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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 2 September 2021

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THURSDAY, 2 SEPTEMBER 2021



The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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

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

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

School Group Tours



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, today we will be visited in the gallery by students and teachers from Strathpine West State School in the electorate of Pine Rivers and Mount Gravatt State School in the electorate of Greenslopes.

PETITIONS

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

Members of Parliament, Accountability

698 petitioners, requesting the House to allow a suitable proportion of electors in a seat to initiate a by-election within that seat in between general elections and other measures to make members of parliament accountable to the electors [\[1322\]](#).

Ripley, Collingwood Park and Redbank Plains, Air Monitoring

530 petitioners, requesting the House to approve and install three new Air Monitoring Network Stations at Ripley, Collingwood Park and Redbank Plains [\[1323\]](#).

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Parliamentary Service Act 1988:

[1324](#) Parliamentary Service Rule 2021, No. 136

[1325](#) Parliamentary Service Rule 2021, No. 136, explanatory notes

[1326](#) Parliamentary Service Rule 2021, No. 136, human rights certificate

MINISTERIAL PAPER

The following ministerial paper was tabled by the Clerk—

Minister for Health and Ambulance Services and Leader of the House (Hon. D'Ath)—

[1327](#) Business Committee: Report No. 1, 57th Parliament—Annual Report 2020-21

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Coronavirus, Update; Coronavirus, Vaccination



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.32 am): Queensland has recorded two new cases of COVID overnight. One is overseas acquired and detected in hotel quarantine and one is a truck driver who is currently under investigation. He lives on the Gold Coast

but had travelled from Sydney and is currently back in New South Wales. He was potentially infectious in the community on the Gold Coast for five days from 28 August to 1 September. We are contacting him to find out where he has been in Queensland. This is in addition to the truck driver reported yesterday.

I am also advised that a Gold Coast school has been closed after children boasted about travelling to and from Melbourne. The family has now been placed into mandatory 14-day hotel quarantine and I urge them to cooperate with authorities. This is very serious. We need this family to cooperate with authorities.

We did 10,433 tests in the past 24 hours and we have delivered 21,086 vaccines. That now means 51.09 per cent of eligible Queenslanders have had one dose of the vaccine and 32.28 per cent of eligible Queenslanders are now fully vaccinated.

News from interstate is increasingly grim. For five days this week, New South Wales has reported more than 1,000 cases per day. The number in hospital has jumped 42 per cent in a week. 1,400 New South Wales healthcare workers, I am advised, are in isolation, and we are warned that the worst is yet to come in New South Wales during the month of October. Intensive care doctors are reportedly being told to prepare for a time where they will have to limit ventilators to only patients who are likely to survive. Likewise, Victoria is bracing for an increasing number of cases.

There has seldom been a moment in this pandemic when the measures taken to keep Queenslanders safe have not been attacked. I believe the results of these decisions speak for themselves. We are not in lockdown, our schools are open, our businesses are open, and our lives are as close to normal as COVID permits. We will get more cases; that is why it is important everyone gets vaccinated now. Whilst we are delivering them as quickly as possible, the federal government's responsibility is to supply the vaccine. The more people who are vaccinated, the more choices we have in the weapons we use to control an outbreak.

If New South Wales is the model of what lies in store for all of us, then we need to be having some serious discussions. Doherty institute modelling predicts that even with 70 per cent of the population vaccinated, 80 people will die each day from COVID once the outbreak reaches six months after it started. That is 2,240 who will die each month.

Everyone wants this pandemic to be over. I completely sympathise with those in other states enduring months of lockdown, but my job is to protect the people of this state, which is what we have done since the start of this pandemic and we will continue to do so.

I have been very clear: I have asked for more information on the revised modelling, not a slide deck. I have asked for a detailed paper that I can read and share with my cabinet and share with Queenslanders. I have asked for more information about unvaccinated children. This is a serious issue that needs a serious discussion. These are questions that I want answers to. These are questions that Queenslanders want answers to. Rather than everyone attacking, let's get the answers and let's have serious discussions. That is what needs to happen.

Coronavirus, Vaccination



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.37 am): Queensland's vaccination rollout is ramping up. Today I am pleased to announce that the Cairns Convention Centre will be Queensland's next mass vaccination hub. Starting next week, we hope to vaccinate around 1,500 Far North Queenslanders per day at the Convention Centre over four long weekends. We will start with first doses from 10 to 12 September and 17 to 19 September, and move onto second doses from 1 to 3 October and 8 to 10 October. I urge anyone in Cairns who is yet to receive a vaccination to register through the Queensland Health website. We need people to register through this website.


With the emergence of the highly contagious delta variant, it is vital that we get as many Queenslanders vaccinated as possible. That is why we have also launched a vaccination blitz at meatworks and food distribution hubs to safeguard our frontline workers and maintain food security as the delta rages across the nation.

I am also pleased to update the House that in the last 72 hours we have vaccinated 598 workers at meat processing plants and food distribution centres, including Teys Australia Biloela, ACC Meatworks at Cannon Hill and Woolworths at Larapinta which we visited the other week. Vaccinations are absolutely vital to safeguarding our way of life and opening up our economy in the future. I can also announce that nurses are on site this morning vaccinating workers at the Golden Cockerel poultry processing facility at Mount Cotton.

With more vaccines set to arrive soon, including 67,860 doses from Poland expected on Tuesday next week, Queensland's vaccination rollout will continue to ramp up. To date, 3.49 million vaccines have been administered in Queensland. Of those, Queensland Health have administered over 1.3 million doses. This is a great effort, but we have a long way to go.

With the delta variant wreaking havoc in New South Wales, getting vaccinated is more important than ever before. I urge all Queenslanders who can to please register online and book in for a vaccination now.


Coronavirus, Economy

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.39 am): Yesterday more positive data in the ABS national accounts was released showing Queensland's economy continues to power the nation. By working together to keep delta out until we can secure vaccine supply from the federal government, we are keeping Queensland's economy open for business. Not only is Queensland leading the way on jobs, adding more jobs than the rest of Australia combined compared with March last year, at 95,000; our economy is also powering forward.

Queensland's domestic economy has grown by 4.6 per cent to the June quarter compared with pre-COVID levels in March—well ahead of the rest of Australia at 3.8 per cent. This growth was supported by my government's economic recovery plan, including infrastructure investment and the delivery of frontline health and education services. Encouragingly, we are now seeing momentum build across the economy. Because we have kept COVID contained and avoided lengthy lockdowns in Queensland, Queenslanders have opened their wallets with household spending up 14.9 per cent over the year. Approvals for new houses in Queensland are up 41 per cent over the year to July. Investment in machinery and equipment led by the resources industry is up 18.7 per cent over the year showing our resources sector is rebounding as global economic conditions improve. Overall private business investment has now increased by 4.2 per cent over the year to the June quarter.


We know there are still sectors doing it tough, including our tourism operators and small businesses in the Far North and on the border with New South Wales. That is why keeping COVID out, providing grant support and ongoing income support such as JobKeeper is so important for these businesses. We have now paid almost \$20 million in grants to 1,955 businesses under the latest joint package we have committed to with the federal government. Queensland is positioned to be the strongest growing state on the east coast because we have managed the health response that is so critical to protecting and growing our economy. By continuing to work together we will ensure that our best days remain ahead of us.

Barty, Ms A

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.41 am): On behalf of all Queenslanders, I would like to convey our heartfelt congratulations to Ash Barty on her recent successes. From winning Wimbledon 50 years after her idol Evonne Goolagong Cawley first took out the title to a bronze medal at the Olympics alongside doubles partner, John Peers, through to a prestigious Cincinnati Open title win last week, it has been a whirlwind couple of months for Ash Barty. We wish her all the very best.

It is also her actions off the court which really set her apart as a Queensland great. She is a very proud Indigenous Queenslanders and a terrific role model for junior players. In a wonderful gesture, Ash has recently donated her winning Wimbledon outfit to the State Library of Queensland. Her outfit was modelled on the dress worn by Evonne Goolagong Cawley, who won the same grand slam event in 1971.

Regional Queensland, Remote Area Boards


 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) (9.42 am): Queensland is truly fortunate: our world-class health response not only kept us safe when COVID-19 first arrived in our country, it kept us safe when the delta strain was moving around our community. Given Queenslanders have been so proactive at following the health advice, we are now able to continue with our focus on economic recovery and creating sustainable jobs for our state.

People will have noticed a common theme—the push to invest in our regions. Our regions have a diverse range of skills and resources that are vital to our economy and we know that tapping into regional opportunities is key to our recovery. That is why I am pleased to announce today funding of

\$1.5 million over two years for the Remote Area Boards program. There are currently five Remote Area Boards representing 60 per cent of Queensland. From the south-west region, right up to the Torres Strait and the cape, these boards play an important role in supporting their communities. They provide a single voice on strategic issues and economic priorities for the region. They also focus funding on delivering much needed projects that might not otherwise attract financial support.

Each of the Remote Area Boards will have access to \$150,000 each year for approved projects that increase economic diversity and create jobs in remote Queensland communities. Nine projects were successful in our last round of funding and we are now seeing those projects come to completion. Projects such as the North Queensland Cotton Gin Assessment and Feasibility Study is helping attract potential investors by outlining the economic benefits that a facility could bring to the region. The Central West Queensland Tourism Data Model Implementation project is supporting investment and helping maximise the industry's ability to recover from the impacts of COVID-19 through specific tourism data on the region. Each of the boards are now preparing diverse and exciting project concepts for funding and we look forward to announcing them in the coming months.

Coronavirus, Economy

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (9.44 am): Queensland's strong health response to COVID-19 is turbocharging our economic recovery. Yesterday's national accounts revealed that private investment in Queensland grew by 5.7 per cent in the June quarter. That is twice as fast as any other state. Growth in private investment shows that business has confidence in where Queensland is heading. The Palaszczuk Labor government is committed to working with business to further boost economic confidence, economic growth and Queensland jobs.

It is why I was so pleased to recently open the Wellcamp Regional Trade Distribution Centre. Over a hundred regional food and industrial producers attended the opening with the Wagner family, alongside the Assistant Treasurer, the member for Jordan, and the LNP members for Toowoomba South, Toowoomba North, Lockyer and Condamine, who were all there to cheer on the investment in their community by the Palaszczuk Labor government.

Ms Palaszczuk interjected.

Mr DICK: Thank you, Premier. I take the interjection. That \$17 million temperature controlled facility means we get the best of Queensland's agricultural products to markets around the world on the international flights that arrive and depart Wellcamp every week.


There is more good news for jobs and investment in Central Queensland. Our government has partnered with Alliance Airlines to deliver a new maintenance, repair and overhaul hangar based in Rockhampton. That \$60 million 25-year investment will support almost 100 highly skilled jobs when it opens for business in October next year. This project is a massive win for Rockhampton, particularly the member for Rockhampton and the local economy. I know this investment is supported by other members in Central Queensland—the member for Keppel as well as the Minister for Regional Development, the member for Gladstone. Over the next year, Alliance's fleet is set to grow from 43 to 75 aircraft and in time every single one of them will be maintained in Rockhampton.

Alliance's planes cross the Queensland sky every day because our economy is open. Every day that the uncontrolled New South Wales outbreak creeps closer to our border our economic freedom is put at risk. The border is our front line of defence against an outbreak that has laid waste to lives and businesses in New South Wales and Victoria. Our border is our front line of defence for millions of Queenslanders who are desperately waiting for a vaccine because Prime Minister Scott Morrison cannot supply enough vaccine for our state. Despite this federal failure, our border defences remain under attack.

