rates than Australia—because the Prime Minister was so indolent and incompetent in ordering vaccines and dealing with quarantine—we can see that we are way below a whole lot of US states that are seeing a terrible third wave. In Florida they are seeing more than 200 deaths a day, and their vaccination rate is a lot higher than any state in Australia right now. Let us be really clear and get the politics out of the health response because this is a matter of science and a matter of medicine. We have always said that you have to deal with the health first and foremost, that you must protect lives. We have an incredible period of risk.

I have no tolerance for any person—let alone a member of parliament—who undermines one of the best health responses in the world here in Queensland. There will be ample opportunity in a four-hour debate to debate a bill that is largely a repetition. It is being rolled over with a couple of adjustments. That is pretty much what we are talking about. If members cannot cover the adjustments in a couple of hours of debate, then they are not worth their salt, to be quite frank.

I endorse the business motion. It is a responsible motion. We have to order our business and make priorities. We do not need six hours, eight hours or 10 hours of people giving the same old speech, with the dusty, old key lines and themes of the LNP. We want a genuine debate and it means we have to prioritise. There is ample opportunity for members to raise the issues they are concerned about. That is the way we deal with it. That is the way any responsible parliament deals with it. I endorse the motion moved by the Leader of the House.

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (11.35 am): Members know that it is rare for me to get up and oppose the business motion. I appreciate what both ministers have said. However, we are not trying to undermine anything here, nor disrespect the efforts that have been made. What we have sought is an extension of time to give voice to our people. This is the people's house and all people from across Queensland should be heard.

I realise other electorates may not have some of the impacts that are felt in electorates like Noosa, but people are on their knees and we need that time to give them a voice. Who are these people? The member for Kawana mentioned a couple. We have got businesses that are told to close and are not compensated adequately. We have got staff who for every day they are closed cannot meet their rents. We have got businesses and people living off personal loans now for over a year and they do not even know where to turn anymore. We have got spiralling mental health, where it takes more than two months to even get in to see a mental health professional. Then we can talk about the waitlist, and we have got heartbreaking stories of constituents in agony who are now on an 18-month list to get operations they desperately need to keep working.

In my community, we have had an increase in domestic violence of 30 per cent, year on year, for two years now. I wonder about all of those who we actually do not even know about. We have a humanitarian crisis where our workers and long-term residents are couch surfing or living in sheds or wherever they can. We have staff walking out or on stress leave because of the abuse they are receiving, or they are losing their long-held jobs in aged care and disability care because of their own personal choice regarding vaccinations. We had protesters before there were even protests down here, and today again we had them in Noosa.

I understand that there are other states and other countries that are suffering worse, but this is Queensland and we have to look after our people. We have got residents caught over the border. I can tell the House some horrific stories of what has happened to some of our women travelling alone. They do not even have the option to come back into quarantine. I understand the Premier has spoken about this, but we have NRL players and families who are able to fly in from hotspots. Do not get me wrong: everyone loves the game, however what we desperately need is consistency and equity. My community cannot get their heads around this, regardless of explanations. The list goes on but I may not get to tell their stories.

With the business motion, not the amendment, allowing limited time—and we have to include consideration in detail, the Queensland app, the Ekka show holiday, personalised transport and also the extra two deputy CHOs—I might not get an opportunity. The government may not believe so much needs to be said, given that we have debated these same provisions before, however that misses the point for my community and the communities of other MPs here.

These provisions were debated before we reached this time point—we are now coming up to two years of this pandemic—before we realised things like flattening the curve were not going to be enough, before we saw the real grassroots impacts and what is needed going forward. It is so important that we should have time to talk about this. This inability to secure the extra time also demonstrates how the committee system is flawed because even when we are there, regardless of our objections, we cannot influence the determinations.

Queenslanders have worked through this pandemic together. However, those who are not in jobs that still pay during lockdowns or are not sufficiently supported are wearing the brunt of these efforts to keep Queenslanders safe and they feel that we are no longer in this together. This has become an economic divide of the have and the have-nots or the secure and the insecure. Can honourable members imagine how isolated, devastated and let down they feel? I think that is just reason to have extra time in the debate. Hence, they are the reasons I oppose the government's motion and I support the amendments put forward by the member for Kawana.

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

**AYES, 36:**

**LNP, 29**—Bates, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Gerber, Hart, Janetzki, Krause, Last, Leahy, Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

**Grn, 2**—Berkman, MacMahon.

**KAP, 3**—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

**PHON, 1**—Andrew.

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

**NOES, 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, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

Pair: McMillan, Bennett.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendment (Mr Bleijie) negated.

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, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

**NOES, 36:**

**LNP, 29**—Bates, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Gerber, Hart, Janetzki, Krause, Last, Leahy, Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

**Grn, 2**—Berkman, MacMahon.

**KAP, 3**—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

**PHON, 1**—Andrew.

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

Pair: McMillan, Bennett.

Resolved in the affirmative.

### Suspension of Sessional Orders



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.48 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That so much of the sessional orders be suspended to enable the member for Stretton to make a statement not exceeding 20 minutes noting his election at 3 pm today.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

### Reporting Date



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.49 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That this House—

1. notes the Transport and Resources Committee report No. 11, *Inquiry into vehicle safety standards and technology, including engine immobiliser technology—interim report*, seeking an extension of time to report fully to the terms of reference previously agreed to by the House on Wednesday, 24 February 2021; and
2. agrees to the committee fully and finally reporting to the Legislative Assembly on the inquiry by 24 September 2021.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## MOTION


### Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.50 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in the standing and sessional orders, debate of committee reports be postponed for this week's sitting and for the sitting week scheduled from 14 to 16 September 2021.

Speaking very briefly to this, as I have already highlighted in the business motion, to ensure that we do have additional time for the public health bill debate we believe it is appropriate to postpone the debate of committee reports. As the next sitting has been set aside to debate the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill, we believe it is appropriate to find as much time as possible to ensure all members who wish to speak on that bill are able to. That is why this postponement is proposed.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.50 am): Ordinarily, I would oppose this motion because we see so often now that the debate of committee reports is just flung out to the never-never because the government fails to manage this House. They are failing to manage what happens in the House. They are failing to manage the legislation debates. They are continually failing to get their desired agenda through the parliament without guillotining or cutting short the time for debate.


The only reason I am agreeing to this is because we have the important debate regarding the extension of the Chief Health Officer's powers and this gives us an additional hour to debate that. I am afraid we are getting to a position now where, more often than not, we are pushing debate of committee reports. Debate of committee reports is in the standing orders for a reason. All MPs get paid to be on committees to do the work, but we just keep pushing debate of committee reports into the never-never. It is a slight on democracy. When members of this parliament are being paid to do important committee work it is unfortunate that, because the government cannot manage the business of the House, we just keep pushing out debate of reports. I do not set a precedent by supporting this motion. The only reason I am supporting it is that I want more members to have the opportunity to speak to the bills extending the Chief Health Officer's powers. Those bills are important to our constituencies, as the member for Noosa noted earlier.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## COMMITTEES

### Membership

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.52 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

1. That the members for Rockhampton and Hervey Bay be discharged from, and the members for Cooper and Mount Ommaney be appointed to, the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee.
2. That the member for Mount Ommaney be discharged from, and the member for Stretton be appointed to, the Transport and Resources Committee.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

### APPROPRIATION BILL


#### Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

#### Appropriation (Parliament) Bill

#### Economics and Governance Committee, Report

**Mr SPEAKER:** The House will consider the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill first. The question is—

That the report of the Economics and Governance Committee be adopted.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (11.54 am): I report to the House that the committee recommends that the proposed expenditure for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service, as detailed in the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2021, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment. This committee values the role we have in maintaining our House and maintaining the place that we have. I once heard the member for Kawana describe it as Queensland's 'premier heritage house' and we have to continue to think of it as that.

I thank the Speaker and the Clerk, who appeared before us. I also note that the members for Maiwar and Kawana joined the committee members: the erstwhile, combative member for Mermaid Beach and the members for Coomera, Macalister, Ninderry and Hervey Bay, who all took their responsibilities seriously.

I note that the inquiry looked at what we are doing for the House in terms of extensive repairs, especially the major refurbishment of the Parliamentary Annexe. It is important that these steps are taken with the support of both sides of parliament. In that way, there was a productive value to it. There was one comment in the report's statement of reservation that I found really disappointing. It states—

In this estimates process, Queenslanders expected the Labor Government to be honest and accountable. It is our view that instead, Labor Committee Chairs used the Standing Orders to protect Labor Ministers

The Speaker made extensive commentary on the process of the committees. He called upon us all to take out the theatre and to focus on the scrutiny process. He was right but, unfortunately, throughout the estimates process we saw from those opposite multiple attempts at amateur theatre, grandstanding and acting up, just to get their faces on the nightly news. I have been advised that during a number of hearings those opposite continued to interrupt and speak over witnesses and, indeed, spoke over the chairperson. I know this happened to me on a number of occasions. This is deeply disappointing and deeply disrespectful to the process of parliament.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr POWER:** I note that the members of the committee did have respect for that process, and I admire them for that. Unfortunately, that was not the case for some of our invited guests. During the Health and Environment Committee hearing the member for Mudgeeraba and her colleagues interrupted the chair 62 times. That is nearly as many times as they called for our borders to be opened, which would have damaged the health of Queensland even more! The non-government members of this chamber—


**Mr Stevens:** Relevance to this committee?

**Mr POWER:** It is relevant to the Speaker, who spoke to the estimates process. That is what I am addressing. It is vital that the Speaker gave us guidance on the entire estimates process, and I am reflecting on what was in that report.

Non-government members of this chamber have claimed that they need more time to ask questions. Unfortunately, the statistics are against them. I am advised that overall throughout the estimates hearings 39 per cent of the time was used for government members' questions. Of course, this means that 61 per cent of the time was 'utilised' by non-government members to ask questions.

I am further advised that, of the total number of questions asked during estimates hearings, 29 per cent were asked by government members and 71 per cent were asked by non-government members. Approximately 737 questions were asked by non-government members and only 294 questions were asked by government members. Comparing this to the Newman government, I am advised that, in 2013, 45 per cent of questions were asked by government members and 55 per cent were asked by non-government members. These statistics show a dramatic increase in the time given to opposition and non-government members during the estimates process under the Palaszczuk government.

I note that we have done this through our process. I cannot be responsible for opposition members failing to put questions that actually matter. During this period of COVID, it is so vital that we reflect on the role of government. We have to be nimble, accurate and find new and innovative ways to help Queenslanders. The amateur theatrics, the shameful behaviour and the interruptions by members of the opposition were a disservice to the estimates process and a disservice to this House.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (11.59 am): I am disappointed to hear the chair of the Economics and Governance Committee ramble on about matters that were irrelevant to the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill relating to the Parliamentary Service, and he waffled on about other matters that were irrelevant to the bill that we are talking about today. I want to congratulate the government on its allocation to the Parliamentary Service of in excess of \$30 million to upgrade the parliamentary precinct, particularly for the staff who have suffered in the anachronistic facilities here—I think 1974 for the Parliamentary Annexe building—because some of the conditions in which they are working have been historically bad. In terms of the allocations to the Parliamentary Service for that particular job—which was raised by the Manager of Opposition Business in the previous year, and very successfully—I am glad it has been taken on board and dealt with.

A disappointment that I had with the moneys dealt with throughout the year was the failure of the IT phone system and the failure to recoup moneys that should have been recouped. Unfortunately, IT is a very difficult area that seems to be costing the taxpayers of Queensland every which way. I look forward to the new IT regime that the Clerk of the Parliament has advised us will be taking place. Again, I was a little disappointed that a couple of hundred thousand dollars was cut from the bill for the

appropriation for the Parliamentary Service. In an era when we are needing more in terms of support staff and there is more required in terms of office movements et cetera, cutting the Parliamentary Service's budget by \$216,000 or somewhere around that figure was probably a disappointment that I had out of this appropriation bill.

There are commitments to this area, this building, this precinct. In my view, we are the caretakers, if you like, for a brief period here in the parliament of the pre-eminent historical building in Queensland and its surrounds. I often refer to the parliamentary precinct as a bit like Vatican City in that the Speaker of the House is a bit like the Pope and the person running the finances—the Clerk of the Parliament—of the Parliamentary Service is a bit like George Pell, I suppose, in Vatican City. We expend money to maintain this building, its stonework and the beautiful areas that we all enjoy and it is a very humbling experience. I feel very privileged, as I know all members do, to be able to sit in this House. To that end, the appropriation bill 2021-22 was very appropriate in terms of maintaining this building and the precinct. I commend this appropriation bill to the House.

Report adopted.

Clauses 1 to 4, as read, agreed to.


Schedule, as read, agreed to.

## Appropriation Bill

### Economics and Governance Committee, Report

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hart): The question is—

That the report of the Economics and Governance Committee be adopted.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (12.04 pm): I am proud to say that the committee recommended that the proposed expenditure of the Appropriation Bill be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment. During the committee we saw enthusiastic participation from the fantastic committee members, whom I have already thanked in a previous speech. However, I want to extend thanks to the secretariat.

**Mr Stevens:** Hear, hear!

**Mr POWER:** We hear, 'Hear, hear!' from the member for Mermaid Beach. They do a great job, a very professional job and a very bipartisan job in including all of us. I also note that there was enthusiastic participation from the members for Mirani, Maiwar, Kawana, Broadwater, Toowoomba South, Traeger, South Brisbane, Everton, Bonney and Maroochydore. We welcome participation from all members, but I have to firstly give an apology. In reflecting on my chairing of the committee, I have to apologise to the House and especially to the members of the committee from the government side. We had a long committee—10.33 hours of hard, interrogative questioning of ministers. We aim to give fifty-fifty distribution. It is vital that at the estimates process we hear about the good work that government is doing as well as asking the hard, interrogative questions. Government members ask questions about our local area and about services and facilities. Unfortunately, due to my enthusiasm for being fair to the opposition, of that 10.33 hours only four hours were allocated to government questioning—I apologise to the House for not giving adequate time for government members to ask questions about their local areas in terms of the issues that are important to them during these important COVID times—and I gave 5.29 hours towards non-government questions.


That is a record amount of non-government questioning during which those opposite had the time to utilise as they saw fit. I do not know if it was fair that I gave so much time to the opposition and non-government members, but they had that opportunity. That is why I was, frankly, a little bit hurt and disappointed when in the statement of reservation it was noted that I had not given adequate questioning time to members of the opposition as I had in fact given them record questioning time. I challenge members of the opposition: if they can find a single chair who gave anywhere near 5.29 hours of questioning to the opposition and non-government members, find them for me. I value them so much that I try to give them a fair go. Frankly, I probably gave them too much of a fair go and I apologise to members of the committee from the government side because they had valuable questions that they wanted to ask.

When talking about the appropriations for the Treasurer and the Premier, we need to reflect on the key issues that are part of our government. The first one is that we need to see how jobs are being created during this COVID atmosphere. We know that the nation has given a real vote of support for Queensland, the Queensland economy and the handling of COVID within Queensland as there were



over 58,000 new Queenslanders last year. That is well above the population share that we face. Coming from an outer suburban area such as Logan, I know that there are benefits and also challenges of new housing. Again, that is a vote of confidence in the Queensland economy, which has seen 71 per cent growth over the past 12 months, and building approvals are up by 39 per cent.

Residential housing is a start. There is so much more that we need to do to continue that, but the biggest one is to keep our community safe. That is why I am glad to see in the appropriations—the extra appropriations—funding for a quarantine station dedicated to keeping Queenslanders safe, keeping our economy safe and keeping people in work. That is what this government is focused on. Because of that growth, we need to keep funding vaccines and quarantine and we need to keep funding the Mount Lindesay Highway upgrade. I note that the transport minister is in the House. He knows how valuable the Stoney Camp Road through to the Chambers Flat section is. We need the fire station in Yarrabilba, which has just recently been opened, and the ambulance station in Munruben. We need that funding to continue and we do not want to see the cuts, sackings and sell-offs of the LNP.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (12.09 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the report. It is worth repeating that our categorisation of this budget is that it is a budget of accounting without principles and funds without funding. Sadly, nothing during the estimates process proved that to be an incorrect characterisation of the budget. There is clearly no plan from this government to adjust to a post-COVID economic environment. The glossy brochure that those opposite carried around attached to their chests during the election campaign and into this year has now disappeared. Budgets highlight priorities and vision and throughout the budget process in June, all the way through estimates, no matter the portfolio, it was clear that this government has no plan for the future of the economic position of our state.

The federal government is leading the way in respect of the new financial environment that we will be addressing. There is a plan. It is up to this state Labor government to address our economic future. If we look back at the economic conditions that Queensland was faced with prior to COVID and into COVID, notwithstanding the advocacy from the Treasurer, the truth is very different. There was always ballooning debt. The debt had blown out from \$72 billion to \$102 billion long before COVID. Queensland remains the bankruptcy capital of Australia. Four and a half thousand people lived through bankruptcy in 2020. My fear is that that will continue to be a problem right throughout our economy as we see small and family businesses struggling under the weight of COVID and the failure of this government to properly support them through that process.

In this year's budget we saw infrastructure cuts to the tune of \$4 billion. The member for Miller talks about infrastructure. The truth is very different across the forwards of this budget to what this government tries to portray. When it comes to CommSec we continue to come at the bottom of the table. We are last for economic growth in the country. Expenses continue to outstrip revenue across the longer term of the budget. This was all occurring pre COVID and is occurring through COVID and feeds into the challenge of this government that does not have a plan for the future. In the budget we saw imaginary funding for a series of funds. There is not a single dollar in the forwards for all the new funding that has been announced.


We see a continuing decline in the confidence in our mining sector. Just 10 years ago one in every four mineral exploration dollars spent in Australia was spent in Queensland. That has now drifted out to one in every eight as revealed by the ABS recently. One in every eight mineral exploration dollars spent in this country is now spent here in Queensland. What we see is a growing concern that there is no plan post COVID for the new normal in this country. This budget has again proven that the Treasurer is simply not up to the task of delivering that future plan. We see that writ large. The Treasurer came to Toowoomba on one of his budget roadshows that he has been taking throughout Queensland. The Treasurer parks the personal abuse that we cop in this House and turns on the charm for the people out in the regions.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hart): Order! Pause the clock. Members on my right will cease interjecting or I will start warning people.

**Mr JANETZKI:** What the Treasurer cannot walk away from after presenting to the Toowoomba business community is that he did not take a single question from the business community of Toowoomba. They are a very civilised group. My guess is that the Treasurer did not want to answer a single question about the lack of resources and infrastructure in Toowoomba. He did not want to answer a question about the failure to build a new Toowoomba Hospital. In Cairns it gets even worse. We heard the Treasurer this morning talking about what his solution was in Cairns. It was not to put out a small

business package to stand with the small businesses of Cairns, it was simply to hold the federal government to ransom. That was his solution. This is a government bereft of ideas and a Treasurer out of his depth.

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (12.14 pm): I am pleased to contribute to the debate on this report. If I want to compare economic recovery plans I will compare our economic recovery plan with the Bruce Highway hoax and the fake Bradfield scheme. The people of Queensland made a decision on those two plans at the last election. If the member for Toowoomba South wants to talk about questions, my simple challenge to him is to ask me a question in the House in question time. He did not have the fortitude to ask me one today.

I thank the committee for its work through the estimates process, particularly the mighty member for Logan for the very important work he does chairing the committee, all committee members and the committee secretariat. I am pleased the committee has recommended that the proposed expenditure as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2021 be agreed to without amendment. As the committee noted, our budget supports Queensland's economic recovery from COVID-19. It backs jobs, it boosts growth and it keeps vital funds flowing to our essential health and community services.

In the months since the budget was delivered, Queensland has continued to lead the nation's economic recovery from COVID-19—not on the alternative LNP planet that those members opposite live on, but in the real world inhabited by five million Queenslanders. Relative to March 2020, not only has Queensland added more jobs than any other state or territory, Queensland has added more jobs than every other state and territory combined. There are now 95,000 more Queenslanders in work than there were before COVID-19. Queensland's unemployment rate is near its lowest level for 12 years. Accounting for employees who worked zero hours last month—and there is a fair few of those in New South Wales, almost 117,000—Queensland's adjusted unemployment rate is lower than that of New South Wales, Victoria and the Australian average.

We know that the lockdowns imposed across the country will affect economic growth, whether directly as in New South Wales and Victoria or indirectly as in Queensland, but our government has responded to these lockdowns with vigour, announcing a \$600 million jointly funded business support package. I talked about that earlier this morning. I would like to turn briefly to the non-government statement of reservation. The statement is also a brief affair, just past the half page mark this year. It almost got to 300 words. Not only was it lazy, where it was not incoherent it was flat-out incorrect. LNP members wrongly accused the government of supporting just one in nine Queensland businesses. To spell it out in words that even the LNP will understand, our government's initial package had capacity and was designed to support up to 52,000 employing businesses, which represents one in three employing businesses in Queensland. Because our government stood up to the Morrison LNP government, something their colleagues in Queensland consistently refuse to do, the funding for this program has more than doubled and it has been extended to non-employing businesses.

Opposition committee members wrongly claimed that tourism funding was cut in our budget, even though the CEO of Tourism and Events Queensland patiently explained to the member for Broadwater that TEQ still received \$16 million more than its base budget this year. It did not stop the LNP from misrepresenting this increase as a cut. Even before the budget, Treasury had also offered \$174 million in funding to tourism related businesses through our Industry Support Package. Opposition members also lazily declared that no detail was provided of our government's savings achievements. That is despite the fact that there was a full account of savings in Budget Paper No. 2.

For the benefit of the lazy members of the LNP I even quoted specific examples of the savings that each agency is making. I re-emphasise for members of the LNP that the way each agency is making savings is ultimately up to each agency. Unbelievably, these are the same people, the same cigar chompers who align themselves with Joe Hockey and Mathias Cormann, who said during the course of the debate on the Debt Reduction and Savings Bill that saving \$3 million in public money in that bill meant nothing to them. That is typical of the arrogance of the LNP.

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** What our government is not doing, much to the disappointment and distress of those opposite, is that we are not making these savings by cutting, sacking or selling.

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** Our government is also not balancing the budget by introducing new taxes or increasing the rate of taxes.

**Mr Crandon:** \$3,000,000,000 versus \$3 million!

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hart): Pause the clock. Member for Coomera, your interjections will cease or you will be warned.


**Mr DICK:** I will take the interjection. This is the same member, the member for Coomera, who promised no increased taxes when they came to government in 2012 and promptly jacked it up by \$3 million, including stamp duty on the family home. This is typical of the LNP.

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hart): Pause the clock. Member for Coomera, I said I would warn you. You are warned under the standing orders.

**Mr DICK:** They are the laziest yet best funded opposition in history. They have no vision. They have no idea. They have nothing for the future of Queensland. We will continue to deliver our economic recovery plan for our state, creating jobs and opportunities for Queenslanders, even in the midst of a pandemic.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (12.20 pm): To the Treasurer who just spoke on arrogance I say: pot, kettle, black. This is the guy who refuses to take questions.

**Mr Dick:** Well, ask me one.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** There he is: Mr Glass Jaw already. He has already started.

**Mr Dick** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Treasurer, you must interject from your seat. You are standing. I ask you to apologise to the House.

**Mr DICK:** I apologise, Deputy Speaker.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** The member for Toowoomba South said the Treasurer went up to Toowoomba and held a business brekkie. He also held one in Caloundra. My understanding is that they were hard-selling tickets to that event. They discounted and they put out freebies. However, I heard not even table sponsors could get enough people to fill their tables at the Caloundra budget event with the Treasurer, which shows how excited the people of Caloundra were to hear from the Treasurer. They could not even fill the tables, and the amount that they raised at that event did not live up to expectations. I think that had something to do with the talent on display that day. They had the Treasurer, the member for Caloundra or it could have been the member for Nicklin. Who would've paid for that show?

Under Labor the budget estimates process is gone. It is dead. You might as well bury it. The chair of this committee apologised for his chairing and so he should, because it was a protection racket. There were Labor members of parliament who simply took tedious points of order that were designed to interrupt and stop the flow of questioning. The Labor members should learn from Canberra on this: a proper budget estimates should be free flowing with questions to and answers from the bureaucrats, the senior public servants and the minister. There should be a to-and-fro. The chair should not be repeating the question. The chair should not be saying, 'What I think you meant to ask was this.' No, the member asking the question did not mean to ask that. It was all designed to filibuster and fill in the time.

The member for Logan says that the opposition received additional time, but that was because they kept interrupting our time and it kept filling up based on those interruptions. We saw ministers act surprised when asked Dorothy Dixers that were drafted by their officers. I watched as some ministers said, 'What a marvellous question,' as if they did not know what was in front of them and what was about to be asked of them. Their officers drafted questions because Labor members cannot think for themselves and cannot draft their own questions.


The Treasurer was unable to say how much their unite and recover package is costing the Queensland taxpayers in terms of their marketing campaign. He said that they were going to stop all the glossy advertising and all the glossy brochures, but Treasury could not say how much it was costing because, he said, that is a different department. Treasury did not even know how much the glossy brochures cost. They were going to save \$3 billion. Where did that go? The Commonwealth Games has a Twitter account. They are still tweeting about a games that was held years ago. Obviously people are tweeting that sort of stuff from the Commonwealth Games. They said they would cancel all the glossy advertising yet we see billboards for Cross River Rail. We see their social media. But they have not achieved any of their savings.

The fundamental mistake that Labor governments make is that they waste money in the midst of a health crisis and I am not talking about the pandemic. I am talking about Labor's health crisis in our hospitals at the moment with ambulance ramping. I am also talking about the youth crime crisis right

across the state. They have no plans for that. In this particular estimates the Premier refused to advise Queenslanders how much quarantine was going to cost. Here is a question for Labor members: would the Premier have introduced a policy to stop quarantine for two weeks if she was on the plane flying back from Tokyo? I wonder if we would have seen that sort of policy then. It would be okay for the Queensland Premier to come home and quarantine in a hotel but Queenslanders—Queenslanders—are stuck interstate. They cannot come back to their own homes for which they are paying rent or a mortgage. It is shameful that we have come to the point where citizens of Queensland cannot even enter their own state. That is down to the Labor Party and the Premier should take the blame for it.

But what would you expect? The Leader of the House and health minister has written to Twitter asking for me to be banned from social media because I dare attack the government and I dare raise these issues on Twitter and other social media platforms. The Leader of the House and health minister has written to Twitter to try to have me banned. She is just jealous that I have more content and more interaction on my Twitter feed than she has on her Twitter feed. If you look at hers it is pretty boring, I have to say. We will always raise these issues. The people of Queensland demand better from our estimates system.

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism Industry Development and Innovation and Minister for Sport) (12.25 pm): I say this apprehensively: it is with pleasure that I rise to contribute to the debate on the Economics and Governance Committee estimates report. I take this opportunity to thank the chair of the committee, the committee members and the parliamentary staff for their work during the estimates hearing process. I also thank the officers of the Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport for their work in preparing for the hearing.

The hearing of the Economics and Governance Committee was held five days before the Premier attended the International Olympic Committee session in Tokyo at which Brisbane, Queensland was awarded the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. That historic event will see Brisbane and Queensland firmly planted on the global stage, as the House has heard earlier today. We are in a position to host the 2032 games because of our world-leading approach to handling the pandemic. Certainly that was one of the things acknowledged by the future host commission in their reports to the IOC. That shows that our health response to the pandemic and our economic recovery plan are working.

The 2021-22 budget shows that because the Palaszczuk government protected the health of Queenslanders we can recover and grow with confidence. A central part of that economic recovery is the now more than \$1 billion that the Palaszczuk government has committed in delivered and planned support for the tourism and events sector since the onset of the pandemic. That is quite contrary to the opposition's claims in the non-government statement of reservation in budget estimates report No. 12. I use this opportunity to correct some of the inaccuracies in the non-government statement of reservation. I have to admit that I do not have time to correct all of the inaccurate statements made by those opposite in the short amount of time for this contribution, as the Treasurer said, but I will try to rectify some of their statements. Those opposite claim—

In this estimates process, Queenslanders expected the Labor Government to be honest and accountable. It is our view that instead, Labor Committee Chairs used the Standing Orders to protect Labor Ministers.

The facts are that in the 2021 estimates hearing 61 per cent of the time was allocated to and 71 per cent of the questions were asked by non-government members. Those opposite also claim in their statement of reservation that the Tourism and Events Queensland budget was cut by \$37 million. The facts are that in the 2021 period the budget for Tourism and Events Queensland was a record high of \$153 million. The Palaszczuk government has consistently delivered above the base funding of \$100 million for TEQ every year since 2015. Those opposite also claim—

Outback Queensland has again been forgotten by the Labor Government with only \$1,000 of a \$1 million budget being spent from the Outback Tourism Infrastructure Fund in the 2020-21 financial year.

That is absolute poppycock. The facts are that the \$10 million Outback Tourism Infrastructure Fund, established in 2018 to grow tourism and create jobs in outback Queensland, has delivered. The fund is fully committed with 16 infrastructure projects funded and 13 completed to date. The non-government statement of reservation contains no mention of the innovation portfolio, so I assume those opposite do not care about innovation or have no reservations.

**Mr O'Connor** interjected.


**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** Unfortunately the member for Bonney did not have a chance to contribute to the statement of reservation. In the sport portfolio, those opposite claim—

... the Department's capital expenditure has been cut by some \$73 million when compared to last financial year.

The facts are that the variances in the capital budget are due to activities that were transferred to the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning during the machinery-of-government changes. They were in fact offset by the following net increases in sport, infrastructure and investment such as our \$15 million commitment to the Sunshine Coast Stadium, a \$10.3 million increase for the active community environment and a \$10 million increase for the Ballymore precinct redevelopment.

Those opposite could have been aware of this if they had asked a question about the variance. They did not ask a question about the fundamentals that were in the budget. They criticised it in the statement of reservation without seeking any form of clarification during the estimates hearing process because they were off on other wild-goose chases.

I would continue correcting the long list of inaccuracies that those opposite have included in their statement of reservation, but, sadly, it appears that I am out of time. I welcome the committee's report and commend its recommendation to the House.

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (12.30 pm): As the shadow innovation minister, I rise to make a contribution to the Appropriation Bill debate in relation to the Economics and Governance Committee's estimates hearing. Advance Queensland is the main program through which innovation is supported in our state. It is worth around \$755 million, and we have been told it has backed over 7½ thousand projects and supported 27,000 jobs. However, there is a complete lack of detail about how that is calculated which is concerning, particularly for something so reliant on science, data and performance metrics.

In 2019, the former minister announced a review into Advance Queensland. At the last estimates 18 months later we found out that still had not been completed, and at this estimates we found out that the review had finally taken place and led to the creation of the innovation council. There were no specific outcomes from the review apart from setting up this new body—no data considered, no public consultation undertaken, no findings to report and no KPIs to guide future investment. That is extraordinary when we are talking about over \$755 million worth of Queenslanders' money. There is nothing more we know about it other than a table with just four rows in the SDS of the budget.

If the government thinks innovation is going so well in this state, why not release more information about how these outcomes are calculated? What concerns me is that there was not a real review undertaken but, rather, what seems to be a general conversation around a table with nothing formally recorded of that process.

Reviews give an opportunity to learn what needs to be improved and to ensure best outcomes are being achieved. When we are talking about such a significant amount of money and important outcomes we need for Queensland, we have to get it right. This is particularly important given the decision by the Queensland Audit Office to cancel their review of Advance Queensland's activities, as was well articulated in a recent *InQueensland* article 'Maybe the \$800m Advance Qld plan was money well spent—but we'll never know'. I table that for the benefit of the House.

*Tabled paper:* Media article from *InQueensland*, undated, titled 'Maybe the \$800m Advance Qld plan was money well spent—but we'll never know' [\[1277\]](#).

The article rightly highlights the lack of transparency around how the numbers around tens of thousands of jobs attracted to Queensland and investment are calculated and the lack of any formal cost-benefit analysis. We need a thorough review to assess the performance of Advance Queensland and, without it, I am concerned that we are not getting the best results.


In my part of the Gold Coast I have seen the difficulty this government is having with getting this off the ground with the health and knowledge precinct. Within it there is Cohort, the co-working and innovation space within some of the communal spaces of the old Commonwealth Games village. It is practically the only bright light we have seen since the games. We have only just had the sod turning of Proxima, which will be the first development since the games over three years ago.

The health and knowledge precinct and the unnecessarily and confusingly rebranded Lumina within it are sold as an innovation community—in fact, the hub of innovation in our city. There are incredible opportunities because it has the largest campus of Griffith University, the Gold Coast University Hospital, the Gold Coast Private Hospital and our first build-to-rent community, Smith Collective. The light rail runs right through it, it has access to Smith Street and the M1 and, especially at the moment, there is an abundance of empty space to develop, but for the most part the only thing Gold Coasters see as they drive past Smith Street is the growing number of car parks being put on that empty space. Under questioning at the hearing about the precinct it became apparent that Advance Queensland has no real engagement in spaces like this. I find that staggering when this is clearly a precinct that needs support, and it is something the Gold Coast deserves.

Lot Fourteen in Adelaide has Google, Amazon, the Australian Space Discovery Centre, MIT and even Airspeeder, a company whose mission is to build the ultimate performance flying car. This is what can happen when a government knows how to attract and curate innovation, yet our innovation department is barely engaged in one of the most, if not the most, significant regional innovation hubs in our state.

Clearly the department of state development is not capable of getting this off the ground, so I urge the innovation department to get on board and turn their focus to the Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct. I will be hopeful that we can see some movement on this before the next state budget and, as the local MP and shadow minister, I will keep advocating to make this precinct a reality.

One of the many things we have learned from this pandemic is that we need diversification of our industries to ensure our economy is strong. Queensland more broadly has the second largest tourism industry in Australia, and it will always be one of the foundations of our economy with the natural beauty we have in our state. However, given the migration we are seeing, we need more diverse opportunities across all our regions for all Queenslanders, and innovation can deliver that. That is especially important on the Gold Coast. Griffith is an exceptional university and its graduates should be able to get jobs in our city. We need to innovate, we need to promote new startups and we need to do more to attract interstate and international businesses to call Queensland home. That is how we will advance Queensland.

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (12.35 pm): I rise to make my contribution following the 2021-2022 budget estimates process as a member of the Economics and Governance Committee. On 16 July, the committee sat and took evidence from the Premier and Minister for Trade, the Treasurer and Minister for Investment, and the Minister for Tourism Industry Development and Innovation and Minister for Sport. At the outset, I would like to thank the relevant ministers for attending and thank their staff and the legion of Public Service officials who worked tirelessly to support the estimates process. I know firsthand how all-consuming preparations for these public hearings can be.

During estimates the committee heard from the Premier, who addressed the overarching principle of getting the health priorities right in order to deliver economic outcomes. That could not be made any more evident than by what is happening right now. Queensland is the only eastern seaboard state not in lockdown. In Queensland, our businesses are open, construction continues apace and services continue to be delivered. This is because Queenslanders are largely on board with the directives and compliance needed to suppress the virus and keep our economy flowing.

This health success has allowed Queensland to continue to chart a path out of COVID. The Premier outlined a \$52 billion infrastructure program supporting 46½ thousand jobs across Queensland in this financial year alone. Our population growth is outpacing that of all other states and territories. People want to move here. People want to invest here because they are less likely to have their workforce shut down. This is due to our effective health response during this pandemic.

This has provided an opportunity for Trade and Investment Queensland, which tracks Queensland exports that were valued at over \$57½ billion last financial year, during the height of the global pandemic. That amount is more than New South Wales and Tasmania combined during the same period.

The Treasurer, in addressing the committee, highlighted the positive jobs outlook for Queensland. He reported that the June employment data had Queensland jobs up by 16,700—the highest increase in the nation—and this translated to a decrease in the unemployment rate to 5.1 per cent in Queensland. The committee had the opportunity to hear from the Acting Under Treasurer, who was asked about the impacts of lockdown. In his evidence to the committee he stated—

What we have experienced in the South-East and in Townsville were short-term lockdowns. When we look to national accounts data and ABS retail data, what we have seen is some very positive recovery from those events, being short-term lockdowns. The economic impacts of short-term lockdowns has been very small.

...

... retail spending bounced back strongly after the restrictions were lifted ...


In terms of aggregate household consumption in Queensland he said—

It was the strongest annual growth of all states.

We have these short, sharp lockdowns because we know that they work from a health perspective and we see that they work from an economic perspective.

The committee heard from the minister for tourism, innovation and sport. The committee was advised of the benefits of the \$860 million that the government had delivered and planned to support the tourism and events sector since the onset of the pandemic. The March 2021 data shows that Queensland outperformed all other states and territories in growth of overnight visitor expenditure.

In the sport portfolio, \$212 million had been spent in infrastructure across the state. The minister advised of the release of the new Active Gameday Projects funding of \$9 million in total. I know that many clubs in my electorate are preparing to submit their applications for these grants. This estimates hearing took place before the Tokyo Olympics started and in anticipation of a positive Olympic announcement. Obviously all members of the House are aware of the outcome. I congratulate the Premier and everyone who was on board with securing that Olympics announcement for Queensland. We know what that announcement will do. Over the next 11 years it will provide a positive pathway for investment in not only infrastructure but also future sporting outcomes for our kids. I urge all of our community clubs to get on board with the grants being offered.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (12.40 pm): I am going to talk about something really boring in the Appropriation Bill—debt. It seems that nobody else wants to talk about it. No-one cares much anymore about where we are heading in terms of our children's debt and our children's children's debt in the state of Queensland.

I spent three years at university studying economics and finance followed by my working career at Pricewaterhouse and I have never seen a business like the Queensland titles office make so much money. Obviously it must make a lot of money. We debated the debt reduction bill a little while ago and in that it was valued at around the \$3 billion mark. People can take it as read that the conversations between the ratings agencies and the Treasurer basically were, 'What do I need to do to wipe off my debt so I can avoid a ratings downgrade?' The last one was under Andrew Fraser—the brilliant, world famous Labor Treasurer of years gone by who was part of Bligh's demise and the happy pathway to oblivion.


Obviously this government does not want to see a downgrade by our rating agencies so the debt reduction bill was dealt with in this parliament. We wiped, from memory, about \$3 billion off our debt. Then we came to the budget. We found that, in a matter of weeks, the titles office valuation bounced up to \$7 billion. Obviously the \$3 billion that the government thought they required to wipe off our debt was not enough to avoid a downgrade so they said, 'Let's make the value of the titles office \$7 billion'—or whatever; 15 or 20. The bottom line for Queenslanders is that this is a masked joke in terms of what we are leaving behind for our children's and our children's children's future as a result of the hopeless accounting and financial planning of this Treasurer and this government.

We see a lot of matters being brought forward and people talk about different issues, but the reality is that we need to face up to the financial problems we are seeing because of the horrible pandemic that is killing Queensland. Shutting borders and asking for handouts from the federal government is one way of addressing this, but it is a short-term fix. I can assure people—and it will probably be before 2024—that the chickens will come home to roost. This government will have to deal with the falsehoods that they have peddled through the budget process over the last number of years.

They talk about the tourism industry being a problem—and we all know that it is—as a result of the pandemic both internationally and nationally, but there is not one penny, or cent these days, for the extension of the Gold Coast convention centre which has been crying out for an extension so that it can attract real business when things reopen. Now is the time to do it so that when we are vaccinated and passports are out we can put some money back into the coffers of the tourism industry. There is not one penny in this budget for that extension and yet they walked away from \$100 million in private sector investment over a 20-year exclusivity agreement for Star's new Gold Coast casino. They walked from \$100 million and now they are putting not a cent into the Gold Coast convention centre extension.

Tell me what this government really cares about when it comes to tourism? Tell me what this government cares about when it comes to small businesses which are shutting down at a rate of knots and starving because our borders are closed. I hear the argument that they keep running about health. It made those opposite very popular. I understand those matters, but it will come here. The Premier said today that we will see COVID come to Queensland at some stage. It is guaranteed with all the lunatics hiding in the boots of cars that it will come into the state. We will have to deal with it then.

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (12.45 pm): First of all, I thank the chair and members of the Economics and Governance Committee for providing the opportunity to answer questions and to talk about the 2021 budget and the further support under my

government's economic recovery plan. Since the estimates hearing our economic recovery plan has increased to \$14.5 billion. I thank the Treasurer for working with the federal government to get the matching \$300 million in additional grants and support for businesses that have been impacted.

We know that businesses are feeling the impacts of COVID. We recognise that the tourism industry is being impacted as well. That is one of the reasons we went down to the Gold Coast and met with Destination Gold Coast. While we are now ensuring that this support reaches businesses in need, we also need to see ongoing income support such as JobKeeper for our impacted tourism and small businesses in Far North Queensland and on the Gold Coast. We would urge those opposite to support us in this. We know that is the best way to keep these companies afloat.

As I did when I reflected on estimates at the end of last year, I point out that we are lucky to be in Queensland where hearings were able to be undertaken in person. I am advised that more time was allotted for non-government questions throughout the hearing of the Economics and Governance Committee and that over two-thirds of questions were from non-government members. The member for Kawana was talking about the estimates process. We all know what happened under those opposite. They did not want scrutiny of their government so they pushed all of the estimates committees into two days.

**Mr Stevens:** Gave you more time.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We could not get to them. We had seven members, for goodness sake. The member for Mermaid Beach, who may have been the leader of the House at that time, may have been instrumental in putting the estimates on two days. It did not work because the people of Queensland saw the error of the Newman government.

When we were in opposition we asked better questions. We did our homework. We stayed up late at night. We were in the office working hard with our staff. We were not out having lunches and dinners like those opposite. We actually sat down and did the work. The member for Stafford was part of the team up all night writing questions and making sure they complied with the standing orders of the House so they were not ruled out of order. There are a lot of things that those opposite could learn from those days when there were only seven then eight then nine of us. The member for Clayfield is nodding. He knows that as well.

**Mr Nicholls:** I am just remembering the speeches that weren't delivered.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am just remembering the damage you did to Queensland. That is what I am remembering—all the damage—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hart): Order! Pause the clock.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** They come in here and ask questions about health and they sacked the doctors—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Premier, the clock is paused. Member for Clayfield, you will stop your interjections. Premier, can you direct your comments through the chair.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Sure. Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I do not mind taking interjections from the member for Clayfield. We are good sparring partners from way back. They come in here and ask questions about health when they sacked nurses and decimated the health system. That had impacts on regional communities and those impacts are still being felt. This government rebuilt those services. We value our regions. We value the estimates process.

**Mr Nicholls:** We paid the nurses and we paid them more.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Oh my goodness! You sacked them.

**Ms Boyd** interjected.

**Mr Stevens** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** There seems to be a bit of a memory lapse here.


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Premier, let's not have the conversations across the chamber. Member for Pine Rivers and member for Mermaid Beach, you will cease your cross-chamber interjections.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is why we are going to be building new satellite hospitals to make sure that people can get services closer to home. We are expanding hospitals. We are rolling out the vaccination program. We are making sure that people get tested. We are making sure that we are building the roads that are needed across the state. We cannot forget the LNP's \$3.2 billion in cuts, which would have meant cuts to the frontline services that they promised during the last election. They would have been worse than the Newman cuts. That is what we would have had in this state.



I back the budget that we have delivered. It is measured. It is responsible. It builds on our fundamental priority of keeping Queenslanders safe and giving people the dignity of having a job. Even when I was recently out at that retail outlet, that distribution centre, it brought home to me how important those workers are who keep our freight movement happening. I commend the report to the House.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (12.51 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Economics and Governance Committee estimates hearing. First of all, I would like to thank the secretariat for the amazing work they do. Estimates hearings were brought on much more quickly in this term due to the travel plans of the Premier going to Tokyo for the Olympic Games. I congratulate her and all of those involved in successfully bringing the Olympic Games to Queensland.

There are a couple of things that are very concerning for the people on the northern Gold Coast. First of all, the second M1 is already behind schedule. There are three stages, not one stage, in the project. There is little happening so far. The more concerning thing is that almost half of the money is out past the forward estimates—out past the first four years. Clearly, we are looking at something like eight or nine years to finish stages 1, 2 and 3, which the government refers to as stages 1A, 1B and 1C—north, central and south, whatever you want to call it. The reality is that there are three stages. There is not one dollar being committed to anything north of Shipper Drive. There is \$11 million in the budget papers for north of Shipper Drive. That has nothing to do with construction. It has nothing to do with planning. It has everything to do with the purchase of land for the project.

The other concern I raised with the Treasurer is the northern Gold Coast hospital and health precinct that was a commitment prior to the last election. In fact, on 19 October—the day the booths opened—the headline was ‘\$160m: First look at Gold Coast’s new hospital ...’ The headline was \$160 million; there was \$3 million committed. The other \$157 million was for already committed projects further south—the Gold Coast University Hospital, Robina Hospital and \$40 million further south for the satellite hospital. It was an untruth by the Premier who arrived and put big placards up et cetera.

I asked the Premier in the first budget hearings of the new parliament in December: where is the \$3 million? She did not answer me. She could not answer me because it was not there. I asked the Treasurer: where is the \$3 million that was committed? He could not answer me. He would not answer me. He went off on a little fairytale of his own but did not come to the question of where is the \$3 million. That \$3 million is nowhere near enough anyway. We need \$10 million just for the business plan. We need to get on and build the hospital.


More importantly, we need to understand that the growth in the northern corridor is so vast, so great. I have 47,811 voters in the northern corridor—almost 30 per cent above the average of all of the electorates around the state. When you compare that with Oodgeroo and Gaven, they are almost 10 per cent under. I am 40 per cent above them in the northern corridor. There is massive growth. We need to have a short-term, medium-term and long-term plan in relation to that hospital and it is not being delivered by this government.

The third concern that I have is exit 38. There was a business case done for exit 38 in 2018. There is not one dollar in the budget for exit 38—not one cracker, not a penny, not a bean. There has been nothing since 2018. Why was the business case done if there was no intention to do something with that particular exit?

I will finish on exit 41. It is in the budget but why aren’t we having a slip lane northbound off exit 41 to go back into the Norfolk Village residential community? We desperately need that so those folk who are coming off the M1 are not forced through all of the commercial and industrial traffic that is always there at exit 41 because of the Yatala Enterprise Area.

I commend our secretariat and my colleagues on both sides of the House who were involved in the process. I look forward to seeing some work done by the minister.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (12.56 pm): The budget estimates hearings into the Appropriation Bill 2021 highlighted the continuation of the great work done by the Palaszczuk government in bringing Queensland through one of the most difficult periods in our collective memories. The Economics and Governance Committee report highlights the ongoing commitment of the Palaszczuk Labor government in working to ensure that the state of Queensland continues with its COVID-19 economic recovery plan coming off its continuing health response. That sees our state regularly recording no new community transmission, which is in direct comparison to the disaster that continues to unfold in the LNP-governed state of New South Wales.

It gives me no pleasure to say that. It is not gleefully said, but it emphasises the strong leadership shown in our state. This came through in the estimates hearings and in the details in the estimates report we are now considering. Estimates showed how the Premier's leadership is steering our state away from the economic ruin being inflicted in New South Wales by a government that acted too late. By us applying a considered, methodical approach in Queensland, hopefully, with time, we will contain for good the insidious virus.

What has been achieved by Queensland this time has not happened by chance. The Premier, with solid advice from the Chief Health Officer, backed up by her Treasurer and ministers, has delivered a budget to lead us through this pandemic. It is a budget which is turbo charging Queensland and, in particular, regional Queensland including the electorate of Hervey Bay through expenditure on things that matter—jobs, infrastructure and health service programs that are needed at this time. It is the right response at the right time—measured, thoughtful and on the mark.

Obviously with any budget process there is disappointment, and it is no different this year as the opposition statement of reservation contained in this report is what we normally expect from the other side of the House. Yes, they agree to pass the excellent 2021 budget without amendment but, as always, they make no real contribution to the budget process in their statement other than to make a statement laced with fiction, obviously written by the party spin doctors, full of mistruths, with no factual basis, highlighting the policy void and laziness on the other side and their inability to grasp the current situation striking out across our country and the world—tin eared to the community and not listening to what the community is asking. My community were clear at the last election and they are clear now. They want a strong government that has a strong economic recovery based on a continuing strong health response to the pandemic around us. They have that in spades with this government.

The last time the LNP were in power they did what with their budget? What did they decide to do? Apparently it was a bit of 'tough love', they called it. They cut vital services, sold everything they could get their hands on and sacked thousands of frontline nurses, doctors and public servants. They marched decent men and women out the door. They threw their lives in a box and showed them the door—no ifs, no buts, no maybes. They ruined lives for doing nothing more than the best for all of us. That is what you get under an LNP budget. That is the way that side of the House does budgets in this state—they cut, sell and sack. It will never be any different under them.

When it comes to the other side's line of questioning at estimates, we waited for the deep probe, the forensic scrutiny expected of the opposition—but what can I say? It was appalling, to say the least. They did not care about the content of the budget. They only wanted to muckrake. They gave nothing to the debate. They abused the estimates committee process. Then they stepped up and said the process was broken. They were absolutely shameless. They had a further chance in their statement of reservation to give a constructive contribution, but what did they do? They just continued to roll out the same old tired emotive language, trying to strike fear into hardworking men and women across the length and breadth of Queensland.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hart): Member for Hervey Bay—

**Mr TANTARI:** I think it is appalling and shameful—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Hervey Bay—

**Mr TANTARI:** It really reflects their inability—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Hervey Bay—

**Mr TANTARI:**—to understand the budget estimates process.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Hervey Bay! As much as I am enjoying your speech, I ask you to adjourn the debate.

Debate, on motion of Mr Tantari, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

## MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

### Coronavirus, Government Response



**Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): In times of crisis people deserve and expect leadership. They need clarity and decency in the way that leadership is conducted. There are consequences for a lack of leadership, and in the past week we have seen that in Queensland. It culminated in the last 24 hours with shambolic decisions when it comes to sporting

families and how that contrasts with Queenslanders. People love their footy, they love the NRL and they want to see life get back to normal, but if there is room for sporting families there is room for Queensland families—end of story. This lack of leadership started on Wednesday when, with two hours notice, honest Queenslanders had their lives turned upside down. I want to know: when was that decision taken? How long before the 10 am stage-managed circus we all had to see was that decision taken? Because do you know what? Minutes mattered in that regard.

I want to tell you about Joan and her partner, Allan. They have properties in the Glass House Mountains and over the New South Wales border. They reached out to the member for Glass House. They were working on their New South Wales property and they were travelling back home. They stopped at Wellington and Orange. They were caught up in the border closure. Joan phoned over a week ago and said they needed to come home because they had to deal with calving on their property, which is something that farmers have to do. She has lived in Queensland all her life. She just heard about the sporting families coming into Queensland and she is livid. She says that her son committed suicide in Queensland and she wanted to be home for the anniversary of his death. She is undergoing mental health counselling because of this situation. They are honest Queenslanders who just want to get home.

Then 24 hours later we saw a decision that made the day before all make sense. It was almost like honest Queenslanders were political pawns, that somehow there needed to be a setup to justify a fake fight with Canberra to justify a decision about quarantining in a city where the Prime Minister was not afforded the courtesy, the local mayor was not afforded the courtesy and the members who represent that city in this House were not afforded the courtesy—but above all, the people of Toowoomba were not afforded the courtesy. An announcement was made and the short drive back into town did not occur. Instead, the Premier hopped on a plane and came back to Brisbane.

Lack of leadership has consequences when it comes to confidence. We are seeing it in the vaccine rollout. I am not going to stand here and defend the Commonwealth government. I have not all the way through. The vaccine rollout should have been done in a more timely fashion. I have said it here and I have said it outside, but every state has had the same opportunity. This morning when I had a look at Tasmania I saw that 41.5 per cent of people have been vaccinated. In Queensland it is 31.28 per cent. We are at the back of the pack and we are slipping. Let's ask why. We have had mixed messages all through this. We had a Premier who found every reason not to get one of those vaccines, so let's call it for what it is. Let's have a little bit of truth here. First there was the excuse that we did not want to get it when every other leader did. Then we had the flu injection; that was very important. That vicious dog struck so we needed a tetanus shot. Then, well, the time was too tight so therefore we needed a different vaccine. That undermined confidence, and every GP you talk to in this state will tell you that.

It undermined confidence in the border communities, where I sat this week with the member for Southern Downs and the member for Currumbin. Those communities, be they farming or tourism, are on their knees. They need a vaccine rollout to get the show back on the road. It has impacted Indigenous communities in this state. When I see the figures for Indigenous communities, our most vulnerable, I shudder. They deserve leadership. Cherbourg is at 4.6 per cent and Yarrabah is at 8.3 per cent, but they are only two of the 16 communities. I do not know what the figures are for the other 14. I do not know, but I want to see them. Queenslanders want to see them and they deserve to see them.

Every level of government needs to be held accountable. If the state government is serious about protecting our First Australians, our most vulnerable, they will find a way to end the Canberra blame game, the constant bashing. This absolute nonsense has to stop. Vulnerable Queenslanders, despite being in categories 1a and 1b, were exposed and left vulnerable.

The lack of leadership has consequences when it comes to the way we manage the disease and contain it in places like hospitals. We saw the Griffin report this week. It was up to the health minister to come out and talk about the Griffin report. It was lauded because the Griffin report showed there was no public health directive that was breached. Do you know what that tells me? That tells me that a 19-year-old admin worker who was chastised was not to blame. There was no process in place to ensure that a young woman who was working 15 metres from a COVID testing clinic should have been vaccinated. That was not there. There was no process that said, on two occasions when she came to work and she was feeling crook and had the sniffles, 'Why don't you go and get tested? It's there. Just walk behind you and get tested.' There was no process there—a lack of leadership. Somehow, despite the fact that the Premier was angry—

**An opposition member:** Furious!

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Furious! Despite the fact there was a quote that a public health directive had been breached, despite all of that, no-one is to be held accountable. It was up to the poor minister to trot out and somehow try to defend the indefensible.

Lack of leadership has consequences for small and family business owners and their staff. We have seen the uncertainty from every part of Queensland. It started when in the lead-up to the budget we constantly asked the Treasurer why there was no financial support package for small and family business. We asked what would happen if they had to go into lockdown and he said, 'Heaven help us if they do.' Well, heaven did need to help them. Finally, after weeks of prosecution from business groups, business owners, their staff and the opposition the Treasurer came forward with a package. I would not say it has raced out of the gates. I would not say the money is flowing to people in their hour of need. It has been clumsy; it has been poorly thought out. Today I asked the question, 'What is the plan if we go into lockdown again? How long will businesses have to wait this time? Will it be ready, or are we going to have another Canberra-bashing exercise?' because this morning we saw it. Right now in cities from the Gold Coast to Cairns and in the Whitsundays many operators do not know if they are going to make Christmas.

I have a view that Queensland's tourism offering in a post-COVID era is going to be as good as anywhere. My view is that we need a 20-year plan for before, during and after the games. We are a magnificent, proud tourism state, but we are not going to have a tourism industry unless they get support in their hour of need. If I was the member for Cairns I would not be interjecting about now, because what we saw today was a sham and disgrace. The federal member for Cairns put the most heartfelt plea to the Treasurer. In that letter he said to the Treasurer, 'Give me an offer and I'll go to Canberra and I'll make sure they match it.' You cannot get any more 'I'm going to have a crack' from the community than that. Do you know what he got? Some political tripe. He got a lecture from the Treasurer in this House about why he should cross the floor and do all sorts of things. The operators in Cairns are on their knees. They need some certainty. They need to know that the government has their back.

Lack of leadership has consequences when it comes to making decisive decisions. When a government believes that sentiment polling should be at the core of what it does, then eventually honest Queenslanders get caught up in political games—honest Queenslanders who just want to work in a coffee shop and have a shift to know they can pay their rent, honest Queenslanders who just want to know that the small business they put everything into will be there when they go back to it tomorrow, and honest Queenslanders who just want to go home to farewell a loved one who took their life. That is the consequences of a lack of leadership.

### Coronavirus, Liberal National Party



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (2.10 pm): The Leader of the Opposition likes to talk tough, but talk about leadership or a lack of leadership! Those on the other side have no idea what leadership actually is. I dread to think what would have happened over the last 19 months if the LNP had been in government, because their idea of leadership was calling for the borders to be opened 64 times. Their idea of leadership is to sit silent.

They say they are happy to criticise the Commonwealth. Really? Let us look at the history here, because they have been silent on regional quarantine. In fact, no, they have not been silent on regional quarantine; every time a regional quarantine facility is mentioned, they play local politics and start putting fear in the community by saying, 'We don't want that in our backyard. How do we make sure the people of Toowoomba are safe?' What about the millions of people who live in South-East Queensland and Brisbane who have lived around hotel quarantine since day one? They say, 'We don't care about those people either.'

The Leader of the Opposition talks about the 10 am circus. If it is such a circus, why does the Leader of the Opposition stand in the wings on the green, waiting for his turn to be part of it every day? Every day, he waits and he waits, and then he runs out and does his little press conference while the media are waiting. Some of them wait; some just pack up and leave before he starts talking. What a joke. The Leader of the Opposition is more than happy to do his little stand-up every day off the back of ours. He thinks, 'I can't draw the media in myself so I'll use the government because the media is already there and I'll race in and do it.'

This serious decision that was made last week—which was not an easy decision—was because we have a responsibility to keep over five million Queenslanders safe. Those on the opposite side can play politics and say that the NRL is taking rooms away from people who want to visit loved ones for

end of life and those sorts of things, but that is not true. That is absolutely not true, because those hotels are not part of the hotel quarantine system. They are not being managed by the government. We have made this very clear.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.


**Mrs D'ATH:** If the member for Kawana listens, he will learn something. The fact is that people can still apply for exemptions. The suspension relates to an automatic right of entry, but if you have exceptional needs and reasons you can still go down the pathway of an exemption to come in while we have this suspension. This suspension allows us to free up some rooms. We are also having to take well over our cap of international arrivals, and the Commonwealth do not share with us how many diplomats and others will fly in above the cap every day who we have to find immediate hotel rooms for.

I turn to the vaccine rollout. What do the public health staff think every day when they hear the Commonwealth and the LNP say that they are not doing their job properly and they are lagging behind? This idea that everyone is getting the same number of vaccines shows how ignorant those on the other side are. They compare Tasmania to Queensland! Oh, my God, how stupid is that comment? They compare Tasmania to Queensland. Do they understand the size difference between the two? Do they understand the population base? They say it is the same to roll out a vaccination program in Tasmania—when we are such a decentralised state, including the islands in the Torres Strait—and this shows that those on the other side have no leadership whatsoever.

We are very proud of our rollout. Queensland has administered the third largest number of vaccines in the country. We are third as far as our vaccination numbers go and we are the third largest state. It makes sense. It is absolutely false for those on the other side to say we are all getting equal numbers. In fact, 500,000 vaccines have gone to New South Wales from that Poland delivery, whereas we got 136,000. We do not begrudge New South Wales for getting extra, but the opposition cannot then ask why we are not vaccinating at the same rate as New South Wales. They have had to fast-track because people are so terrified down there because they have 20,000 positive cases out of one cluster and 93 deaths from one cluster. We have had seven deaths from the start of this pandemic. There is the evidence of leadership.

*(Time expired)*

### Coronavirus, Quarantine Facilities

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.15 pm): We have just had another example from the health minister of this government playing the politics hard. They play the politics very hard in relation to this issue, and they played it no harder than at Wellcamp last Thursday when, over a number of days, as the Leader of the Opposition has outlined, they started to build the case: there were large numbers coming up into hotels, they needed to pause the number of interstate arrivals into our hotels, and then there was a miracle. They turned up at Wellcamp with dump trucks and graders getting ready to build a quarantine facility. They were playing the politics as hard as they ever had before. It is time that we had leadership in relation to this issue in Queensland. We need leadership for the health crisis and leadership for the economic crisis.

The contempt the government displayed towards the Toowoomba people last week cannot go unremarked upon. We had the Deputy Premier stand up at Wellcamp last week and say, 'We've got to stop playing politics.' I reckon there was a mass outbreak of laughter across the Toowoomba region when they heard that because the Deputy Premier has played politics harder than anybody else on these issues.

They arrived in Toowoomba and the mayor did not know and the state MPs did not know—but we do not expect to be told anything. Worse than anything, if we asked the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service if they knew, the answer would be, 'No, we did not.' If we asked the local Police Service if they knew the quarantine facility was going to be announced that day, the answer would be, 'No, we did not.' If we asked the local Ambulance Service if they knew the quarantine facility would be introduced, the answer would be, 'No, we did not.'

This shows the arrogance of this government. They simply come in to our community and announce the facility without any engagement whatsoever, without any acknowledgement of what it might mean. I have spoken with the local police officer and we might need another 50 or 60 police to deal with the quarantine facility. What is the modelling? How many ambulances will we need to transport

COVID patients or those suffering serious illness down here to Brisbane? What do we need in terms of the health service? What protections will be on offer for the local Toowoomba community? There is not a single answer. The arrogance of the Palaszczuk Labor government was on display.

If there was anything that really irked me about this announcement, it was the launch of PNN, the Palaszczuk News Network, as it has been referred to in the *Australian*. They went live, without any conversations with Toowoomba people, on the PNN, the Palaszczuk News Network, to announce to the world what is happening in the Toowoomba region. There was little breaking, top-of-the-line graphics to announce to the world that a quarantine facility was coming to Toowoomba. If there is anything that displays the arrogance of the Palaszczuk Labor government, it is their use of the media and social media and their control over so many staffers.

During the last couple of weeks since we last sat, we have learnt how many spin doctors the Palaszczuk Labor government have. We know they have 18 in the Premier's office, but what was revealed during estimates? They have almost another dozen. They have been seconded out of ministerial offices into the Premier's office not to deal with important information; they are not disseminating important information about COVID or other important public information. They are putting up questions such as, 'Do you prefer hot cross buns or Easter eggs?'

**Mr Bleijie:** TikTok videos.

**Mr JANETZKI:** Or they are putting up TikTok videos. 'What is your favourite children's storybook?' The people of Toowoomba have been treated with contempt. The people of Queensland are also treated with contempt in the way the Palaszczuk Labor government use the media for their own craven political advantage. It happens day after day after day, not just in the numbers we see furnished in the Premier's media department but also throughout the ministerial offices—30 staff overall are disseminating information and manipulating the media for their own craven political advantage. There is probably nothing more craven—and the Leader of the Opposition mentioned it—than the sentiment polling. An amount of 500 grand was paid for by the taxpayer. Interestingly, we know now that it targeted the Livingstone Shire Council, which happens to sit in the middle of Keppel, a marginal seat. The people are sick of the manipulation of the media.

*(Time expired)*

### Gladstone Area Water Board; Member for Nanango



**Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (2.20 pm): I do not usually get too fired up in this chamber about politics. I would prefer to work with everyone to deliver positive outcomes for all Queenslanders. After all, that is why Queensland voted us all into this place. I have proudly done that for the people of the Gladstone region since 2015 and as a proud minister in this government for over a year now. However, I will not stand by and be baselessly accused of rorts in the name of scoring cheap political points. Today I am calling out the member for Nanango for her blatant misleading of the House in the estimates hearings when she accused me of approving the funding for projects delivered by the Gladstone Area Water Board for some imagined personal or political benefit.

Firstly, I do not approve the funding for projects that are delivered by Gladstone Area Water Board. All government owned water utilities' budgets and project expenditures are determined by independent boards. Secondly, Gladstone Area Water Board's expenditure is also externally reviewed by the Queensland Competition Authority. If the member for Nanango had spent even a few minutes doing research instead of slinging mud, she would actually know that, but why let the truth get in the way of a bad story? Sadly, we know that details are not her strong point.

I am not just personally angry; I am also angry on behalf of all of the hardworking people who work at the Gladstone Area Water Board, who are planning and delivering infrastructure and water security projects that benefit the local communities in Gladstone and in Callide. The big question is why the member for Nanango believes that the people of Central Queensland do not deserve investment in key water infrastructure in Central Queensland. There are thousands of current industrial jobs, thousands of future jobs and tens of thousands of families that rely on projects like the new offsite storage facility in Gladstone, to name just one. Frankly, I have never heard anyone complain so much about regional communities getting vital infrastructure and the water that they need.


What makes me even angrier is that the member for Callide sits here and agrees with her. We already know that he does not support building flood shelters for his local constituents, because he even wrote to me to tell me that. However, it is his silence on issues that speaks louder than words ever could. By remaining silent and falling in line with the member for Nanango, he is telling the very people he is elected to represent that they do not deserve any investment in the region.

The voiceless member for Callide had every opportunity to ask me or any other minister questions about his electorate during the two weeks of estimates hearings, but we did not hear one word from him—not one. There were no questions about water infrastructure, no questions about the local manufacturers and no questions about local roads or schools or local medical services, all because he thinks staying quiet is the best way to get a free ride out of Callide and down to Canberra. I can tell the member for Callide right now that the people of Central Queensland will not stand up for someone who does not stand up for them. However, this is what we have come to expect from the members of what remains of the Queensland National Party. I can assure the people in the communities around Awoonga Dam, Calliope and Biloela who are being sold out by the lazy LNP representatives that my office in Gladstone is open and I will support them anytime they need my support.

If the accusations were not so serious I could almost laugh about it and about how much of an own goal this is for the LNP. All of their complaining just highlights the fact that, by keeping our water utilities in public hands, the Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering for Central Queensland. It is because the Gladstone Area Water Board remains government owned that it invests money back into the local community to benefit locals rather than sending it off to the shareholders of a private owner. Eighty per cent of allocations are from industrial users in Gladstone giving back to the Gladstone region.

While the LNP will complain and make up stories, I will be working hard for the people of Gladstone, the people of Central Queensland and all regional Queenslanders. That is what they expect their elected officials to do, not sit on their hands in their electorate office.

### Caloundra, Youth Detention Centre

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (2.25 pm): You know what they say: location, location, location. I am telling the House today that Caloundra is no location for a youth jail. Caloundra residents and the Sunshine Coast community will not stand for it. I have been vocal on this subject along with the member for Ninderry, Mr Dan Purdie, because the member for Caloundra has been silent on it. In fact, the member for Caloundra recently sent out a budget brochure to his community telling them all the things that were in the state budget.

**Mr Janetzki:** Was the prison in there?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** He forget to mention the youth prison in the newsletter. There was no glossy picture of the youth jail going into Caloundra. At the election, Caloundra was promised by the Palaszczuk Labor government a new police station, more police and more resources, but all they are getting is a youth jail. On the same day of budget estimates they put out a sneaky little press release announcing a few extra cops and a police station that has no money attached to it in the budget. It was all designed to try to fool the people of the Sunshine Coast that this is going to be great.

The member for Caloundra has been positively speaking about this youth jail. He is on the wrong side of this one. A total of 5,000 people have signed the petition against a youth detention centre in Caloundra—over 5,000. Then the Labor Party said, 'We're waiting for genuine feedback.' If 5,000 Sunshine Coast residents who signed a petition against a youth jail is not genuine, I do not know what is.

The Sunshine Coast community are not going to be fooled. We have a youth crime crisis around Queensland and unfortunately it is headed to the coast. People say to me, 'When did this start?' and I will tell them '2015'. This is when it started; this was the youth justice amendment bill. This was the first bill introduced by the Palaszczuk government. It got rid of boot camps, which had sent young repeat offenders out bush to teach them decency and respect for their communities; it got them out of the communities. They got rid of it. The objectives of the bill were to get rid of the boot camps, remove breach of bail as an offence for children and make childhood findings of guilt for which no conviction was recorded inadmissible in court when sentencing a person for an adult offence. This government are hiding all the car thefts and the break and enters these youth commit until they reach the age of 18.


The Palaszczuk government also reinstated the principle that a detention order should be imposed only as a last resort and for the shortest period of time. Finally, the Palaszczuk youth justice bill in 2015 reinstated into the Penalties and Sentences Act the principles that imprisonment is a sentence of last resort and—are honourable members ready for this one?; wait for it—a sentence that allows the offender to stay in the community is preferable. I do not think Kim McCosker, who recently had three cars stolen from her garage at her house, would be saying that it is preferable for those three offenders to be out in the community. No victim on the Sunshine Coast who has had cars stolen or their homes broken into or who has been assaulted or bashed—is saying that these children should be out in our communities. They are saying they should be in jail, particularly the repeat offenders.