The Prime Minister will not directly attack our strong border because he knows how important it is to Queenslanders. Instead, he sends out his ministers to demand our border defences come down. The federal Attorney-General yesterday said she would not challenge Western Australia's border, but she gave no guarantees for Queensland. Home affairs minister Karen Andrews—a Queensland in name only—said that the federal government's position is that the border should be open. Minister Andrews should be backing the border that protects her community, friends and family on the Gold Coast. Instead, she has joined the ranks of cranks like Clive Palmer and other fake Queenslanders like George Christensen and Matt Canavan—all members of the LNP—demanding we expose vulnerable Queenslanders to the uncontrolled outbreak of New South Wales.

What do they think happens if a vulnerable Queenslanders contracts the virus? What price are they willing to make Queenslanders pay for their obsession with tearing down our borders? To Karen Andrews, Michaelia Cash and, most of all, Scott Morrison, Queenslanders have two words: back off. Even if they do not care about the health of Queenslanders, they should support our Queensland border because it is one of the only things keeping our national economy open.

Schools, Occupational Violence

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.48 am): The Palaszczuk government takes a zero-tolerance stance on violence in our schools. Through their school's code of conduct, students know what behaviour is acceptable at school. It should follow that parents and carers or other people entering our schools also behave in a respectful manner.

Schools are not only learning places but also workplaces. Just like any other workplace, our staff have every right to be safe at work and be treated with respect. That is why today we will be launching a new safe and respectful school communities campaign to raise awareness that violence and aggression towards school staff is not acceptable. This follows on from our successful 'Respect our staff, respect our school' campaign.


The new campaign's tagline is 'Your child, our student, one team', and this really sums up the message we want to get across. This campaign also forms part of our broader Occupational Violence and Aggression Prevention Strategy. Over the past 18 months, we have been working with key stakeholders to inform and identify the best way to prevent occupational violence in schools.

The strategy is looking at not only how we can better connect our staff with the support they need but also how we can build a culture within our schools to prevent this kind of behaviour to begin with—and everyone has a role to play. This campaign complements the review we are doing on respectful relationships education in schools. We are in consultation with over 70 stakeholders, including students.

We are able to roll out this campaign in Queensland because we are the only state on the eastern seaboard where schools are fully open, unlike New South Wales, for example, where students will not be returning to school until late October or at best early November. Our students are receiving face-to-face learning. We will not stop working to keep our schools safe and COVID free as we fight delta to protect our Queensland lifestyle.

In addition, I take this opportunity to thank my director-general Tony Cook for his leadership in this campaign and my department. I thank him for his excellent service over the last 3½ years. I wish him all the very best in his future role in the federal government.

Coronavirus, Update

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.51 am): The delta strain of COVID-19 continues to pose a real threat to the Queensland community, underlining the importance of our efforts to maintain strong borders and vaccinate all those eligible to receive the vaccine. Today I can inform the House, as the Premier has said, that Queensland has two new cases of COVID-19: one overseas acquired case and detected in hotel quarantine; and the second a 46-year-old male truck driver from Windaroo who tested positive in Pimpama and has been deemed infectious from 27 August. He was in the Queensland community between 28 August and 1 September. The man is currently in New South Wales. Queensland Health is seeking to locate this man, as the Premier said, to investigate his exposure sites and where he has been so we can commence contact tracing. We will of course put up any exposure sites once we make contact with this gentleman. We ask people, especially in the Gold Coast area, to be checking the website regularly.

This brings the total number of cases in Queensland to 1,982, including 19 active cases. There is also a further case still under investigation: a male truck driver from New South Wales, notified yesterday, who tested positive after being infectious in Queensland for one day. Known Queensland exposure sites linked with this man are in Archerfield, Goodna and Goondiwindi. I just want to clarify that this gentleman is from New South Wales and got tested in New South Wales, so this is classed as a New South Wales case and not a Queensland case. The reason we are notifying about this is that he was in Queensland for one day while infectious. We do ask people, particularly around those Archerfield, Goodna and Goondiwindi sites, to look at the website.

I can also inform the House that authorities are seeking information from a family of five on the Gold Coast who have been placed in hotel quarantine. Early indications are that this family recently travelled to Melbourne before returning undetected to the Gold Coast via an inland route. Unfortunately,

this family is refusing to be tested and so far is not cooperating with authorities and refusing to reveal where they have been. However, we do know that the children in this family did attend school on 31 August at the Australian International Islamic College at Carrara. In light of these developments in Logan and on the Gold Coast, we encourage anyone in these LGAs to get tested and isolate until they receive their results.

I understand the school has asked for students to stay home today while we try to identify exposure sites. This is a difficult situation. The family of five are in hotel quarantine. They are now isolating but, because we know that some of the family members are unwell but we do not know if it is COVID, we have to treat it as if it is. The school is working with us on that. We really do hope the family cooperate with us because it is in the best interests of everyone, including their own health. We want to make sure that if they have COVID we are able to treat them with the important health care that they need.

Coronavirus, Vaccination



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.54 am): I am pleased to inform the House that our vaccination rollout continues to gather pace. Yesterday Queensland Health administered 21,086 vaccines, taking the total number of COVID vaccines administered in Queensland to 3,491,117. I know that number will have increased already as people would have come out this morning to be vaccinated. As we continue to expand our vaccination network—I am very excited about the Cairns Convention Centre—we will ensure more and more Queenslanders get access to the vaccine to keep them and their families safe.

I reiterate: if anyone has any symptoms, no matter how mild, please come forward and get tested. This is a crucial way of knowing whether we have COVID in our community and we can act swiftly. It is not in your interests to not come forward. If you have the sniffles, a sore throat and a cough, do not think that it is a good idea to just stay home and pretend that it could not possibly be COVID. You are risking your own health and you are risking the health of your loved ones and your community. Please come forward and get tested.

Keep social distancing, continue good hygiene practices and go get vaccinated. This is so crucial. Thank you again to all of those people who are coming out and getting vaccinated and tested and also to all of our amazing health workers across Queensland and our care army who have been helping at our vaccination centres.

Road Safety, Drink Driving and Distracted Driving



Hon. MC BAILEY (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.56 am): The number of lives lost on Queensland roads this year is a tragedy. Sadly, as at 1 September, the number of lives lost stands at 188—an increase of 19 on the same time last year. These are not just numbers; these are people whose lives have been cut short, leaving family and friends behind.

Shockingly, drink driving accounts for almost a quarter of the lives lost on Queensland roads—this despite decades of strong education campaigns and warnings of the dangers of drink driving. Today is D-day for drink drivers. The Palaszczuk Labor government is cracking down. From next week drivers caught with a blood alcohol concentration above .1 will be sent to the Alcohol Ignition Interlock Program. This program, used successfully on high-range drink drivers, is expanding to mid-range drink drivers as well. It means even when they get their licence back they will need to show a clean record of breath for at least 12 months. We know mid-range drink drivers account for more than a quarter of all offenders and have a crash risk 20 times higher than the average driver. That is why we are cracking down on them.

We are also increasing the current two year 'sit out period' for those who refuse to fit an interlock to five years to avoid people getting around it. We are not stopping there when it comes to getting tough on drink driving. For the first time, all drink-driving offenders will need to complete an education program before they can reapply for their licence. Research shows that education programs reduce the rate of reoffending.

When it comes to road safety, the Palaszczuk Labor government has also committed almost \$1.7 billion in this year's state budget. This will be used to prioritise safety upgrades, improve driver education and make school zones safer. It is in stark contrast to when the LNP were in office when they cut \$1.6 billion from the road and transport budget—

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Chatsworth!


Mr Lister interjected.

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

Mr BAILEY: They cut \$60 million from road safety funding and \$25 million from the regional safety development program. We are cracking down but we also need road users to step up. The fatal five—speeding, drink and drug driving, failure to wear a seatbelt, fatigue and driver distraction—continue to be contribution factors in more than half the lives lost on our roads. It is why the Palaszczuk Labor government is also rolling out distracted driver cameras that also target seatbelt noncompliance. The figures from the first month of operation, to be quite frank, are shocking. More than 9,000 drivers have been caught distracted on their mobile phone or not wearing a seatbelt.

Drivers distracted on mobile phones while driving are endemic on our roads. That is why the Palaszczuk Labor government is cracking down on distraction, which is the drink driving of this era. We are rolling out speed cameras in school zones to stop drivers putting our Queensland kids at risk. Tougher drink-driving laws, distracted driver and seatbelt cameras, more funding for road safety and a crackdown on drivers speeding through our school zones are all priorities of this government. The Palaszczuk Labor government is taking road safety seriously. We are cracking down, and now we need all drivers to do the right thing every time they drive. Together we can bring down the number of lives lost on our roads.

Tourism Industry, Promotion


 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism Industry Development and Innovation and Minister for Sport) (9.59 am): The COVID-19 pandemic is Queensland tourism's biggest ever challenge and more enduring than the 1988 pilot strike. New South Wales and Victoria are our biggest customers, usually making up almost 85 per cent of visitation to the state, so when both New South Wales and Victoria are in COVID lockdown it hurts tens of thousands of Queensland tourism businesses.

Since the start of the global pandemic the Palaszczuk government has committed \$1 billion in direct support for tourism operators. Encouraging Queenslanders to explore their own backyard during the global pandemic has never been more important for supporting local jobs and the Palaszczuk government's economic recovery plan for the tourism industry. In contrast, in New South Wales and Victoria intrastate travel is locked down and another tourist mecca, Fiji, has the highest per capita number of COVID cases in the world. It has recorded over 47,000 cases in total, 30,000 since last April, and 504 deaths.

Our latest promotion, 20 Days of Holidays Like This, is designed to inspire traveller confidence to back a bag, snap up a jaw-dropping deal and support our tourism operators, particularly for the September school holidays—something that we can do here in Queensland. Some include discounts close to 100 per cent. A Locals One Pass at the Village Roadshow on the Gold Coast is selling for \$3 for the first 100 to register, and 100 have plunged into Hervey Bay whale-watching adventures for just \$1—something that I know the member for Hervey Bay will appreciate. Yesterday for a single gold coin there were experiences on the Far North's Skyrail Rainforest Cableway, and today there are \$1 dinosaur experiences at Eromanga. Mr Speaker, 20 Days of Holidays Like This also includes draws for a 'money can't buy' world-class luxury holiday. With the deals we are rolling out we want to see Queenslanders build an unforgettable holiday itinerary.

The Great Barrier Reef Education Experience is also delivering much needed bookings for reef tourism operators. To date, 1,141 Queensland students have made the reef from Port Douglas to Bundaberg their classroom. Another 3,600 students from 95 schools have been approved for the class excursion of a lifetime with a subsidy of up to \$150 per student. The reef education experience is another example of the Palaszczuk government supporting our tourism industry through the great challenges of the global pandemic, but the greatest thing we can continue to do is keep our businesses open.

Brisbane Festival

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (10.03 am): I am delighted to inform the House that Brisbane Festival 2021 will open on Friday night! Thanks to Queensland's positive health response, Brisbane audiences will experience this Brightly Brisbane Festival which spans the month of September, connects Brisbane communities and brings life to the city's streets and cultural venues.

As part of Queensland's plan for economic recovery from COVID-19, Brisbane Festival 2021 will showcase 43 Queensland companies and employ more than 1,000 local artists, giving a fresh reimagining of ancient and classic stories. We will see exciting work from Queensland companies like Dancenorth, Karul Projects, Digi Youth Arts, Camerata, Access Arts, Blaklash Creative and Australasian Dance Collective. Our state companies will also be there with work from the Queensland Ballet, Queensland Theatre, Queensland Symphony Orchestra and Opera Queensland.