What is the Labor Party's answer to this? 'Let's put a jail in the heart of Caloundra.' I have lived most of my life in Caloundra on the Sunshine Coast. My electorate borders the proposed location of this youth detention centre. It will impact everybody living on the Sunshine Coast, not just the residents of Caloundra. Crime will increase. The undesirable friends and family of young people on remand will visit and stay in Caloundra and commit more crimes. If people think we have a youth justice issue on the Sunshine Coast at the moment, they should wait until this youth detention centre gets built!

At estimates, the director-general of Youth Justice confirmed that it is a youth detention centre. It will have 30 beds. The Labor Party is now spreading misinformation that the LNP proposed the same in 2013. There was no youth detention centre; it never happened. In terms of what a department recommends to a minister, it takes a strong minister to say no to a department. It takes a strong local member to say no to a department. Unfortunately, we do not have that in Queensland now. The department recommended a youth detention centre in Caloundra and this soft-on-crime Labor government just said, 'Okay, let's do it.' We will not have it in Caloundra on the Sunshine Coast. Over 5,000 people must be listened to by the Minister for Youth Justice.

*(Time expired)*

### Talaroo Hot Springs

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (2.30 pm): I rise today to inform the House of the recently opened Talaroo Hot Springs, run by the Ewamian people of the gulf savannah country in Far North Queensland. The Ewamian people are proud traditional owners who have maintained obviously strong physical and spiritual connection to their land for literally thousands of generations. However, their story, like that of so many other traditional owners, is one of struggle and tenacity, having been dispossessed from their lands in the late 19th century and forced to live under a protection act that fundamentally gave them limited rights and virtually no opportunities. Despite this adversity, the Ewamian people knew that the 60,000-year bond with their land could not be broken. I am pleased to say that Talaroo Hot Springs is the beneficiary of their continued relationship with and respect for that country.

I am also proud to say that Talaroo Hot Springs is the beneficiary of rightful support from the Queensland government, as this unique natural wonder is one of a suite of outback tourism attractions in the far northern drive tourism market. The Queensland Palaszczuk government has responsibly invested in the enterprise as we understand and recognise the importance of tourism infrastructure not just to the economy but also to the empowerment of advancement of our First Nations peoples.

Talaroo Hot Springs is one of a kind. It is the only mountain spring in Australia not fed through the Artesian Basin. It derives its water source via underground hot granite pathways from the nearby Newcastle Range. Formed over millions of years, this geological marvel is of scientific importance, where aquatic life in high temperatures can be observed and studied in the interests of furthering climate and environmental knowledge.

Undoubtedly, Talaroo Hot Springs is an opportunity to bring visitors and tourists on country for a spectacular cultural tourism experience under the guidance and wisdom of the traditional owners. This is something that we as a government have been working on with the Indigenous population. We want to see these products take place. Recently I had the privilege of visiting Talaroo springs and can advise that the infrastructure and facilities built onsite are absolutely outstanding. It is a fantastic experience. Aesthetically blended boardwalks, bathing pools and camping facilities are now available along with authentic cultural tours explaining both the geological and the traditional owner aspects. I was impressed by the natural and genuine experience on offer. It is not surprising that we are seeing fantastic responses from a variety of sightseers and guests enjoying the bush hospitality and beautiful landscape. I can confirm that the welcome extended to all the guests is absolutely unprecedented. I have experienced a range of products in my time. The Ewamian people have done extremely well in their articulate manner of presentation.


I personally thank Ewamian elder Jimmy Richards for his vision and leadership at Talaroo. Jim's connection with the lands goes back to many levels. As a young man he worked as a jackaroo, maintaining fences and doing a range of other jobs. While Jim's spiritual link with Talaroo is strong, he also acknowledges that when you work hard and care for country an economic future can be found. With Cobbold Gorge and Undara lava tubes nearby and readily accessible by the Gulf Developmental Road, these complementary experiences will further promote the Savannah Way as a sought-after leisure and adventure destination. Indeed, the Palaszczuk government has also seen fit to support these two other products, ensuring that we have fantastic world-class products in our regional areas, particularly in the bush.



These have all been the beneficiaries of the Growing Tourism Infrastructure Fund and the Outback Tourism Infrastructure Fund. These iconic tourism assets have been recipients of state government backing. These growing tourism funds equate to tens of millions of dollars in financial assistance. I am pleased to say that this investment is already reaping rewards, with bookings, accommodation and occupancy skyrocketing whilst we are in the middle of COVID. Of course, the challenges to tourism presented by COVID remain but, importantly, the state government continues to invest and support the industry in a range of ways.

The world-class Talaroo Hot Springs, run by Ewamian people, is one of the amazing and unique products we have all across our wonderful state. I congratulate and thank all involved for their hard work, input and ongoing commitment to this amazing and unique tourism product. We know that tourism provides an excellent opportunity for many of our First Nations people.

## Housing

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (2.35 pm): The housing affordability and rental crisis in my electorate and other regions across Queensland can be fixed. Concerningly though, even though we say it is a priority, we are following a similar path that led us to this point. Under state government rules, all local government areas should have four years worth of approved lots—land that is ready to go to market. The Deputy Premier in the 2021 estimates process said that the department was working to identify future land outside the urban footprint and include it into future South-East Queensland regional plans. Will this resolve the crisis in my community or other communities? The answer is in the key words ‘land’ and ‘market’. Within Noosa, the market pushes anything released beyond the financial capability of our workers and governments, as well as the rents associated when developed. Is more land the answer? Well, for decades land has been released across the Sunshine Coast and yet here we are.

The *Queensland Housing Strategy 2017-2020 action plan* notes as its very first action that it needs to identify and develop vacant and under-utilised government land. The state government, by its own admission, does not have a cross-departmental register of all available lands. I raised this with both the Premier and the then minister for state development, infrastructure and planning in 2019. Government sites we have identified over the past four years have led nowhere, even though zoned for housing, due to those tick boxes that could not be ticked off including land price, carbon offsets, biodiversity overlays, flood hazards and even a native title claim. One site that was suitable for a mixed model of community housing for our people with disabilities, workers and retirees is being considered for an Indigenous cultural centre or glamping. This is really admirable; however, when you have a humanitarian crisis, where are our priorities?

The outdated rationale of location has become a constant barrier as apparently affordable housing needs to tick the box of being central because, apparently, my workers do not have cars. These tick boxes and a number of others for the past 20 years have contributed to this crisis. It pushed our essential workers into sheds 20 minutes from town. It led us to this space where a site on a major state road three minutes drive from town has been negated. Other barriers include: share houses that are impact assessable when they have fewer impacts than many households; DV families forced to move instead of relocating perpetrators; social housing sitting empty or under-utilised through Centrelink rules; and a lack of options for empty-nesters.

We reject opportunity in light industrial areas that already have lofts incorporated and retain obsolete zonings in planning schemes, including commercial, when there is no demand for aged care where not required and environmental constraints governed by ERAs that did not have the technology to offset impacts. There are no incentives for transportable parks and tiny homes, rooming accommodation or living small. Australia lags comparable countries by some 15 per cent in community managed housing funded by superannuation funds, social impact investment funds and the private sector. Why?

In Noosa, our challenges are an example of conflicts surrounding how to provide for our community without sacrificing what we have worked so hard for. Should the tick boxes currently in place remain, what do we do? Utilise sites deemed previously unsuitable or to be conserved? The culture of ‘cannot’ instead of ‘how’ leads to decisions—or a lack of—that can create even greater issues when you push residents and communities past their breaking point. How do Queenslanders protect their environment and much loved wildlife and continue their commitment to conserve land when they cannot put a roof over their family’s head?

We must now look to reconfigure and utilise space through a different lens. By calling for more land to be released, without a mechanism to retain affordability, we will be having these same conversations in a decade. I could stand here and ask for more funding, more land, more compassion

or more social housing. With nearly 50,000 Queenslanders sitting on the housing register, which does not include our workers who are not eligible, I will be standing in a very long queue. Instead, I ask that those tick boxes—the systems that made them valid—be reviewed so that the building of long-term affordable housing for those in our community who need it most can start in partnership with our not for profits and the private sector, because if we cannot provide accommodation for our low-income workers and retirees or put their wages up to a level where they can afford, then we have failed our people in the most basic of ways.

### **Backing Queensland Business Investment Fund, Gilmour Space Technologies**



**Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (2.40 pm): Last month I had the privilege of joining the Treasurer at Gilmour Space Technologies in Helensvale on the Gold Coast. We were proud to announce Gilmour Space as the first recipient of an investment from the Queensland government's business investment fund which formed part of Gilmour's \$61 million round of private investment. The QIC managed business investment fund is supporting established small and medium businesses with significant growth potential to create new jobs in Queensland, and that is exactly what is happening at Gilmour Space.

Founded by two Brisbane-born brothers, Adam and James, Gilmour Space is growing from around 70 staff to more than 100 by the end of this year and 120 employees by the end of 2022, including at least 10 graduates. It is now one of Australia's leading space companies seeking to launch small satellites into low-earth orbits with its unique Eris rockets featuring new and innovative hybrid propulsion technologies. The growth of Gilmour Space is demonstrating the opportunities on offer here in Queensland within the evolving global space industry, supported by the Queensland government's Space Industry Strategy 2020-2025. We are positioned in Queensland as the country's space coast and the leading centre in Australasia for activities, including launches, ground systems, earth observation, niche manufacturing, robotics and space automation. This Gilmour investment builds on a number of previous exciting agreements that the state has entered into to support and encourage innovation and new Queensland jobs.

As part of the state budget, I was pleased to be with the Treasurer when he announced a new Palaszczuk government program that will entice interstate and international companies and leading businesses to set up or expand operations in Queensland. We call this \$520 million program Invested in Queensland and is part of the flagship \$3.34 billion Queensland Jobs Fund. This is about attracting large-scale investment projects, supporting thousands of new jobs and generating billions of dollars in capital, and we know that Queensland is well placed. Because we have followed the health advice so diligently, we have been able to reopen and keep open our economy in ways other states have not, so nationally and internationally we are regarded as a safe haven for investment and, coupled with our attractive lifestyle and of course our once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to now host the 2032 Olympics, Queensland is truly ready to take full advantage of these opportunities. Invested in Queensland will offer incentives to attract these companies.

Over the life of the Invested in Queensland program, we expect to see an additional 5,000 ongoing jobs created in Queensland. The Palaszczuk government has always been pro investment and pro growth. This new investment will be in addition to our existing arsenal of investment, facilitation support mechanisms and stakeholder engagement activities.


Now more than ever we are focused on attracting and supporting significant new investment in Queensland. As the Assistant Minister for Treasury, the Treasurer has tasked me to assist him with the investment side of his portfolio which is proving to be a very busy and exciting opportunity. Since the beginning of this year, the Treasurer has hosted a number of investor round tables and these have garnered significant insights and information to help guide our investment support programs. Round tables in Townsville, Logan and Toowoomba as well as Brisbane have been well attended and I want to thank all of the individuals and businesses who have taken the time to be part of these high-level and invaluable discussions.

The Invested in Queensland program will prioritise major investment support through two new investment schemes: our Strategic Investment Scheme will provide tailored funding support to local, interstate and international businesses looking to establish significant job-creating projects in Queensland and our Investment Support Scheme will provide contestable projects with rebates on payroll tax and other state based taxes.

Invested in Queensland will build on our strong history of supporting, leveraging and facilitating private sector investment in our state and builds on a range of policies and programs focused on industry attraction and development. Previous investments have included a partnership with Boeing

which could see uncrewed defence aircraft produced in Queensland, attracting the relocation of the Australia-New Zealand headquarters of leading food manufacturer Kerry to Brisbane and support to accelerate delivery of a \$20.8 million expansion by Australian owned horticultural and garden products business Oreco Group at Childers near Bundaberg. This is just a snippet of the many investment successes that have been forged with the support of the Palaszczuk government over recent years and I look forward to sharing even more of these successful investment stories as our Invested in Queensland program and the business investment fund ramp up even further, ensuring Queensland is and will continue to be at the forefront of national and global investment.

### Member for Mundingburra

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (2.45 pm): It will not happen again, but, as we now know, it has happened again, and of course I am referring to the member for Mundingburra or, as he is locally known, 'Lights-out Les'. How are the residents of Townsville—the constituents of Mundingburra—expected to have any confidence in that member when within the space of six months he has been involved in his second altercation—an altercation that has led to criminal charges? I will not go into that today because it is still the subject of a matter before the courts.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock and resume your seat while I take some advice. Member, anything that is currently before the courts is subject to sub judice and should not be referred to either directly or indirectly.

**Mr LAST:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker; I withdraw. Instead of addressing the crime problem in Townsville, the member for Mundingburra is contributing to it.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Pause the clock. Resume your seat. Member, that is grossly disorderly. It is breaching standing order 233. I would ask you to withdraw and continue your contribution, but I caution you that continued disorderliness will result in you being sat down.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Under the sub judice rule, I seek your clarification. The member for Mundingburra has previously had a banning notice issued which is not a criminal matter. There is a common assault charge, which is before the courts. Is the member free to talk about the banning notice, which is also subject to the member for Mundingburra which is not a criminal matter? My understanding of the standing orders is that sub judice does not apply to the banning order of the Townsville precinct.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I have a view on that. I will confer with the Clerk. The member in his contribution is making a clear linkage between the two, so it would be, as advised, best if the member stayed away from the topic altogether and continued his contribution without breaching the rules around sub judice.

**Mr LAST:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. The Premier has a right—


**Mr FURNER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In your ruling you made it quite clear that the member had to withdraw his comments. He has failed to take your warning and I think that he needs to follow what your order was in terms of the ruling you made previously.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, did you withdraw?

**Mr LAST:** For the purpose of the record I will withdraw again. The Premier has a right to be disappointed, but, more importantly, the Townsville community and Mundingburra—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Resume your seat. Member, once again you are straying into a matter that is sub judice. I am going to ask you to resume your seat.

### Pumicestone Electorate, General Practitioners

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (2.49 pm): This afternoon in the chamber there has been a lot of talk about leadership. Here is a chance for the LNP and the federal government to show some desperately needed leadership on health. Back in March I told this House about the dire shortage of GPs gripping our community in Pumicestone. Over the last six months the situation has only become worse. Since I first spoke out, local medical practices have contacted me about their struggles to recruit GPs. Recently, the popular medical centre at Pumicestone Village shut its doors. After two long years of trying they could not recruit permanent doctors to replace locums who had moved on. That added 1,000 patients to the list of local people who do not have a trusted GP to turn to; local people who are still waiting for up to four weeks for a GP appointment or who cannot get on the books of a GP at all.

Pumicestone people who are trying to get vaccinated cannot get a GP appointment. People due for routine screening cannot get a GP appointment. People who need help to manage their chronic health conditions cannot get a GP appointment. No wonder our hospital emergency departments are under pressure. No wonder patients are presenting later and sicker when they get ill. No wonder people's mental health is impacted when they do not have a trusted GP to turn to.

Our GP crisis is a problem the federal government should have fixed by now. It is a problem that federal health minister Greg Hunt could fix with the stroke of a pen if he made our community a priority. As I said back in March, it has not always been this way. Until 2019 Pumicestone had District of Workforce Shortage status which made it much easier for local GP clinics to find and retain local doctors. Then, with no notice to doctors or the community, the federal government changed the system and took Pumicestone off the GP priority list. Waiting times blew out. When doctors moved on, clinics could not replace them. This was the very first issue that was raised with me after I was elected and, while it is not a state government problem to fix, I could not turn my back on people in our community who deserve to be able to see a GP when they desperately need one.

Back in June I wrote to the federal health minister and asked him to take urgent action on behalf of the people in Pumicestone to fix our GP crisis by putting our community back on the GP priority list. For the last 86 days I have heard nothing. It is a slap in the face to the more than 1,100 people who have signed my petition asking Greg Hunt to act. This week I have written to our federal member for Longman to ask him to give Greg Hunt the hurry-up to fix our GP crisis. He has hung back for the last three years and watched the problem get worse, but with a federal election due soon I am hoping that the federal member for Longman might finally get a move on. Or, like the vaccine 'stroll-out', has Scott Morrison's government decided that fixing our GP crisis is not a race.

State and federal Labor takes our GP crisis seriously. When federal Labor leader Anthony Albanese came to Bribie Island recently he met with Dr Steve Kearney from Ningi Doctors. Dr Kearney told him that we need urgent action to restore Pumicestone's GP priority status. Our Labor candidate for Longman, Rebecca Fanning, promised that she would fight for GP services every step of the way.

The contrast with the Morrison government's inaction could not be starker. Our Palaszczuk government is working hard every single day so the people in Pumicestone can have the very best health care. We are investing in more doctors and nurses to replace those cut under the Newman government. We are doubling the size of Caboolture Hospital. We are building not one but two satellite hospitals so that Pumicestone residents can have more health care closer to home. Now we need Scott Morrison's government to finally step up and protect people's health in Pumicestone by fixing our GP crisis. I ask those opposite to pick up the phone and talk to their federal colleagues and get this done for the people of Pumicestone.

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

### Errors in Division



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, in divisions 1 and 2 earlier today, relating to the business program motion amendment and the business program motion, the member for Callide was included. There was no difficulty in including the member's vote because the member was present on the parliamentary precinct. However, as the member is now in isolation and will not be attending the chamber today, his vote cannot be now included in accordance with sessional order 105(3)(b). Therefore, the member's vote will need to be removed from the vote. The matter does not affect the outcome of the vote; however, the record does need to be corrected. The result of division 1 was, in fact, ayes 36 and noes 50 and the result of division 2 was, in fact, ayes 50 and noes 36. In accordance with sessional order 105(1)(i) I have instructed the Clerk to amend the *Record of Proceedings*.

## ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF STRETTON

### First Speech

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before calling the honourable member for Stretton, I remind members that this is the member's first speech in this place and it should be listened to with the courtesies reserved for such occasions.



**Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (2.55 pm): Mr Speaker, I would like to start by acknowledging the traditional owners and pay my respects to elders past, present and future. I place on record my thanks to the people of Stretton for their support. My commitment to you is to always be your faithful servant. I

rise today as a proud member of the Palaszczuk Labor government and the new member for Stretton, but the feeling is bittersweet. The reason for this by-election was a sad one. We lost our good friend Duncan Pegg, the former member for Stretton.

For over 20 years I was proud to count Duncan as one of my closest friends. We first met at Griffith University and we came up through the party together. We started our careers together at the same time, me at the AWU and Duncan across the road at Sciaccas Lawyers. We were side by side; we shared ups and downs and everything else that life throws at you. It does feel strange not having Duncan around. Duncan loved being the member for Stretton and loved the people there. Over the last few months during the campaign I have spoken to many local residents who have shared their stories about Duncan and what is clear to me is that the community loved Duncan back.

Working with Duncan taught me the importance of putting the community first, caring about the lives of the people we represent and being there for people when they need it most; that the MP is there to serve the community not the other way around, that being an MP is not about seeking accolades or rewards for yourself, but about what you can do for your community. Before he passed, I promised Duncan that I would work every day for the people of Stretton to continue his legacy as part of the Palaszczuk government. This is the standard that I aspire to live up to.

Duncan first announced his diagnosis in this House in November 2019. This revelation changed the personal worlds of so many of us sitting here and so many people beyond this chamber. About a month after his announcement reports started emerging about a new contagious viral infection. It is hard to believe, but it has now been over 18 months since COVID-19 first emerged. This period has driven home the profound influence that global events can have on our state and community. In my own electorate, the global impacts of the pandemic are felt on a very personal level. As the most multicultural electorate in Queensland, many in the community have friends and families overseas. So many people in our local area have told me about how COVID has ravaged the communities of their loved ones overseas. During the campaign one message from my community was loud and clear. Over the phones and through the flyscreen doors I heard the same thing over and over again: Annastacia has kept us safe; we trust Annastacia; we have done great in Queensland. I agree with the people of Stretton. Queenslanders rightly expect their leaders to put human safety first, act consistently and not shirk from the tough calls. I am proud to stand in this chamber as a member of the Palaszczuk Labor government and I am proud to serve under a Premier who continues to rise to the challenge and stand firm in her determination to keep Queenslanders safe.

The Stretton electorate is a multicultural success story. It has the highest proportion of people born overseas in the state and the highest proportion of people who speak a language other than English at home. People have come from all over Queensland, from all over Australia and all over the world to settle in our vibrant, diverse and multicultural community deep on the south side of Brisbane. While we are a diverse community, there are so many points of similarity. In our diversity we have a lot in common. People in Stretton value hard work, family and education. For a new community on the outskirts of Brisbane we punch above our weight, with above average outcomes in education and job prospects. Indeed, the reason that so many people have settled in Stretton is to secure a better life for their children.

What I consistently hear from parents of all backgrounds is their pride in their children studying medicine, law, dentistry, engineering, pharmacy, IT or accounting, or their pride that their children were at TAFE pursuing a trade or setting up a small business in our local area. This is the key common unifying factor across the community. All parents want the best for their children and want to see them succeed in securing a decent job, pursuing their chosen career and carving out a future for themselves and their future families too.

Many locals come from countries where a decent education is not a guarantee, where getting sick can cost you your life savings, where the air and rivers are polluted, where the economy only works for a privileged few or where politics might not be stable or, if it is stable, not particularly free. Over the years many new Australians in the Stretton community have commented to Duncan and I about how strange it is that they could get close to a politician; how strange it is that a politician could be walking the streets but not surrounded by rings of security and police; how strange it is for people to be able to access their local politician through meetings at the office, in the community or on the phone. This democratic access is something that we should protect. The experience of so many in my community illustrates that we can never take this or the sanctity of free and fair elections for granted. As the local member for Stretton I will always have my door open to the community.

As a Labor member of parliament I will always work to build in Queensland an economy and society that provides opportunity to all, whatever your background; a place where Queenslanders have the opportunity to succeed on their merits; a path from home to school to higher education to a decent job; and a means to provide for your family and, if you can, give back to the community where you live. The people of Stretton certainly give back. One distinguishing feature of the Stretton electorate is the level of community engagement as evidenced by the diversity and number of community groups. I am sure Stretton must be the electorate with the most community groups and we benefit so much for it. In addition to local P&Cs there is the Calamvale Runners, Meals on Wheel, Pinelands Lions, Calamvale Lions, Sunnybank Hills Rotary and neighbourhood watch groups. Our area benefits from the many multicultural groups that are based there such as the Taiwan Women's League, the Indian Senior Citizens Association, the Islamic Women's Association of Australia, the Queensland Chinese Forum, the Pakistani Australian Community Association and WAMCI, just to name a few. All of those groups run off volunteer power and there is no shortage of it in Stretton. The cumulative effect of this is a vibrant and engaged local community where groups working in one area lift the rest and benefit us all.

When I speak about families coming from all over the world to live in Stretton I am also talking about my family. When I talk about the values of study and work in our local community I am also talking about the values that were imparted to me by my own family. My parents, Bob and Lesley, who are here today, migrated from England in 1989 and settled in Acacia Ridge. We went to the local school and mum and dad, who are retired now, still live in Acacia Ridge. They are proud that they have paid off their house and they get by on their pension, with a little bit of savings from their super. Mum worked in the Queensland Health warehouse at Richlands and dad was a mechanic and worked at Hastings Deering in Archerfield. He was a proud trade unionist and served as a union delegate in hanger 3 for the AMWU for many years.

I have to say that dad never passed on any mechanical skills to me. I have no idea how to fix an engine, but I do think I have picked up a few union skills along the way. From an early age dad taught me the meaning of solidarity. Mum and dad were proudly working class. They taught me that we have a duty to stick together to improve conditions for working people and for those less fortunate. Most importantly, this means joining your union and voting Labor. For our family and many others from similar circumstances, election nights felt like a grand final. For working families across Queensland elections were not an academic matter. A Labor win meant that your local school got more teachers and more funding. It meant that there were more nurses at the hospital and more cops on the beat. Most importantly, a Labor government meant that working people could be sure they would be treated fairly at the bargaining table with their boss. These are the values that I have held for my entire life. I still feel that way and I will continue to work passionately for those values.

Today I am also joined by my beautiful wife, Stella, and our son, Oliver, who are in the gallery. I am lucky to have them as my biggest supporters. Stella was born in Australia and is a first-generation Aussie. Her father is well-known local GP Dr Rod Chiu, who is of Chinese heritage. He ran the Coopers Plains surgery for 45 years. In 1958 he arrived in Australia aged just 13 years and knowing no English. Through hard work and determination Dr Chiu went on to complete a Bachelor of Medicine at UQ where he met his wife, Laima, whose own parents had migrated from Eastern Europe after World War II.

The story of our multicultural community is very personal to me as it is also my own story and the story of my family. Stella and I have parents who came from the four corners of the globe and settled locally. They started families and had children. Stella and I grew up, met and started a family of our own. Our wedding was held in Stella's childhood Catholic church and we had a traditional Chinese tea ceremony at the reception. Now our son, Ollie, is growing up in the same community that his grandparents settled in all those years ago. There are not many other countries in the world where you could tell the same story. That is the great success of multiculturalism in Queensland and it is why I am proud to represent the seat of Stretton.

I see my role in this place as making sure that the opportunities I had growing up are continued and expanded. One area in which I take a particularly keen interest is secure work. For me that is the core of what a Labor government stands for. When I was growing up our family could rely on dad having a secure job. We were not rich but we could plan for the future. I want others to have that security and opportunity. A good job means that mum and dad can plan for their family's future. It means they can pay for their kids to go on school camp, afford an instrument or take a holiday every couple of years. It means that they can save a little bit extra for retirement.

The emergence of the gig economy over the past few years has brought to public attention the fact that secure full-time employment is unfortunately for many a fading dream. Casualisation has been growing in Australia for some years now, but there is nothing particularly new about it. During the Great

Depression many workers would head out each morning to line up at the factory gate, hoping to get a shift. These days that task is performed by a smartphone notification. Of course, tech disruption brings with it immense opportunities to improve our lives. It brings immense economic opportunities as well. We should take neither a simplistic nor nostalgic view of the past, but we must be clear-sighted about the broad and long-term impacts on jobs and employment. If we want to sustain the egalitarian and moderate political system that we have built in Australia then we cannot afford to leave large parts of the community behind.

How can we manage this change? First we must be clear that industrial relations laws and workplace laws in this country are set by elected governments of Australia, not foreign tech companies; likewise, that workplace conditions and pay are collectively bargained between employees and their employer and not imposed from Silicon Valley. Secondly, we need to continue to deliver world-class education. Over the past six years the Palaszczuk Labor government has delivered record education funding in Stretton, including for new classrooms, performing arts centres, science labs, air conditioning, solar panels and more. A good education will give our kids the confidence to navigate the new economy. It is no surprise that the education minister, Grace Grace, is very popular in Stretton. It has been great to have her recently visit both Stretton State College and Autism Queensland, which are two of the many projects that the Palaszczuk government is funding for our local students to give them the best start in life.

Finally, we need to recognise that different solutions may be required at different points in somebody's life or career. Younger people entering the workforce will have careers that are more fluid than in the past and they may need flexible skill sets. As policymakers we need to think about innovative ways to preserve the types of benefits and security that their parents took for granted. For older people affected by disruption we will need to invest in lifelong training opportunities or they may need other support to re-enter the workforce. My view on this is simple: if someone is willing to work, able to work and wants a job then we should help them find one. This core belief can be seen in the government's response to the pandemic: on the one hand, responding to the health crisis by putting the safety of Queenslanders first and, on the other hand, bringing forward funding and investment for schools, roads, hospitals and public transport to improve services and, just as importantly, to create jobs and ensure our economic recovery.

When it comes to secure work we must also remember that opportunity alone is not enough for everyone to compete on an even level. People who live with an intellectual or developmental disability face barriers that limit their ability to socialise, work and play. Our fellow Queenslanders often face barriers that others can take for granted. I am passionate about assisting people with an intellectual or developmental disability to enter the workforce. That is fundamentally about inclusion. Meaningful employment gives people self-worth and dignity, it improves mental health and confidence and, importantly, it helps build lasting friendships and networks. In Stretton we have many fantastic organisations that work to make this happen, including Kuraby Special School, Multicap, Help Enterprises and the Kyabra Community Organisation. I look forward to working with those organisations to improve employment outcomes for people with intellectual disabilities. We have a long way to go and I hope that I can use my parliamentary position to champion that cause.

I now turn to some final words of thanks. Firstly, I owe a debt of gratitude to my wife, Stella, and the rest of my family for their support during the campaign and over the years—Patrick dropping off leaflets on his trusty electric bicycle, Mum and Dad driving around the campaign truck, and Stella, who was by my side the whole way whilst also keeping Ollie and me in line. With the campaign rolling on as Duncan's health deteriorated, I could not have dealt with the situation if it were not for Stella's love and support. Stella, you really are one in a million.

I am indebted to the union movement. The advocacy of my dad's union meant that my parents could guarantee a good upbringing for their kids. When I left university I went to work for the Australian Workers' Union, and I hope that my own efforts had a similar impact on the lives of those members. I also want to thank the mighty United Workers Union for their help on the campaign—state secretary Gary Bullock, Greg Moran, Jake, Connor and the whole UWU team. It is great to be part of a union that has such an impressive capacity to campaign for their members.

My journey to this place is a continuation of Duncan's journey. Looking back, it is amazing how many of my closest friendships were formed during our years in student politics—Merric Foley, Clinton De Bruyn, Monique Bielanowski, David Shaw, Annette Curry and my brother Patrick teamed up all those years ago with Duncan. In fact, I think it was one of Duncan's standout abilities: to assemble a team of people passionate about the Labor cause and to work together to win and to remain loyal to each other.

I also want to thank all of the Labor members in this place who helped on the campaign. There were a lot of you. The Labor family really rallied around the Stretton campaign, helping me but also doing it for Duncan. They rallied their own volunteers to the cause, and on election day you could not walk five metres without bumping into a Labor MP or a minister. In particular, I want to thank the members for Mount Ommaney and Logan for their moral support and help on the campaign.

I have also been fortunate to have two local federal members as great supporters and important sources of advice: the member for Rankin, Jim Chalmers, and the member for Moreton, Graham Perrett. They are well loved in our local area and I look forward to working with them for the benefit of our community.

To all the elected members who helped on the campaign: your help and support during this past few months has meant a lot to me. To my campaign manager, Kerrie Kahlon: there is no more well-organised or motivated person I know, and I am lucky that party office sent you. Duncan would be very proud of your efforts on this campaign. I would also like to acknowledge the party president, John Battams; state secretary, Jules Campbell; and the whole team at party office. It is great to be part of a party that is so united.

To the Pegg family—Graham, Lindsey, Grant, Cameron, Lachlan and Graham Jr: your support during this difficult time has meant so much to me and Stella. I know that you are still grieving and I hope you know that we are all here for you. You will always be part of the Stretton Labor family.

Campaigns do not happen without the hard work of local supporters and volunteers. I was so fortunate to have so many working on this campaign helping with letterboxing, doorknocking, phone calling and handing out how-to-vote cards on election day. The support I received from party members across the state and even the nation was overwhelming.

I particularly want to thank Emily Kim, Adam and Ryan Chappell, Gail MacPherson, Jude Hardy, David Pass, Don and Vicki Mitchell, Michael Glaros and the Glaros family, the McDonagh family, Celine Xi, Conner Rutherford, Emme Muggleton, Fahima Ahmadi and the Ahmadi sisters, Tirat Achal, Mohammad Sultani, Neha Pauly, Frank Plunkett, Ella Craig, Jack Hughes, Adrienne and Neil Cremin, Tony Castiros, Logan Mete, Tess O'Reilly, Lee Ash, Noel Higginbotham, Mattie Sellars, Ali Kadri, Sandy Thomas, Shaji Theckanath, Nick Thaqi, Martin Young, Sherif Keryakes, Sukhjinder Singh, Hardeep Wagla, Prakruthi and Lucky, Teng and Michael, John Prescott, Richard and Annie, the La Macchia family, Daniyal Mian, the Obeid family, Lisa Banyard and her 'Logan Westies', Aleko, Daniel Gan, Sam Zhou, Sam Zhu, Allen Ding, Tari Dambo, Kylie Slater, Rachel Stanley, Alex Asher, Jasmine Bulman, Lisa Wilder, Michael Eborn, John Chirgwin, Hamish Bright, Samantha Fuller, Terry Gobert, Byron, the Wood family, William Wu, Nayda Hernandez, Pema Bastin, Sam Jones, Lucy Collier, Hannah Herrmann, Brendan Williams, Jason McKenzie and Renee Coffey. There were a lot of you!

I also want to thank community leaders Ben Chen, Galila Abdelsalam, Esther Stuart, Lewis Lee OAM, Alan Chen, Ricky Chen, Pearl Chen, Gurlal Singh, Reena Augustine, former member for Capalaba Michael Choi, Janeth Deen and Jitendra Deo for all of their help and advice on the campaign.

Finally, I want to once again thank the people of Stretton for their support. As I said before, I will always be your humble servant. Thank you.

## **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**


### **APPROPRIATION BILL**

#### **Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)**

#### **Appropriation Bill**


#### **Economics and Governance Committee, Report**

Resumed from p. 2256.

 **Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (3.16 pm), continuing: It really reflects the LNP's inability to understand whatsoever the budget estimates process. In stark contrast, at estimates the Premier, the Treasurer and the minister outlined the government's record spend on jobs, health services, infrastructure and tourism support. They outlined a clearly defined economic recovery plan that will take us through the forward estimates period and well into the future. That is billions of dollars in jobs and services and building back better.



I am proud to be part of the Palaszczuk government, which has responded to the pandemic by putting in place a great budget, as outlined throughout the estimates process, that will deliver the jobs, health services, education, infrastructure and housing to keep Queensland safe, to keep the electorate of Hervey Bay safe and to continue to make our future strong. Keeping Queenslanders safe and delivering the COVID-19 economic recovery plan is what this Palaszczuk Labor government is about. We will continue to look after the people of Queensland, despite the bitterness of those opposite. I support the recommendation before the House.

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (3.17 pm): As a member of the Economics and Governance Committee, I rise to speak on the committee's examination of the Appropriation Bill 2021. Unfortunately, it did not take the estimates process to learn about the perilous state of the Queensland economy. It was tracking in the wrong direction long before we saw the game of charades that the Palaszczuk Labor government played at estimates earlier this month. What the estimates process did achieve, however, was once again to highlight to Queensland taxpayers—hardworking mums and dads, small business owners and everyone in between—that this government has no idea: no idea how to plan, no idea how to budget, no idea how to rebuild our economy, no idea how to curb ambulance ramping and reduce waiting times, no idea how to deal with the juvenile crime crisis and no idea how to protect our most vulnerable.

Queenslanders deserve so much more than what they are receiving from this third-term Labor government. They are more concerned about spending taxpayer dollars on polling. Surely the statistics paint a clear enough picture. Currently in Queensland, there are more than 200,000 people out of work. Our unemployment rate is 13 per cent higher than Victoria and nearly 25 per cent higher than New South Wales. Ambulance ramping sits at more than 50 per cent across the state and 55,000 Queenslanders sit on elective surgery waiting lists, and a further 220,000 are on the waiting list to get on the waiting list. Our state health budget only increased by the exact amount that Canberra gave them in this year's federal budget—\$400 million. Labor's record health budget does nothing to improve a public health system that they are losing control of.

Never has there been a more critical time to be investing in rebuilding the economy as we map a path to recovery. What does this state Labor government do? It slashes infrastructure spending which has been cut by \$4 billion over the forward estimates. While motorists across the state are stuck in traffic jams or are dealing with dangerous and unsafe roads, the state Labor government is more concerned with playing the blame game. COVID, Canberra, commercial in confidence—it is like watching a game of *Wheel of Fortune*. However, unfortunately, for residents in my electorate, like the 92 other electorates in this state, it does not matter where it lands because there is no winner. The prize bank in Queensland is empty unless, of course, one is a movie star or a football player.

There is no doubt these are unprecedented times. The health pandemic has challenged each and every one of us and our communities in ways we could never have expected. As a result, Queenslanders are desperate for courage and leadership from this government—a sense of hope that things will get better and that we will emerge from this health crisis stronger and more resilient. That is not what they are seeing from this state Labor government.

Small and family business is the backbone of our state's economy, but many small businesses in my electorate are struggling to keep the doors open and to pay their staff. Labor's catchcry of keeping Queenslanders safe has a very bitter aftertaste. The LNP, along with the state's business community, have been calling out for a tailored lockdown business support package since early 2021—more than 100 times in fact. Despite this, we learnt at estimates that Treasury was not even asked to perform any modelling on any assistance package or set aside any money.

Queenslanders care about the things that affect them directly—like receiving medical treatment when they need it, having access to housing and living in a safe community, providing their children with a quality education and the prospect of a job in the future, and getting home safely in time for dinner and not spending hours stuck in traffic. These are the things that affect Queenslanders directly and they are the very same things the Palaszczuk Labor government is failing to deliver yet again.

Report adopted.

### **State Development and Regional Industries Committee, Report**

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mrs Gerber): The question is—

That the report of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee be adopted.



**Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (3.21 pm): I start by thanking all members who participated in the estimates hearing of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee. Thanks also to the secretariat. I always like estimates. We always learn something. The question is: what did we learn from the LNP in 2021? May I say, we learnt nothing positive, of course.

**Mr Mellish:** Nothing's changed.

**Mr WHITING:** Nothing has changed. What we did learn is that the LNP cannot recognise the passage of time. In their statement of reservation they claim that there was limited time available for non-government members to ask questions. By my calculations, the truth is this: they had 65 per cent of the time for questions with the Deputy Premier. That includes 75 per cent of the time in the local government area. They had 66 per cent of the time with the minister for agriculture. They had 61 per cent of the time with the Minister for Manufacturing. From what I understand, that is 5¼ hours worth of questions versus 2½ hours of questions for government members. Clearly, they had ample opportunity to ask decent questions. Nobody stopped them. They only stopped themselves.

We also learnt that LNP members do not quite understand the standing orders. They complained in their statement of reservation about 'constant interruptions and points of order'. If we look at standing order 115, it states—

- (b) Questions shall not contain:
- (i) lengthy or subjective preambles;
  - (ii) arguments;
  - (iii) inferences;
  - (iv) imputations;
  - (v) hypothetical ...

It is very clear and it is in black and white how a member is to ask a question. The member for Warrego clearly does not understand this. I do not think she quite gets estimates. She virtually asked the same questions as last year. Instead of asking questions about dog parks, this year she asked about lemons, cattle yards and flowers. As the Deputy Premier said in response—

**Ms Fentiman** interjected.

**Mr WHITING:** Flowers is a nice one. I like that one. The Deputy Premier said in response to the member's questioning—

There are clear processes available for councils to receive advice. That process is not to forward it to the member for Warrego to ask us here at estimates.

How ironic that the opposition says that the process is broken when they are the ones turning up with the same questions, looking for political 'gotchas' and breaching standing orders. As we on this side have constantly said, 'If you want better answers, ask better questions.'

What we learnt from the member for Burleigh this year was very interesting. We learnt that he is probably not very interested in the estimates process. He had a shocker this year—more so than usual. He is the Latrell Mitchell of Queensland parliament. He barged recklessly into the fray. He was sent off once. Ideally he should have been sent off for longer, but I will take the blame for that. There was one issue when it comes to his behaviour that should be addressed. He did get ejected for being disruptive and for constantly interjecting. It was not because he asked a question. This is what he claimed and tweeted on the day—

Gee one question to the Minister for Agriculture, apparently Labor didn't like it so I have been thrown out of estimates for an hour. That's how bad estimates has gotten.

That is not true. I table a copy of that tweet.

*Tabled paper:* Extract, dated 28 July 2021, from the Twitter account of the member for Burleigh, Mr Michael Hart MP, in relation to the estimates hearing of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee [\[1278\]](#).

I did think for a while about whether we should pursue him for a breach of the standing orders. Standing order 266(13) states—


... publishing a false or misleading account of proceedings before the House or a committee.

Honesty, can I call a tweet of 2½ lines a report? That would be very generous. Perhaps I would not want to glorify that by calling it a report. It is more a thought bubble. It is useful to point out that the member tweeted more than he asked questions on the day.

What was new from the opposition this year was the conflict-of-interest stunt. I would like to say good try but it was not. I do not think they even made a good case for it being a perceived conflict of interest by any measure. No-one in our hearing raised the issue that the member for Gympie is a

member of AgForce, the member of Burleigh is a part owner of a brewery, and we discussed the craft brewing policy and the member for Maroochydore has some form of ownership of industrial sheds through a family trust, which she could arguably benefit from even more. I did not think that was an issue, so I let it go.

*(Time expired)*

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (3.27 pm): I am pleased to follow the previous speaker, not because it was illuminating but it is an opportunity to address the conflict of interest that this member has. He is a CFMEU member. He did not declare the fact he is a CFMEU member when he was chairing the hearing and trying to obstruct questions, particularly with regard to the practice that is increasingly occurring under Labor in Queensland. I refer to the union 'favourment' clause that will see a 30 per cent increase in the cost of major infrastructure projects in Queensland. They call it 'best practice industry conditions'. When one digs down there are some very valid concerns about whether that is contrary to federal workplace laws. What it is is a 'favourment' clause that is going to gouge vital infrastructure dollars from the major projects we need in Queensland and pay over and above the award wages and agreed conditions in the construction industry. The CFMEU chair, the member for Bancroft, did not declare up-front what I believe to be a conflict of interest.

He said that people could ask questions and that they had ample time—except committee members were hauled off into a private committee meeting where they supposedly resolved the accusation around a conflict. He came back and said he did not have a conflict of interest. We do not know what happened in those secret, cloistered committee meetings because they do not publish their minutes. This is one of the rorts that is increasingly happening under this Labor government. Rather than committee processes being subject to scrutiny, more and more of their minutes are locked up and not released. We do not find out that there may have been dissent and members voted against matters. That is locked up and kept secret.

We are a unicameral parliament. Increasingly we are seeing committees not used as a process of scrutiny but used as a process to shut down members. I call on this Labor government to stop being so scared of scrutiny and to start releasing the minutes from those committee processes, rather than abusing its position by the tyranny of its majority. This is a unicameral parliament. We do not have an upper house. The committee process is important. It is being rorted by this government.

We saw this absolutely ridiculous situation where the member for Bancroft said, no, he did not have a conflict of interest, but the process of determining that was done behind closed doors and we are not allowed to know the process because it is a secret. That is just ridiculous. That abuse of the committee system has to stop. More and more committee processes have to be open to scrutiny. It is important for the practice of this place. It is important for the people of Queensland.

Never have we seen Queenslanders asked to bear so much government intrusion into their lives in the name of the public good and in the name of public health but not in the name of transparency. When you are asking people to trust you, you should trust them with the information. We need this for good civil society. We need it for good governance and accountable decision-making in government.


In regard to the issue of infrastructure, we have seen about a \$4 billion cut in the forward estimates in respect of projected infrastructure projects that should have been there and a \$6 billion backlog in regard to maintenance in the transport and roads area.

I want to talk about homelessness. What has been a dire issue for those who are the most marginal is now becoming a dire issue even for people who have good jobs who would probably never have thought they would be looking at a caravan or tent as housing. There has been a fall-off in the number of lots being released in the last 10 years, at a time when the population has been increasing, compared to the previous 10 years. COVID has no doubt caused a spike in demand for housing, but the train smash of the decrease in the release of land—

**Ms Boyd** interjected.

**Ms SIMPSON:** It is not a laughing matter—the decrease in the amount of available housing for people has been happening over the last 10 years while the population has been going up. These barriers to the timely release of housing have to be addressed. The growth areas team within the department of state development has some merit, but it does not address all the barriers, including multiple ministers with their sticky fingers of obstruction stopping timely construction happening. Good planning should not take an extra 10 years when people are desperate for housing now. There has to be reform in this area to release land for housing.

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) (3.32 pm): As much as I would love to allow the member for Maroochydore to keep shouting at the clouds, I will instead speak to the estimates report. I welcome the tabling of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee report into the proposed budget appropriations for 2021-22. I acknowledge the committee's recommendation that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2021 for the committee's area of responsibility, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

This budget is delivering on Queensland's COVID-19 economic recovery plan. Our world-class health response to the pandemic has provided us with an opportunity to attract and create jobs, grow our traditional industries and attract new industries to Queensland. This budget is a great example of how we will capitalise on those opportunities. As one of the few states in Australia not in lockdown, we are continuing to work to deliver more jobs, and our unemployment has fallen to its lowest levels since before the Newman LNP government.

Our flagship \$3.34 billion Queensland Jobs Fund is a game-changer for enabling job creation in Queensland. In this financial year alone, more than \$14.7 billion—one of the largest capital programs in recent years—has been allocated, with more than 60 per cent being spent outside Greater Brisbane. This is expected to directly support around 46,500 jobs—nearly 30,000 in the regions.

Queensland's councils have played a major part in keeping Queenslanders safe and helping deliver Queensland's economic recovery plan. Our government's signature \$1 billion Works for Queensland is helping councils deliver community infrastructure and improve livability right across regional Queensland. By the end of 2024, it is expected that Works for Queensland will have supported, sustained or created more than 25,000 jobs in regional Queensland.

The Palaszczuk government also committed \$200 million over six years to the South East Queensland Community Stimulus Program. So far a total of 113 projects have been approved, and councils estimate that around 1,455 jobs will be created or supported across South-East Queensland through these projects.

We are investing an additional \$70 million towards the Building our Regions program. This program has provided funding towards 271 projects across regional Queensland, supporting an estimated 2,770 jobs. These projects have attracted additional investment of over \$539 million from local government and other organisations.

Our government is supporting projects that deliver good, skilled jobs for Queenslanders. I think more secure jobs for Queenslanders is always a good thing, but at the committee hearings those opposite did not agree. They made it clear in the hearing—and the member for Maroochydore has just now—that they do not support best practice industry conditions. It does not matter if you are from the Far North or the south-east—all tradies have a right to a fair day's pay for a fair day's work. Those opposite do not think companies should prioritise local contractors or that tradies deserve a good wage or to come home safely at the end of their shift. In fact, they feel so strongly about it that the LNP demanded we ditch that policy for the 2032 Olympics, effectively demanding less secure, less safe jobs for Queenslanders. The member for Maroochydore should be ashamed.


**Ms SIMPSON:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mrs Gerber): Pause the clock.

**Ms SIMPSON:** I am being verbally by the Deputy Premier. I find it offensive and untrue and I ask that it be withdrawn.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Deputy Premier, the member finds it offensive. Do you withdraw?

**Dr MILES:** I withdraw. Delivering good, secure jobs for Queenslanders is at the heart of our infrastructure budget. I thank the committee for its consideration, parliamentary staff for all their work delivering the estimates, and my departmental and ministerial staff for preparing materials to inform the hearing.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (3.36 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the 2021-22 budget estimates report from the State Development and Regional Industries Committee. It was very disappointing that there was limited time available for non-government MPs to ask questions. I can remember when entire portfolios had a whole day to ask questions of ministers. Once again, time was wasted as budget estimates hearings were characterised by constant interruptions and points of order from government MPs. Former Labor Speaker of the Legislative Assembly John Mickel—

**Mrs Frecklington:** What did he say?

**Ms LEAHY:** I take that interjection. He once called the estimates process a 'protection racket'. There is no doubt that urgent reform is needed to ensure ministers can be held to account through free-flowing questions and answers, as budget estimates was intended.

There are 77 Queensland councils that employ almost 40,000 people in Queensland and manage \$108 billion in assets, including over 153,000 kilometres of local roads and \$25 billion of water and sewerage assets. However, in this estimates committee hearing, there was only 60 minutes of question time for government members and opposition members to ask questions about matters of importance in the local government portfolio area. This just shows the lack of importance that this Labor government places on the local government sector.


At the time of the estimates committee hearing, the Labor government was not able to provide any assurance to local governments with respect to appropriate compensation for assisting with border closures. The cost to councils for assisting the state government is in the order of \$631,000 for the previous border closures. The Paroo Shire Council, described by the Auditor-General as financially unsustainable, have had to expend 16 per cent of their general rate income to meet the cost of the previous border closures. There are approximately 1,000 roads that councils assist with in the management of border closures. Finally, we are hearing that after sustained pressure from the opposition—two years of questions in estimates—the government has mooted that there might be a border fund to assist councils with the state government costs that have been cost-shifted on to councils.

Given this Labor government's track record on taxes—for instance, the waste tax, the wagering tax, land tax, property investor tax and car stamp duty—the LNP remains concerned that Queenslanders will be slapped with a wheelie bin tax at the beginning of the next financial year. It is of concern to councils that the Budget Strategy and Outlook document only lists the advance waste payments for 2021-22. That means there is no further commitment beyond this financial year. Councils rightly fear they will have to pass on the cost of the waste levy to households after June 2022 in the form of a rubbish tax.

With respect to conflict of interest issues, several examples were outlined by the LNP in relation to concerns raised by mayors and councillors. Improvements to conflict-of-interest laws are desperately needed so that mayors and councillors can once again be empowered to act in the best interests of their communities.

Again under pressure from the opposition, the government has advised they are looking at some changes; however, these are still up to six months away. The transcript shows that the committee did not hear any declaration about the chair's union membership in the CFMEU at the start of questions relating to union influence. The chair declared his membership when prompted by opposition members. Just as well he was not back in his former role as a councillor, as the outcome of his day may have been very different.

I note the omission of the Office of the Independent Assessor in schedule 7. Schedule 7 lists the entities to which direct questioning of chief executives at estimates is to apply. The Office of the Independent Assessor was omitted this year. Does this omission by the government have anything to do with the use of division 5 notices issued to newspapers and journalists? Reducing parliamentary oversight of the Office of the Independent Assessor only seeks to reinforce the view that this government is indeed conducting government in the dark. Queenslanders who pay their taxes have every right to expect more from this Labor government's budget and greater oversight through the estimates committee process.

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (3.40 pm): I rise to speak on the report of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee. I would like to once again express my appreciation to the committee and in particular the chair, the member for Bancroft. The estimates process is an important one and no easy task to lead, so I congratulate him on his sterling efforts in this regard.

The story of agriculture in Queensland is one that often defies simple charts and tables of numbers in black and white. The report outlining how we have maintained staffing levels in the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries does not tell the story of how DAF officers became a lifeline for our farmers navigating the COVID-19 pandemic. The total annual budget investment figures, more than \$100 million over what the LNP delivered, do not tell the story of the investment in new crop varieties, the developments in animal welfare or the extraordinary efforts made to help our farmers access the labour they need.

The \$71.4 million invested in drought support programs does not tell you how that has proved to be the difference for Queensland farmers. The \$42.5 million invested in fisheries reforms does not outline the measures necessary to see jobs in our commercial and recreational fishing industries survive and thrive. The \$32.8 million towards improvements in land practices to protect the Great Barrier Reef does not tell the full story of this incredible natural and economic asset for Queenslanders. None of these figures tell the stories of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on our farmers, fishers and supply chains. It is a tribute to everyone in my department that they have maintained an excellent focus on both the current and future needs of the agriculture and fisheries industries while navigating a path through the new realities brought about by the pandemic.


I should also point out that I was at the Maroochy Research Station last week, and they were very pleased to hear that the committee confiscated a large tray of their new strawberry varieties at the hearing.

The Palaszczuk government remains heavily focussed on Queensland's COVID-19 economic recovery plan, and our commitment to creating jobs and driving down unemployment has seen Queensland lead the nation. We only need to look to our southern border to know that the threat of the pandemic to our agriculture sector remains real and immediate. That is why so many Queenslanders continue to congratulate and thank our Premier and her team for keeping Queenslanders safe. Just this morning on ABC Radio David Foote from Australian Country Choice commended the Palaszczuk government on its achievements. My thanks go out to the wonderful people in my department who are helping the industry navigate these choppy waters.

These are the facts pointed to in the committee report, but it would be remiss of me not to mention the opposition's statement of reservations, where we drift more into the realms of fiction than fact. In fact, this section weaves such an elaborate fantasy that one wonders whether it is based on the estimates committee hearings at all or if the LNP wrote it beforehand. The opposition's complaint of not getting enough time for non-government questions once again entertains. I am advised that non-government MPs asked 71 per cent of questions across all estimates hearings this year. It seems they had more than enough chances to ask whatever they wanted.

Of course, the LNP's miserable failure to read the SDS means they were always going to start behind the eight ball. They looked at last year's one-off investments because of the COVID-19 pandemic, compared them to this year's budget, and claimed there were massive cuts to services and staff. You would think the LNP would know all about cuts to staff and funding after their record in government. I hate to tell the opposition this, but the reason you could not find those cuts is because there aren't any. The opposition complains AgTech was not mentioned as a budget highlight. Well, guess how many questions the opposition asked about AgTech in the estimates hearing? None!

The opposition continues with its fantasies of a dystopian future without them being in government while the farming sector is looking to the future and getting on with the job of growing the best produce in the world. As the farmers' friend, I should acknowledge that the opposition's statement of reservation did include one sentence that can sit in the non-fiction section and that is, 'The Opposition agrees with passing the budget.'

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (3.45 pm): The member for Ferny Grove has to call himself that because no-one else in Queensland calls him the farmers' friend. I rise to add my contribution to this debate. Everyone on this side of the House is most disappointed with the outcome of the estimates process in so many of the different hearings, but I am really disappointed because it is obvious that this government does not seem to understand the consequences of the lack of planning for water security in this great state of ours.

We know the hearing was simply a protection racket for the minister and the government. We had time-wasting antics by the chair, and those Dorothy Dixers from those opposite could not even be answered properly by the minister when he bothered to attempt to respond to them. The rhetoric shown in the water estimates hearing was the exact same smug attitude that continues to starve Queensland of any major infrastructure projects. The hearing clearly exposed the fact that the minister's role as regional development minister is purely one of PR. It is a role that is all show and zero substance, and that came out quite clearly.

I raised concerns about the cost-benefit analysis conducted by the state when determining the viability of water storage infrastructure in Queensland. It was put to the minister that, given the current 30-year life span factored in—by Labor—to the full cost recovery of dam construction management, business cases are essentially set up to fail. The current method does not consider that dams can—and do—last well over 50 years, and with new technology new dams inevitably will last longer than that;


therefore, the cost benefit of a dam is clearly significantly higher than what is being forecast. We know we have touched a nerve when the minister spent two minutes of his five carrying on about the pork-barrelling I uncovered in the minister's electorate.

What did we hear? The budget papers show \$26 million in funding for the Gladstone electorate. I, of all people in this House, do not begrudge regional funding for water projects; however, it does appear a little bit smelly when one electorate gets \$26 million. What did the Mount Isa Water Board, Seqwater and SunWater get between them? There is absolutely no provision for capital grants, yet the member for Gladstone's electorate got \$8.2 million in unidentified capital grants—unidentified capital grants! Talk about pork-barrelling by the water minister!

Let's get to regional development. Like I say, I welcome any funding into water projects, but when it comes to Paradise Dam we saw the debacle when the member for Bundaberg tried to justify his idiotic statement—I withdraw, sorry—on local TV where he said that in order to restore confidence to growers 'he will have another form of infrastructure if the capacity of Paradise Dam is to be reduced.'

When questioned, the minister was unable to answer what the heavens the member for Bundaberg was going on about because the minister knows that the Palaszczuk government has no plan to build another water infrastructure to restore the water security for the people of the Bundaberg-Wide Bay region. The member for Bundaberg has been caught out and the member for Gladstone has been caught out because they know they have let the people of Wide Bay and Queensland down.

When it comes to regional development, it was also concerning to learn that out of the entire FTEs of the department only seven per cent of those employees are to do with regional development. I might also add, shockingly, that we were able to reveal to this minister the fact that the Office for Rural and Regional Queensland is not even a function of the Minister for Regional Development. It is actually a function under the Premier because the Premier does not trust this minister. This is a minister who has a complete PR role. That is what this estimates uncovered. It uncovered that there is no water security, no plan for future water infrastructure and no plan for regional development in Queensland.

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (3.50 pm): What an honour it was to participate in the estimates process this year, having missed last year due to back surgery. The questions that were asked by the LNP showed that they do no research at all. What a wasted opportunity. Their statement of reservation is as pathetic as it is predictable. Is it any wonder the people of Queensland overwhelmingly rejected the member for Nanango when choosing a Queensland premier.

When it comes to investing in water infrastructure, our government has an outstanding record. With \$1.9 billion of investment in water infrastructure and the 2,300 jobs it has supported since 2015, it is obvious that the Palaszczuk government is pro infrastructure and pro regions.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr BUTCHER:** You have not been to Rookwood Weir, have you?

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mrs Gerber): Pause the clock. Put your comments through the chair, please.

**Mr BUTCHER:** Accusations to the contrary are a bit rich coming from those opposite. They did not build anything. Despite having an opportunity to ask legitimate questions, the member for Nanango used estimates to have a crack at me personally, and she has backed it up again today. She wasted everyone's time in that committee by baselessly accusing me of rorts because the Gladstone Area Water Board spent money in the Callide electorate. Firstly, it should come as a shock to no-one that the Gladstone Area Water Board spends money in the Gladstone region and, as we have heard today, in the Callide region as well. That is what it was established to do. I do not approve funding for the projects delivered by the Gladstone Area Water Board. That is the responsibility of their board, and their expenditure is also externally reviewed by the QCA. If the member knew her shadow portfolio area she would have known that, but obviously she did not.

There is one issue I will never shy away from, and that is the safety and wellbeing of Queenslanders, unlike those opposite. What the estimates confirmed is that the LNP and the member for Nanango do not care about the personal safety of Queenslanders living downstream of Paradise Dam. We put safety first and listened to—

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The minister is misleading the House and I ask him to withdraw.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Are you taking personal offence?

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I do take personal offence.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member for Nanango has taken personal offence. Minister, do you withdraw?

**Mr BUTCHER:** I withdraw. We put safety first and we listened to expert advice, but who needs experts when you have got the LNP? Time and time again, they have confirmed they would have left the dam as it was, putting thousands of lives at risk. To help the member understand, I brought part of the concrete wall in to demonstrate exactly what that danger was, but she would not even look at it. It was like kryptonite to her. She did not want to look at it; she did not want to go near it. I have been out to that dam multiple times. I have spoken with irrigators, locals, the mayor, the local member, businesses and advocacy groups. I did not go to a hairdresser or get a picture buying a bottle of rum. I know how the people feel in that region and that is why we as a government are focused on the solution.

Unlike those opposite, I am not interested in stirring up trouble and trying to divide a community. People want politicians who give them hope, especially after what we have been through with COVID-19. They do not want any more anger in that community and they do not want any more division. It gets Queensland nowhere and it certainly gets the LNP nowhere.

It is a privilege to get out and meet Queenslanders every week in all corners of the state as the Minister for Regional Development. The most important part of this job is taking this information and working with responsible ministers to continue to deliver for regional Queenslanders. It is not surprising that the LNP do not understand this concept, given their total fear of consultation with anyone. With people moving to the regions in droves, it is the Palaszczuk government that they can certainly trust to deliver for regional Queensland. It is our government that makes sure that Queensland's COVID economic recovery plan is providing jobs, opportunities and benefits for regional Queenslanders.

What a contrast we saw in the member for Nanango's constant reckless antics, when she and her colleagues called for the borders to be opened 64 times. It would have been hard to have an economic recovery with mine sites closed, tourist parks shut and manufacturing facilities and logistics networks grinding to a halt. I also will not be lectured by those opposite on our government's outstanding support to Queensland manufacturers. When the LNP were briefly in government, 14,700 jobs were lost in the industry. That is not a plan; that is a disaster. I thank the Labor members of the committee for their proper questions during estimates. The LNP members, especially the member for Nanango, could learn something from them.



**Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (3.56 pm): I rise to speak on the estimates report of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee. During estimates, Labor committee members wasted time and ran protection to obstruct scrutiny of the minister, the department and the issues. It demonstrated contempt for Queenslanders and taxpayers. People wanted answers about: staff levels; reduced R&D funding; reduced funding to tackle red imported fire ants; labour shortages; why AgTech is being outsourced to industry; timber supply shortages caused by successive policy failures; the impacts of fishing reforms; the future of agricultural careers after the government closed the agricultural colleges and the fire sale of their assets.

Queensland's budget has record spending, record debt and eye-watering borrowings, yet DAF are still going backwards in funding, staff and services. DAF's budget is cut by more than \$64 million from what they spent last year. It is cut by \$34 million from what they planned to spend last year. Whichever way you spin it, DAF's budget is cut. There are almost 40,000 extra public servants, but DAF are going backwards in staff. DAF plan for seven less staff than they planned for last year. Despite the extra bureaucrats, they plan to have 10 less than they actually had.

The minister was prepared with a ridiculous analogy which only highlighted his ignorance. The minister ignorantly tried to explain the cuts by quoting the Eastern Young Cattle Indicator, the EYCI, which is the carcass or dressed weight of cattle. He unwisely used an example of someone attending a cattle sale with a budget based on quotes of the carcass weight. Farmers do not buy on carcass weight at a cattle sale; meatworks buyers do. Carcass weight is after the beast has been killed. It is an indicator of the abattoir price or over the hook when it is ready to go to the butcher shop. At a store cattle sale, you buy a breeder or steer to take home, grow and fatten. Those prices have nothing to do with the EYCI. The minister may have been better looking at the feeder steer price.

No wonder agriculture is in trouble under this minister. He does not understand. It is also concerning that no-one told him. The same minister supported his Labor Senate colleague Minister Ludwig in his decimation of the live cattle trade in 2011. The minister said nothing then and has learnt nothing since about cattle. It cost the beef industry billions of dollars just before the onset of a significant drought and has resulted in a class action worth a billion dollars to Australian taxpayers. Ignorance is




dangerous and expensive. The minister thinks budgets are only estimates that you do not need to keep to. If a farmer borrows \$50,000 from the bank, the bank lends against your budget. It will not pay if you go over. If you write a cheque for \$55,000, it will be dishonoured. They will not cover it.

Budget and staff cuts are not just numbers on a spreadsheet; they impact service delivery. The fire ant eradication program faces fears of infestation rather than eradication. Excuses of accounting adjustments are used to justify \$25.1 million in cuts. Cutting staff from the team that is supposed to resolve the labour shortage crisis implies that the government believes everything is fine. This failure means Queenslanders will pay more for their fruit and vegetables until real action is taken. The Sustainable Fisheries Strategy, which will put many operators out of business, had no regulatory impact statement. The government could not answer whether any analysis has been completed on the mental health effects this will have.

Construction is being impacted by a serious shortage of timber. The long-term supply chain implications were started by Labor's own failed forestry policy. Successive Labor governments have significantly reduced native timber plantings. Former premier Beattie promised in the 1999 SEQ regional forest agreement that our long-term transition for the timber industry is based on plantation timber, which will set up a viable long-term hardwood timber industry for the next 50 to 100 years. I ask: was the replacement stock supposed to come from the 5,000 hectares or 10 million trees promised by former premier Peter Beattie and former minister Henry Palaszczuk? The commitment was never kept. The failed forestry policy is now impacting supply.

Instead of addressing the policy failure, Labor committee members ran protection, claiming it is 20 years old. Trees take more than 20 years to grow. Decisions then cause problems now. To not know that shows complete ignorance about the long-term implications of government policy. Estimates show that ignorance is dangerous and expensive.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (4.01 pm): I rise to speak in response to the estimates hearing report by the State Development and Regional Industries Committee, being report No. 11 of the 57th Parliament tabled earlier this month. I would like to begin by acknowledging my fellow members of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee: the chair, Mr Chris Whiting, the member for Bancroft; the deputy chair, Mr Jim McDonald, the member for Lockyer—and we are all in the chamber—committee members, Mr Tom Smith, the member for Bundaberg; Mr Michael Hart, the member for Burleigh; and Mr Robbie Katter, the member for Traeger. I would also like to acknowledge the committee secretariat, Stephanie Galbraith—and I notice she is in the chamber at the moment—as well as Hansard. I also acknowledge the Hon. Steven Miles, Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning; the Hon. Mark Furner, Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities; and the Hon. Glenn Butcher, Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water. I do not just mention their names for the sake of it. I know how much effort ministers, the secretariat and Hansard put into preparing for the estimates hearings and I think it is worthwhile mentioning their names.

The safety problems with Paradise Dam were discussed at the hearing, and to demonstrate the lack of integrity in the dam wall at Paradise Minister Butcher produced a concrete core sample cut from the dam wall that clearly showed a fracture in the concrete. As the minister said, the core sample clearly demonstrated why works were required to make the dam safe not just for the dam itself but for the residents of Bundaberg who would suffer should the dam collapse.

I was also pleased to hear the minister's response to questions from the member for Nanango concerning manufacturing in Queensland. The minister advised the committee that the government had committed \$1 billion to a rail manufacturing pipeline which included \$600 million to build 20 new passenger trains here in Queensland, supporting service delivery following the opening of Cross River Rail.


**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr MADDEN:** I say to the member for Nanango that while these new Queensland trains are being built in Maryborough, it opens up the possibility of regional manufacturing opportunities not only to supply components for the manufacturer of these trains but also for the maintenance of existing rolling stock. Recently a heads of agreement was signed by Bradken Industries to transfer title of their Karrabin foundry in Ipswich to White Industries, which is a foundry based in Dalby. I recently met with Craig White, the chief executive of White Industries, who informed me of White Industries' purchase of the Bradken site at Karrabin. White Industries is a family run business which has operated in Dalby since the 1960s, so it is great to see a Queensland company taking over the massive Bradken site. Fabricating metal products is White Industries' core activity, so I am sure they will make full use of the

foundry located at the Bradken site. Ipswich has a proud history of foundry work and metal fabrication for the railways as well as the mining and agricultural sectors. I am looking forward to working with White Industries to help them secure work from both the state government and private industry.

Subsequent to the conclusion of the estimates hearing I wrote to Minister Butcher and advised him I was pleased to hear of his comments at the estimates hearing on 28 July with regard to the \$1 billion rail manufacturing pipeline and the \$600 million allocated for 20 trains to be built in Maryborough. I advised that I noted the Palaszczuk government's commitment to ensure components to manufacture these trains would be sourced in Queensland from Queensland manufacturers and suppliers. I advised him that Bradken Industries is a large Ipswich based foundry located in the western suburbs of Ipswich which was recently acquired by White Industries. I also informed the minister that in the past the Bradken foundry was a major supplier of heavy metal cast components and until recently had a spur line connecting it with the western line. It is my hope that White Industries can reinvigorate the foundry, which previously employed over 500 workers, to supply products for those trains to be built in Maryborough. I also invited the minister, when White Industries takes possession of the Bradken site in October, to come and visit the Bradken site and speak with its new owners.

In closing, again I would like to thank the Deputy Premier, Minister Furner and Minister Butcher and once again thank the committee secretariat, Hansard and my fellow committee members.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (4.05 pm): It is a privilege to rise and speak about the estimates committee process. I would like to place on record my thanks to our secretariat and committee for the work and preparation they do and also our team of advisers for their preparation of the questions on notice as well as many of the questions for our shadow ministers. I would like to place on the record of the parliament that the member for Burleigh, who is in the House, raised with me months ago that he intends to move that the minutes of all future meetings of our committee be made public.

Honest Queenslanders expected more from this budget and the Labor government. With small and family businesses going to the wall, the Labor government was expected to step up and they simply did not. With the health system in crisis, Queenslanders deserve solutions to fix the problem of ambulance ramping and the ever-growing surgery waitlist. With young criminals running rampant throughout Queensland, they expected action to keep their family and possessions safe. With double-income families struggling to buy or rent a home, Queenslanders expected action to be taken to release more land. What they received was a budget without announced funds and with \$4 billion in cuts to vital infrastructure spending—spending which would have stimulated additional jobs. This government fell well short.