Featuring 157 First Nations artists engaged across the 23-day event, Brisbane Festival 2021 will present their largest ever First Nations program, opening with the Jumoo smoking ceremony at South Bank. Opening day highlights also include the world premiere of the stage version of *Boy Swallows Universe*. Presented by Brisbane Festival, Queensland Theatre and QPAC, this production brings to life the internationally successful first novel of local writer Trent Dalton and his tale of growing up in suburban Brisbane. In another world premiere, the Brisbane based Dead Puppet Society presents *Ishmael*, a captivating reimagining of the novel *Moby Dick*, which features a talented Queensland cast and creatives, state-of-the-art technology, brilliant puppetry and an outstanding original score.

The event First Nations Fashion: Walking in Two Worlds features stunning contemporary fashion and garments by First Nations designers and artists in a performance event led by artist Grace Lillian Lee. A reimagined return this year is Street Serenades: At Our Place, which will deliver 64 creative arts workshops across Brisbane in partnership with local neighbourhood centres. Family favourite Sunsuper Riverfire will again light up the Brisbane skies in an explosion of colour and music after its hiatus last year. For the second year running the Palaszczuk government's investment through Brisbane Festival's Working Title creative residencies will create jobs, creative development opportunities for artists and arts workers and exciting new work.

The arts, cultural and creative industries are key to delivering Queensland's plan for economic recovery from COVID-19, each year contributing \$8.5 billion into the state's economy and supporting more than 92,000 jobs for Queenslanders. Prior to COVID-19 Brisbane Festival 2019 contributed \$64 million to Queensland's economy. Even during the pandemic in 2020 it still injected \$14 million into the local economy, with more than 38,000 visitors welcomed to the city during the festival.

I am also pleased to announce today that 22 Queensland live music venues have received \$2.3 million through round 2 of our Live Music Support Program. That adds up to an almost \$11 million investment from the Palaszczuk government. This funding will support smaller Brisbane venues such as the Junk Bar as well as larger venues like the Fortitude Music Hall, the Zoo and regional venues on the Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast and Toowoomba. Live music is hugely important to our local arts sector, and through these grants and events like the Brisbane Festival our government is backing their success.

Sustainable Fisheries Strategy



Hon. ML FURNER (Ferry Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (10.06 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government's Sustainable Fisheries Strategy is about guaranteeing jobs and ensuring a sustainable fishery for our children and grandchildren into the future. Yesterday was a milestone in the delivery of the strategy. The strategy is about ensuring the sector continues to: keep employing people; allow commercial, recreational, charter and traditional fishers to keep on taking fish; and support sustainable supplies of fresh fish to Queensland and the world. Queensland's plan for economic recovery from COVID-19 only makes these outcomes more important.

Thousands of fishers and Queenslanders made submissions to the 2014 MRAG review and the 2016 green paper, and the release of the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy in 2017 was the Palaszczuk government's response. The overwhelming message was that stakeholders wanted reform in the way fisheries are managed. Consulting and engaging with Queenslanders has been the hallmark of this government. All 33 actions in the strategy are on track to be delivered by 2027 and we should have no overfished stocks by then. The reforms that commenced yesterday are a big step towards that.

From 1 September, 13 new fishery harvest strategies commenced. Crab, trawl and east coast inshore fisheries are divided into new management regions. In those fisheries new quota units are created so the catch of priority species can be controlled directly. Commercial catch limits are reviewed and set, and bycatch and protected species interactions must be better managed. Just like we have kept Queenslanders safe, we will protect our fisheries so they are sustainable for our children and grandchildren, because Queensland's COVID-19 economic recovery plan relies on a strong, sustainable fishing industry.

Buy Queensland



Hon. MC de BRENNI (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement) (10.08 am): Queensland's economic recovery relies on Queenslanders backing Queenslanders. That is nothing new for us because today we mark four years of the Palaszczuk government's Buy Queensland procurement approach. Four years ago, our Premier stood up in Townsville and said that Queensland jobs and Queensland businesses must come first. We said that we would stem the tide of Queensland jobs and contracts going interstate or offshore—that Queensland would go its own way—and it ruffled some feathers. The opposition were not happy that we would dare to put Queenslanders first. They even voted against the policy in this House.

Since 2017, the Palaszczuk government has invested more than \$36 billion back into 57,990 Queensland businesses through our procurement approach. With Queensland hosting the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, our Buy Queensland procurement approach will make sure it is Queensland workers on the podium. Just like Logan decathlete and Olympic medallist Ash Moloney stretching before a race, it is important that Queensland businesses be warmed up and ready for the starting gun.

That is why today I am pleased to announce a series of statewide roadshows kicking off next week in Rockhampton. Our roadshows will offer practical tools for businesses to make the most of procurement opportunities and be tender ready. Just like the Olympics, our Growing Queensland Business Roadshow will benefit all of Queensland. Sessions are planned for Cairns, Townsville, Bundaberg, Toowoomba, the Sunshine Coast, Brisbane and the Gold Coast. Interested businesses are invited to register for the Buy Queensland supplier updates newsletter for more information and everything they need to know about supplying to government.

Members on this side of the House share a common goal—to create decent, secure jobs for Queenslanders. Since 2017, that is exactly what our Buy Queensland procurement approach has done. We have made terrific progress but we can do even more. Today I announce the release of our first Procurement Statement, and I table a copy for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Queensland Government: Procurement Statement 2021 [[1328](#)].

The statement will demonstrate how our investment in procurement reform continues to make a real difference in the lives of Queenslanders. Government investment with Queensland suppliers has increased 22 per cent. Contracts awarded to Queensland suppliers are up 90.4 per cent. Government investment with Queensland small and medium enterprise has grown by \$2.6 billion, a 14 per cent growth. We know Queenslanders expect to see local workers on the podium when we deliver the 2032 Olympics. With our Buy Queensland approach, that is exactly what we will deliver.

Coronavirus, Small Business



Hon. DE FARMER (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.11 am): I take every opportunity I can to highlight the contributions small businesses make to our economy in Queensland. They employ almost one million Queenslanders and they are the backbone of our local communities. They are also one of the groups in our community doing it tougher than many others in terms of the impact of the pandemic, and I want to thank every single one of them for the way they have put their shoulders to the grindstone to do the right thing, even when that has meant creating further challenges for themselves.


The best thing we can do for businesses is to ensure our economy is growing, to do everything we can to keep lockdowns short and sharp and to keep businesses open and trading, and we are doing just that. We also know the practical support we have provided and will continue to provide to small business is absolutely critical. That is why we put backing small business at the heart of our \$14.2 billion COVID-19 economic recovery plan, including rolling out a range of support for businesses with grants of up to \$30,000 as part of the jointly funded \$600 million 2021 COVID-19 Business Support Grants package to support businesses affected by lockdowns.

Just one week after the last lockdown ended, applications for this support opened. Just 36 hours after the applications opened, we made our first payment. As of today, we have paid out \$20 million in grant applications. I want to thank our DESBT and QRIDA teams for their hard work in achieving this. We allocated an additional 150 staff to this project to make sure we could help small businesses as soon as possible. We are all very appreciative of their efforts. I want to thank my colleague the minister for agriculture for the partnership we have had together over that.


I would like to tell the House three important things about this package. Firstly, the support is broad; it is not just for those in lockdown areas. Non-employing sole traders, small and medium businesses, not-for-profits, and large tourism and hospitality businesses from across Queensland that have seen a 30 per cent reduction in turnover are eligible for these payments of up to \$30,000. Secondly, the support is there, with applications open until 16 November. It is not a competitive grant so if you are eligible you get the money—plain and simple. Thirdly, this support is straightforward to apply for. My department has done a lot of work, again with QRIDA, to make sure of that, including working with Chartered Accountants and CPA Australia on a template letter to make it as easy as possible for businesses.

I spoke yesterday about the other support we are currently providing for businesses, including \$10,000 cleaning rebates for exposure sites and \$50 million worth of support for tourism and hospitality businesses. I acknowledge my colleague the minister for tourism for that great partnership. Last week I was very pleased to announce that nearly 2,000 small businesses have already been selected to share in \$10 million of round 1 of the Business Basics grants. That is in addition to our support last year through the \$200 million COVID adaptation support grants, nearly \$1 billion in job support loans, \$950 million in payroll tax relief and \$140 million in our Big Plans for Small Business package. The Palaszczuk government has always backed small business and we will continue to do so.

ABSENCE OF MINISTER

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.15 am): I advise that the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence will be absent from the House today due to illness. The Premier and Minister for Trade will take any questions relating to the Attorney-General's portfolio in question time today.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.15 am), by leave, without notice: I move—


That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 14 September 2021.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Report

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (10.16 am): I lay upon the table of the House report No. 11 of the Health and Environment Committee titled *Report No. 11, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 21 April and 1 May 2021*.


Tabled paper: Health and Environment Committee: Report No. 11, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 21 April and 11 May 2021 [[1329](#)].

The report examined three pieces of subordinate legislation: No. 33, a proclamation made under the Health Legislation Amendment Act 2020; No. 34, Hospital and Health Boards (Health Equity Strategies) Amendment Regulation 2021; and No. 36, Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2021. The committee found no issues with these regulations. I commend our report to the House.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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

Coronavirus, Child Vaccination

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (10.16 am): My question is to the Premier. Given the Premier's policy shift to vaccinate children before Queensland charts a path out of the pandemic, in direct conflict with the national agreement, I ask—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my right. The question will be heard in silence. Any action that you may wish to take after that, I will consider. Please commence your question again, member.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Given the Premier's policy shift to vaccinate children before Queensland charts a path out of the pandemic, in direct conflict with the national agreement, I ask: if things have changed, where is the plan and where is the health advice?

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 115(b)(iii). There were clear inferences in the construction of that question and I request that it be ruled out of order.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: There were clear conclusions being put into that question.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, we do not need your commentary. There is no point of order. I will allow the question.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. I think that question is deliberately misleading because at the last national cabinet meeting I actually raised the issue of children, and the Prime Minister undertook to get some further work done; that is my understanding. There is a national plan here. In terms of the current phase that we are at, Queensland is doing everything in relation to that national plan. We are accelerating our vaccination rates. The federal government has kept the international borders closed. It says, '... early, stringent and short lockdowns if outbreaks occur'. That is what we have done in Queensland. It may not have been the case in other states, but we have done that. It goes on—

Implement the national vaccination plan to offer every Australian an opportunity to be vaccinated with the necessary doses of the relevant vaccine as soon as possible;

We are waiting for the supply. We are happy to do that. That is part of the national plan. It goes on—

Inbound passenger caps temporarily reduced

We asked for the reduction and we have taken double the number that we have been asked to take. We are following the national plan here. This is the phase we are at. We are doing this. It goes on—

Domestic travel restrictions directly proportionate to lockdown requirements;

That is happening. No-one in Queensland wants the delta virus from New South Wales imported into Queensland.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Maybe those opposite do. Obviously their questions are being written by the Prime Minister's office. Obviously they are getting their riding instructions from Canberra. They cannot think of questions for themselves.

Dr Miles: What should we say, Joshie?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, what should we say, Josh Frydenberg? That is right, they cannot ask a question themselves; they have to get the Prime Minister's office to write the question. Hopeless! Absolutely hopeless! I urge those opposite to go back to your electorates and talk to the people in your electorates and see what they say. Do they want the New South Wales delta variant in their backyard?

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gympie, member for Glass House, member for Mermaid Beach.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Maybe they will come back in a fortnight's time and they will decide whether they are on Canberra's and New South Wales' side or they are on Queensland's side. It is a very simple question: are you on Queensland's side or are you on the other side? That is what it is sounding like from over here. Go home, talk to your constituents and then come back and talk to me.

Mr SPEAKER: A reminder to ministers providing a response today that comments will be directed through the chair and not directed at other members in the chamber.