Once again, there was a lot of time wasted at the estimates hearing. While I recognise that some reasonable time was allocated to non-government questions, we saw constant interruptions and irrelevant points of order taken by government MPs which actually derailed that time. That did not allow for the free flow of questions and answers from ministers, which is what budget estimates is about. I support the opposition leader and our leadership team in their call for urgent reform of the process.

During questioning, the LNP uncovered that the best practice industry conditions, which the government promotes as a labour safety and skills development program—and we support it—is actually a deal that sees unions benefit. What is concerning to industry is the additional costs—up to 30 per cent on some projects that we have seen. We did see the Townsville stadium blow out by \$40 million due to these best practice industry conditions. The original cost was \$250 million, which blew out to \$293 million. It was not up to 30 per cent, as some industry experts have claimed, but it was certainly very high—near 20 per cent. With the future infrastructure required in the lead-up to the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, this union deal raises concern. We are concerned about the extraordinary cost blowouts that these projects may incur.

My local governments, the Lockyer Valley and Somerset regional councils, fear that as waste payments are not included past the 2021-22 financial year, this will be an additional tax on local government that they will be required to pass on to our residents, and that is just not acceptable.

In the time remaining to me I want to highlight a huge concern for our region—that is, the National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program. I note there was a significant reduction of \$25.1 million allocated to the program this year. This is about eradicating red fire ants. The table that was provided in response to question on notice No. 5 outlined that the number of detections increased from 2019 to 2020, from 6,100 to 8,600, with a projected increase to up to 12,000 sites. There were 6,500 as at 16 July. This is a huge concern for our community and it does not give a lot of confidence to the community. I recognise that in the Lockyer the number of detections has dropped. In 2017 there were 58. We have seen six so far this year. There is no more important program for the agriculture industry

and social wellbeing in South-East Queensland than the National Red Important Fire Ant Eradication Program. It is about eradicating fire ants. At present, my community does not have confidence that that will occur. I want to work with the government to see programs delivered that see eradication take place.

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (4.10 pm): How good is it to once again stand in the House and talk about the strong health response of the Palaszczuk Labor government to COVID-19 that is delivering a strong economic recovery? When it comes to keeping Queenslanders safe and creating more regional jobs for regional Queenslanders, the Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering day in and day out. We saw this during the estimates process. We saw how much our government is investing into Queensland, particularly regional Queensland. The whole Bundaberg region is leading the way when it comes to investment into regional jobs. Bundaberg is seeing investment through this budget that will deliver for Queenslanders. We see more housing being constructed through the Housing Construction Jobs Program and the Works for Tradies program. More people are getting back into work through Palaszczuk Labor government projects.

More young people are being skilled, both on the job and at TAFE. There is also investment in roads. The work done so far on the Isis Highway is outstanding. In fact, constituents approach me at the markets and say, 'Tom, when we drive along that stretch of road we feel like going in and out all the lanes.' That is how smooth it feels right now. It is fantastic.


With our Works for Queensland projects we have created over 3,000 jobs in the Bundaberg region, working with the Bundaberg Regional Council. Some of those great projects are key social infrastructure projects, looking after our young people and our young families. A new skate park is being constructed as we speak. I was lucky enough to open Boreham Park along with the member for Pine Rivers and the mayor, Jack Dempsey. It is fantastic social infrastructure. I held my mobile office there on Saturday. Parents were coming up to me saying, 'Tom, what a great investment for the region.' A couple of kids even came up to grab a 'Tom Smith for Bundaberg' hat. They loved it. It was outstanding. These were good local kids enjoying a local project.

The Deputy Premier spoke at estimates. I was lucky enough to have him visit my area last Wednesday. We visited Farmfresh Fine Foods, a fantastic organisation and a great local business run by an iconic local family. Janelle, Andrew and Luke Gerry took us around and showed us what the new project will do. It will expand its product, but it will also create 24 extra local jobs in our community. The same family runs Macadamias Australia, which is investing into the agritourism space—again, with great support from the Palaszczuk Labor government—to create more jobs. That is what this government is all about.

While I am talking about jobs, I mention the Bundaberg East flood levee—something that will create just under 700 jobs. There is one man stopping it: the LNP federal member for Hinkler, who refuses to throw any support behind the project, to the point where he is starting to mislead the community. What does the federal LNP have? They have a \$4 billion emergency response fund around disasters such as flooding. Where does it flood? We know that it floods in Bundaberg. Why will the federal government not help out the people of Bundaberg with some of that \$4 billion?

All we are asking for is \$42 million from the federal government over three years. The federal member for Hinkler says, 'Oh, you are asking for 85 per cent of the \$50 million allocation each financial year.' No, we are not; we are asking for \$7 million in the first year. He likes to throw out percentages, so I grabbed the abacus, used a calculator and maybe did some googling to work out the percentages. We are asking for a total federal government contribution to the project of \$42.5 million. That equates to 1.0625 per cent of the \$4 billion fund. The member cannot even get us one per cent of a \$4 billion fund!

What about the first-year cost? It is \$7.5 million out of a \$4 billion fund. That equates to 0.1875 per cent. Out of a \$4 billion fund, the federal member for Hinkler cannot even get one per cent for the people that he and I represent. Why will he not come to the party, help protect 600 properties, our local schools and our sporting organisations and stand up for the people we both represent? I say to the federal member for Hinkler: let's work together and get this done. I support the bill wholeheartedly. Well done to the chair for a fair and balanced running of the estimates process.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (4.15 pm): I rise to speak to the Appropriation Bill. At the outset I have to say that over my time in parliament there has been a decline in the quality of estimates hearings. I am not sure how that works. In the main, when I first got here—despite any other problems I had with the way things were done—I always felt that ministers were sweaty under the collar and left the estimates fairly stressed. I just do not get that same sense now. Government members could turn around and say that is a reflection of the competency of non-government members, but I think that is being a bit unfair.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr KATTER:** I will take that direct criticism, but I try pretty hard to put forward some really important questions to be answered by the government. I really think the government would benefit from giving good answers, whether or not people agree with them, so that people can make a good decision as observers in terms of where they stand regarding the government's position. I think in the long term the government would benefit from that, whether I like the answer or not. Avoiding these questions does not do anyone any good. I am finding it very difficult. No matter how clever I think I am in trying to make my questions concise, it is just getting harder and harder to get a straight answer from the government. Perhaps it is operator error from my end, but I do not think it is. I just make that observation from where I sit. I think the public loses out of that. I do not think in the long term the government will win.


My first question was about the Olympic Games. When I visit small western towns I make a joke, saying, 'Don't worry, you'll get a huge benefit out of the Olympic Games when they come.' People laugh, because they do not see how they will get any benefit out of it. We are happy if the government wants to host the Olympic Games and sees the benefit of doing that, but it is very hard for us to see how that will not dig into other opportunities for us to get hold of resources to develop our areas. We did not get any response from the government on that.

The next question I asked was about royalties in the north-west—a very fundamental question. It is the second or third time I have asked the question, but I have never been given a direct answer. The North West Minerals Province is worth \$3 billion to \$4 billion to the economy. The state Treasury should have a view on whether royalties from that area will increase or decrease. You would hope they do. I certainly expect that they would. I know that there is a view by some in Treasury that there is no future in the north-west. I know that there are ministers and politicians who disagree with that, but that does not mean Treasury does not think like that. That will impact on decisions being made about proposals such as CopperString. It is an important question to answer. Again, there was no answer on that.

We wanted to hear something on the gas reserve policy. I wanted a response as to whether, with the benefit of hindsight and without casting judgement on anyone at the time who made decisions around this, the government thinks that that was a successful policy. In my view clearly it was not, but we cannot get an answer on that. Again, it would be useful for the public to watch these proceedings to make an informed judgement if the government would say, 'Okay, perhaps on that policy we should change direction,' but you cannot get a straight answer on these things.

The other issue I asked about was around Rex Airlines, and there is a lot of dispute. It is going to tender again and it was brought to my attention that a person from Rex Airlines by the name of Danny Foster was employed to monitor the performance of Rex on that route that it is now tendering for. That was shut down. We could not get a straight answer after asking twice. I used all of my questions up just on that single very specific question and we were told that Danny Foster does not work in that department anymore. I asked, 'Yes, but did he ever work in monitoring that performance?' We never got an answer on that. It is a pretty simple question to ask, so therefore I see a failure in this process.

With regard to police and firearms, no matter which side of the fence you fall on in terms of this issue, it is a big issue. I can guarantee members that there are a lot of angry people out there who just want some fairness in the process and some rigour around the test for a fit and proper person. They want to get rid of all of the subjectivity by, basically, ill qualified people making judgement calls on whether a person is a fit and proper person to maintain a firearm. We just want some straight answers. Instead, the government ends up saying that there has been no problem there at all and there is no increase. That does not help anyone. The government will not be fixing problems if it is not going to answer questions. We might not like the answers, but we have to maintain the integrity of the process.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (4.20 pm): This government tells us that it is open, accountable and transparent. It is hardly that. As the member for Maroochydore said earlier today, we can see that by the minutes of the committee meetings that are not published on the committee's website. I made a conscious decision, as the member for Lockyer said—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mrs Gerber): Member, the debate time—

**Mr HART:**—to move a motion at every committee meeting—


**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, I will ask you to resume your seat. Unfortunately, the debate time has expired.

Report adopted.

## Education, Employment and Training Committee, Report

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mrs Gerber): The question is—

That the report of the Education, Employment and Training Committee be adopted.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (4.21 pm): As the Liberal National Party's shadow minister for education, I rise to address the Appropriation Bill 2021-22 budget estimates hearings that were held on the proposed expenditure by the Palaszczuk state Labor government as examined by the Education, Employment and Training Committee. This year's Queensland state budget has an allocation of \$15.3 billion for the provision of education, including childhood education, in Queensland. What was clearly evident during the Education, Employment and Training Committee hearings is that the Palaszczuk state Labor government is losing control. Disturbingly and critically, Labor is losing control of teacher and student safety in our schools.

Queensland students, parents, teachers and school staff have every right to expect that when they enter a Queensland state school or Department of Education facility they are entering a safe learning and work environment. The manner in which the Palaszczuk state Labor government has treated the significant exposure asbestos incidents at Sunnybank State High School should concern every parent and teacher in Queensland. In March of this year when I questioned the Labor Minister for Education about the handling of this serious incident, the minister said that everything has been done according to the manner in which you deal with the serious issue of asbestos because that is the way that we deal with these issues on this side of the House. However, as per the RTI documents obtained by the Liberal National Party, it took a full 17 days from when staff at Sunnybank State High School raised concerns about an asbestos exposure incident to when finally a professional clean-up crew and hygienist were dispatched to clean and test more than 30 rooms. That was 17 days during which students and teachers were in a learning and workplace environment where asbestos exposure had occurred because of the Palaszczuk state Labor government and the way that it fails to ensure that our schools adhere to Department of Education asbestos management policies and protocols.


As the Labor Minister for Education knows only too well, there is simply no level of asbestos exposure that is safe and to know that there have been 19 school asbestos exposure incidents related to Labor's Cooler Cleaner Schools Program, 12 of which were serious enough to be notifiable events, again raises genuine concerns about student, teacher and staff safety in our schools. Further, it was revealed through the Liberal National Party's questioning that the Department of Education is unable to provide specific and comprehensive data when it comes to violence and workplace safety incidents in Queensland schools. If the Palaszczuk state Labor government is truly committed to student and teacher safety and wellbeing, then surely capturing complete data of such incidents can assist in developing better strategies to deliver a safer working and learning environment. You simply cannot fix what you do not measure comprehensively.

Just as the 2020-21 estimates hearings for the education portfolio demonstrated, there is an absolute lack of government leadership, accountability and transparency coupled with departmental cultural issues that remain unaddressed by the state Labor government which continue to cost Queensland taxpayers each and every day. Nowhere is this more clearly evident than the ongoing saga of the selection process of a school principal at the Brisbane South State Secondary College and the ongoing delay of a satisfactory resolution for senior departmental education executive staff and the taxpayers of Queensland.

During estimates I also took the opportunity to ask where in the 2021-22 state budget there is a specific allocation of funding for a new school hall at Kenmore State High School. Not surprisingly, as with previous Labor state budgets, there is again no funding for a new school hall facility at Kenmore State High School, meaning that students, families and staff are not receiving the vital infrastructure needed to support the entire school community. This is despite the fact that over many years the school council, the P&C and the school executive have worked diligently on these matters to ensure that such infrastructure is included in its school's strategic infrastructure plan, which is formally submitted to the Department of Education.

Finally, the health, safety and wellbeing of our students and staff must be a priority of the Palaszczuk state Labor government. The growing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of all Queenslanders, particularly students and young Queenslanders, presents a significant public health challenge that requires urgent intervention and additional financial support from the Queensland state Labor government. As recently highlighted in the 2021-22 advocacy and policy priorities submission to the Queensland state government by the Royal Australian and New Zealand

College of Psychiatrists, our state of Queensland requires an additional significant investment of \$700 million per year into the system. I take this opportunity to implore the Palaszczuk state Labor government to provide additional support for the mental health of all Queenslanders.

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (4.26 pm): I rise to speak to the Education, Employment and Training Committee's report on the 2021-22 budget estimates. The committee made one recommendation—that is, that the proposed expenditure be agreed to. It was a day full of colour and movement done in a very COVID-safe environment, so I take this opportunity to thank the attendants on the day who worked very hard to make sure that we were all kept safe. I also thank our secretariat staff who did a lot of hard work in the background to ensure that the day was a success. These areas continue to be the focus of the Palaszczuk government. It is focusing on jobs now and jobs into the future and the vital funding that ensures that all Queenslanders have a bright future ahead.

In small business and skills and training I thank Minister Farmer and her staff for their comprehensive overview of all of the work that is being done, particularly as we economically recover from the impacts of COVID. COVID continues to disrupt our small businesses and during the estimates process there was discussion around preparedness for future lockdowns. We have since then experienced a lockdown and seen how quick and agile we have been in our response to being able to provide really great packages of support for small businesses right across Queensland. Big Plans for Small Business was also covered in detail—that is, the \$140 million plan. That is some fantastic work again by our Palaszczuk government.

We also heard about the small business roadshows that the minister has conducted right across the country and how informative they have been and how much of a part they have had to play in terms of the design of how the budget is spent. We also heard about our TAFE investment and our Skilling Queenslanders for Work being two very key pieces in our skills and training platforms. In education, IR and racing there is again a record investment—\$15 billion in infrastructure, maintenance and investment in our schools, investment in our children's futures. In the Redlands air conditioning and solar are nearly finalised for all of our schools, and that is fantastic. Local Schools Local Jobs, the halls programs and the maintenance schedule are doing fantastic work. In particular, Capalaba is getting a new hall.

We also have to commend the work that is being done within the budget looking at students' mental health and wellbeing. Implementing GPs in schools and homework hubs are important programs to make sure that we position all of our children for success as they move through their education.

In terms of industrial relations, we are doing work that I am particularly interested in. We have a renewed focus on gender equality and improving women's economic security arising from the Australian Human Rights Commission's landmark Respect@Work report, which was as a result of a national inquiry into sexual harassment in Australian workplaces. Since the release of the Respect@Work report the Palaszczuk government has announced a five-year review of the Queensland Industrial Relations Act 2016 and the Queensland Human Rights Commission is undertaking a review of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991. These are important programs. It was quite interesting to read the LNP's dissenting report. The dissenting report was pretty light on, but the third paragraph states—

Finally, workplaces should be a safe environment devoid of harassment, intimidation and coercion. When reputable media agencies publish articles about workplace intimidation these allegations should be investigated.

I find that extraordinarily ironic on the day when the LNP's very own federal member for Bowman, Mr Laming, wants to have another go at me in the *Courier-Mail* today. I will table that article for the benefit of the House.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 30 August 2021, titled 'Laming pushes Redland MP for apology' [[1279](#)].

Those opposite should look in their own backyard first and tidy that up before they start having a go about harassment in this workplace. This is a workplace too. In the conclusion of the dissenting report it states that the hearings left many questions unanswered. When one looks at the time frames that we had, across the course of the day the non-government side was given over 60 per cent of the time. It was a fair and it was a reasonable amount of time to ask the questions that needed to be answered. The second paragraph of the conclusion states they did not feel there was re-assurance from the departments. Quite frankly, that is certainly not what I heard from all of the officials who attended on the day. They answered the questions. They were happy to provide follow-ups. In fact, we had nothing taken on notice throughout the course of the day because the answers were so comprehensive from the ministers and from the director-general. On behalf of the committee I thank everybody who was involved in the day. I think it was robust and I think we got a really good interrogation of the budget for the portfolio areas.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Ms GRACE:** Deputy Speaker.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): I call the member for McConnel.



**Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (4.32 pm): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Wait your turn!

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms GRACE:** Just listen to them.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Last time I checked, the Speaker retains the right to make the call. If you want to move a dissenting motion on that you are welcome to. I call the member for McConnel.

**Ms GRACE:** Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Listen to them. They are worse than kids in a classroom, honestly and truly. If they would only grow up it would be very good. I commend the Education, Employment and Training Committee for its budget estimate's report. I acknowledge the work of the chair, the member for Redlands, who did an excellent job, and the members of the committee, along with the Clerk and the parliamentary staff. The 2021-22 budget is delivering another record education budget with a \$15.3 billion investment in schools and early education. Importantly, as the Queensland government seeks to rebuild our economy, we are spending almost \$1.9 billion in schools in this financial year, including 10 new schools in 2023 and 2024, as well as supporting over 4,000 jobs for the state. These schools add to the 18 we have already delivered. I look forward to delivering those schools and the other schools which are first rate and most certainly are state-of-the-art.

The budget also features a \$235 million halls program which will deliver new and upgraded halls at 37 schools, supporting 775 jobs. It is always interesting to hear those opposite. They go on about a hall in their electorate, but they did not go to the election with one hall, with one infrastructure discussion at all. There was no plan.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for McConnel is misleading the House. I take personal offence. I ask the minister to withdraw because she knows full well that Kilcoy State High School hall was taken to the election, amongst others.


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Resume your seat. I have taken your point of order. The taking of a point of order is not an opportunity to debate. Personal offence has been taken. The member has asked you to withdraw. I ask the minister to withdraw.

**Ms GRACE:** I withdraw, but we went with a \$235 million halls program. I do not recall any comprehensive halls program from those opposite. Maybe one hall here, maybe one hall there, but no comprehensive halls program. Let us see them take offence over that one. We are upgrading training facilities at 27 schools. The opposition spokesperson on education, the member for Moggill, talked about student wellbeing. We saw nothing in their election promises. We are rolling out a \$100 million student wellbeing program. We are already employing specialists in schools. We have a GP program in schools. We want to trial 20 and we have 50. We are looking to see what we can do to help the mental health and wellbeing of students. We are rolling out homework centres at 120 schools. Applications are in and we are rolling it out to help students in primary and high schools to get across their homework and to do better at school. It was great to visit Darra and to see their homework centre in action and those little kiddies loving every single second of it.

We are employing 6,190 new teachers and 1,135 new teacher aides and providing \$20 million to help boost our teaching profession. I know that the member for Bundaberg and other former teachers and principals in this place very much welcome that. Our \$20 million Turn to Teaching program will offer internships and we will guarantee 300 people a job after they undertake that program. We have included extra money for early childhood education and care. What we are delivering in education is excellent. We have responded time and time again to questions with regard to asbestos. No-one takes asbestos more seriously than this side of the House. No matter how many times, whether it is through estimates or in this House, we answer the same questions over and over again, those opposite only hear what they want to hear but they do not hear the truth.

In relation to the racing industry, we are delivering around \$41.3 million over two years with a 35 per cent guaranteed point-of-consumption tax now going back into the industry. We will be ensuring that that is invested in local infrastructure and in prize money. The racing industry has welcomed this with open arms.

In industrial relations we have a proud record with some of the best industrial laws in the state, with leading industrial manslaughter laws, health and safety laws, wage theft laws—the list goes on and on. It is almost getting to the point where the opposition spokesperson on industrial relations is harassing the public servants who work hard. Not one of the allegations raised by the member for Kawana has been substantiated. I feel for Helen Burgess, who he keeps writing about. Not one case that has been raised by those opposite has been substantiated. Trespass charges against union officials have been thrown out of court and upheld by the Supreme Court. Right-of-entry disputes between Enco and the CFMMEU have been dismissed in the first instance. Enco have been fined because of the manner in which they injured their workers. That is the truth. That is the way it works. We get nothing from those opposite but baseless allegations.

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (4.37 pm): I rise to address the Education, Employment and Training Committee's report into the budget estimates process. This is the latest budget that fails small business and it fails our communities. Small and family businesses are the engine room of the Queensland economy. Small and family businesses are the backbone of communities right across Queensland. The Treasurer has acknowledged that Queensland small businesses 'bore the brunt of the COVID-19 downturn'. Despite this acknowledgement, Labor again decided to ignore them in this budget. In fact, the budget courageously ignored the impact of COVID-19 and was built on an assumption that there will be no significant lockdowns across Queensland.

It is ironic that much of Queensland was, in fact, in lockdown on 1 July when this budget came into effect. In fact, since 1 July we have seen further lockdowns across much of Queensland, which just highlights that the budget was built on a very thin foundation indeed.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I hear the chirping from the Minister for Education who likes alternative facts and is not prepared to address the truth when she comes in here.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** She likes to repeat alternative facts and falsehoods because she cannot get her facts straight.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** The minister can chirp away. As demonstrated during the estimates process it is clear that, despite the obvious looming threats from COVID-19 and the potential for future lockdowns, this state Labor government had completed no planning or preparation at all. The impact of recent lockdowns on small and family businesses has been writ large over recent weeks as businesses in the seat of McConnell go under while many others fight to keep the doors open. Businesses down the road in the seat of McConnell are going under but the Minister for Education and member for McConnell does not care.

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

**Mr Mickelberg:** Glass jaw.

**Ms GRACE:** I have two points of order. On my first point of order I take offence and ask that the statement be withdrawn. The second point of order relates to the 'glass jaw' comment. I take offence and ask for that to be withdrawn as well.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): The minister has taken personal offence and asked for a withdrawal. I ask you to withdraw.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I withdraw twice. The state government's failure to plan for such a scenario is appalling. During estimates I asked if any modelling had been undertaken in relation to the impact that lockdowns were having on small and family businesses. The answer: none! That is not good enough. The minister for small business either does not care about the impact on small businesses or is incapable of winning the argument around the cabinet table to get support for small business. Which is it? She should come in here today and she should tell the 450,000 small business owners and their employees which it is. Is it that she does not care or is it that she is ineffectual? If the minister did care and did have influence, we would have seen a small business support package in place before Queensland went into lockdown. As it is, applications for the \$1,000 grants for sole traders only opened today, nearly a month after the government announced their already woefully inadequate and late package.

When the Treasurer announced the COVID-19 Business Support Grants he said—

... we need to set up the process for the applications to be considered and dealt with by government. We're looking to set up the processing administrative process for this within two weeks.



He went on to say—


We have looked at that very carefully inside government and we aim to get the application process going within two weeks.

After standing up in front of the people of Queensland and telling them that he would get applications started within two weeks, what happened? He failed! The Treasurer failed. He failed to deliver yet again. It is the latest in a long line of failures by this government. And that is just for applications to start. How many small and family businesses have received funds in their bank accounts yet? The answer: not many!

Small and family businesses across Queensland deserve to know what support the state government will provide when we go into the next lockdown in the seat of McConnel—or the one after that. Which is it? How much money is going to be on the table for small and family businesses in the next lockdown? The member for McConnel sits at the cabinet table and should speak up. Now is the time for that information, not after the next lockdown when businesses are dealing with the uncertainty that comes with a lockdown. Businesses need certainty and this government is failing them on that count.

In the short time I have left I would like to address the government's Social Enterprise Jobs Fund, which was announced in last year's budget with \$8 million, but it is stuck in neutral. Of the \$3 million in grants in that fund, exactly zero dollars had been distributed to social enterprises at the time of the estimates hearing. In relation to the remaining \$5 million in the fund, the committee was advised that it would be spent 'developing the sustainability of this emerging sector'. No details were disclosed on what that means, how the money would be spent or any measurable outcomes for the social enterprise sector. Like so many Labor policy proposals, the state government's Social Enterprise Jobs Fund is heavy on photo-op but light on follow-up. This state government is failing small and family businesses and Queensland small businesses deserve better.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—ALP) (4.43 pm): I rise to endorse the committee report for the 2021 estimates for our portfolio committee. As I have said here before, one of the core driving motivations for my involvement in our great party and then of course in putting my hand up for public office is the power of education and training. It gave me my good start in life and I work every day to give opportunities to others in our communities so that they can have their lives improved as well. This is a government that recognises the fundamental power of education and training to change people's lives. That was made abundantly clear by both Minister Grace and Minister Farmer during our estimates committee hearing. For me it was heartening to hear about the investment in education, training and TAFE right across the state and, of course, about local services and projects in my electorate of Stafford.

The education minister outlined some of the many important school upgrades happening across schools in Stafford, including \$250,000 for the outdoor learning area at Kedron State School. The minister can rest assured that I have already been out there to look at designs and early planning work with the principal so that we can get that project delivered. I have also met with the Wilston State School principal and P&C, where we are delivering a new hall. At Wavell State School we have delivered a hall upgrade and at Somerset Hills State School we are investing in new sporting infrastructure. That is not to mention the half a million dollars for the refurbishment of science rooms at Kedron State High School and more than \$650,000 across the electorate for maintenance and minor works, which helps all of our local schools.


I thank the chair, the member for Redlands, for her calm and very fair chairing of the hearing. It was more than fair, I should say. In fact, I think the figures show that non-government members enjoyed something like 60 per cent of the time for questions. Despite being given significantly more time than government members of parliament, shadow ministers could not land a blow. One after the other, they filed through the committee but could not actually formulate a decent line of questioning. That was perhaps best illustrated by the member for Everton, who complained that one of my questions was too similar to his. Without any sense of irony or self-awareness, the member for Everton proudly and publicly declared that the voracity of his questioning amounted to a Dixer. What type of intellectual rigour are those opposite bringing to the estimates process if, by their own words, they are asking ministers Dixers? But do not worry, we were there to step up.

Minister Farmer was able to talk about her recent visit to the multicultural centre at Newmarket where we heard powerful stories, one after the other, from young people, many of them recent migrants to Australia, who are benefitting greatly from the government's partnership through the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. Importantly, as the minister explained, for many of those people the

jobs that are enabled through that training is their first source of independent income, which is so powerful, particularly for young women. I know those opposite do not like to talk about Skilling Queenslanders for Work and I get it. It is hard to talk about such a fantastic program when those opposite axed it and then, even in opposition years, at election after election promised to cut it again. I am happy to talk about the Skilling Queenslanders for Work impact in my electorate and right across the state.

In one fantastic example, Skilling Queenslanders for Work provides jobs for local tradies and upcoming apprentices through local sporting organisations. I know the member for Nudgee has a similar program in her electorate. It is a win-win-win. It is a great program for the apprentices coming through and it delivers great results for community sporting clubs. It is a fantastic program. Again, I am proud that we can deliver that as part of our Skilling Queenslanders for Work program.

In the short time I have left I want to again thank the chair for her fantastic leadership of the committee. I think more broadly our committee works in a fairly cooperative way with opposition and crossbench members. I thank them for that work, which is often done behind the scenes. I thank the attendants on the day. As the chair said, they faced pretty tricky circumstances but we got through it. To both ministers, their officers, the directors-general and staff from other important statutory bodies that were there, including TAFE Queensland, I thank you for the comprehensive and very informative engagement provided on the day. As the chair has pointed out, not a single question was taken on notice because fulsome answers were provided in the extensive time available. As I said, 60 per cent of the time went to non-government members. It was a comprehensive process and I endorse the report before the House.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (4.48 pm): I rise to enter the debate as the shadow minister for racing. If we needed another example of the mismanagement of the racing industry, of course, we need look only to the Eagle Farm racetrack. Over the past seven years around \$14 million has been spent on the Eagle Farm racetrack. It was out of action for an extended period. Our iconic state-leading racecourse was not available because of the mismanagement of this Labor government. The track has been a nightmare since the Labor Party tried to upgrade it. There has been report after report and they are anecdotal reports because the industry is too afraid to speak out. They worry about repercussions. They worry that if they speak too heavily against the government it will affect their future funding. We hear anecdotal reports about their concerns about the safety of the track, the quality of the track, that interstate trainers do not want to bring their horses here and that local trainers do not want to do that either.

I asked questions of the minister about this and she proudly boasted about how fantastic the track is and how everybody comes up to her all the time and tells her how happy they are with the track. She must mix with a very limited group of people who have been commenting that way because, lo and behold, just a couple of weeks after these estimates hearings, where the minister said that everybody is happy with the track, that there are no problems with the track, stakeholders had a crisis meeting with Racing Queensland. They said the meeting was not bad; they said it was a pretty good meeting. Interestingly, Cameron Partington from the Australian Trainers Association said—

We are very pleased that Racing Queensland are finally acknowledged the track needs to be fixed.

They have finally acknowledged that. Despite what the minister says, the track needs to be fixed. Fortunately, it does not need to be dug up again, but it needs work on it. Racing Queensland have admitted that. It seems that that will happen over the next short period of time and hopefully we will get to the stage where this track can be returned to be the premier track in our state. There were a couple of other issues as well—


**Mr Stevens:** QRIC.

**Mr MANDER:** QRIC. I take that interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach, a keen racing fan. QRIC is something that I do not think anybody in the industry thinks is going well. I think it is \$30 million that has been invested in QRIC. It is nearly double the investment in other states. Again, the minister will defend QRIC and say how well the industry supports it. In the government's own papers, only 59 per cent of stakeholders have confidence in QRIC. Only 59 per cent of people have confidence in the body that is supposed to protect the integrity of the racing industry in this state. I do not regard that as a ringing endorsement—59 per cent. Nearly half of the stakeholders in the racing industry do not have confidence in QRIC's competence or integrity. That is another fail for the racing portfolio.

There is one last thing which I thought was very amusing. This is typical of any Labor government. I refer to the service standards, the effectiveness and efficiency measures. How do we measure the effectiveness of the vast investment that we make into the racing industry every year? There are two performance indicators. One of them is the 'percentage of country race meetings in the approved

schedule that are conducted'. It is a process—not an outcome but a tick-the-box process. This government would not know what an outcome is. They would not know how to measure the effectiveness of taxpayer money in an industry that employs tens of thousands of people. That effectiveness measure is an embarrassment. How can anybody apply a KPI like that and expect the Queensland public to have some sort of confidence that their taxpayer money is being spent wisely?

I have travelled around many racetracks over the last few months, regional and metropolitan, and it is a great experience. I have yet to meet one person who says they support the Labor government. Of course, they have to keep their mouths shut because they want the money, but, I tell you what, they have zero confidence in the government and zero confidence in the minister.

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (4.53 pm): I rise to speak in support of report No. 8 of the 57th Parliament for the Education, Employment and Training Committee regarding the 2021-22 budget estimates process. The committee made one recommendation—that is, that the proposed expenditure be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the great work of the Hon. Grace Grace MP, Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing, and the Hon. Di Farmer MP, Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development, for their responses to the committee's examination of the budget estimates and the passion they bring to their respective portfolios for the people of Queensland.

There are so many great programs being delivered. I am going to talk about a couple that have made a significant difference on the ground in my electorate. I think I can speak on behalf of all members of the House when I say that Skilling Queenslanders for Work is being well received. I welcome the \$80 million per annum ongoing from 2021-22. Skilling Queenslanders for Work is targeted to help disadvantaged jobseekers gain the skills and knowledge they require to enter and stay in the workforce. I have been to many graduations, and it is always pleasing to hear of graduates not being able to attend their graduation as they have already gained employment.


Another great program that has been well received is Back to Work, with up to \$140 million over four years from 2021-22 to help eligible businesses take on a person who has been unemployed for an extended period of time and to help people into employment. This is great in assisting particularly our younger people to enter the workforce. The dignity of work can never be underestimated.

Total capital purchases for the Department of Education for 2021-22 are forecast at \$1.447 billion. The capital works budget is largely for construction and refurbishment of school educational facilities. This investment supports thousands of jobs across our state. Within this expenditure is the school halls program. I am very pleased that the Hall State School in Rockhampton is receiving funding for a hall and multipurpose centre. The school currently has no shaded area where all students can come together for assembly. Another program is Advancing Clean Energy Schools. I am aware that a few schools in my electorate have received funding under this program. Programs like this make a real difference to our students and teachers.

Another area of interest for me is the increased support for the Queensland racing industry through the allocation of 35 per cent of revenue from the point-of-consumption tax, estimated to be additional net funding of \$41.3 million over two years.

It amazes me that opposition members say they did not receive their fair share of time. They had 60 per cent of the time, which equates to 223 minutes in which they were able to ask questions. The other pleasing thing to note is that ministers were able to answer every question and there were no questions taken on notice. It shows how well prepared our ministers are in responding.

The committee has recommended that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2021-22, for the committee's area of responsibility be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (4.57 pm): Having Minister Grace in charge of the industrial relations department is like putting the fox in charge of the henhouse. She may have her mask on, but I can see the smirk and hear the giggles, because she knows what is coming. Being a former union official herself, now in charge of industrial relations, is it any wonder the opposition keeps getting complaints from the staff in her own department about issues? Let me address some of the issues that Minister Grace just talked about in terms of the allegations.

**Ms Grace:** Baseless allegations.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** She interjects now about some of the allegations. I can inform the House that there is a current investigation into the Office of Industrial Relations that the Crime and Corruption Commission have sent—

**Ms Grace:** Because you wrote to them.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Yes, I did. The Crime and Corruption Commission wrote back to me and said of the allegations, 'If the allegation is proved, it would amount to corrupt conduct.' That is why the Crime and Corruption Commission has now asked an external body to complete the investigation. I have already been contacted by the external body in terms of the investigation, so there are serious issues.


What I want to say about the Crime and Corruption Commission is that I am disappointed with the way the Crime and Corruption Commission handle these things. I received a public interest disclosure which I tabled at last year's estimates. Any reasonable person can read that public interest disclosure and see that it is from someone within the department making allegations about departmental officials in the minister's department liaising and working with the CFMEU—the bullying union thugs. Clearly the allegations are from staff members in the industrial relations office.

I wrote to the Crime and Corruption Commission and said, 'I have spoken directly'—this is new for the minister and I am going to disclose it in the House—'to workplace health and safety inspectors in the minister's department who pleaded with the Crime and Corruption Commission to go to the star chamber.' They want the protection of the CCC to have their case heard. They want the allegations heard by the Crime and Corruption Commission. I wrote to the Crime and Corruption Commission and said that we have these workplace health and safety and other staff members of the industrial relations department here ready to give evidence to the Crime and Corruption Commission. The Crime and Corruption Commission said, 'No, the industrial relations department is best placed to deal with these complaints.'

What sort of protection are we giving whistleblowers when the Crime and Corruption Commission are handed everything and they still say, 'We want an external HR department to investigate these investigations'? The current HR department investigating the Office of Industrial Relations do not have the investigative powers of the Crime and Corruption Commission. They do not have the power to compel witnesses. They do not have the power to ask witnesses to go to the star chamber and give evidence. We are not seeing the sunlight and disinfectant in the Office of Industrial Relations. Where there is smoke there is fire, and there is lots of smoke coming out of the industrial relations office.

I can assure members that these current staff members—public servants—of this minister's department have come to me, have had enough and have said, 'We want to expose the truth to the Crime and Corruption Commission.' The Crime and Corruption Commission have dismissed it and said, 'No, the industrial relations department can look at it themselves.' I call on the Crime and Corruption Commission to do their job properly because I guarantee that if they do their job properly this minister would not be a minister. With the allegations that have mounted, with the allegations that I have read, with the allegations that I have heard, this minister would not have a job because of the issues and relationship between the CFMEU and the Office of Industrial Relations. It is happening. It is disgraceful. If the Crime and Corruption Commission are not going to do their job, then we need a royal commission into the Office of Industrial Relations in Queensland and the relationship between the CFMEU and the donations of the CFMEU to the Labor Party.

*(Time expired)*

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (5.02 pm): This side of the House is passionate about a great start for every student in Queensland. Those opposite only whinge. That was obvious at the estimates hearing for the Education, Employment and Training Committee. I thank the committee chair, the member for Redlands—happy birthday to her—all committee members and the committee secretariat. I thank the minister. The minister did a wonderful job talking about all of her achievements as Minister for Education. When I go to schools, teachers and students say to me, 'We love Minister Grace. She's fun, she's caring and she cracks us up. She is warm and a great education minister who also knows how to run a tight ship.'

I also thank outgoing director-general, Tony Cook, for his service to the Department of Education. He is leaving us in Queensland and heading down south to the ACT. I recall when representing Minister Grace at the education council in Adelaide a few years ago Professor Gonski pulled me aside and said that Tony Cook is the best director-general in all of Queensland and how lucky we are to have him in Queensland. I thank Tony for his service. His replacement will certainly have big shoes to fill.

I also thank all of the departmental staff who work tirelessly with the minister to prepare for estimates. They prepared for a range of possible questions, but, unfortunately, a lot of their preparation was untouched on the day because of a lack of good, detailed and targeted questions from those opposite about the education department and about how our government is delivering for schools, students and staff right across Queensland.

During the estimates hearing there was not a single question from those opposite about pedagogy, about the department's inclusion policy, about how schools are supporting students with a disability or intellectual impairment. There was not a single question about teacher recruitment or teacher and student wellbeing. There was not a single question about schools in Indigenous communities or the application of the Australian curriculum in our schools.


The LNP did not ask about how the 2021-22 state budget continues the Palaszczuk Labor government's proud record of giving every child a great start and engaging young people in learning no matter where they live in Queensland. The LNP did not ask about the Palaszczuk government's record education budget—a \$15.3 billion investment in schools and early childhood education which continues to deliver for Queensland children and students from Far North Queensland to the Gold Coast and beyond. I am proud that in this 2021-22 state budget the Palaszczuk Labor government is investing almost \$1.9 billion in school infrastructure spending to maintain, renew and build new facilities, including 10 new schools, supporting more than 4,100 jobs across the state. The LNP did not ask about school halls either. They did not want to know about our fantastic \$235 million program which will deliver new or upgraded halls and which will support 775 jobs.

We know it makes a big difference for children starting school when they have been to kindy in the year before prep. That is why I am proud that the Palaszczuk Labor government is investing \$202.9 million from the 2021-22 to the 2024-25 financial year and \$64 million per year ongoing after that to support the continued provision of universal access to early childhood education in the year before school. In 2021-22 this will result in a total investment of \$187 million to ensure Queensland families can access affordable, quality kindy programs, no matter their life circumstance.

While I am on my feet, I take this opportunity to wish all of the early childhood educators a very happy Early Childhood Educators' Day tomorrow. I thank every single early childhood educator right across Queensland for the work they do to improve the lives of young people and their families to give them a bright start to their education.

The Palaszczuk government is not just investing in school infrastructure. This year's budget is about investing in Queensland's people and our future. Our teachers truly are the foundation of the world-class education system we have here in Queensland, setting up our kids for a great future. We have committed to employing 6,190 new teachers and 1,139 new teacher aides over the next four years. We are investing almost \$20 million in our Turn to Teaching program to provide 300 aspiring teachers with financial support, mentoring and paid teaching internships to complete their teaching qualification and take up a guaranteed teaching position. This is a program I am looking forward to seeing the results of. I am also looking forward to chairing the new Queensland Resources Council trade to teach working group where we are encouraging people who might be working in a trade to consider changing over to becoming a teacher.

The 2021-22 education budget will also provide \$40 million towards our \$100 million three-year student wellbeing package to provide every state school with access to a wellbeing professional and to pilot GPs in 20 state secondary schools across the state. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (5.07 pm): I, too, rise to speak on the report of the estimates hearings for the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training. It gives me an opportunity to talk about a contemporary issue for the people of the Southern Downs electorate—the border closures. We heard my honourable friend the member for Buderim recount how it transpired at the hearing that no modelling had been undertaken by the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training into the effects of COVID lockdowns and COVID measures on small business.

I will give an example how that matters on the ground. In an electorate like mine, which has 500 kilometres of border country with New South Wales where on either side of the border we have communities that are connected socially and economically, where the community of interest is continuous regardless of the presence of the border—

**Mr Boothman:** Just like the Gold Coast.

**Mr LISTER:** Just like the Gold Coast; I take the interjection from the member for Theodore. The failure to plan, the failure to understand the implications of border closures and the failure to plan for exceptions for small business operators, small business owners and the staff of small businesses to be able to cross the border—as is intended by the Chief Health Officer—causes great economic and social hardship in the communities that I represent.

I was speaking to Ray and Connie Taylor, who run a fruit and vegetable growing business on the Granite Belt. Ray prepared paddocks on the other side of the border at Liston in a very remote area, a long way from any other centres in New South Wales. On the Monday when he went to start planting—

he had \$2 million worth of work to do—he could not cross the border. The exemptions for essential agricultural workers were not properly considered. They were not properly implemented. As a result, he and many others have lost a lot of money. Mr Taylor told me that it has cost him \$350,000 just to this point, with much more to come. More importantly, 10 people have lost their jobs as a result.

The operators of the Wallangarra General Store provide not just food and takeaways but gas and fuel. They are a very important service in the town of Wallangarra and for the people of Jennings as well. The operators live in New South Wales. They have on several occasions been turned around at the border and told, 'No, you are not essential workers,' because the police on the border are forced to make a value judgement without having the necessary support and qualifications—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member, I have been listening carefully to your contribution. It seems to me that you are talking about the impacts of the government's policies in relation to border restrictions. I am struggling to see where that is relevant to the debate around the estimates report.

**Mr LISTER**: Thank you for your guidance, sir. I am speaking specifically about the impacts of the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training to plan for and to take into account the needs of small business in the plans for border closures and lockdowns and so forth. It is entirely relevant to the revelations—can I ask that while I respond to the point of order the clock be stopped?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER**: Yes.

**Mr LISTER**: I should have had another 20 seconds, I think.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER**: Pause the clock.

**Mr LISTER**: It is in my view very relevant to question the department, which is supposed to lead the government's understanding of small business and the needs of small businesses on the ground. It should be planning for—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER**: Thank you. You have made your point. I will take some advice. Resume your seat. Thank you, member for Southern Downs. Can we put some time back on the clock please? You have two minutes.

**Mr LISTER**: Because of the flimsy regulations, the flimsy descriptions of what is an essential worker, the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training should have been on to this because it is small businesses that are being impacted.

I talked to an auto-electrician in Goondiwindi who is cut off from his customers on the other side of the border. He is an essential member of the community. His business is essential. Why is it that, this government having locked down the border before, this department was not able the plan for people like the Goondiwindi auto-electrician who needs to go into New South Wales to work on equipment on cotton farms and other primary production businesses?

Farmers, families, small businesses and workers—their livelihoods and their welfare is at stake when borders close. I am not disputing that the borders should be closed. What I am saying is that this government has been at it for long enough. The department, if it is true to its title, ought to be considering the needs of small business in communities like those that I represent along the border between New South Wales and Queensland. They are the people who work very hard and invest their own money with no guaranteed outcome. They work hard to employ people and generate taxes that they themselves pay and their staff pay in order that we can have hospitals, police stations and schools.

The department has been silent on this—and all of my correspondence indicates that internally it is not having a go at sorting out these problems. My communities are suffering. People are suffering severe economic and social hardship. I ask that the department, through the minister, does something about that and starts thinking about the impacts on small business of the government's decisions on border closures to make sure the impact is minimised.

**Ms Grace**: New South Wales is in lockdown.

**Mr Lister**: Yes, but—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER**: Order! You had time on the clock. You could have continued your contribution. You have chosen to sit down. The House will come to order.



**Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (5.14 pm): It gives me great pleasure to rise to speak to the appropriation bills and hark back to that great day when I could share with the members of this committee the tremendous results that we are getting from our investment in skills and training and the

support that we have given to small business in the last financial year. Before I do that, I want to thank the committee and our excellent chair. Happy birthday to the excellent chair. I want to thank the committee secretariat and the Hansard staff. I want to thank my director-general, Warwick Agnew, and the team of public servants who worked tirelessly to put the work together to support me at estimates. I also want to thank the staff of my ministerial office who also worked incredibly hard.

It is an absolute privilege to serve as the minister for my portfolio. Two out of the six pillars of the COVID-19 economic recovery plan are small business and skills and training. They are absolutely critical to economic recovery. In Queensland we know we are seeing the effects of a strong health recovery. Despite the opposition wanting to open the borders 64 times, we have had a strong health response in Queensland. The Premier has stayed strong. Queenslanders have done the right thing. It is because of that and our strong economic plan that we are in the position we are in now where businesses are open and trading. As the Treasurer said only this morning, we have created more jobs in Queensland since the pandemic began than all of the other states and territories combined.

There were a couple of things I wanted to highlight from my report to estimates. One of them was the \$1 billion investment in skills and training. It was fantastic to see the outcome of that investment. We have seen an almost 57 per cent increase in apprenticeship commencements in the last year. That is a direct result of our investments in TAFE—our free TAFE and apprenticeships for under 25s—and our other excellent training and skills programs. I read the statement of reservation from that lot over there. I think they were at a different estimates. They did not hear that figure of 57 per cent, which in anyone's language is really quite significant. That is literally thousands of Queenslanders getting the right training to get the right job. We are incredibly proud of that.

I love being able to talk about our Skilling Queenslanders for Work and Back to Work program. That is worth about half a billion dollars. We have permanent funding for Skilling Queenslanders for Work now. I note that the opposition did not ask about that. They would not really because it is a bit embarrassing for them. When they came to government in 2012—at the time, for every dollar we invested in Skilling Queenslanders for Work there was an \$8 return; it is the most successful program of its kind in Australia—they got rid of it straightaway. When they went to the last election, Skilling Queenslanders for Work was nowhere in sight. It is a bit embarrassing for them to talk about that.

Small businesses are so important. They employ a million Queenslanders. That is why we put \$200 million in loans to small businesses when the pandemic hit. There has been almost a billion dollars in loans.

**Mr Millar** interjected.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Ms FARMER:** Earlier this year I announced our \$140 million Big Plans for Small Business Strategy. In fact, just recently we announced \$600 million in support for—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): The member for McConnel and member for Gregory will cease their interjections across the chamber.

**Ms FARMER:** I understand the member for Buderim made a few nasty comments. They get personal when they do not have anything else to say. I am surprised they even want to raise small business because they did not go to the election with a small business plan. When the Leader of the Opposition gave his budget reply speech, he barely even mentioned small business. I saw an invitation from the member for Southport to have the member for Buderim, the shadow minister, come and do a small business breakfast. It was \$75 a head. They were going to talk about their plans for small business. I hope it was a 10-course breakfast because they are not going to get much out of the member for Buderim they have no plans for small business. We are here to look after small business and we are going to be there now and for the future for small business.



**Mr DAMELTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (5.19 pm): I take great pleasure in rising to speak to the Appropriation Bill 2021. As a member of the Education, Employment and Training Committee, I was able to attend committee hearings and go through the process of not only scrutinising the budget but having the opportunity to question ministers. I had the opportunity to question the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. As the member for Hinchinbrook, I also had the opportunity to question the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development, who is sitting in the House.

Before I start I would like to acknowledge the other committee members who worked with us through the estimates process. Our chair, the member for Redlands; our deputy chair, the member for Southern Downs; the member for Theodore; the member for Rockhampton; and the member for

Stafford all make up the Education, Employment and Training Committee. I would also like to acknowledge departmental staff and the directors-general and other departmental officials who attended and gave us their best answers.

I would first like to get into the committee process and how it ran this year, which was very similar to how it has been run in previous years. The crossbench—which is me on the committee—is allocated an amount of crossbench time. Unfortunately, if we have any other visiting members from the crossbench who turn up to committee hearings or seek leave from the committee to sit there and ask questions, that comes out of my time. I think we need to address in the future whether we allow visiting members to come in and use crossbench time or whether we can better allocate that time. I will acknowledge, however, that our chair was quite generous in the time she did allocate to opposition and crossbench questions, although I must admit it did add a little bit of aggravation and argy-bargy between crossbench members, so I think that issue needs to be revisited.

While I was there I was able to ask some questions. Firstly, I like to ask questions that relate to the Hinchinbrook electorate because that is what is most important to the people I represent back home. One of the biggest questions with regard to education I am constantly asked in the northern beaches of Townsville is what is being done to ensure that the exponential population growth in the northern beaches of Townsville—or southern Hinchinbrook, as I like to call it—will be allocated enough resources to look after the expanding high school cohort, whether that is expanding and refurbishments at the Northern Beaches High School, which I will get into in a second, or perhaps the allocation of land or purchasing land around the Mount Low bushland beach area.

One incident we had recently at the Northern Beaches High School involved people trespassing and threatening students with a piece of rubber pipe. It was very scary stuff. The school previously put in for perimeter fencing to make sure students are kept safe. Unfortunately, they have missed out and they missed out in this budget, so I will be asking for a ministerial meeting over the coming weeks to ensure there is funding or an income stream to help protect these students. I also took my time questioning the education minister on what could be seen as an alternative view in this parliament. I was asking about the male and female teacher ratios within our state schools.


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Member, the time for debate has expired. I would ask you to resume your seat.

Report adopted.

### Health and Environment Committee, Report

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): The question is—

That the report of the Health and Environment Committee be adopted.

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (5.23 pm): I rise to contribute to the 2021-22 budget estimates in relation to the portfolio areas we cover, health and environment. On behalf of the committee can I start by thanking the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services and the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs, and all departmental officers for their cooperation in providing information to the committee throughout the estimates process. I also thank members of the committee for their work and contributions to the estimates process. I saw that our breakdown of non-government questions exceeded government questions by an hour and a half, so I think I was a little too generous there. Perhaps I will have to rein it back next year. I think it depends on how people behave, but we will get to that.

Everyone knows the health crisis that is being referred to by the opposition, and I will touch on that in a minute, but COVID-19 has had a serious impact on Queensland, and the way we have managed it has been outstanding. I want to especially mention our Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young, who did her last estimates. She has kept Queensland safe and also kept the Health and Environment Committee informed on changes in managing COVID through the relevant extensions of COVID-19 public health orders. We wish her well in the future. I also acknowledge QAS Commissioner Russell Bowles. It was his last estimates as well as he goes into retirement after 40 years, 10 years as commissioner. I thank the secretariat and all who participated in the estimates process.

We noted there was an increase of \$685 million, or almost 3.4 per cent, for health in the 2021 budget. That related to increased expenditure, including workforce requirements to meet the ongoing growth for demand in frontline health services, including the ongoing response to COVID-19, and an additional \$485 million included to continue the COVID-19 response which is delivering fever clinics,




contact tracing, testing capability and the vaccination program, compliance activities, the facilitation of quarantine and government arranged accommodation, COVID-19 contact centres and wellness checks for people in mandatory quarantine. There were some definite highlights—but I only have a couple of minutes to go—including \$482 million to address pressures in emergency patient flow through public hospitals.

I think I will just go straight to the statement of reservation from the non-government or LNP members. They mentioned that our waiting lists have ballooned and the time taken to be seen in emergency departments has lengthened, but throughout their entire questioning—for which they had ample time—not one question was asked about why, the impacts of more people going into emergency departments, and whether it is experienced throughout Queensland and in fact throughout the nation. Perhaps they could have asked what percentage of people can afford private insurance in Queensland. Well, 55 per cent cannot; it is just unaffordable. That increases pressure on our public hospitals significantly. They did not ask about funding for aged care, the people who are waiting for aged-care packages. What happens when they do not get their aged-care packages? They generally call the Queensland Ambulance Service and they end up in an emergency department. They did not ask about the 600—the minister will probably give us closer numbers—beds being used by people who could get care in residential aged-care facilities but are taking up public hospital beds. They did not ask about that. They did not ask about increased funding from the federal government—

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Mr HARPER:** Member for Mudgeeraba, here we go again behaving just like you did in estimates. They did not ask about funding from the federal government for palliative care services in Queensland, and they are responsible for subacute and aged-care funding in that cohort. Nothing! They did not ask that. They continue to blame the Labor state government, which I think has done an outstanding job in Queensland in managing COVID-19. Just look at what is happening across the border. I commend our report to the House.

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (5.28 pm): I rise to contribute to the Appropriations Bill debate. Everyone in this chamber will remember those opposite exclaiming that this was a typical Labor budget. Well, yes, indeed it was. The budget estimate process revealed this typical Labor budget for what it really was: a sham. It is a sham which lets down the people of Queensland on so many levels.

Despite it being a record health budget, more ambulances are being ramped at our hospitals than ever before. It is at 41 per cent statewide. That number is the worst in living memory. Queensland's elective surgery waiting lists have ballooned, and the time taken to be seen in emergency departments has lengthened. Whether it is on a hospital ramp, a surgery waiting list or inside our emergency departments, more and more Queenslanders are waiting longer than clinically recommended to be treated, and that is to the detriment of all Queenslanders.

Who could forget on the morning of the estimates hearing the health minister hastily announcing \$163.7 million to increase capacity across the system? Let the record show that the funding for additional capacity was not new money; instead, it was already earmarked in the 2021-22 budget delivered only weeks earlier. That announcement was more about the health of the government than the health of Queenslanders. Seriously, where are the priorities of those opposite? They care about themselves more than they care about honest Queenslanders.

At the estimates hearing last month, the much hyped \$2 billion Hospital Building Fund announced by the government on budget day was shown to be a furphy. When asking hospital and health service CEOs about what funding was available to them through the fund, some recalled funding which was made up from regular capital expenditure. That was deeply concerning to me, and I will tell members why. It was apparent the government had not clearly communicated the details of the fund to hospital and health service chief executives. The health minister actually had to intervene and correct the record. As far as I am concerned, that is not a slight on the HHS CEOs; that is the health minister's failure to do her job properly. The health minister is losing control of her grip on the health system. This lack of detail did not come as a surprise, as the Hospital Building Fund, reportedly worth \$2 billion, was not even notated on a budget paper line item in the 2021-22 budget documents. Imagine that—imagine a \$2 billion fund without a line item. It is something out of a comedy. It is pathetic public administration.

When and how the funding will be used remains a mystery, not only to the opposition but apparently also to the hospital and health service executives. The director-general advised that the fund is being held by Queensland Treasury and that Queensland Health was not privy to further information on how funding would be released over time. How can the department effectively plan to increase

capacity in this system without understanding what funding is available? The Hospital Building Fund was always a fund without funding, based on accounting without principles. The estimates hearing revealed that it will not deliver a cent to build a single new hospital in Queensland this financial year.


It was also revealed that none of the government's seven satellite facilities will contain emergency departments or overnight beds. The LNP believe these facilities will do little, if anything, to alleviate the current capacity pressures which have beset Queensland's public hospital system. Queenslanders who voted for the government in October 2020 based on their promise to build hospitals should rightly feel aggrieved that these facilities will offer services akin to a health clinic rather than a hospital.

Finally, I want to round out my contribution with the issues about ambulance ramping. There is widespread acknowledgement that the Queensland Ambulance Service is under significant strain. Reports in the mainstream media have indicated that ambulances are often delayed, sometimes significantly, when responding to triple 0 calls. At the hearing it was confirmed that the commissioner of the Queensland Ambulance Service receives a live feed of ambulance ramping on a monitor in his office. That data is reported monthly to Queensland Health but is now only released on a quarterly basis. What is the health minister trying to hide? Those opposite are embarrassed about their record on ambulance ramping, and so they should be.

As a final note, I too would like to thank all those frontline healthcare staff who have endured so much over the past 18 months. They have been asked to do more with less by this government and we thank them all for their dedication—

**Government members** interjected.

**Ms BATES:** We thank them all for their dedication and devotion to keeping Queenslanders fit and healthy in these uncertain times.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (5.33 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Health and Environment Committee's report into the recent estimates hearings. In doing so, I thank the chair, the committee, the secretariat, the parliamentary staff and Hansard for their attendance and efforts in ensuring the smooth running of the 2021 estimates hearings. I will just pick up on the member for Mudgeeraba's comments about health workers having to do more for less. I think she was reminiscing about the LNP days, because we have continued to increase our workforce, increase their budget and support them in the roles that they perform.

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Lui): Order!

**Mrs D'ATH:** We do not stand up saying that they are falling behind in vaccinations, despite the hard work they are doing. We do not criticise what they are doing in emergency departments—

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Mudgeeraba, you are warned under the standing orders.

**Mrs D'ATH:** The Palaszczuk government understands the importance of a strong health system, and that is why we have delivered a record health budget, providing \$22.2 billion into the system to enable our hardworking and dedicated hospital and health services to get on with the job of protecting Queenslanders. Our HHSs are designed to make local decisions regarding the health care of Queenslanders in their region. With the funding provided, we know that our amazing Queensland Health and Queensland Ambulance Service health heroes are there to support you.

I have indicated previously that our health system is under pressure, but so is the rest of the country and this is something that the LNP fails to recognise. COVID-19 is putting pressure on the health system like never before, and most states have publicly recognised this, including the Liberal Minister for Health in New South Wales, Brad Hazzard. In New South Wales, I am advised that they have cancelled their non-urgent elective surgeries, including in some private hospitals, to deal with COVID-19. In Queensland, even during the worst pandemic in a century, our health system continues to operate at a high level, including in the delivery of planned care and elective surgeries. While it is unrealistic to think we can avoid the disruptions to our system generated by COVID-19, our frontline health staff and the processes that support them continue to stand up to the challenges of the virus. I acknowledge the health workers who are still in quarantine since the start of the Indooroopilly cluster outbreak due to being close contacts and family members of school students.

In May last year, the number of Queenslanders waiting longer than clinically recommended for elective surgery peaked at 5,166. Our government made a decision to invest \$250 million to reduce that list. As at 1 July this year, I am advised that number had fallen to 629—from 5,166 to 629, a


decrease of 88 per cent. I can say that that figure of 629 was never achieved by the LNP when they were in government. I take this opportunity to thank each and every Queensland healthcare worker for their efforts, not only dealing with COVID-19 but dealing with business-as-usual activities to continue to provide health care to Queenslanders.

We are also getting on with ensuring that Queenslanders have the health infrastructure they need, and this year's budget will see a number of infrastructure upgrades across Queensland, including in Camooweal, St George, Morven, Charleville, Blackwater, Bundaberg, Toowoomba, Townsville, Atherton, Sarina and Kingaroy, just to name a few. Those opposite have been running around the state claiming all manners of things. They have been attacking the health system, which in turn is an attack on our hardworking health professionals. I must say on the record that the way the member for Mudgeeraba conducted herself in the hearings was appalling. It was borderline bullying of our public servants. It was unprofessional and it was disrespectful.

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I will take that interjection. The member for Mudgeeraba says it is her job. It is not her job to attack public servants. It is certainly her job to put questions, but it is hard to put a question and get an answer when you constantly interject and badger the people you are asking questions of. The member for Mudgeeraba's bedside manner has a lot to be desired, and I am glad she is no longer a practising nurse as her patients would most certainly not have a pleasant experience. The member for Mudgeeraba's deliberate misquoting of public servants, her aggressive style of questioning and her verballing of them leaves a lot to be desired, and I call on the member to apologise and correct the record—although I must say her shark mask got many chuckles. I do not know if it was supposed to be serious but everyone else thought it was a joke.

I thank my hardworking director-general, Dr John Wakefield, and his entire team for everything they do. It has been a tough period in the health space but the leadership of Queensland Health are focusing on one thing—strong and positive health outcomes for Queensland that keep Queenslanders safe. I would like to finish by acknowledging the former Queensland Ambulance Service Commissioner, Russell Bowles, for his many decades of service and his leadership of the extremely professional organisation. I thank Dr Young for her leadership as well in keeping us safe.

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (5.38 pm): Once again we have seen this government which always promote their environmental credentials, but it is all talk with very little delivery. We started the estimates hearing day with the release of the Climate Action Plan 2020-2030. It turns out it was just a website. I have no idea how that took nine months to put together. The action plan did not include any new policies, strategies or interim targets. This was one of Labor's key election commitments to the environment, but there was nothing to it at all. What the new website does clearly show, however, is that Queensland's carbon emissions are still higher than when Labor came to government in 2015 and that they are not even halfway towards reaching their 2030 reduction pledge.

I did struggle to get the minister to admit that emissions are higher under Labor than when they came to government. The closest I could get was confirmation that the 2019 figure of 164.5 million tonnes is a larger amount than the 2015 figure of 162.7 million tonnes. The government can set all the targets they want but, when it comes to achieving them, they are having very little success. They need to admit to the issues they are having if they want to genuinely drive down emissions and do our fair share of reducing Australia's impact on the environment, because we are lagging behind every single other state.

We found out that the environment department itself is not even carbon neutral and it does not have a plan to become carbon neutral, an astonishing admission for the arm of government responsible for directing Queensland's climate action. Becoming carbon neutral would signal to the community that they are willing to take measures to reduce their impact and not just ask it of others. The 17 per cent target for protected areas was reaffirmed, and again the government is not even halfway towards achieving it. With protected area increases of just 0.01 per cent a year, the hearing revealed that the department could not even give a time frame for when they would achieve this commitment, simply saying it was a long-term ambition. There are again no interim targets and no more information or plans on how they will get there. They have just set a target with nothing to back it up.

The election pledge to investigate re-establishing a standalone environmental protection agency has seen little progress, with consultation not even starting and no time line as to when we will see any progress on it. The flagship Land Restoration Fund has so far only expended \$2.7 million of the \$500 million committed to it over four years ago—and that is not even a rounding error. That is just 0.0054 per cent. Worse still, the government is using the LRF to say the federal government should match their funding to protect the Great Barrier Reef. Not only have they not spent the money they are

calling on the federal government to match, but when you look at the Great Barrier Reef it is clear that the federal government is leading the way. Over the same time period, the federal government spent over \$2 billion on the reef compared to the state's \$970 million. It is just playing politics for this government to present themselves as the ones taking environmental action when all they have really been successful in doing is making announcements.


The organic waste strategy was due by June and still has not been released. Councils and industry are crying out for policy certainty and support to help better manage what is almost half of our residential landfill. Even the director-general admitted during the hearings—

It is clear, frankly, that we are behind other states in terms of the processing and beneficial re-use of organic waste.

Organic waste is one of the practical steps we can take to reduce our impact. Other states are putting millions and millions behind this, and estimates show that all we are doing in Queensland is FOGO trials for kerbside collection totalling just \$770,000. Other states have sorted this out and are investing serious money. We are so far behind and there seems to be no urgency to get us to where we need to be. We are also waiting on the waste to energy guidelines following the release of the strategy, which again makes it impossible for industry to plan. That means the Remondis waste to energy plant could take 10 years from conception to opening, which is twice as long as it would in any other jurisdiction.

When it came to the waste levy, the minister recommitted to it not having a direct impact on households despite not committing to the annual payments to councils, which is preventing this \$70 to \$90 cost per household being passed on. While the minister was happy to promote and comment on the Resource Recovery Industry Development Program, she could not comment on why so little of this fund had been spent—just \$34 million of the \$100 million, even though \$811 million worth of applications were made to it. That is in the context of businesses typically spending \$15,000 to \$50,000 on their applications, so it is not good enough.

Overall, Queensland's environment is our biggest asset and it deserves so much more from our state government.

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (5.43 pm): I rise to speak to the report of the Health and Environment Committee following the 2021-22 budget estimates. The Palaszczuk government budget is delivering for our environment and for the economies and jobs that rely on it. With a record \$1.4 billion investment as well as important projects in other portfolios like energy, transport and agriculture that support our new Climate Action Plan, this budget delivers. It was interesting to hear the member for Bonney's contribution just now because he has been very, very quiet so far. In fact, we heard virtually nothing from the member for Bonney on the estimates process: no media statements and no happy snaps on Facebook like we usually see. He just sent a select email to a small handful of people. It is slightly confusing until you look at who the member for Bonney's state and federal colleagues are. Of course, we know that they hate talking about the environment and when you look at their record, it is obvious why.

It was interesting to hear some of the remarks during the estimates process and just then about the signal around emissions reduction, particularly from those opposite who have no signal. They went to the last election wanting to scrap our emissions reduction targets altogether, so I am not sure what signal that sends to industry.

I mentioned during the estimates process that here in Queensland we are seeing a reduction in our emissions, but we had a period of time where we saw no large-scale renewable energy projects in this state as a consequence of the Newman government. We actually saw greenhouse gas emissions rise as a consequence of many of the policies enacted by those opposite. In fact, when we look at their vegetation management track record, we see a rise in emissions from that sector as a consequence of the repeal of those vegetation management laws. That is something that the member for Bonney voted against in the last term of government. Now he comes in here and cosplays as a progressive talking about emissions reduction but actually is doing very little. Of course, on this subject—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Lui): Order! Members to my left, you will cease all interjections.

**Ms SCANLON:** Then, of course, we have the former leader of the opposition who said that people who had rooftop solar were inner-city latte sippers. On this side of the House—

**Mr Nicholls** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**Ms SCANLON:**—we are doing what we can to try to reduce emissions. That is why we launched a new Climate Action Plan that has a range of new measures associated with it, and I encourage the member opposite to read it in more detail. So far we have seen a 14 per cent reduction in emissions since 2005, and emissions in areas like energy and transport are stabilising despite the significant population and economic growth that we have experienced recently. Investments that we have made in this budget like our \$2 billion Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund will continue this trend.

Another core component of those efforts is the flagship Land Restoration Fund with Queensland being the first subnational government in the world to pursue carbon farming in this way. This budget locks in ongoing funding for this program through the Carbon Reduction Investment Fund, which those opposite seem to be struggling to comprehend, ensuring a sustained, certain funding source for years to come. This is especially important as the projects under the LRF are long-term projects that will deliver environmental benefits over many years with the most recent round focusing on reef catchment areas—and I know the Acting Speaker is particularly passionate about protecting our Great Barrier Reef as it is an important economic driver in Far North Queensland.

I was really pleased that this budget also delivered \$270 million over five years for our Reef Water Quality Program. That is in addition to the \$130 million field management program. Of course, we know the two biggest threats to the reef are climate change and water quality. That is why we are acting, it is why we are investing and it is why we have asked the Commonwealth to merely match our funding to show the international community, the World Heritage Committee, that we take very real concerns seriously. As always, we would welcome any commitment from the LNP to match us at a state or federal level when it comes to some of these policies.

Of course, our national parks and other protected areas are critical for our economic recovery, for the tourism sector as well as for protecting our rich biodiversity. Since 2015 we have increased the size of protected areas across Queensland by 1.2 million hectares. The estate is now more than twice the size of Tasmania. We have also allocated \$254 million over five years to continue Queensland's Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy. We want Queensland to become a zero waste society, not Australia's dumping ground, which is what happened when those opposite repealed the waste levy.

This is a budget that delivers for our environment. I am very proud of it. I want to thank all of the staff members who participated in the estimates process and who put in place the budget. I commend the report to the House.



**Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (5.48 pm): I rise to speak in respect of the estimates process and the report of the Health and Environment Committee. At the outset I also want to add my thanks to that of my colleagues in the House to all those frontline health workers the length and breadth of this state who have endured so much over the past 18 months. While we have seen a lot of evidence of COVID in the south-east—and it has certainly had more of an impact and been a bit more visible here—nonetheless it has also had a huge impact on people working in rural and remote hospitals in terms of their need to be prepared and to set aside facilities and space just in case. That has had a huge impact on health workers right across the state, not just here in South-East Queensland.


I have real concerns about the health budget. At the outset of the committee hearing I raised concerns around the actual budget for the current year. While the budget is absolutely an increase over the budget for last year, it represents about a \$70 million underspend compared with actual expenditure for last year. It concerns me that the budget figures for this year have perhaps not factored in, as they should have, the extra costs that could have been planned for and foreseen around COVID. On the Gold Coast alone, the budget is actually some \$50 million less than the total expenditure for the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service in the previous 12 months. While the budget figure is up on the previous budget figure, the reality is that the budget figure is down on actual expenditure for the previous year.