(Time expired)

Coronavirus, Queensland Border Restrictions

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Premier. Memphis is a three-year-old boy from the Fraser Coast who is currently locked out of Queensland by the Premier's snap decision. This morning I spoke to Memphis's mum, who said she cannot get an exemption on compassionate grounds to bring her son home. Why can Queensland kids like Memphis not come home?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. I am advised that the exemptions unit have spoken to his parents and they are processing and talking to them about that exemption.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, you will cease your interjections or you will be warned under the standing orders.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I will wait for silence, members.

Mr Brown interjected.

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

Wide Bay, Economic Recovery

Mr TANTARI: My question is of the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier update the House on her government's plans for the Wide Bay and the region's role in Queensland's ongoing economic recovery?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Hervey Bay for the question. Let me say this about the residents of Hervey Bay. I know where the residents of Hervey Bay stand on New South Wales and the delta virus. I know very clearly that the people in Hervey Bay do not want the delta virus in their backyard. I know that very clearly.

We are getting on with the job of keeping Queenslanders safe and progressing our economic recovery plan. That is why we are investing \$39.6 million to deliver a new adult acute mental health inpatient unit at Hervey Bay Hospital; \$5.4 million for more learning spaces at a new building at Hervey Bay State High School; \$3.8 million to replace the Water Police facility at Hervey Bay—

Mr Janetzki interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Toowoomba South will cease his interjections.

Ms PALASZCZUK:—new nursing and allied health upgrades at the Hervey Bay TAFE, \$1.2 million—and we know how important it is to get that training, especially when it comes to nursing—and a \$44.1 million upgrade at the intersection on Maryborough Hervey Bay Road. We know that roads and transport are also important for Hervey Bay.

We also know that part of my government's plan is to make sure that our cabinet gets out and about and visits regional communities right across our state, so I am going to take our cabinet there in September. Then we will all be hearing what the residents of Hervey Bay say about what is happening in New South Wales. I will also be holding a seniors afternoon tea. Perhaps those opposite might want to come to that seniors afternoon tea and hear firsthand what the seniors think about whether or not the delta virus from New South Wales should come into Hervey Bay. That might be a bit of a wake-up call for the Leader of the Opposition and those opposite, who seem to be in complete and utter denial about what is happening in New South Wales as we speak.

Dr Miles: And the world.

Ms PALASZCZUK: And the world. That is right; they seem to be oblivious to what is happening in the world. Right now in New South Wales there are over 19,000 active cases and it is my understanding that there have been over 100 deaths, which is tragic. I do not want that for Queensland. We want New South Wales to get on top of these issues as quickly as we possibly can. That is why I want Queenslanders to go and get vaccinated as quickly and safely as they can. If we get more supply, we can vaccinate more people.

I am looking forward to going to Hervey Bay. The cabinet is looking forward to going to Hervey Bay.

(Time expired)

Coronavirus, Health Advice

Mr JANETZKI: My question is to the Premier. Following the Premier's decision to initially free up just one per cent of hotel quarantine capacity and lock Queenslanders out of their state for some time yet, I ask: where is the plan and where is the health advice?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Obviously the member was not listening yesterday when I said very clearly that we have taken double the capacity of international arrivals. We have taken in 3,000 extra international travellers; that could have been people coming into Queensland domestically. Yesterday, I read the letter from the Prime Minister that said that was going to be easing in September/October. As soon as those beds become available they will be opened as quickly as possible. If the hotels are full, the hotels are full. This is about keeping Queenslanders safe. Obviously those opposite do not support our strong border control measures. The LNP does not support—once again it is the same record. The LNP and the National Party over there—maybe not the National Party; I am not quite sure what the National Party thinks. We know that the Liberal Party clearly does not support our strong border measures. What do they support? I would like to know what do those opposite support?

Mr Dick: Do they support Wellcamp?

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. Do they support regional quarantine? No! Do they support strong border controls? No! Do they support New South Wales' delta virus coming into Queensland? I think so, because there has been crickets on that side when it comes to dealing with this global pandemic. Those opposite are obviously oblivious to what is happening overseas. We only have to look at what is happening around the world. I heard some talk the other day about people from New South Wales going for a holiday in Fiji. Fiji has the highest number of COVID cases per capita in the world. It has recorded 47,006 cases in total, 30,000 cases since April and 504 deaths. That is not sounding like a destination where people would want to go for a holiday.

The best thing we can do in Queensland is keep Queenslanders safe, support our local tourism industry and keep our regions free from COVID by having short, sharp lockdowns to minimise the impact on our economy. That is what this government is going to do—not like those opposite who take their riding instructions from Canberra. We look forward to the next question written by Josh Frydenberg, Michaelia Cash or the Prime Minister. We saw during estimates the complete incompetence and hopelessness of those opposite. They are the most well resourced opposition in the country but that was the worst estimates performance by an opposition ever in the history of the Queensland parliament.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Chatsworth, you are warned under the standing orders. I believe your interjections of that nature are unbecoming.

Bundaberg, Job Creation

Mr SMITH: My question is of the Deputy Premier. Can the Deputy Premier outline how the government is supporting Queensland businesses to expand and create jobs, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Bundaberg for his question. I know that he is a very passionate advocate for more jobs in his region, as is everyone on this side of the House. I was very pleased to be in Bundaberg with him last week to visit Farmfresh Fine Foods, a fantastic Bundaberg local business, a fresh food processor. The Palaszczuk government is supporting them to expand their operations. In doing so, they will employ another 24 locals in Bundaberg as well as create plenty more jobs in the farms of the region where they draw their supplies from. Funding support for this project comes from the Palaszczuk government's jobs funds and will support a \$4.3 million expansion of what is a fantastic local success story. It will help them to be more competitive. It will help them to open up more export markets. Andrew, Janelle and Luke Gerry are a fantastic family building up that business. It is wonderful to be able to support them.

Supporting businesses to expand is crucial to the Palaszczuk government's economic recovery plan to get us through this pandemic. That economic recovery plan is what the LNP wants to put at risk. The LNP's reckless demand that we just go ahead and infect the population with COVID-19 will risk lives and will risk our economic recovery.

New South Wales has begun rationing intensive care beds, forcing doctors to make horrendous choices about withdrawing care because they do not have enough intensive care. That is what the LNP wants to happen here. They want what is happening in New South Wales to happen here. I say to Karen Andrews, Michaelia Cash and the Prime Minister that Queensland has worked far too hard to give up with the end in sight. No matter how much the Prime Minister for Sydney wants us to, we will continue to keep Queenslanders safe. We will get on with this economic recovery, just like we are doing

in Bundaberg with our support for that fantastic local family business, Farmfresh Fine Foods, creating jobs in Bundaberg and in the wider region. It is exactly the kind of project we can continue to support throughout this state because we can stand up to the LNP bullies and keep their virus out of our state.

Coronavirus, Child Vaccination

Dr ROWAN: My question is to the Premier. The Premier's comments about vaccinations for children under 12 have been universally condemned by the Immunisation Coalition's Professor Robert Booy, an infectious diseases paediatrician, who said that the Premier's comments were appalling and disturbing—

Dr Miles interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Moggill, please continue with your question.

Dr ROWAN: He said that the Premier's comments were appalling and disturbing and are contrary to the advice of the TGA, esteemed infectious disease expert Dr Nick Coatsworth and Queensland Health's own website. Where is the plan? Where is the health advice?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for that question. I have been waiting for that question. Let me say very clearly that there are issues happening worldwide, on the global stage, where there are concerns about unvaccinated children. Let us go through it. The *Sydney Morning Herald* reports 'Children hospitalised with COVID-19 in US hits record high'.

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr Mander: What do the experts say?

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Everton! Member for Mudgeeraba!

Ms PALASZCZUK: These are the experts. The article states—

Children currently make up about 24 per cent—

this is the US—

of the nation's COVID-19 hospitalisations. Kids under 12 are not eligible to receive the vaccine, leaving them more vulnerable to infection from the new, highly transmissible variant.

A Reuters article headed 'Children hospitalized with COVID-19 in U.S. hits record number' states—

Children currently make up 2.4% of the nation's COVID hospitalizations. Kids under 12 are not eligible to receive the vaccine, leaving them more vulnerable to infection from the new, highly transmissible variant.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: Another article states—

The city of New Orleans is urging residents to get vaccines after a stark warning regarding children contracting the coronavirus in the city.

The article quotes someone saying, 'This is killing children.' An *Atlantic* article is headed 'Why Is It Taking So Long to Get Vaccines for Kids?' I quote the American Academy of Pediatrics article 'Children and COVID-19: State-Level Data Report'. It states—

As of August 26, nearly 4.8 million children have tested positive for COVID-19 since the onset of the pandemic. About 204,000 cases were added the past week, marking the second week with child cases at the level of the winter surge of 2020-21. After declining in early summer, child cases have increased exponentially, with over a five-fold increase the past month, rising from 38,000 cases the week ending July 22nd to 204,000 the past week.

The New York Times had an article headed 'The Delta Variant Is Sending More Children to the Hospital. Are They Sicker, Too?' The article states—

Some doctors on the front lines say they are seeing more critically ill children than they have at any previous point of the pandemic and that the highly contagious Delta variant is likely to blame.

Another one from the *Atlantic*—

Mr SPEAKER: The Premier's time has expired.

Ms PALASZCZUK:—'Delta is Bad News for Kids'.

Mr SPEAKER: The Premier's time has expired. Please resume your seat, Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Ask me another one. I can finish.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, please resume your seat.

Coronavirus, Economic Recovery

Ms PEASE: My question is of the Treasurer and Minister for Investment. Will the Treasurer please update the House on the progress of Queensland's economic recovery, and is the Treasurer aware of any threats to that recovery?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Lytton for her question and her strong and unstinting support of our strong health response to COVID-19. Queenslanders' hard work and dedication in responding to COVID-19 have given our state a competitive advantage, and that is exactly the sort of competitive advantage we want to continue to have in our state as we fight back against COVID-19. Yesterday's national accounts, released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, show how our advantage continues to grow. While all other states see their household consumption flounder at or below pre-pandemic levels, in Queensland household consumption is up by 3.2 per cent. Private investment in Queensland grew by 5.7 per cent over the June quarter, dwarfing every other Australian state. Those three months do not capture the worst of the lockdowns in New South Wales and Victoria.

This data continues to demonstrate a growing trend in our state and the strength and the resilience of our economy as we fight back from COVID-19. Whether it is retail sales, employment growth, dwelling approvals or a host of other measures, Queensland is fighting back—not bad for a bunch of cave dwellers!

We know how capricious and dangerous COVID-19 can be. Our economic recovery could be put at risk by the ideological obsession of the LNP to open borders. We saw it consistently through the course of 2020. Over and over—64 times—they called for the borders to be opened early, and they are now doing exactly the same thing. We were promised new leadership and new politics by the member for Broadwater, but we just got the same old LNP.

Our government will not subject Queenslanders to an uncontrolled outbreak of the virus and the suffering that would inevitably follow. Members of the LNP line up under the leadership of the member for Broadwater to undermine our strict border controls day after day. This is how the member for Clayfield referred to our government's strong legislative and regulatory response to COVID-19: 'the types of Big Brother controls far more typical of despotic regimes'. As he was the treasurer in the Newman government, the member for Clayfield is an expert witness on despotic regimes!

The LNP's outrageous undermining of our public health response puts at risk the freedoms of Queenslanders—freedoms that Queenslanders have worked so hard to achieve. Those opposites have been on the phone to Canberra, under the leadership of the member for Broadwater, doing exactly what Canberra tells them to do, as they always do. They never stand up for Queensland under the leadership of the member for Broadwater. They never stand up for Queensland. They always stand up for Canberra and their cronies in the LNP in the nation's capital. Only Labor will protect our state.