We should be concerned about the health system across Queensland. It is struggling. Earlier this year the Queensland Audit Office tabled a report titled *Planning for sustainable health services*. It raised significant concerns about the lack of forward planning for Queensland Health into future years. I, like many other members of this House, have had briefings and discussions with healthcare workers, administrators and others within our health services across the state. The story is the same everywhere I go: there is a need for more beds; there are issues around ambulance ramping at hospitals; there are the pressures, quite understandably, that COVID brings; and more recently, with consideration of greater support and the announcements of the government around additional palliative care services in the budget, there are significant concerns right across the state around the delivery of these services.

One concern that has not really received a lot of airtime in the House is the concern raised by the Queensland Audit Office about the lack of workforce planning across the state. I have visited hospitals in rural and remote Queensland, some of which have not had a permanent doctor based at them for up to 10 years and are completely reliant on locums and fly-in fly-out services to support their local communities. We should be concerned.

I do not believe that this budget goes far enough in terms of its commitments to Queenslanders. I do not believe that the \$2 billion building fund that we heard about really has much substance behind it. It was a great announcement by those on the other side of the House in the lead-up to the budget and during the budget sessions, but when we looked for the detail in the budget documents it simply was not there.

In terms of the Gold Coast and my local patch, I am incredibly proud of the work that the many frontline workers and healthcare workers do at the Gold Coast University Hospital, Robina Hospital and the other health service centres we have, but they, too, are under enormous pressure. It is not just the pressure of COVID. We have seen a significant migration of residents from other parts of Australia over the past six to 12 months particularly. We are being told that over forward estimates we could expect the equivalent of almost the entire population of Townsville to move to the Gold Coast. Queenslanders deserve better. They deserve better planning. We have a lot of work to do in terms of workforce planning across this state.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (5.53 pm): I rise today to speak to report No. 9 of the Health and Environment Committee. The committee has recommended that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2021, for the committee's area of responsibility be agreed to without amendment.

I begin by acknowledging the amazing work of our frontline workers—health, retail and transport workers, national parks and wildlife officers and, of course, teachers. Without each of them stepping forward, we would not be in the fabulous position we are in today, and I thank them. I also acknowledge the wonderful work of our great Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young. This was her last estimates hearing. I thank her for keeping us safe and for her guidance and measured approach. I would also like to acknowledge our Premier, Hon. Annastacia Palaszczuk, and thank her for staying strong—standing up for Queenslanders and working to ensure we have a strong health and economic recovery.

I also acknowledge the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, Hon. Yvette D'Ath, and the former health minister, Hon. Steven Miles. I thank them both for their previous and current work to ensure the health of all Queenslanders. Of course, I thank our Treasurer, Hon. Cameron Dick, who has delivered a budget that addresses Queenslanders' health, the environment and our economy.

I thank our health workers. They have done such a great job and put themselves at the front of the pandemic. That is why I was so terribly disappointed by the approach the LNP took towards the estimates. The display by the member for Mudgeeraba on the day—I note that the Minister for Health has already spoken about that—was nothing short of disgraceful. From the moment she walked into the proceedings wearing what I take to be—I am not really sure whether it was meant to be a statement, ironic or quirky; it was probably not quirky but who knows?—a shark's teeth mask—

**A government member:** I thought it was her real face!


**Ms PEASE:** I take that interjection. From there, the member's manner towards the hardworking, committed and professional public servants was absolutely and utterly disgraceful. The member's bullying and verballing of witnesses was so very disappointing.

Today we have heard so many complaints from those opposite about the estimates process, yet when they had an opportunity to question the budget it was just a witch-hunt by the member for Mudgeeraba. It was a witch-hunt against our hardworking public servants. I was actually incredibly embarrassed. My community would expect better behaviour from me, and I assume the constituents of Mudgeeraba would likewise expect it of her. The dedicated, hardworking public servants like those in attendance at estimates had to pivot, adjust and make changes to Queensland Health through a pandemic lens. They deserve and are entitled to respect, but this was not on display by the LNP on the day. The ongoing lack of respect for the chair and the witnesses, ignoring of the chair's guidance as well as talking over the top of committee members was appalling. It was just terrible and I am ashamed to say that it took place here in our Queensland parliament. I do not accept that behaviour. My community does not accept that behaviour and neither do Queenslanders.

At community events I have attended since the hearing I have been approached by a number of constituents who watched estimates. They shared with me their dismay. It reminded those public servants of how little regard the LNP has for them as hardworking public servants. These public

servants have advised me that the behaviour by the LNP on the day only reinforced and reminded them of the LNP's terrible history in terms of the lack of respect and of the sacking of public servants. Do I need to remind everyone here about the appalling history of those opposite in health alone and the appalling health cuts that baysiders experienced firsthand?

I acknowledge all of the work that went into the SDS for both health and environment. I acknowledge the great work of Minister Scanlon. I acknowledge and thank my colleagues on the committee and the committee secretariat for their great work. I commend the report to the House.

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (5.58 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate of the budget estimates of the Health and Environment Committee. In terms of health and ambulance services, what is becoming clearer every day is that this government is losing control of health. While there is no doubt that COVID has stretched the system, we would have fared far better if Queensland Health had not already been a basket case under successive Labor governments before going into the health crisis. For example, in the Redlands we still have no intensive care unit at Redland Hospital. Redlands residents were not kept safe by this government and still are not safe. For the past six long years the Palaszczuk government has ignored community calls, has ignored the medical grounds and basis for work to be done and has ignored my calls for an ICU. Despite six years of calling for it, there is no ICU. They are the facts.


There is not one ICU bed to service 150,000 Redland residents—not one ICU bed to service a growing region of 150,000 residents. The Redlands community was vulnerable and susceptible to the pandemic because of this government's inaction on health. Government members might not like the facts nor the truth, but it is what it is. The government has been dragged into agreeing—finally—to an ICU, albeit a small one but a good start, somewhere in the future.

As I said in my speech on the budget, over the last six years there has been little state funding to upgrade Redland Hospital other than the normal funding to maintain it. For many years this government has ignored the health needs of our growing and ageing region. I want to thank the federal LNP for leading the way with its catalytic funding that got things moving on the upgrade. The federal LNP funding got things moving again—the \$30 million commitment to the ICU and upgrade and additional funds for the car park. Belatedly, the Palaszczuk government has caught up and agreed to matching funding. The state government now needs to fast-track these projects and not drag its feet and announce it again on an election eve in 2024. A bigger ICU will soon be needed. A helipad for island emergencies, as previously promised, is needed too. Labor committed to the helipad back when the former member for Lytton Paul Lucas was the health minister. In terms of the car park, thanks again to the federal LNP for the funding to get this finally underway. The state government has to now build it and it is yet to announce what the parking costs will be and whether any free public spaces will be removed.

In terms of palliative care, we now know how underfunded palliative care has been across the whole state. This has resulted in many terminally ill people suffering needlessly. The LNP government started the palliative care service at Redland Hospital and boosted the in-home services. We are keen to know what future investment will happen at Redland Hospital in palliative care and I encourage the minister to provide that information. It has also been reported that Redland Hospital's capacity to undertake adult dental surgeries that require anaesthesia has been reduced, with some patients having to be referred to other hospitals, some hospitals with already extensive waiting lists.

Then there has been the Cleveland satellite hospital debacle that I mentioned in my speech on the budget. Previous budget documents say that the government will build the Cleveland satellite hospital. The people of Cleveland took that to mean Cleveland, funnily enough. Then another budget said it meant Redlands and then we find out that Cleveland actually equals Redland Bay. The two are entirely distinct cities, if government members wanted to know. The government's plans for health in the Redlands are a shambles. Then there is ambulance ramping that is growing rapidly across South-East Queensland hospitals, and Redland Hospital sadly is one of the worst.

In terms of the environment during the estimates committee, when we look at North Stradbroke Island the issue of the headlands overdevelopment is still there because of the Quandamooka revolt about it and the Truth Embassy at Point Lookout. I invite government members to come and visit and see it live. Then there is the whale centre that will be built on sensitive environmental land. Conservation groups are opposed, the Quandamooka people largely are opposed, local businesses are opposed. Very few people want this development—a development like this on pristine and environmentally sensitive Point Lookout headlands. That is why the government only got six per cent of the primary vote at the Point Lookout booth. There are lessons there and I hope it will listen. The Premier moved the project to less environmentally sensitive areas.

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (6.03 pm): It is such a privilege to follow the member for Oodgeroo, but I will come to that later. I rise to endorse the Health and Environment Committee's 2021-22 budget estimates report. This year's estimates report process was similar to last year's estimates in many ways—the same careful and thorough preparation from both the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services and the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs. We saw the same commitment from our chair, the member for Thuringowa, to providing a fair and balanced estimates with ample opportunity to explore the important issues covered in the portfolios, and again the opposition received 1.5 hours of additional time for its questions but again never managed to find anything particularly on point to ask about.

What was more striking than last year's estimates though—and unfortunately less edifying—was the conduct of visiting LNP members, not, I note, the opposition committee members who were, to their detriment, not provided with any opportunity to ask questions whatsoever. The downright contempt for the public servants who came before us, the bullying and verballing behaviour was not what the public would expect from a shadow minister but, sadly, precisely what we on this side of the House have come to expect from LNP members. This was particularly the case when it came to the member for Mudgeeraba, whose shark mask may possibly be the most outlandish prop ever to be produced in the history of estimates.


In terms of the appropriation bills, particular highlights in the 2021-22 budget are of course the ongoing investment in response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Whether it is resourcing the State Health Emergency Coordination Centre, increasing our intensive care capacity, standing up fever clinics or stepping up the vaccination rollout when the federal government failed so miserably, our very first priority has been and will always be keeping Queenslanders safe. Let us compare that to LNP members, whose policy approach to COVID-19 is summed up well on a billboard that remains on the side of Bribie Island Road in my electorate reminding motorists that the LNP called to open Queensland's borders 64 times.

I note the member for Oodgeroo's comments about losing control of the health system and that Queensland would have fared better under some mythical alternative. I am reminded of today's statistics of the 1,900 total COVID cases that Queensland has experienced in the course of this pandemic compared to the 20,000 current active cases in New South Wales across the border, and I wonder under what mythical universe the member for Oodgeroo considers that Queensland is losing control of our health system. We have had 23 active cases compared to the 23,000 active cases seeded by an out-of-control outbreak allowed to escalate by the New South Wales government, and that attitude continued through estimates. There were no questions about the historic global pandemic we find ourselves in. There were no questions about the impact of the GP crisis in our communities. There were no questions about how that shortage of GPs impacts people's ability to get vaccinated in our outer metro and regional areas. As ever, LNP members went for the cheap shots and the exploitative stories. They blamed public servants; they pretended that COVID does not exist, and I again do not refer to opposition committee members given that they did not get to ask any questions.

As we saw today from the shadow minister, the LNP's approach was to give syrupy, insincere thanks to staff but punch down with attacks on the work of whole hospitals and health areas. The LNP demands more funding, yet when that funding is provided it says more funding is not the answer. Of course, its tragic record of sacking doctors, nurses and health workers leaves its pronouncements in this space distinctly hollow. It never planned a single hospital when in government, but it attacks and undermines our world-leading program of seven new satellite hospitals.

Unlike the LNP, I am absolutely delighted by our progress on those satellite hospitals, with the people of Bribie Island and Caboolture knowing that those new facilities will make a huge difference in providing more health care closer to home for our communities. Some \$105 million in this financial year sees this commitment well on the way to delivery. The Building Better Hospitals program sees an investment of \$283 million, including \$103 million towards the over \$400 million massive redevelopment of Caboolture Hospital, a new NICU, a new orthopaedic surgical unit and so very much more that is making Caboolture Hospital the very best hospital it can be.

Thank you to our parliamentary staff and secretariat. I particularly want to wish our committee secretary, Jacqui Dewar, well as she embarks on a period of leave. I commend the 2021-22 estimates report of the Health and Environment Committee to the House.

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (6.08 pm): As a member of the Health and Environment Committee, I rise to speak on my committee's budget estimates report for the 2021-22 financial year. I first want to acknowledge the enormous contribution made by all of our health and ambulance workers



over the past 18 months in response to the COVID-19 crisis and thank them all for their hard work and dedication. In total, this year's budget included \$480 million to continue the COVID-19 response which will deliver fever clinics, contact tracing and testing capability, the vaccination program, compliance activities, facilitation in government arranged accommodation, COVID-19 contact centres and wellness checks for people in mandatory quarantine.


I also raise the fact that the government has been petitioned by Mr Petrovsky from Flinders University. I have spoken to one of the professors at QIMR. I would like to see a joint venture to manufacture Mr Petrovsky's vaccine if it does become available and it meets all the requirements, which is looking very promising. It gives people choice and it gives them another option.

Despite this outlay, however, it is no secret to anyone in Queensland that in certain areas our healthcare sector has reached a point of extreme crisis. Much of rural and remote Queensland relies on fly-in fly-out workers, with some dependant solely on locum workers. In some areas we see a real crisis of workforce. This means there are many communities that are critically underserved. Some rural hospitals have no doctor to cover the one on duty and no effective emergency service.

Currently we have thousands of local doctors and nurses who are unable to travel to regional, rural and remote towns in Queensland due to border closures, which has made our health workforce staff levels much worse. This shortage means communities are missing out on health care and some rural hospitals may be forced into bypass with inadequate staff levels to function. In certain areas Queensland's hospital system is buckling under the number of patients flooding through its doors. We are seeing critical shortages of GPs in the regions, a major shortage of bulk-billing and no beds. We need hundreds more beds and a lot more funding and resources—a lot more. I know in my own region hospitals are struggling to cope with clogged emergency departments, chronic ambulance ramping, too few beds and a lot of burnt-out staff who are struggling to stay in their jobs. We are seeing record numbers of patients and hospitals that just do not have the staff or beds to cope. The system is swamped.

To fix this problem the government could grant exemptions to health workers and alternatives to mandatory 14-day hotel quarantine. There are a range of strategies that the government could use to support staff and make sure Queenslanders have access to high-quality clinical care during this latest crisis. Some suggestions I have heard include escalating virtual health platforms, redeploying clinical staff to higher risk areas and appointing locums from other areas of the state. A big part of the problem is the way our health sector has become a political football between the state and federal governments. The feds say it is a state issue and the state says it is a feds issue and nothing seems to happen in the mix of that. I do not care which government does it so long as someone frees up hospital beds or we will see the sector move past crisis mode into full meltdown. We do not want to see that. We do not want to put our hospital staff and frontline workers under so much pressure and duress that the system fails for them as well.

In closing I thank the other members of the committee. I wish our head secretariat, Jacqui Dewar, all the best after her recent operation. My thoughts go out to Jacqui. Thank you to all the staff. The other members played a very important role in the hearing in helping to provide some much needed oversight and scrutiny to the process. There was a bit of a kerfuffle, as other members have spoken about. We need to keep things cordial and also make sure that the process is worthwhile and meaningful. The health and environmental systems that we have in Queensland are very important to our state. They need to be treated as such.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (6.12 pm): I support the 2020-21 budget estimate report No. 9 of the Health and Environment Committee. I thank committee members, especially the chair, the member for Thuringowa, the parliamentary support secretariat, Minister Yvette D'Ath, her staff and also the hardworking departmental staff who tirelessly prepared for a successful and robust estimates hearing.


Queensland Health has continued to play a leading role in the state's response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Queensland Health has pivoted the health system to ensure that the health of the community is protected to prepare for any outbreaks that may occur. I was listening intently to the member for Mirani talking about his concern for healthcare workers. The best thing the member for Mirani could do is stop running freedom rallies which encourage people to not wear mask, not vaccinate and open the borders, which would have a huge impact on health workers. Look at what is happening in New South Wales. What would happen if we were to have the freedoms that the member for Mirani is out there banging on about in the community?

We can only speculate what effect the LNP's reckless tirade of complaint and negativity is having on the morale of our health workers. Imagine how they must feel month after month when they are staring down the greatest threat to public health that we have faced in a century only to have those opposite label their efforts as a failure. It must be dispiriting to be working so hard to keep fellow Queenslanders safe only to have those efforts so carelessly disparaged by those opposite.

This side of the House stands with our frontline workers and pays tribute to the great contribution that they make every single day to improve the lives of those in need of health care. Queenslanders have so much to feel proud of. We have crushed the latest outbreak of delta. Queensland, this is your achievement. Your compliance, your responsiveness and your endurance has helped us to at least for now suppress the virus and avoid the catastrophe that is unfolding to our south. The member for Mirani needs to think about what he is doing when he is out there campaigning for freedoms.

Queensland's record health budget has focused on recruiting frontline staff and building health infrastructure. We have runs on the board when it comes to infrastructure. I have visited some of our upgrades and rebuilds. In Longreach there have been upgrades to the surgery department, and the maternity department has been overrun by bonny babies with mums in the region choosing to have their babies close to home. I have also visited the new hospital at Roma. We are also reducing emergency and surgical wait times and continuing to protect our state against COVID-19.

This budget is focused on delivering Queensland's economic recovery from COVID-19. It is one that will ensure that our state public health system remains well resourced and financially sustainable to cope with current and future demands. Since March 2020 our health system has faced unprecedented challenges as we manage this pandemic. Our health system has responded strongly to the threat of COVID-19 from our early response of testing and treating to now continuing to manage outbreaks and vaccinating Queenslanders. It is the largest mass vaccination push in the state's history. I have had both my Astra-Zeneca doses, the first at a community pharmacy and the second at my GP. We have rolled out many ways of getting vaccines into people's arms. Get out there and encourage your communities to go online and book their vaccination. This is what we can do for the whole of Queensland. Queensland Health delivers world-class health care and this budget will ensure that it continues to well into the future. Our budget has grown once again.

 **Dr MacMAHON** (South Brisbane—Grn) (6.17 pm): This time last month we sat in estimates hearings for the Health and Environment Committee. Between the state of our health system and the state of our environment—two issues crucial to Queenslanders—one would think the inquiry would be an opportunity for transparency and accountability in government decision-making, but the entire estimates process in Queensland is pretty embarrassing for the government. The sessions are dominated by Dorothy Dixers from government backbenchers, mixed with some very adversarial debates with the opposition.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Dr MacMAHON:** There is an example. With the crumbs of time left over for the crossbench I asked about funding for eating disorders, funding for rural maternity services, crucial access to pregnancy terminations and pressures on our ambulance system. By and large we received indirect and filibustering responses. It was not any better for my colleague, Michael Berkman, asking questions about the environment portfolio.

Estimates should not be a waste of time. It is hard to see what the government is trying to achieve with the system we currently have. With changes like a ban on Dorothy Dixers, providing enough time for crossbench MPs to ask questions and expanding access to questions on notice we can ensure that estimates delivers some real transparency and accountability for Queenslanders, like transparency in our health system.

There is a crisis in our health system in Queensland, with the pandemic further disrupting a system that is already stretched to its limits. I have had nurses, patients and healthcare workers visiting my office to raise the alarm about people dying while waiting for ambulances, overworked staff and ballooning waiting lists. To give an idea of the decision-making that got us here, when the government realised its bottom line was out after the first shocks of the COVID-19 pandemic it froze the wages for healthcare workers instead of doing things such as raising royalties or levying property developers. That wage freeze is still in effect, meaning that nurses, allied health workers and frontline workers are being paid less than what the government signed them up for and less than they deserve, ripping millions of dollars out of our economy and out of the hands of essential workers right when we need it most.

The same mindset led to a two per cent efficiency dividend being slapped on Queensland Health at the same time as the government was talking up its health commitments ahead of the election. The example the Treasurer gave here was pretty visceral. He asked us to imagine that we were asking Queensland Health to do 100 endoscopies a day and now we are just asking them to do 102 with the same money. I say, why not just tax mining billionaires properly? Why not tax property developers properly? Why not tax those companies that have profited over the pandemic—those companies that you get donations from—and fund the health care that Queenslanders need?

It is not just the hospital system that is in crisis. Even before people get to the hospitals, our ambulance system is stretched to its limit. During estimates I asked about single-officer stations and how the Ambulance Service plans for the safety issues associated with those. The incidents of ramping were well covered during the hearings. If we raised revenue from the big end of town, we could create tens of thousands more hospital beds, 1,000 more ICU beds and raise Queensland to world-best standard. We could employ thousands of new nurses and doctors, expanding much needed emergency department capacity and improving nurse-to-patient ratios.

This morning we heard about the vital importance of voluntary assisted dying in Queensland, alongside the need to urgently boost investment in palliative care. The budget commits just \$171 million for the palliative care strategy through to 2025-26, which sits starkly against the extra \$247 million per year that we actually need for a functioning palliative care system.

I asked about funding for eating disorder treatments and I urged the Queensland government to ensure that federal funding flows through to community services on the ground. I asked about the Rural Maternity Taskforce and plans to ensure good access to maternity care for all Queenslanders. I asked about the lack of access to pregnancy terminations. Despite decriminalisation, abortions remain inaccessible to most Queenslanders. Like all other health care, abortions should be safe, legal and freely accessible in our public healthcare system. Against this backdrop we have a government allowing NRL players and families over the border instead of Queenslanders who are stuck interstate.

Report adopted.

### **Transport and Resources Committee, Report**

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Lui): The question is—

That the report of the Transport and Resources Committee be adopted.



**Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (6.23 pm): This evening I rise to speak to the estimates report tabled by the Transport and Resources Committee, which is the committee's report No. 10. When our committee started we had a long day ahead of us. Sadly, it started poorly with a cheap stunt about one of our committee members who had been stood down and replaced for the day and whether he was still being paid. The issues were completely beyond the control of our committee, the secretariat, myself or the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. He was there to answer questions and was quite bemused that his time and that of the committee was being wasted in that way. The opposition members knew full well that the issue could not be resolved there and then. It was a disappointing way to start the day. I sincerely hope that there will be no complaints about time being wasted, as they were guilty of that from the get-go.

I will also pass comment on the visiting members for Everton, Broadwater and Maroochydore. In my opinion, they blatantly disregarded the process, constantly spoke over the minister and tried to speak over the chair. The member for Maroochydore is a former Speaker and many in this place, including myself, look up to her. It was certainly disappointing that that occurred not only in our session but also in others that I watched. I made a point of allowing just about every question to proceed to ministers and officials. Despite imputations and arguments in most of them, I allowed the ministers to answer as they saw fit when a question was deliberately inflammatory. If the members for Maroochydore, Broadwater and Everton had waited to hear the answers to their obviously loaded questions, the sessions would have gone a lot more smoothly. As it was, non-government members asked 97 questions and government members asked 49 questions, at a ratio of 4½ hours to 3½ hours respectively.

During the day, questions highlighted some great achievements of the Palaszczuk government. One in particular that grabbed me was the backing of Queensland maritime jobs by supporting the establishment of a new coastal shipping service, which will not only provide stimulus to regional Queensland but also invest in skills and training capacity to help grow Queensland's maritime workforce. Our previous committee did an inquiry into this industry. We saw that the training for future maritime workers—those who will become our tugboat and pilot boat captains and Maritime Safety Queensland officers who protect our reef—should be a priority. A lot of vessels that use our ports are


non-Australian flagged vessels and certainly are not the best training ground for maritime workers who navigate ships around our reef. Our reef is unique and we want industry trained local people who care about its future working on and protecting it.

I could go on for ages about the fantastic things our government is doing in the transport space but I will move on, other than to say that Cross River Rail has reached a significant milestone as both Else and Merle have broken through. As a committee we will visit that project soon. We are looking forward to seeing those not-boring boring machines.

In the portfolio area for the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement, for me the highlight was the funding for undertaking design and costing studies for a pumped hydro project at Borumba. As I come from the industry myself and having seen how efficient Wivenhoe is, this body of work really excites me. Those renewable clean power stations are great not only in an emergency, as was evidenced recently during the failure of the coal-fired power station at Callide; they also work as a battery to provide stable power during the evenings when solar does not generate.

The questioning of the resources portfolio was a decent process and I commend the shadow minister, the member for Condamine, for his civil manner and decent questioning in both this and the energy portfolio areas. I also must commend the shadow minister for transport, the member for Chatsworth, who came in via video with reasonable questioning and respect for the process. I thank our deputy chair, the member for Gregory, and the other committee members, the members for Mount Ommaney, Ipswich, Toowoomba North and Callide, for their participation on the day. I thank the ministers, their staff, the directors-general and their department GOC executives for their participation on the day. A number of non-committee members attended and I thank them for their participation. I hope they can be more professional next time. I would like our committee members to be given the opportunity to ask more questions on the day, because they work hard and they deserve that.

My thanks go to Hansard, the parliamentary staff and everyone who worked hard on the day. We were a hybrid of the estimates process. Because of the delta strain outbreak, our hearing was held in the Undumbi room and I think it worked really well. The setup was as good as, if not better than, the normal process. I commend all the parliamentary staff who facilitated that so that we could complete the estimates hearings. We had a good day. It was a very long day but I think we got a lot done. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (6.28 pm): The evidence provided to the Transport and Resources Committee demonstrates that this government is losing control of major transport projects. There is no larger example of the government losing control than the Cross River Rail project. The true cost remains a mystery. We do know that it is higher than the \$5.4 billion number that is often quoted by Minister Bailey, with the budget documents stating that the capital project cost is closer to \$6.9 billion. However, questions remain about other components of the project, such as the Clapham rail stabling yards. Those are separate line items in the budget. When you add those separate line items, the total cost could be closer to \$7.4 billion.

During the estimates hearing, representatives of the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority advised that passengers will start using Cross River Rail in 2025. That is contrary to previous government statements, such as a ministerial statement from April 2019 that states—

Cross River Rail would be ready to service the South-East by 2024.

While Cross River Rail is certainly shaping as the government's greatest project management failure, it is not, sadly, the only one. Despite previously stating that the Coomera Connector would start construction in mid-2021, a contractor is yet to be appointed for the first section of stage 1. The full completion of stage 1 by 2024-25 is looking indeed very doubtful. Last Wednesday's truck rollover on the M1 at Pimpama shows why we desperately need the Coomera Connector. The incident happened at 1.45 pm but was not cleared until around 8.15 pm. Traffic was backed up for 20 kilometres. The TMR website used to say that stage 1 construction would start in mid-2021. The website confirms that the project is still in the preconstruction phase. The Minister for Transport and Main Roads needs to advise the House of the reason for the delay, how he will get the project back on track and exactly when motorists will be able to actually use this road.

The transport and main roads department has also refused to commit to the stated 2024 completion date for the Beerburum to Nambour rail duplication. That project currently has a \$10½ million underspend, and the planned 2021-22 expenditure has almost been halved. The Gold Coast Light Rail stage 3 project was meant to start construction by Christmas last year. The contract for the main work is yet to be signed.


It is not just major construction projects this minister has difficulty in delivering. The government also previously announced the development of a regional airfares tracking tool but has since decided that it is not needed. The department could not advise what resources were wasted on this initiative before it was cancelled. South Australia has had digital drivers' licences since 2017 and New South Wales since 2019. When Queenslanders will get them remains unknown, despite a successful trial being completed in 2020.

Integrity also remains an issue for this government. Again, the minister has been unable to answer questions about a matter because it was before the CCC—it always is—or commercial-in-confidence. This time it related to the appointment of the CEO of Gladstone Ports Corporation. The board had made a unanimous recommendation for the appointment of an individual, but the reasons the minister did not agree with this decision remain indeed a deep mystery. The department was also unable to provide any details on the appointment of Owen Doogan—the former head of the Rail, Tram and Bus Union, a major Labor donor—to the board of North Queensland Bulk Ports.

The almost \$6 billion maintenance backlog continues to hinder Economic Development Queensland. There is no better example of this than the Barron River Bridge. Bridge restrictions were meant to be in place until September while serious structural issues were addressed. The department has now said that it will be at least October 2021. I inspected the bridge last week when I spent time in Cairns. I was stuck on the Kuranda side of the bridge for nearly 14 minutes, even though the department said two minutes. It was stated at estimates that two minutes was the average delay time, yet there is a sign 200 metres up the road from the bridge which says—

**Ms Boyd** interjected.

**Mr MINNIKIN:**—and I will speak slowly for the member for Pine Rivers—‘expect 15 minutes’. That is another big fail associated with this minister.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (6.33 pm): That was entertaining! The committee hearing was fascinating. From what I hear, the member for Chatsworth was basically opposed to the member for Callide saying anything or asking any questions. That does not surprise me, because it is well known that the member for Chatsworth and the member for Callide do not get on. What surprised me was that the member for Callide acceded to it and was compliant. What we saw was a committee member—he is paid \$24,000 extra to be on the committee—who did not say a word to me as the transport minister and did not ask a single question.

We saw the member for Bonney run out of questions in his session. At least that was better than having no questions whatsoever. The member for Callide might be the ‘Squealer from Biloela’ on Facebook, but in Brisbane he is silent and compliant.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Minister, I remind you of the correct use of titles. I ask you to withdraw.

**Mr BAILEY:** I withdraw. The member for Callide is silent and compliant in Brisbane but talks big on Facebook. That is his story. I look forward to another Marcel Marceau routine after he loses Flynn, because I do not think the people of Flynn are going to elect somebody who is silent in the halls of power. They are going to elect somebody who actually gets things done.

Let me rebut some of the rather silly contributions from the member for Chatsworth. We remember that the member for Chatsworth was the assistant minister for public transport in the Newman government, which ordered noncompliant trains made overseas, cut drivers by 48 and stopped driver training. It was an absolute botch-up—and they still have him in transport and main roads. How do you figure that?

In terms of Cross River Rail, we have seen the reporting of Cross River Rail consistent over three budgets. If you listened to his speech you would have thought there was some great revelation this year, but the fact is that it cost \$5.4 billion with \$1.5 billion in contributions from the private sector, totalling \$6.9 billion. It has been in three budgets—2019, 2020 and 2021. I do not know what the member for Chatsworth was doing in the previous budgets, because he did not pick up on it whatsoever. It has not changed. The independent Audit Office has said that it has no issue with this project whatsoever. I think the independent Audit Office has a lot more credibility than the member for Chatsworth or those opposite.

It has been announced and known for a long time that the construction will cease in 2024 and it will open in 2025 after an extensive testing regime. This has been established for a long time. Those opposite cut this project when they were in power, because they hate this project, and they promised to cut it again in 2017. How did that go?

The Coomera Connector was blocked by the LNP when they were in power, as was well reported in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* when the member was an assistant minister. It is this government that has gazetted all three sessions of it. There is \$1.5 billion lined up in joint funding and we are getting on with the job. If you want to get roads and rail done, you go with Labor; if you want cuts or if you want nothing, go with the LNP.

We are spending 50 per cent more on infrastructure now than when we were first elected. I am glad to hear the member for Chatsworth has been up at the Barron River Bridge. I hope he drove his BMW convertible up there with his cravat flapping in the breeze. I hope he had a good look up there.

There is half a billion dollars worth of rail upgrade coming with the Beerburrum to Nambour rail upgrade. We are looking for some federal approvals. If the member for Chatsworth had any sincerity at all, he would be lobbying the federal government to get the approvals done. This was reported at estimates, but they never stand up for Queensland. They were going to sell off the Gladstone Ports Corporation. Strong Choices was absolutely ridiculous. We have the sixth record infrastructure budget in six years under this government.

**Mr Boothman** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Theodore.

**Mr BAILEY:** We know that those opposite only cut when they get in. They cut, they sack and they sell. Nothing has changed.

**Mr Boothman** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Minister, resume your seat, please. Member for Theodore, you are on a warning.

**Mr BAILEY:** That is all they do. Whatever they say, we know that they cut projects and they sack workers. That is in their DNA. We know that they are struggling over there. Look at the by-election result. It was one of the worst by-election results for an opposition in 150 years in Queensland. They are going nowhere under the member for Broadwater, and aren't they frustrated!



**Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (6.38 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Transport and Resources Committee report on budget estimates for 2021-22. The committee was good enough to allow me, as shadow minister for natural resources, mines and energy, to participate in the hearing and put questions to the two relevant ministers regarding expenditure. I would like to thank the LNP's committee members: the deputy chair and member for Gregory, Lachlan Millar; the member for Toowoomba North, Trevor Watts; and the member for Callide, Colin Boyce. I would also like to thank the chair, the member for Kurwongbah, Shane King; the member for Mount Ommaney, Jess Pugh; and the member for Ipswich, Jennifer Howard, who substituted for the disgraced member for Mundingburra, Les Walker.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. We will not be referring to members in that manner. I remind the member that the standing orders in relation to sub judice apply.

**Mr WEIR:** I commend the chair for the way he handled the committee hearings. It was better than some of his colleagues, I have to say.

It was very disappointing to have been allocated only 45 minutes for opposition questions to the Minister for Energy. What were we able to find in that limited time? We discovered that the minister has no plan to reach the 50 per cent renewable energy target. The minister was unable to answer any question on what the energy mix will be at any stage of the transition. We did discover that the minister does have a plan to develop a plan, but the minister was unable to inform the committee when the plan may be developed and made public. This is something all involved in the energy sector are crying out for—some confirmation that there is a plan or a road map to reach the renewable energy target or there is the very real possibility of chaos in the network.


One of the most significant announcements in the budget was the announcement of the \$2 billion Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund. Despite this commitment, the minister was unable to inform the committee how this figure was arrived at and how the money would be spent. To make an announcement of this magnitude with no idea of where at least \$1.5 billion would be invested is staggering. Indeed, when the minister was asked about the accountability and transparency around this fund, the minister claimed the question was 'completely outrageous'. Fancy that: the audacity of asking a question about the use of public moneys at an estimates hearing!

I will switch now to the session devoted to the resources sector. Once again, here we have a minister without a plan, but there is no need for concern as the minister is working on a plan or a team of consultants are working on plan as they work their way through the \$771,000 budgeted for their input,

although the minister was unable to give the committee a date when that plan might be finalised. This is at a time when Western Australia is powering ahead of Queensland. Whilst mining investment has declined under the Palaszczuk government, Western Australia's has increased by 10 per cent.

It is a similar story regarding mineral exploration. Previously Queensland attracted one in four mining exploration dollars. For 2021 that was only one in every eight dollars. With rare minerals fuelling new technology, that number is incredibly low. This also places a question mark about how viable the budget revenue figures are in the long term as royalty revenue is a sizeable chunk of the revenue base for this government. We did hear that the minister still has no plan to approve the Acland coalmine and is happy to see that mine close along with all the job losses that will come with that.