(Time expired)

Coronavirus, Health Advice

Ms CAMM: My question is to the Premier. Mixed messaging around the pathway out of the pandemic has smashed business confidence. To provide businesses like tourism operators hope, I ask: where is the plan and what is the health advice?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. Perhaps we should look at how tourism is going in New South Wales at the moment, shall we? There is your answer!

Government members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: And Victoria. There are stay-at-home orders. There is no tourism. If you get the delta virus here, which is exactly what the LNP over there is trying to say, it is going to decimate the tourism industry. You are putting these questions—these ridiculous questions—

Mr SPEAKER: Through the chair, Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK:—obviously written by Canberra, because there is no depth of talent on that side—

An opposition member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Did you write the question or did Canberra write the question?

Mr SPEAKER: Premier—

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is a very simple question to—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Premier, I am giving you clear direction that your comments will be directed through the chair.

Ms PALASZCZUK: As we have been saying, because we have kept the health response under control, our economy and our lifestyle are vastly different to what we are seeing in New South Wales and Victoria at the moment. These are the issues that Queenslanders want us to talk about and I urge those opposite, as I said earlier, to go back to their electorates and ask their constituents very clearly: do they want the borders open to allow the virus from New South Wales to come here?

Mr Mander: What's the survey say?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I do not need a survey. I can go and ask Queenslanders. I am happy to go and talk to Queenslanders, and I urge the member for Everton to go and do the same. He should have a street stall on the weekend and see what his community has to say. Ask them if they enjoy the Queensland lifestyle at the moment. Do they enjoy the fact that their children can go to school? Do they enjoy that they can catch up with their friends and family in their homes?

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

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock.

Mr BLEIJIE: I raise a point of order with regard to 118(b)—relevance. The question was about hope for the business community and the government's plan, which the Premier has not addressed, so she either has a plan or does not have a plan. If she does not, Mr Speaker, I ask that she not keep talking so we can go on to the next question.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you for that. There is no point of order. I have been listening to the Premier's response and the question itself was a little bit broader than has been indicated.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We spoke very clearly earlier about how our economy is growing well. We have record investment in dwellings. Our economic plan is working. People are out going to their jobs on a day-to-day basis. This parliament is sitting. The people around the parliament are working. Right across the state people are working, people are going to school and people are catching up with friends and family. The member for Burleigh is shaking his head. Well, he might not have many friends, but people are catching up with their friends and their families. That is not the case in New South Wales. The last I heard they were allowed to have a picnic. I look forward to the day when they get on top of the pandemic, we do welcome people back here and the nation does open up as a whole, but that is not going to happen until New South Wales gets the virus under control. That is very clearly—

(Time expired)

Coronavirus, Queensland Border Restrictions

Mrs MULLEN: My question is of the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Can the minister advise on plans to facilitate the travel of boarding school students in and out of Queensland for the upcoming school holidays and any alternative approaches?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for Jordan and what a great question, because at least in Queensland our school students will actually be able to go on school holidays because everywhere else on the eastern seaboard is closed! The kids in the gallery can enjoy their two weeks of school holidays and travel right throughout the state. There are no barriers. It is really interesting to try to understand what those opposite do not get. New South Wales and the ACT are closed. They have been closed for 10 weeks. If you think businesses are suffering in Queensland, ask your colleagues in New South Wales—

Mr SPEAKER: Through the chair, please.

Ms GRACE:—and the tourism sector how they are coping down there. It is extraordinary. Thank goodness those opposite are not in government. Thank goodness the people of Queensland spoke very soundly in October about who they wanted to help them through this world health pandemic, because if we talk to those opposite their heads are buried in the sand: there is nothing happening in New South Wales and the ACT; it is all open; they are not forcing people to do things and having to make decisions about who gets ventilated. That is where they are down there. What rock are those opposite hiding under? What rock is the Leader of the Opposition hiding under? I welcome him to McConnel. I understand that I have another boarder, and that is the Leader of the Opposition. Welcome to McConnel with your new unit. I welcomed the member for Nanango when she was opposition leader and I now welcome the Leader of the Opposition as well.

When it comes to boarding school students, we have been working, as we have the whole time, on ensuring we can accommodate these children, and that is exactly what we are doing. As the Premier confirmed on Tuesday, it is my understanding that we are very close to issuing—by the end of this week—a new class exemption. I thank the health minister and the health department for working with the Department of Education to enable boarding school students to travel during Queensland school holidays, because we have them! The class exemption will permit any student and their accompanying parent or carer to enter Queensland for the holidays to quarantine for 14 days either at home or at a private freestanding residence as long as that accommodation is suitable for quarantine. It is also my understanding that—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

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

Ms GRACE:—we are developing a new digital home quarantine tool which will assist them with requirements such as check-ins and testing reminders. That is what Queensland does, and we do it well, and those opposite should be congratulating our Premier.

Coronavirus, Health Advice

Mr MICKELBERG: My question is to the Premier. The CCIQ has said that as a result of the Premier's comments on the vaccine the state's economic recovery took a step backwards. Now that the goalposts have shifted, I ask: where is the plan and where is the health advice?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Here is the plan: it is called the Queensland economic recovery plan. You asked for the plan; there is the plan!

Mr SPEAKER: Please put that down, Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: There is the plan. In fact, I think the Treasurer carries it around with him still to this day—every day.

A government member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, that is right. I remind the member for Buderim and the member for Nanango that that is the plan that Queenslanders voted on at the last election. They actually had a vote on that plan, and the other vote they had was about keeping Queenslanders safe, so I think Queenslanders made that decision loud and clear.

With regard to the member for Buderim, I might just pick up from where I left off earlier. We were talking about children and the fact that the US has serious concerns that I have raised at national cabinet. National cabinet was going to get some further information. In some good news, I have an article that says that the FDA in the US is considering vaccines for kids under 12, expected by mid-winter. I say to those opposite that three months ago there were no approvals for high school students to get vaccinated, and that came in and now there is. The Prime Minister wants us to vaccinate high school students. I am happy to do it. Give me the vaccine and I will vaccinate our high school students.

This delta strain is highly contagious. My concerns are very clear about what happens if the delta strain comes through and the children are at risk. That is what I want answers on. The world is moving very quickly to address this issue in the US. While those opposite may have their heads in the sand, as the honourable minister said, we are looking at what is happening around the world and making sure that we are part of that international conversation.

Mr Mander: All that googling. Lots and lots of googling. The Premier is ahead of the science.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Well, it is the science.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Everton, I have found your interjections tedious and repetitious today. You are warned under the standing orders.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for McConnel, I do not need your commentary either.

Ms PALASZCZUK: These are real issues that need to be addressed. As we see the delta variant going rapidly through the US, they are addressing these issues. We need to be up to date with the most modern evidence to make sure that we are protecting Queenslanders. This is what it is all about. It is fundamentally about keeping Queenslanders safe. There is nothing more important. During this global pandemic go to any boardroom, any school, any household and people are talking about COVID and vaccination.

Moreton Bay Islands, Ambulance Services

Ms RICHARDS: My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Can the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is bolstering ambulance services for the people of the Moreton Bay islands and if there are any other alternative approaches?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for her question. I know she is a strong advocate for her communities in the Redlands and on the bay islands. Before I go specifically to that question, can I correct the record. Earlier I said that one of the exposure sites in relation to a positive COVID case was Goodna. I have been advised that it is Bundamba. I just want to make sure that that is clear for people living in those areas. I am sure the member for Bundamba would be interested in knowing that.

More and more Queenslanders are choosing to make the bay islands their home. With an ageing population, demand on our paramedics stationed there is growing. Macleay and Russell islands have experienced an increase in incidents that require our hardworking Queensland Ambulance Service staff to respond to. That is why the Palaszczuk government is delivering more resources to continue to maintain the highest standard of care and coverage for residents of the islands.

As the member for Redlands has lobbied tirelessly for, I am pleased to confirm that 11 new Queensland Ambulance Service officers have been allocated to Russell and Macleay islands. This will also enable 24/7 paramedic coverage on the Kitty Kat water ambulance, a service that provides vital officer back-up and enhanced transport for all island residents should they need ongoing care and hospital admission on the mainland. These 11 new officers will be on the front line in this financial year and will make a huge difference to the island communities.

While I am on my feet, I am very proud to say that my electorate of Redcliffe, which includes Moreton Island, will be getting an additional three frontline paramedics for my community as well. We are looking after all the Moreton Bay islands. That is what the Palaszczuk government does—we deliver the services that Queenslanders need. That is in stark contrast to what we saw when those opposite were in government and what they did to the health services, slashing 4,400 health jobs when the member for Broadwater sat around the cabinet table. It is not just about what they did when they were in government; it is what they have done in opposition since, and particularly what they have done over the last 18 months in their opposition and constant criticism of how we are managing the pandemic.

On radio today when asked when they would lift the borders, the Leader of the Opposition said there was no fixed date, they would listen to the health advice, yet they come in here every day and ask where the health advice is and ask us to prove it. They are constantly questioning, second guessing and undermining the health advice of our Chief Health Officer here in Queensland. They say one thing on radio; they say another thing in here. That is why the people of Queensland back the Palaszczuk government.

Caboolture Hospital, Surgery

Ms BATES: My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. It has been revealed that Queensland Health management were made aware almost a year ago that surgeons were performing surgery outside of their scope at Caboolture Hospital, similar to what happened during the Jayant Patel saga. How long was it before these surgeons were stopped from performing surgeries that they were not qualified to do?

Mrs D'ATH: I have answered questions in relation to the Caboolture Hospital over the last few days. I have provided the information that has been provided to me in relation to allegations that have been made. We set up a hotline because we wanted to hear directly from the community any concerns they had. Additional claims were made overnight in relation to a doctor operating outside of scope. I sought information about that overnight and I can say that I am not satisfied with the information that I have received, but neither is the Metro North HHS board and that is why the board chair this morning has commissioned an independent review into surgical services. He has put out a statement, as he should. The statement states—

The Metro North health board chair, Jim McGowan, has today announced he will launch an independent external review into surgical services at its facility as a further step in transparency and community confidence.

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Mudgeeraba, please cease your interjections. The minister is being responsive to the question as asked.

Mrs D'ATH: Reading the statement that has been released—

Mr McGowan said the external review will provide an independent assessment of the claims and allegations that have been made, identify the effectiveness of the processes that have already been put in place and make recommendations as appropriate. Caboolture Hospital takes all staff and patient claims incredibly seriously and any and all claims are reviewed thoroughly, including those that have been publicly raised.

He goes on to say—

We are now adding a further layer of review from an independent body so our Caboolture Hospital community can have full confidence in the care they receive. Metro North Health acting chief executive, Jackie Hansen, said she wanted to reassure Caboolture Hospital patients and stakeholders of the hospital's commitment to high standards. The details of the Caboolture Hospital review are currently being finalised with more information to be released later this week.

As I said earlier this week, and it is on the statement that has been released as well, patients or members of the community with queries can phone the Caboolture Hospital dedicated feedback line on 3647 9559. It will be available seven days a week. They can also ring the patient experience coordination number, 5433 8888, or email cabH-Feedback @ health.qld.gov.au. We want to hear from the public if they have concerns. If there are issues at a hospital I want to know about it and I want the board to act. That is what the boards are established to do: to take responsibility for the delivery of quality services across the hospitals within their hospital and health service. I welcome this announcement by the chair of the hospital and health service of Metro North to launch an independent external review.

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mudgeeraba, you are warned under the standing orders. I gave you a pretty clear direction.

Tourism Industry, Holiday Dollars

Mr SULLIVAN: My question is to the Minister for Tourism Industry Development and Innovation and Minister for Sport. Will the minister update the House on the tourism industry's Holiday Dollars program with the book-in window for Brisbane closed earlier this week and is the minister aware of any proposals for another program?

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I thank the member for Stafford for his question and his interest in the Palaszczuk government's COVID-19 economic recovery plan for Queensland's tourism industry, including here in the City of Brisbane. Our Holiday Dollars campaign was a first for Queensland tourism and delivered real results right across those most affected areas when they were needed. Holiday Dollars was rolled out in Cairns, the Whitsundays, the Gold Coast and Brisbane—the regions hardest hit by the loss of overseas visitors. Across those four regions, Holiday Dollars delivered more than 39,000 bookings, generating in excess of \$11 million for tourism operators, which was vitally needed at the time that that occurred.

For every one dollar spent on the program we have seen a return on investment of around \$2.60, so it was very successful in leveraging even further opportunity for the Queensland economy and the Queensland tourism industry. I would say that that is a pretty good return in the middle of a pandemic. We know that the response from tourism operators has been overwhelmingly positive. There were reports of staff being run off their feet with bookings and visitors with Holiday Dollars upsizing to even more expensive experiences. Already we are investigating the rollout of a similar program.

That is why I am so perplexed by the member for Broadwater's criticism of the program. Apparently the 39,000 extra bookings generated by Holiday Dollars were headlines and not holidays. The opposition leader also incorrectly claimed that 75 per cent of vouchers were unused. The fact is that Holiday Dollars had an overall redemption rate of 49 per cent but redemption rates are not really the point in this instance. Nowhere in Australia do these sorts of schemes achieve redemption rates of 100 per. The primary purpose of voucher schemes is to encourage visitors to regions and spending with tourism operators on tourism experiences, and it did that.

However, as Queensland's biggest source of customers is New South Wales and Victoria, which are in lockdown, now is the time for the member for Broadwater to meet the industry's expectations and join our calls for the federal government to bring back JobKeeper for tourism operators. That is what is needed. That is what the industry is expecting. That is what they are calling out for. However, what we hear is a rejection of that concept by everyone opposite. While New South Wales and Victoria are in extended lockdown, the industry is hurting.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

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

Mr HINCHLIFFE: They are not seeing the opposition leader's imaginary 20-year dream; they are just having the nightmares that come when JobKeeper is not in place.

Weapons Licensing

Mr KATTER: My question is to the Minister for Police and Corrective Services. With reference to the Queensland Audit Office's 13 recommendations around fit and proper person criteria for a firearms licence, will the minister advise why, without legislative changes, weapons licensing is now able to use an individual's medical history, including diabetes, cancer and heart disease, as a reason to deny or revoke a weapons licence in Queensland?

Mr RYAN: In Queensland our weapons framework is modelled on the guidance from the National Firearms Agreement. The people who have informed the National Firearms Agreement—such as former prime minister John Howard, former deputy premier Tim Fischer and former premier of Queensland Rob Borbidge—all maintain that Australia and Queensland are safer because we have strong gun laws. That means that we have a robust framework about who is eligible to hold a firearm. We are constantly making sure that the law is complied with. There have been no legislative changes to the Weapons Act around the guidelines for who is to hold a firearm. However, of course there is always constant reflection on making sure that the framework is robust. That is important.

I am informed by the Queensland Police Service's Weapons Licensing branch that the only change to the medical conditions guidelines for a medical clearance in relation to a weapons licence application was the removal of a cancer diagnosis from the list of conditions requiring a medical certificate. I am advised by Weapons Licensing that it has always considered a number of aspects around the criteria for medical clearances.

I am also advised by Weapons Licensing that the vast majority of medical conditions, including diabetes, arthritis and sleep apnoea, do not require the provision of a medical report as the conditions have been deemed to pose no real risk to individual or public safety. The disclosure of information regarding medical conditions does not necessarily make applicants ineligible for a weapons licence. In fact, individuals should not avoid seeking medical attention for fear of having a licence application or renewal rejected.

Weapons Licensing do issue licences to suitable applicants who have made a full and honest disclosure of their medical condition. The QPS is constantly reviewing processes to determine the suitability of an individual to possess a weapons licence and firearms to ensure public and individual safety is appropriately balanced with the rights of current and future licence holders.

I know that this is a particularly important issue for the member for Traeger. At estimates I invited him to meet with senior police around weapons regulations. Deputy Commissioner Taylor has been in touch with the member for Traeger. I understand Deputy Commissioner Taylor is happy to meet with the member once again to discuss these matters.

(Time expired)

Bruce Highway, Upgrades

Mr HARPER: My question is of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Can the minister update the House on the progress of major upgrades on the Bruce Highway under the \$13 billion Bruce Highway Upgrade Program?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the member for Thuringowa for the question. He is a tremendous advocate for roads in his area. We have Riverway Drive and Townsville Ring Road stage 5 is under construction thanks to his hard work and advocacy as the member for Thuringowa. On the Bruce Highway we are seeing more being done than ever before. Our construction sites are entirely unaffected. Why? Because we have managed the health pandemic. We have been hard line about it. Our construction sites are not affected as are those in southern states. I am happy to report to the chamber that, as we speak, there are 48 different Bruce Highway upgrades under construction, all the way up the coast to Cairns. There are 154 projects on the board so there is a pipeline coming, but 48 projects are currently under construction.

Let us look at what is being done. We have finished the Mackay Ring Road. We have finished the Kate Street to Aumuller Street stretch south of Cairns, as well as the Robert Road to Foster Road stretch, which I know you, Mr Speaker, and the member for Cairns have been great advocates for. We have almost completed the Haughton River floodplain upgrade project. Right now traffic is flowing along a much more flood immune part of the Bruce Highway.

The members for Keppel and Rockhampton have been great advocates for the Rockhampton northern access upgrade project and, of course, we are working on the stretch from Caloundra Road to the Sunshine Motorway. We do not ignore the Sunshine Coast like those opposite did. We get construction done. That is what we do in terms of the Bruce Highway. Of course, the Townsville northern access project is also underway. There is a pipeline of \$883 million in investments coming into the Bruce Highway, including the inland freight route where more than half a billion dollars is committed across both governments.

Let us compare our extraordinary record to that of those opposite. They had three years in government and they did four projects on the Bruce Highway—two funded 100 per cent by the federal government and one was an audit. There are 48 construction projects under us and there was only one that had any state money when the LNP was in power and the Leader of the Opposition sat at Campbell Newman's cabinet table. They went to the last election—

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock and resume your seat, please, Minister. Member for Southern Downs, you have the right and honour to leave the chamber under standing order 253A. Member for Southern Downs, I also noticed that you put your jacket on before interjecting. I hope it was not premeditated.

Whereupon the honourable member for Southern Downs withdrew from the chamber at 11.07 am.

Mr BAILEY: The opposition had a big bold plan for the Bruce before the last election, but it ended up being a big fold because they had nothing for construction. After talking up their hopes for 12 months, there was nothing other than some paperwork by some planners. There was no construction work.

It has been good to see the member for Burdekin backing in our Haughton River floodplain upgrade and trying to claim credit for it. He joins the member for Burleigh, the member for Mudgeeraba and the member for Scenic Rim in trying to claim credit for our projects. This 'open the borders' mantra from the LNP—from Karen Andrews, from Scott Morrison and from those opposite—would imperil our infrastructure program. That is not what we need in terms of jobs and our economy, let alone people's health. I look forward to the member for Burleigh returning with his billboard sometime soon.

(Time expired)

Mining Industry

Dr MacMAHON: My question is for the Minister for Resources. Now that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has confirmed climate change is catastrophic, is caused by humans burning coal and gas and is happening now, will the government drop its plans to expand coal and gas mining and transition Queensland and workers to industries with a secure future?

Mr STEWART: I thank the member for the question. I am aware of the release of the International Energy Agency report titled *Net zero emissions by 2050* and the recent report released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The Queensland government takes climate change extremely seriously. That is why we recently launched our Queensland Climate Action Plan, which includes a commitment to achieving net zero emissions by 2050 and to power Queensland with 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030.

I note that the question relating to climate change should really be directed to the Hon. Meaghan Scanlon MP as the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs. Having said that, however, this government has a long-held position that we continue to support coal projects so long as they stack up financially, environmentally and socially. The coal industry has made some key contributions to the success and prosperity of Queensland, and I am confident that we will be a coal exporter for many years to come.

It is interesting to note that Queensland's coalmines relate to around 85 per cent of metallurgical coal. Metallurgical coal is used for the production of steel that we will see used in wind turbines. We hear from both our international and our domestic markets that they will continue to need our metallurgical coal for many years to come. This means that coalmining and associated jobs will be part of our economy now and into the foreseeable future. The royalties from coal will continue to fund our vital public services and infrastructure such as hospitals, schools and the roads the minister spoke about previously.

Queensland is also rich in the minerals area and that will assist in the decarbonisation of Australia's economy. This government's Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan will explore more opportunities to develop a new sector of resource in the industry.

The Queensland government is proud of the resource sector; however, we are also aware of the challenges facing the sector in terms of meeting emissions targets going forward. Responding to these challenges will also be a key part of the focus of the Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan. Planning for a net zero emissions future by 2050 is vital. This government has taken the necessary steps to ensure that we as a state are ready for this.

I cannot emphasise enough the importance of that Resources Industry Development Plan. One of the key things we are seeing out of Richmond is the importance of vanadium. Vanadium will be used to develop grid sized batteries that will be used to power our state well into the future with alternative energies.

Building and Construction Industry

Ms PUGH: My question is to the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement. Will the minister explain how the Palaszczuk government has supported Queensland's construction industry throughout the pandemic and now in Queensland's economic recovery?

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the member for Mount Ommaney for the question. She knows how critical Queensland's \$45 billion construction industry is to Queensland's economic recovery. In fact, thanks to the member's advocacy, tradies right now are out in her electorate building new classrooms at Centenary State High School, I understand. I am advised they are working on new affordable housing around Oxley, even delivering the brand new batting cages at the Western Districts Baseball Club—a great project.

Tradies in that electorate and across the state are on the job today for two reasons: this government's record infrastructure program, Building a Better Queensland; and, secondly, they worked with this government to stop the spread of COVID in Queensland. Industry leaders, construction companies, unions, tradies and this government work together to keep construction sites open and tradies on the job.

Onsite tradies have masked up. They have staggered their starting times. They social distance in larger crib rooms. They have been tested and been vaccinated because they knew that they could not afford to take any chances, because the alternative, when you let the virus rip, is devastating.

Let us look at what the national press is saying about the impact on the construction industry around the country. ABC Online says—

The ban on most construction, renovations and repairs is not just a headache and financial burden on home owners, builders and tradespeople, it is also a big hit to the economy.

The Commonwealth Bank's head of Australian economics last week put a billion-dollar-per-week price tag on the Sydney lockdown. That is what those opposite want for the Queensland construction industry.

In Victoria, where New South Wales let the delta variant creep over the border, the Master Builders Association of Victoria said in the *Age*—

Tens of thousands of construction workers will be stood down, with the loss of up to \$63 million a day in wages, while about \$455 million in revenue will be lost daily to the industry more broadly.

Here in Queensland, tradies are up against more than just COVID-19. They dodged the virus, but now they are getting smashed by the Morrison government's ill-considered, clumsy and lazy stimulus policy. What is the legacy of the Morrison government's approach to stimulus? It is a virus that has lingered far too long in this nation, tradies working harder than ever with little to show for it, no legacy projects anywhere in the country—not one bridge, not one new social housing dwelling, not one school hall, not even a quarantine facility built—and a billion dollars of debt. What is to come after the profitless boom? The *Financial Review* says today that there will be an oversupply of 150,000 homes by 2023. I bet this Prime Minister will not take responsibility for a housing crash then either.