During the estimates hearing I spent some time questioning the minister and department regarding some issues that have emerged as a result of Arrow Energy's CSG activities at Nandi just outside Dalby. The Nandi area is high-value agricultural land which also sits on top of a large deposit of gas in Arrow's tenement. This is the first time gas extraction has occurred on intensively farmed land and was always going to be a challenge. Unfortunately, things could have been done better, as was revealed during estimates. It also raises some questions as to the effectiveness of the Regional Planning Interests Act. We were informed that the GasFields Commission is conducting a review of this act. We await the findings of this review as amendments were always going to be needed, not just regarding resource activities but other uses that have emerged that conflict with agricultural uses. Resources are a vital part of the Queensland economy and we need to get that mix right.

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement) (6.43 pm): I rise to speak to the Transport and Resources Committee report for the 2021-22 budget estimates. I thank the members of the committee and those who participated in the hearing for their time. I thank them for their somewhat varying levels of interest in the portfolios of energy, renewables and hydrogen, public works and procurement. I also want to acknowledge the ongoing leadership of the committee chair, the member for Kurwongbah.

The Palaszczuk government's 2021 budget delivered the single largest investment in energy in Queensland's history. I acknowledge the committee's recommendation that the Appropriation Bill be agreed to without amendment. That endorsement is yet another vote of confidence—a vote of confidence in the Palaszczuk government's economic recovery plan. I thank and acknowledge the committee for that. Thanks to the questions put by members on this side of the House, I had the opportunity to talk about a number of things. The member for Kurwongbah has already mentioned the \$22 million towards pumped hydro at Borumba Dam. I had the opportunity to talk about the rollout of Queensland's renewable energy zones and the \$2 billion Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund.

Whilst I am on my feet, I might respond in the same way that I did during the estimates hearing to the member for Condamine. It is incredibly weak to rely on parliamentary privilege to impugn the character of the leadership of our government owned corporations and suggest in some way that they might engage in the misappropriation of taxpayer funds. I would recommend to the member for Condamine that he be very careful in future.

It was also very disappointing, yet unsurprising, that those opposite sought to use the estimates process to undermine Queensland's renewable energy potential. They have done it here again today. We know that the opposition sent an MP who does not believe in renewable energy to ask questions about renewable energy. A 'fantasy' that same opposition member calls it.

**Mr Millar** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Gregory, you are on the speaking list next.

**Mr de BRENNI:** I remind the member for Gregory that not one single renewable energy project was delivered in three years under their leadership and yet those opposite sat in the estimates hearing criticising how Queensland's renewable energy targets will be achieved. I was a little shocked—and I think we were all probably a little shocked—that those opposite actually knew what a renewable energy target is. We were quite surprised. I am hoping that one of them might take the opportunity to inform Prime Minister Scott Morrison about targets.


It was equally disappointing for those opposite to undermine the work of the Queensland building regulator. It is the same old LNP—still attacking the Public Service. Clearly they have learned nothing since 2015. Even though facts are lost on people like the member for Everton, here are a few more. The data shows that the Queensland Building and Construction Commission has delivered a reduction in the number of defects in new homes in Queensland, a reduction in industry insolvencies, a reduction in underpayment and non-payment to Queensland tradies. There are more construction companies licensed in Queensland now under their leadership. Building approvals are up 49.5 per cent as at

May 2021. Importantly, by working with construction companies, suppliers, unions and the QBCC, we have kept Queensland construction sites open and tradies at work in this state. I remind the LNP that there is no turnover for tradies doing renovations in occupied homes in New South Wales right now.

Once again, I place on record my thanks to all members for their somewhat varying interest in these portfolio areas. I referred in my opening to the varying interests of committee members. The current member for Callide sits on the Transport and Resources Committee and so incredibly profound were his contributions during the hearing in relation to this portfolio that I have scoured *Hansard* and worked with my office and placed all the member for Callide's remarks on this piece of paper. I am happy to table a collation and summary of his contributions at the estimates hearing, but this place deserves a higher level and higher standard than those set by those opposite, so I will resist.

It must be incredibly disappointing for households and businesses in towns like Biloela, Calliope, Chinchilla and Gin Gin that their elected member, the member for Callide, has completely tuned out of this place. He has tuned out of the Queensland parliament. His eyes are on his next job, not the job that he was elected to do. I am sure that all members can agree that regional Queenslanders deserve better than that and better than the LNP.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I remind members that we have very broad latitude when it comes to tabling documents and that attempts to table documents and withdraw them could be viewed as breaching standing orders around the use of props.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (6.48 pm): This is an opportunity to talk about the estimates process. On listening to the minister before, they must be absolutely worried about the seat of Flynn. The No. 1 attacker, the Minister for Transport, spends more time talking about the member for Callide than he does talking about transport and fixing roads in regional Queensland. We just had the minister before talking about the member for Callide. I think the member for Callide would be absolutely pleased at the moment. I wish he was in the chamber with us now. Those opposite continue to talk about the member for Callide. How about they focus on their job—on fixing the roads and providing the energy? How about they focus on doing their job rather than focusing on the member for Callide? They spend more time talking about the member for Callide than they do talking about their own portfolios.

First of all, I am going to give some credit. I would like to thank the chair of our committee, Shane King, the member for Kurwongbah. He did an excellent job. He allowed us to ask the questions in a block. He did not interfere in each question. He allowed our 20-minute block. I call on the member for Logan and the other chairs to have a look at the chairman of our committee. The member for Kurwongbah did a great job as chair. He allowed us to ask more questions than we needed to. He allowed us to do more with our questions than his own government members. I thank the member for Kurwongbah.

The reality is that, if you have listened to the estimates hearings over the last two weeks—even though we had that break because of the lockdown—the estimates process is broken here in Queensland. It is broken when committee chairs and government members interfere with opposition questions and try to delay any opportunity for the opposition to ask questions. The right of opposition members in the estimates process is to ask questions of ministers, department heads, DGs and people involved in those portfolios. They have a right to do that. Queenslanders expect us to have that right.

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr MILLAR:** I take the interjection from the member for Logan. Go and ask the journalists here in the Queensland parliament what they think of the estimates process. They think it is an absolute waste of time. In fact, I am sure that when it comes to the estimates process most journalists dread those two weeks. They know they are going to get nothing out of it. The government, the minister and some of the government members on these committees obviously do not treat the estimates process as it was designed to be treated. The estimates process is broken. If everyday Queenslanders wanted to see exactly how this estimates process worked, they would say this is not how it should be done.

Finally, one thing I do want to raise is that the Labor government decided not to proceed with the establishment of the Personalised Transport Ombudsman and obviously wasted around \$430,000 in setting up the office. Basically we spent \$430,000 of taxpayers' hard-earned cash and we abandoned the Personalised Transport Ombudsman. They were told by the taxi industry and the limo industry that it was never going to work, yet they proceeded with it and wasted \$430,000.

What could almost half a million dollars have done for the people of Gregory? We could have properly funded the school bus drop off at the Emerald State High School for a start—which we have been calling for for the last five years. We could also start a proper school bus drop off for the Denison State School in Emerald as well. That would have been better.




One of the issues I continue to talk about is the almost \$6 billion in maintenance backlog which continues to hinder the economic development of regional Queensland. You only have to drive the Dawson Highway. I call on the Minister for Transport—

**Ms Leahy:** Go for a drive!

**Mr MILLAR:**—to come with me. We will jump in a car and I will drive the Dawson Highway. I will have to give him a crash helmet in the car because he will be hitting his head everywhere on the route. It is the same with the Capricorn Highway.

Finally, to the Minister for Resources, please give ample consideration for Acland to go ahead. We need that economic development on the Darling Downs. There is no reason that Acland should not go ahead when mines are going ahead in Central Queensland. Please approve that mine.

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (6.53 pm): I welcome the tabling of the Transport and Resources Committee report into the proposed budget appropriations for 2021-22. I acknowledge the committee's recommendations that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the budget bills, be agreed to without amendment. I would also like to thank the chair, committee members, my department and all those who participated in the hearing for taking part in this important role of our parliamentary system.

The resources industry is a traditional strength of Queensland and it has shown how essential it is during the global pandemic. It is a key part of Queensland's economic recovery, and right now it directly supports 85,000 people in work and more than 15,200 businesses. This is a record—the largest number of people ever employed in the resources sector in Queensland. It is evidence of the Palaszczuk government's effective leadership supporting the industry as a job creator and an economic driver. The industry has worked closely with the government through these uncertain times. To date, there has not been one single case of COVID in the resources sector—which is testament to how serious they treat this. The resources sector generates billions of dollars in royalties which allows us to invest in our health system, our schools and our roads.

To set out a strong vision for the sector, the Palaszczuk government is investing more than \$42 million into Queensland's resources sector and land programs as part of the 2021-22 state budget. The government will continue to support the resources industry with this investment which will help the sector continue as a key driver of our economic recovery plan from COVID-19. We will continue to help explorers discover new opportunities through our popular Collaborative Exploration Initiative, with the latest round of this awarded in July this year. These grants are important because supporting the exploration industry is vital for finding new deposits, creating new opportunities and developing new projects—which means more royalties, more exports and more jobs for Queenslanders.

Gas is also a key part of the resource industry, and that is why we are looking at potential new opportunities in that space. In June this year we announced the initial concept phase of the \$5 million Bowen Basin gas pipeline study, which is now underway. This work is continuing and will investigate the potential pipeline and infrastructure to improve delivery of Bowen Basin gas to the domestic and export markets. There are already thousands of jobs in the gas industry and this work could provide hundreds more. Just this month Senex Energy announced a multimillion dollar expansion of its Project Atlas operations. This \$40 million investment means the company will increase gas production by 50 per cent, or 18 petajoules of natural gas per year. More importantly, the expansion will create 100 jobs and inject around \$15 million into nearby regional communities such as Wandoan and Roma.

We are also providing relief in other areas of my portfolio which is particularly important during COVID-19. We have given rent reprieve to weather affected primary producers in our state because we know how important they are in our economic recovery. The 2021-22 budget will deliver \$3.2 million in land rent rebates to support landholders who are still struggling with drought. In addition to this, drought declared landholders will be granted a hardship deferral for required rent payments. This is important and tangible on-the-ground support for a key part of this state's economy.

Also, as part of my department's work, we continue to engage with stakeholders as we develop the Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan. This important work will help shape the resources industry in the years to come and will examine not only new challenges but also new opportunities for the sector. The QRIDP will provide a clear vision for industry regarding the exciting future of mining in Queensland and will provide greater certainty for investors, both domestic and international.

Under the Palaszczuk government, there has been \$21 billion invested or committed to resources projects which has created more than 8,000 jobs. The search for new economy minerals will continue with the assistance of our Collaborative Exploration Initiative grants. These new economy minerals are increasingly in demand as the global energy transition continues.

The 2021-22 Queensland budget proves the Palaszczuk government understands the importance of the resources sector and will continue to back new opportunities in the industry. It provides investment, opportunities, jobs and vision for the resources sector, and it is vital to delivering our COVID-19 economic recovery plan.

(Time expired)

Debate, on motion of Mr Stewart, adjourned.

## ADJOURNMENT

### Coronavirus, Queensland Border Restrictions



**Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (6.59 pm): It was wonderful to attend events in the community over the weekend such as the Wamuran State School circus carnival and the Woodford Historical Society 41st Villeneuve and Neurum reunion.

It is great that we have zero new cases of COVID and that as a result we are enjoying a freedom that others in this nation are not, but it has come at a very heavy cost. I have spoken on numerous occasions about the challenges and stress the small business owners of Glass House have been experiencing, and I have shared the devastation felt by our local wedding venues in having to tell brides and grooms their special day cannot proceed as planned. I am pleased the media is now starting to ask questions about mental health and report on the wellbeing of Queenslanders. Announcing COVID cases and deaths is one thing; I fear the number of deaths related to lockdowns, bankruptcies, isolation and uncertainty is so much higher. As reported in today's *Courier-Mail* there is—

Deep distress over the impact of lockdowns ... with 30 per cent of Queenslanders revealing the emotional wellbeing of themselves or their families has suffered in the past three months.

Most Queenslanders worry less about catching COVID-19 than losing their jobs, with business closures and job losses topping the list of concerns for 58 per cent of people as the financial costs of lockdown hits home.

Mental health is second biggest concern—just over half of Queenslanders know someone whose mental health has suffered during the pandemic.

The recent decision by the Premier and government to now lock Queenslanders out from returning to Queensland is adding to the anguish. Essential workers like Steven Cross are locked out of the state. Steven wrote the following to me—

I am working on [a] Project that is crucial to the Qld-NSW Electricity State interconnector and I am caught up in the Queensland border restrictions on a constant basis. My Company has applied for exemptions without success and I have also applied personally for an Agriculture Border Pass as I am a Primary Producer all without success. I have received no feedback from any of the applications, not even to advise that they had received the application. I have spoken to multiple people in different Government Departments including Qld Health and I have received numerous comments without anyone able to give me concrete answers [as] to how the system works.

Now we have the inconsistency of allowing the NRL entourage in and keeping locals like Steven out. Lloyd and Cheryl Cavanaugh wrote to me to express their disgust at the recent granting of exemptions to enter Queensland for sports teams. They said—

This is truly sickening when ordinary Queenslanders are unable to return from interstate because of a supposed shortage of quarantine facilities, but all the sports teams and various hangers-on seem to have no problem doing so.

This rubbish has gone far enough and it's high time this government full of seat warmers was made aware of how many people in this state are feeling.

Premier, your internal polling has got this one wrong. When Queenslanders are locked out of their own state you have gone too far. If there is room for sporting families, there is room for Queensland families.

### Skilling Queenslanders for Work



**Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (7.02 pm): Skilling Queenslanders for Work is a program that was cut by the LNP when they were in government and they unfunded it going into the last election. It is one of the most important programs in my community. It is changing lives. I want to share the speech of a recent graduate, Erin, because this is priceless. You cannot put a value on the change that it makes to the lives of our young people. Erin says—

Courage. Persistence. Structure. Honesty. Support. Five key ingredients that have laid the foundation of our future.

I knew a girl who was afraid to be seen, doing everything in her power to make sure no one knew her name. She travelled without direction, with a heavy heart of hopelessness and the ongoing feeling of never being enough. There was no stride in her step. She worked dead end jobs and searched within her comfort zone for work that she didn't love, with people she didn't like. In spite

of her broken spirit, there was still a piece of her that refused to give in. Weary and tired with nowhere to go but up, she decided to move into an area where she thought she might again find herself. Searching for work, she stumbled upon a community organization Running Wild. A Traineeship in Conservation and Land Management. Unexpected and unfamiliar, she went for it and lo and behold she got the traineeship.

This was the beginning of my future. I never expected then that the girl I was, would become a distant memory of the woman I am today. We spent the first few weeks solely focused on team building. This would be the most crucial part of the program; it built the foundation. As the weeks passed, we have fought and overcome challenges. We didn't do it alone, but together as a single unit. We learned patience for one another and how to utilize our strengths to empower ourselves and each of our teammates.

We are a people made up of the most diverse cultures, with the craziest stories and consisting of personalities that some would say fit together like chalk and cheese. But the leadership, standards and dedication running wild role modelled from day one, influenced us to love each other with a mindset that we are all equal. We have all created bonds that build us up and inspire us to be what lies in our potential, not in our perceptions.

I would like to personally thank our Skilling Queenslanders for Work supervisors Sheridyn and Rose. A key piece that was missing in my life was structure and discipline and that's exactly what Rose brought to the table.

To all the staff in running wild, I hope you all know how grateful we are as trainees to have had the privilege to work under you. You empowered us with hope, you taught us things we will carry for the rest of our lives, and you gave us a home where we will always be welcome.

There is always a place for us, and that is only because of the faith and support given by the beautiful people in this community. The time I spent here was not long-lasting but it has reignited my spirit. I have found freedom to move on from the trauma I have struggled through, making new memories that are shaping me for the better. Running wild uncovered the pieces of me I lost and that is more than I could have ever asked for.

Thank you Erin, you have turned it all around. This is what Skilling Queenslanders for Work does: changes lives. I was privileged to chair the estimates for skills and training. Everyone raves about it. There is no person in this place who does not rave about Skilling Queenslanders for Work. It is a fantastic program.

### **Coronavirus, Queensland Border Restrictions; Sunshine Coast Rail Corridor**




**Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydhore—LNP) (7.05 pm): There are so many people who are facing distress and disruption. We have seen and heard more and more stories from small businesses. I have heard the Treasurer claim that short, sharp lockdowns have seen a bounce back in the economy like there was not an impact, whereas I have been going through my community and talking with so many people who do not have full accommodation, who have lost bookings and who face the prospect of losing their businesses. They are in distress and they feel like the state Labor government treats them as their political pawns. We believe that the health advice has to be released. We do want to see people kept safe but we do not want to see them kept in the dark. For too long we have seen this government use the fact that they would not release the health advice.

How on earth can you have health advice that says it is safe for NRL players and their families—not just the players, but their families—to have priority over Queenslanders coming home? How ridiculous, unfair and wrong that is. We are hearing more and more stories of people in distress who have a genuine need to get home. Not only are they being cut off from their families but they are cut off from their jobs. Meanwhile, the families of footballers and their entourages are allowed to come into Queensland and they are given priority. There seems to be two sets of health standards but we do not see the health advice. It is time that it is released. Queenslanders are being asked to do a lot for the public good and public health, and they will do it, but they will not be treated as mugs when you do not release the health advice. There must be accountability and consistency, and there has to be compassion.

I want to address the issue of the need for fast rail to the Sunshine Coast. The CAMCOS heavy rail corridor is preserved to Maroochydhore, but there is no current transport plan from this government to build it. I am calling on the state government to not allow this corridor to be compromised by the lack of work being done on it when there are other pieces of infrastructure and growth happening around that corridor. It is important that work is done now to bring this project forward and to allow the business case and design to be done so it is not orphaned. That was the reason, as I understand it, that Infrastructure Australia said it was risky—because there was no owner. The state government did not have it in their current transport plans and that was identified as a risk.

The state government cannot blame other people. It is their responsibility to build state infrastructure and to put those plans forward and do the work. It is vital this happens now. If we are to see the right infrastructure to take growth forward into the future, let alone what is needed now, this project needs to be not orphaned, to go into the current transport plans and to have ownership by the government to take it forward.

### Bundamba Electorate

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (7.08 pm): I am very pleased to announce another big win for Bundamba. A lease has been signed for a brand new Transport and Main Roads customer service centre in our local community. The centre at 28 Brisbane Road, Bundamba, will offer a full range of transport services, including licensing and registration. It will be a great asset for Ipswich as the Palaszczuk government continues to revitalise critical frontline services for our local community. The former Redbank centre was too small and offered limited services, and the new expanded and improved facility means more room for more customers to access more services. Work is underway on the design and we expect the centre will be ready to open next year.


We are also investing in essential public transport infrastructure. Our record transport budget also includes \$400,000 to progress the park-and-ride business case at our busy Redbank train station. This is an exciting development and follows our commitment to a full \$38 million upgrade of the Bundamba train station and the recently completed \$3 million upgrade at the Ebbw Vale train station. I want to acknowledge and thank the Minister for Transport and Main Roads for listening to our local community and my advocacy for improved local transport services.

Another big win for our local community is being delivered as part of the biggest Health budget in Queensland history. Our more than \$750 million for the West Moreton Hospital and Health Service includes \$2.5 million for the new 24/7 Ripley Ambulance Station. This brand new \$5 million facility at the corner of Ripley and Montereia roads is great news for our rapidly growing community. The design phase of the project is set to be complete by mid next year, and stage 1 of the construction is expected to be finished by mid-2024. It will support pre-hospital ambulance response services and will be an excellent addition to our new state-of-the-art South Ripley satellite hospital.

Our ongoing commitment to more health services also includes the new \$25 million 26-bed ward at Ipswich Hospital and our \$177 million 174-bed public hospital expansion at Mater Hospital Springfield. It is a pleasure to work with the members for Ipswich, Jordan and Ipswich West to deliver record world-class health services for the Ipswich community.

We recently held our Vietnam Veterans' Day commemorations in Goodna and Ipswich, and I am very proud to say the thoughts and support of our local community remain with all Australian Defence Force personnel. Our thoughts and condolences are with the families, friends and colleagues of the two Australian Defence Force personnel who were killed in Monday's vehicle rollover near Mingela, west of Townsville. This is a terrible tragedy for our ADF community, and our support also extends to all Australians and Afghan allies involved in past and present military operations in Afghanistan.

### Burdekin Electorate, PCYC


 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (7.11 pm): Just over three years ago, I stood in this House to speak of the amazing achievements of boxers from the Burdekin PCYC. I spoke about Emma Lawson who had won her division at the Australian titles, won gold at the Oceania championships, earned a spot in the Australian team at the youth world championships and was selected to participate in the Road to Buenos Aires camp, a pathway to the Summer Youth Olympic Games. I spoke about Damon Pitcher who had claimed his division at the Australian championships, had won gold at the North Queensland Games after stepping up an age division and had secured selection in the Boxing Queensland Development Squad.

I spoke about Alex 'Chook' Lawson, Emma and Damon's coach, and the small group of dedicated volunteers, including Russell Dingle, who travel thousands of kilometres each year to help these young people achieve their goals. I spoke of the pride that our community felt and how Emma, Damon and other boxers from the Burdekin PCYC were role models for our youth. It was not just the Burdekin community that was proud. Chook and some of his students were featured in last year's PCYC annual report.

That sense of pride and those role models are now gone. After 26 years as a volunteer coach of boxers of all levels, Chook has hung up his gloves—and not by his own choosing. The Burdekin and our youth have been let down by the PCYC, not at a local level where staff go above and beyond their duty and where volunteers are constantly fundraising. They have been let down by the head office in Brisbane. It is a disgrace that, when youth throughout Queensland are losing their way and are stealing cars and breaking into houses, the hierarchy of the PCYC are standing by, at best, and watching centres close and programs diminish.

The fact is that Queensland taxpayers cover a substantial portion of the costs of our PCYCs via the provision of police officers. Both the police minister and the Minister for Youth Justice should be asking questions. The contribution by taxpayers to these centres is an investment in the safety of our communities and the future of our youth across the state, regardless of whether they live in the city or in smaller centres like the Burdekin. It is certainly my fear that the PCYC have lost their way over the years and have now become money driven ventures at the expense of programs like boxing. I say thank you to Chook and all of the volunteers involved with the Burdekin PCYC boxing program.

### Rockhampton Electorate, Alliance Airlines

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (7.14 pm): Last week I had the pleasure of having the Treasurer and Minister for Investment, the Hon. Cameron Dick, in Rockhampton announcing that Alliance Airlines would establish a facility to maintain its growing fleet of aircraft that are currently being maintained overseas. This is an absolute win for Rockhampton. The new \$60 million aviation maintenance, repair and overhaul facility will be constructed at the Rockhampton Airport with support from the Palaszczuk government's Jobs and Regional Growth Fund. This will mean local jobs. In addition to administration positions and apprenticeships, there will be 81 highly skilled aircraft maintenance engineers. These are good-paying, permanent jobs for Rocky.

There will also be approximately 125 construction jobs in building the new hangar, which will include three bays and be 130 metres wide, 16 metres tall and 65 metres deep, with construction expected to commence in the next few months. I am sure there will be other flow-on industries that will be establishing themselves in Rockhampton. These are jobs, real jobs, for our region.

Alliance continue to grow, from resources based operations to conventional passenger and freight services, and they will see their aircraft fleet expand from 43 to 75 planes over the next 12 months. They also operate flights on behalf of most of Australia's largest airlines and deliver services all over mainland Australia, Papua New Guinea and New Zealand and have a current full-time equivalent staff of 820. As reported in the *Morning Bulletin*, when Alliance were looking at doing their fleet maintenance in Australia, the choice was narrowed down to a location in Queensland as the company are already based in the Sunshine State. This then led to Rockhampton being chosen. Alliance managing director Scott McMillan said—

This airport is owned by the council—


that is, the Rockhampton Regional Council—

so we are talking to the owners, rather than having to talk to the commonwealth if we did this in a capital city.

Alliance needed an airport that was not on the coast, and Rockhampton is unique in that it is the largest airport in Queensland that is not on the coast. They are going to have aircraft that will sit on the ground for a while so they need to be in an area where there is a non-saline environment. This is a great win for Rockhampton. It is another jobs bonanza.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Before I call the member for Currumbin, I remind all members that you must remain in your own seats. If you want to have conversations in corridors, you need to take them outside.

### Coronavirus, Queensland Border Restrictions

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (7.17 pm): My Currumbin community are shouldering the burden of the state border closure for the rest of Queensland and they feel abandoned by the Palaszczuk Labor government. There is no targeted financial support for border businesses that are currently on their knees and falling through the cracks because the current state lockdown package does not cover the impact of rolling border closures. Instead of trying to help my community, instead of trying to find a way to deliver targeted support, instead of trying to find a way to reinstate the previously successful and safe border bubble, the Palaszczuk Labor government is playing politics with the border, fighting with New South Wales over checkpoints.

To add insult to injury, today we learn that the Premier is opening our state border to NRL families from Sydney while our constituents are locked out of their homes. Two days ago, a Currumbin Valley constituent who was in New South Wales for work was denied entry back into Queensland to be at her dying father's bedside. Yesterday he passed away. So while the Palaszczuk Labor government was making plans to allow NRL families to come to Queensland, my constituent missed out on saying a final goodbye to her father, and we are still trying to get her home—not so she can say goodbye now but so

she can be at his funeral. If NRL families can have a league bubble, then the border community can have their border bubble back, and maybe my Tallebudgera Valley constituent could have said goodbye to her dad.

I wish the Premier would accept my invitation to come to Coolangatta because my community desperately needs the state government to support them. If the Premier were to come to Coolangatta these are just some of the stories she would hear. Graham is a doctor in Coolangatta. His Queensland surgery runs a COVID vaccination clinic. His cross-border medical support workers are not considered essential. He writes—

We are unable to operate or give vaccinations without these support workers. This is sheer insanity.

Harriet, a Currumbin Valley local writes—

We run a business in the Tweed. 70% of our staff live in Queensland. We employ 64 staff. Our Queensland staff are not able to come to work. The Premier has caused much confusion and anxiety for Queenslanders who live on the Gold Coast, with no roadmap and little detail on how we move forward from this point.

Kayte, who owns Kirra Beauty Collective, writes—

I haven't been able to pay my rent this month ...

**Government members** interjected.

**Mrs GERBER:** You all should care about this.

**Mr Power:** We do.

**Mrs GERBER:** She goes on—

I have no clients—

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mrs GERBER:** Stop interjecting and listen. She goes on—

My business needs help! The same thing is happening to businesses all throughout the town.

Currumbin constituents cannot continue to bear the brunt of this border closure without support. Institute the border bubble again. Currumbin needs it desperately.

**Honourable members** interjected.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Resume your seat, member, your time has expired. The House will come to order before I call the next speaker.

### **Bundaberg CWA; Bundaberg Rugby League; Branyan Road State School**



**Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (7.20 pm): This role is full of experiences; that is for sure. I have had some great experiences already. I have been able to commandeer a VMR vessel. I have done a lap around the sprint track in Bundy. However, I have to say there is probably no better experience than my first ever CWA morning tea. That was something else. That was fantastic. I was very excited to be there and have the famous pumpkin scones. I have to say they were absolutely topnotch. Thank you so much to the Bundaberg branch of the CWA and president Lyn Tucker, who invited me along to the AGM. I enjoyed the experience so much I may have skipped along to the Burnett AGM that afternoon and indulged in a couple of extra scones with jam and cream as well as some cream horns that I have never had before. I have to say this role is full of experiences and great things.

While I have a bit of a laugh about the world famous scones, pikelets and so forth, at the end of the day the CWA is a fantastic community group. I say well done to the ladies, especially those of the Bundaberg branch who celebrate 97 years. It was their 97th birthday this year. They were there in the 2013 floods when the community needed them most. They were there last year as well when we had the horrible fire at the Federal Backpackers hostel and the Spotted Dog. They were there to help those itinerant workers who needed support. I say well done to those ladies and well done to the CWA. They need not worry; I will be back. There are some more cakes and scones for me to consume. I think they say you gain 10 kilos in the first term.

We also had a fantastic day on Sunday when we celebrated the Bundaberg Rugby League. The junior grand final was played on the iconic Salter Oval and then the senior game was played as well. A big thankyou must go to Mike Ireland who is head of the Bundaberg Rugby League. He has been doing it for a long time. He puts in a lot of hours and a lot of effort and he has a fantastic team behind him.


I said to Mike today, 'Is there anyone out there you would like thanked publicly in the parliament?' and he said, 'I could not thank just a couple of people because it is a whole effort—from all of the clubs involved, from all of the volunteers, from Wendy down there doing the ticketing.' It is a fantastic job that is done by the Bundaberg Rugby League.

In the time remaining I will also mention the great work of the Branyan Road P&C. The Branyan Road State School P&C have worked really hard, going through the Gambling Community Benefit Fund, to have new ceiling fans installed in their school hall. They have been led by Patricia McCulloch, who has done a fantastic job as the president. I was very happy to go along and listen to that wonderful P&C group that put in time and effort—lots of hours—to make sure they are looking after the school community.

At the end of the day there is no better town. I say sorry to the new member for Stretton, but I have to say Bundaberg is the town of communities. It absolutely is. We all love our communities and our community groups. I say well done to the CWA, well done to Bundaberg Rugby League and our wonderful P&Cs in the electorate as well.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** There really should be a standing order against mentioning cream horns in a room full of hungry MPs!

### **Coomera Special School; Health Services; Police Resources**


 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (7.23 pm): I rise to advise the House that recently I had the pleasure of doing a tour of the new Coomera Special School in the state seat of Coomera with the new principal, Kate Hucker. It was a long time coming and a little bit of organisation was needed, but it was a great tour. We noted that there is a desperate need for a set of traffic lights on Foxwell Road at the entrance to the new school. We will definitely need that for this special school. With so many buses coming in and out of the school, we cannot rely on the traffic on Foxwell Road. It is so busy at all times of the day, let alone around school drop-off and pick-up times. The project manager advised me that their target date for the completion of the project is late November/early December, which is absolutely wonderful. It is going to give Kate plenty of time to get in there and fully fit the place out and do what she needs to do in that regard.

Moving on from that, I met with Ian Langdon regarding the hospital for Coomera. The meeting was very positive. We agreed that we need a short-term, medium-term and long-term strategy for the northern Gold Coast with the massive growth there. We need to get some of the services that simply are not there at the moment. An example of that is the special buses that pick up people and transport them to cancer treatment. It can be a four-hour round trip once they travel to the Coomera electorate and pick up people from Pimpama or Ormeau or wherever it might be and then take them to their cancer treatments. In that time those same buses can transport anywhere between four and six patients, so it is not affordable for those sorts of things to continue in the long term. We do need some short-term, medium-term and long-term fixes. We will continue to work with Ian Langdon and Gold Coast University Hospital and the health board in that regard.

It is great news that the police station is now well underway. As I have mentioned before, it is a project that was hard fought for; the local community fought hard to get the police station in the first place. It is well and truly underway. Also there are 36 additional, absolutely brand new police officers for the northern Gold Coast that were also hard fought for. None of them are coming from other police stations in the area—none from Coomera, Beenleigh or any of the other stations. It was great news to see that. It was hard fought for, once again, by the community. It is going to take the number of police on the northern Gold Coast to more than a hundred and it is desperately needed.

I will conclude by saying that if every other arm of government was doing as well as Education Queensland in the state seat of Coomera, it would be amazing.

### **ROPE TV; Redcliffe Hospital**

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (7.26 pm): I would like to take this opportunity to talk about a wonderful organisation in my community called ROPE that provides opportunities and choices for people living with an intellectual disability to reach their full potential. Recently I had the honour of attending the ROPE TV premiere in partnership with Trending Media in Redcliffe. This is a new online TV show that will be produced monthly by the ROPE participants and will highlight the wonderful things the organisation and its members are doing. Honourable members can check it out on YouTube.

The first episode was hosted by Michaela and Billy with field reporter Graysonn. It was a marvellous show indeed. They featured Taylor Made Bootcamp, where some of the members are getting out and active, and caught up with the CEO of ROPE, Wes, to discuss what the organisation is doing for people with disability and what it means to him. This is a truly a remarkable initiative. I cannot wait to see the next instalment of ROPE TV.

I also would like to give a shout-out to the mighty Redcliffe Hospital workers who each and every day go above and beyond for our community and the people of Queensland. Recently a number of staff were recognised at the annual Staff Excellence Awards. The hospital's MRI team took out the People Focus Award. I give a special thankyou to them for installing the MRI machine, funded and delivered by the Palaszczuk government. Can I say the federal member for Petrie should stop claiming that he delivered it.

James Bowden and Rosie Brown took out the Innovation Award for improved patient experience in the ED. Intensive care nurse Luke Tung and the COVID Vaccination Implementation Team took out the Excellence in Performance Award. Nurse unit managers Karen Chippindall and Louise Joce shared the Leadership Award. Fiona Packwood, Jeanita Edwards and the Facility Services Team took out the Values in Action Award. Jodi Dyer received the Excellence in Integrated Care Award for improving access to midwifery care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families. The Excellence in Training and Education Award went to Anndrea Flint from the hospital's Neonatal Unit, another essential clinical area recently upgraded by the Palaszczuk government. The hospital's Executive Directors Award celebrated two essential hospital services for their dedication to frontline health care: the hospital's switchboard operators and their security officers.

I want to congratulate all of those nominated and all of the award recipients. I say thank you again to all of our healthcare workers at Redcliffe Hospital. We thank them for what they do for our community and for our region and for what they are doing to keep us safe each and every day. I know these have been tough times and they are working hard to deal with the pressures and demands on our hospital systems. Every day they are also testing people who walk into the hospital and they are vaccinating people including now our First Nations people. I thank them for everything that they do.

The House adjourned at 7.29 pm.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, 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, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, MacMahon, Madden, Mander, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Skelton, Smith, Stevens, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Watts, Weir, Whiting