Spinal Muscular Atrophy, Newborn Screening

Mrs GERBER: My question is to the Minister for Health. Will the minister implement SMA testing into Queensland's newborn bloodspot screening program following the advice to do so from the Standing Committee on Screening?

Mr SPEAKER: There will be one minute for the response. Before calling the minister, as per my earlier remarks, I would like to caution members on unbecoming interjections, reflecting on the member's delivery in the House or otherwise.

Mrs D'ATH: As the member knows, because she has corresponded with me before, we have written to the national health minister, Greg Hunt, on this matter.

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. The minister is trying to answer the question, member for Currumbin. I think we should allow her to do so.

Mrs D'ATH: We are raising this at the national level because that is where these decisions are made.

Mrs Gerber: Wrong.

Mrs D'ATH: You are wrong, sorry.


Mr SPEAKER: Direct your remarks through the chair.

Mrs D'ATH: The member for Currumbin is wrong. This is a decision that is made—it is being trialled interstate and we are already exploring this. The member can keep shaking her head, but let me just explain: we are already exploring what we would need to do to bring this policy in, but we have also raised it at the national level because these decisions around testing are generally made by the national body, which has been disbanded by the national cabinet, and we are asking for the body to now consider it.

(Time expired)

PRIVILEGE

Correction to Record of Proceedings


 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (11.17 am): Mr Speaker, I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. I want to correct the record in the positive. I want to confirm that Weapons Licensing do issue licences to suitable applicants who have made a full and honest disclosure of their medical condition. I may have misspoken.

Mr SPEAKER: That is pleasing to hear, Minister.

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

Second Reading

Resumed from 1 September (see p. 2417).

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (11.18 am): I rise to make a short contribution to the debate on this bill. I start by thanking the residents of my great electorate of Capalaba for doing the right thing in abiding by the medical advice and the medical restrictions, particularly during the lockdown period, and also for coming out in force especially to the Capalaba vaccine hub, which I thank the health minister for providing in our local area. It is very popular. I had my two shots of Pfizer down there and I thank the wonderful staff and volunteers there.

In the Capalaba electorate, we are now at over 53 per cent of people who have had their first vaccinations and over 29 per cent for second vaccinations. I thank everyone for doing that. Let us not forget that we would be further down the track if we had achieved the vaccination targets the federal government set back in March. We would nearly be at 70 or 80 per cent already. Those opposite like to blame us, but the vaccine rollout was their responsibility. We are helping them out. We said, 'You are going so badly at it, we will open up some hubs to help you out.' The vaccine rollout was their responsibility.

The second thing that was the federal government's responsibility is quarantine. We should not have to be doing hotel quarantine. We should have left it up to the federal government to do as it is their responsibility under the Constitution. Yet again, the Queensland government comes to the aid of the federal government to do what they should be doing. Quarantine is their responsibility. They had two jobs to do—the vaccine rollout and quarantine. They failed at both and we do the heavy lifting.


What thanks do we receive? We have federal Treasurer Josh Frydenberg attacking Western Australia and Queensland for their great results. What do they seriously want? Do they seriously want us to be in the same situation as New South Wales? Maybe when they get to 70 per cent vaccination

they can have a picnic outside! Give me a break. We can go to the pub. We can see our family. We can go to work. We can go to school. We are in a fantastic situation. Other than mask wearing, very few freedoms and liberties have been lost here. Let us keep it that way.

I have a degree in microbiology. I have worked as a microbiologist. I have read the Doherty report. It keeps me up at night and makes me frustrated the different takes on the Doherty report expressed by politicians and the media who obviously have not read and understood the report. It is very clear. Some of the scenarios are very scary. As the father of a four-year-old boy with a disability, I look at the scenarios and see that unvaccinated children are going to die in the first six months. That is just the first six months.

That is us making the decisions. We are at 35 per cent double dose. We have some way to go in that regard. We need to take the time to make sure we get this right. We need the information that the Premier has requested. We do not need to be rushed into positions and plans when we do not know the information. What are the consequences? There will be kids in ICU and deaths. That is what the Doherty report says, not me. We need to ensure that we get this right. We are at 35 per cent double dose. Let us make sure we get all the information. As the decision-makers of this state, we need to make sure that we are doing the right thing by all our population because we have done a fantastic job so far.

I now move on to the issue of the change to the public holiday. It was obviously a good suggestion. It will be great for our local economy to have this public holiday. Unfortunately, Redlands missed out. The mayor could not be bothered getting the 10 other councillors on a teleconference to see whether they wanted to change the public holiday. When the change was announced there was huge backlash that the Redland City Council did not choose to change the public holiday and instead stick with the Monday public holiday after the lockdown, missing out on all the economic benefit. What did the mayor do? She wrote to the industrial relations minister asking to have two public holidays knowing full well that she was not going to get that. She could not be bothered getting off her backside and doing a simple teleconference with the 10 other councillors to make a decision about the long weekend. She wanted to change the long weekend but could not be bothered doing the work. We find ourselves in the situation of missing out on the long weekend.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.23 am): The opposition will be supporting this bill. Before I talk about the amendments moved by the shadow health minister I say that we must give this serious consideration and we must give the community the confidence they need. This is a bill that will impact every family and every small and family business, and ensuring that these powers are in place is something that the community needs to see. Things have changed immensely since this bill was first debated. As such, we owe it to our communities to show that we are going to adapt to that change.

The amendments that the shadow health minister is proposing are sensible because they allow for that adaptation. No-one is suggesting for one moment that we are not living in uncertain times. No-one is suggesting for one moment that things will not continue to evolve, but the pandemic politics and the scaremongering and the fear have to stop. What this bill does and what the proposed amendments do is chart a course out of that—hope over fear; confidence over chaos; a pathway out of the pandemic. That is what our communities want.

We see the childish behaviour today and hear comments made about people wanting to see the virus enter Queensland. There is not one Queenslander who wants to see that. Queenslanders want hope. They want to know that at the end of their sacrifice lies opportunities for them and for their family. The undermining this week has done nothing to give them that hope. The Premier standing up yesterday and making up her own health advice on the run and then doubling down today and running a scare campaign does not give hope. Having a policy position that prioritises sporting families over Queensland families coming home does not give hope. The pathway out is through confidence in the vaccines. That is what we have consistently said from day one. All of the undermining and all of the mixed messaging does nothing to give that confidence.


There are three reasons the amendments proposed by the shadow health minister make sense. In the uncertain times we are experiencing it is appropriate that we extend the health powers. It is vital that health advice be made available to the public to assist with clarity of the message. As parliamentarians it is our obligation to continually review laws that have such an impact on the lives of Queenslanders. That is simply what is proposed.

The opposition agrees with the need to extend the powers of the Chief Health Officer. With the government falling behind the other states on vaccination rates, we believe that it is appropriate for these powers to remain. In extending these powers, the government will have time to address some of

the vaccination hesitancy caused by their mixed messaging and the Premier's derogatory comments about the AstraZeneca vaccine. The opposition believes that, despite the government's confusing language around vaccines, December should be enough time for the vaccination rate to reach the levels we need it to.

Let me make it clear on the second point that we are advocating for amendments that make expert health advice the central theme of this legislation. In fact, our amendments seek to elevate the importance of expert health advice by mandating its publication. We see this amendment as crucial to breaking through the political spin and confusion by having a single point of truth. By mandating the release of the health advice, we will not see the shambolic performances that we have witnessed and the sudden, drastic changes to policy.

Finally, on the third point, these powers are extraordinary powers enacted to deal with an extraordinary situation. As parliamentarians we have a responsibility to constantly review these powers, and that is all we are asking. While we must ensure the safety of Queenslanders, we must also ensure that we do not hold on to them any longer than we need to. These amendments are a measured response from the opposition that respects and promotes the health advice, respects the rights of Queenslanders and, most importantly, keeps Queenslanders safe.

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (11.27 am): I rise to speak in support of the Public Health and Other Legislation (Further Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2021. We only have to see what is happening in New South Wales to get an idea of how quickly COVID-19 can consume a whole state and leak into other states and territories. While Queensland is currently enjoying COVID-free days, the threat across our border in New South Wales shows that we must always be on guard. Until an overwhelming majority of Queenslanders are vaccinated, emergency powers will be needed to ensure that we can rapidly mobilise our health system and government departments in response to any potential COVID-19 outbreak.

I am also pleased to see in this legislation the proposed introduction of appointing multiple deputy chief health officer positions in line with other jurisdictions in Australia. This will enhance our state's overall health response and ensure the Chief Health Officer and her deputy have the support they need to deal with all the challenges this pandemic throws at them.

This legislation will put in place some minor amendments including clarifying that quarantine directions may be served electronically, establishing a new prepayment system for quarantine fees and supporting more flexible payment and collection arrangements.

Since March last year we have given our Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young, emergency powers so that she can swiftly respond to COVID-19 outbreaks in Queensland. Because of her expert guidance and our first-rate public health response, Queensland has escaped the worst of this pandemic. However, the growing number of cases in other jurisdictions reminds us that Queensland is always at risk of COVID-19 crossing our border and coming into our communities. Extending these emergency powers is crucial considering how rapidly the delta variant can spread if not picked up early. We have seen it for ourselves with the last outbreak in Brisbane's western suburbs.

These emergency powers will be extended until 30 April next year so that we can continue dealing with localised outbreaks. On this point, I am encouraged by the number of people in my electorate of Ipswich who are either getting vaccinated or very keen to get vaccinated once the vaccine is available. They want to protect themselves and their loved ones. Furthermore, they want to play their part in helping the country get back on track.

People are desperate to get back to normal and getting vaccinated is the key. Vaccines offer us that hope we all need after what we have been enduring over the last 18 months. I want to point out that I have had my first AstraZeneca. I have my second tomorrow. My partner will be fully vaccinated as of now. My daughter, who is a doctor at the Gold Coast University Hospital, and her husband are fully vaccinated. My son, who lives in Melbourne, as soon as he was able to went out to get vaccinated.

Obviously I am incredibly proud of the work my daughter does as a doctor, as a frontline health worker, but I am also fearful for her. If the Prime Minister of this country and Karen Andrews, Michaelia Cash and those opposite have their way, she will be at serious risk as many frontline health workers have been across the world where this pandemic has been raging. Thousands of them have lost their lives while trying to save others.

I want to protect all of the frontline health workers in this state and keep them safe, including my daughter. My son, who is living in Melbourne, is up to his 215th day in lockdown. That is more than seven months that he has had to spend locked up inside when opportunities are passing him by. The

despair that people in Victoria and New South Wales are living with—the increased rates of mental illness and the increased rates of suicide—is the reality of what happens if we let this virus rip without being vaccinated, without taking the proper steps.

We need look no further for a gold standard than our Premier's own performance, our Chief Health Officer's performance and our government's performance throughout this pandemic. I am really proud to be a part of a government that has taken such a strong stance on this, such a sensible stance and such a sound non-political response to this pandemic. I commend this bill to the House.



Ms BOLTON (Noosa—Ind) (11.32 am): Submitters to the committee inquiry on the bill such as the Queensland Police Commissioned Officers' Union of Employees and the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties believe that the extension to 30 April 2022 is too long and should be amended to 31 December this year. Then, if further extensions are needed, they can be requested. My community would agree.

As we have already heard, lack of clarity around targets and time lines and changing goalposts, combined with an overload of conflicting information and the ongoing misinformation, is creating increased angst and trauma in our communities. The impacts from lockdowns are devastating to small business and those reliant on them, leading to a loss of confidence and ongoing uncertainty.

This bill would allow lockdowns, without debate or input from those being impacted or without parliamentary oversight, to continue well into 2022 which for those under this severe mental duress seems insurmountable. The Queensland Human Rights Commission also noted this in their submission and this is the reason why I sought extra time for debating this bill—not in opposition or to undermine the incredible efforts of Queensland and the government during this pandemic, as I said yesterday, but to give voice to those who are bearing the brunt. They need our help. Just like the Premier said this morning that she is waiting for answers, they are waiting for answers. They are not asking for a lot, but they seek the following.

They want our state and federal leaders to remain united with a succinct plan, targets and time frames. We are one country and supposed to be in this together. They want guaranteed financial support, instead of grants that become oversubscribed, for every day our small businesses are required to close, as well as for staff who are only paid when they are open. They need affordable insurance packages for our businesses and those who need to travel to accommodate losses and quarantine costs.

They seek straight answers to questions, including infringement on privacy from the Check In Qld app. The Queensland Law Society and the Australian Lawyers Alliance submitted that legislative change is needed so that the information community members provide is kept private and cannot be accessed by other agencies.

They seek reassurance regarding mandatory vaccinations including for our children, lockdowns and mask wearing to put an end to the misinformation that is overwhelming our communities. They seek financial support for those in vaccination mandated industries to retrain into other positions and industries if they do not or cannot vaccinate.


They want clarity around vaccination passports. We are one country, and delineation between states and territories is creating divisions and isolation. Remember that we are supposed to be in this together.

They want equitable and consistent decisions. Allowing visiting teams from hotspots when our own people cannot come over the border is just wrong. Finally, with a current lack of consistency in decision-making amongst the chief health officers across Australia, they want assurances regarding the appointment and transition to our new CHO.

The level of angst in my community reached what I term the 'tipping point', where confidence was shattered in those impacted the most. The common denominator was the economic capacity of individuals and businesses to accommodate ongoing lockdowns and border closures. Noosa is below the South-East Queensland average in income, heavily reliant on tourism and hospitality. These are the industries that employ the majority of our residents and are the ones that are critically impacted. They are not asking for anything that risks Queenslanders. They are just asking for sufficient support.

If this bill is extended all the way through to the end of April next year, without the assurances they are seeking, they will live in angst every day in fear of announcements. Uncertainty is impacting heavily on mental health, especially when neither they nor their MPs have a say in the decisions that can make or break their world.

The committee in its inquiry received 588 submissions, most of which were in opposition to the bill. I am appreciative that community consultation was undertaken. With the need for a time line that our communities can visualise, I ask that government support the amendment to reduce the time frame of the extension to December 2021. This will not risk in any way the health of Queenslanders as we can extend when needed. It will, however, give the assurance they need the most right now as part of their physical, emotional and mental wellbeing. It will give some certainty in uncertain times, as well as reduce the anger, angst and protests being experienced.

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (11.37 am): I rise to speak on the Public Health and Other Legislation (Further Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2021. I want to reflect on the member for Noosa's contribution. I do not think any member in this place back in January last year would have thought we would be 18 months now into a pandemic that certainly has not diminished in its impact on Australia but has escalated. With this bill we are looking to extend the emergency powers to April 2022. I think it is quite a reasonable, sensible and measured approach. I think it underpins how our Palaszczuk government has approached the COVID pandemic and why we are the only state on the eastern seaboard—the only jurisdiction—that is not currently in lockdown.

In terms of the business grants that the member mentioned, this particular round of grants that we have done in partnership with the federal government is not capped and it is open until November for businesses. I encourage the member to make sure that all of her businesses are aware that, if they are eligible, they can submit up until November and there is no capped limit.


This bill amends a lot of acts and regulations to make sure that we can continue to keep Queenslanders safe. Our continued approach to make very difficult decisions, to act rapidly and to go hard in response to this pandemic is why we are in the position that we are in today. This has been in stark contrast to the likes of New South Wales. I have heard some of the other contributions from the other side, and I have to wonder what planet they are living on if they cannot see what is going on in New South Wales.

I say that because I am the mum of a 27-year-old who is living in what used to be a hotel in the 1980s but which has been converted into apartments. He is in a studio apartment where the bedroom is the lounge room and the kitchen with an en suite off to the side. He is now into his 12th week of lockdown. He is allowed to go out for an hour's exercise. When you talk about picnics—for goodness sake! Seriously? His closest friend is outside the five-kilometre radius that is capped for movement. His girlfriend is in central New South Wales, so he has not seen her for 12 weeks. You really only have to look at where they are at. We know where they are at, but the real question is why they are there. I will tell you why they are there: because they have a government that has not had the right policy settings. They have not gone hard; they have not gone fast. I speak to my son and his friends. We communicate a lot. You only need to ask them. They are angry. They are not happy.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms RICHARDS: There are not many people in New South Wales who are very happy about the position they are in. You can talk to businesses down in New South Wales. I can tell you where they would rather be operating their businesses from, and it is not down there: it is up here in Queensland. Being quick to act on masks and being quick to act on lockdowns is what ensures we keep Queenslanders safe, and it is why New South Wales is in the position they are in. When governments act swiftly and have the right policy settings in place you do not see 1,116 cases like we saw yesterday, you do not see 100 deaths in 78 days in New South Wales. One hundred deaths in 78 days! Case numbers last week were around 5,000. You only need to look at the spread that is occurring, because this week it is about 7,300 and growing. It continues to grow because they did not act fast and they did not act hard.

The four people who died yesterday were women in their 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s, but then we come to the fact they were unvaccinated. When we talk about the vaccine rollout, the Prime Minister had two jobs—quarantine and vaccine rollout—and he has absolutely stuffed it. He got it wrong from the get-go. We were the slowest nation in the world to get on top of the vaccine rollout. Thank God for our Palaszczuk government! We are building quarantine facilities up at Wellcamp. We are taking the lead and making sure we continue to keep Queenslanders safe. This bill is important to make sure we continue to be the state that leads the nation in the COVID health response and economic recovery. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (11.42 am): My community understands better than most the current impact of COVID-19 restrictions. I want to keep my community safe just like all members here, but we also do not want to see the restrictions and extraordinary public health powers the government currently has to curtail people's freedoms last a second longer than they need to.

Much has changed since the initial public health emergency was declared in January 2020. Even in the last few months we have seen an ever-increasing supply of vaccines and the opportunity to begin transitioning to a post-COVID Queensland. Our communities right now depend on this government to have a clear plan, a step-by-step road map grounded by expert advice that shows our community a path out of this pandemic, when borders will open, when lockdowns will be limited, when our businesses can reliably plan for the future and when Queenslanders can be assured they will be able to come home to their families. So far this government has no such plan. Currumbin constituents cannot continue to shoulder the burden of the state border closure for the rest of Queensland without hope and without a path forward.

In the immediate term I will continue to call for targeted financial support for border businesses and the reinstatement of the previously safe and successful border bubble. It is desperately needed. If the NRL can have their league bubble then my border community can have their border bubble back. Moving forward, my electorate deserves to know the plan for our community and indeed the state. They deserve to know what the—

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order, members! Pause the clock.

Ms SIMPSON: Point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. I apologise for bringing a point of order, but my colleague is being repeatedly harassed by the other side. It has been going on all week and for several weeks. It really is unacceptable. I seek your assistance in protecting my colleague from these repeated attacks by other members.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take some advice. I thank the member for the point of order. I was conversing with a member who was seeking my guidance on something. Neither the clerk at the table or I witnessed the behaviour you are referring to, but we will be keeping a close eye on this. We remind all members to maintain orderly behaviour at all times while in the chamber.

Mrs GERBER: That is why the LNP has proposed reasonable amendments to this bill. Our amendments require that the health advice that decisions about border restrictions and lockdowns is purportedly based on is released. Our amendment requires that these extraordinary powers do not extend for a day longer than they are needed. Every facet of my community is directly and profoundly impacted by these laws. Chris from Currumbin wrote to me about his daughter's schooling. He stated—

Teachers are not essential which is beyond belief, my daughters' school [in Currumbin] is missing a great number of teachers and I know my daughter is really struggling.

Marcelo from Tugun wrote that he just wants to visit his elderly grandmother. He says—


I have been prevented from visiting my 94-year-old grandmother who lives in Murwillumbah and suffers from bad dementia. Livelihoods are being destroyed and families are torn apart. Whole townships are being affected by an invisible line within our communities.

Ann owns Bellakai Cafe in Coolangatta, a Queensland business that has been established for 12 years and employs 18 staff. She writes—

The current suspension of the QLD-NSW border residents' zone means that for many businesses, their staff cannot attend work mere kilometres over the border, so how will we maintain our businesses?

Extending these powers will mean that families in my electorate will continue to be separated, businesses will continue to shut down and people will continue to be without employment. The impact of these powers is incredible. My community has already sacrificed so much to keep our fellow Queenslanders safe. The Premier likes to take credit for keeping Queensland safe, but it was not the Premier: it was every single Queenslanders who kept us safe by wearing their masks, by staying home, by restricting their businesses, by losing their income, by staying separated from their loved ones and by giving up their freedoms. They are prepared to do it again if it is necessary, but only if it is necessary.

I do not think it is too much to ask that the health advice be released so my community can understand why they must give up their freedoms or that these extraordinary powers are reviewed at the end of the year rather than extended until April next year. It is a very reasonable request, and I implore all members in this House to support the LNP's amendments to the public health bill.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (11.47 am): I rise to address the Public Health and Other Legislation (Further Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill, including to foreshadow some amendments that I will propose to the bill. This bill extends the various special COVID-19 provisions until 30 April 2022. The Greens will again be voting in favour of that extension because, as I said in the last debate on special COVID provisions, there is no doubt that this public health emergency is far from over.

Few places in Queensland know that better than my own community in Brisbane's inner west after what has been dubbed the 'Indooroopilly cluster' broke out just over a month ago now. This outbreak was a harrowing experience for many of us, particularly for the thousands of families who were directed to quarantine after cases of the delta variant were detected at local schools. The way we dealt with it and pulled through is something for our community to be incredibly proud of. It is largely thanks to all of those quarantining families that we were able to keep the broader community safe and end the lockdown after just 10 days.

We owe them all a great debt of gratitude, but I want to make particular mention of all the families and staff at Indooroopilly State High School and Ironside State School. I also have to thank the whole west side community for the way they pulled together to help their neighbours. It was truly heartwarming to see all of the local Facebook groups buzzing with offers of support, information and resources and seeing the flood of volunteers who helped deliver click and collect orders when the big supermarkets' delivery systems gave out on us. John at the Inner West Social Inclusion Project needs a special mention for his great work in coordinating much of that volunteer effort.

The first week of the lockdown was undoubtedly one of the busiest we have had in the Maiwar electorate office as well, and my staff did not flinch. Despite working from home and in very challenging circumstances, they rose to the challenge and did extraordinary work supporting locals during that period. I want to thank them for that. We did some vitally important work—like getting people their quarantine directions so they could apply for federal support payments and helping people navigate the lockdown or quarantine rules, particularly around shared custody arrangements, including for people who had potentially violent circumstances in their home or were in a dispute with their ex-partner.

We kept the Indooroopilly cluster under control thanks to a quick, strong response from the government, the community and frontline health workers, but I also saw up close some of the limits of the government's health and economic response in that week. The biggest problem at the very start of the outbreak was a lack of testing capacity which meant that some people were waiting for hours and hours and hours to get tested. The Queensland Health website's list of testing sites was not always up to date, both the Indooroopilly State High School and the Toowong bowls club sites were closed at crucial testing times, and there were limited options for folks without a car to walk in and get tested.

Thousands of families in quarantine did not get their formal directions which meant they could not apply for the federal income support payments. Then, just before their 14 days were up, the Premier told the media that they would need a release letter to exit quarantine. This seemingly off-the-cuff remark meant that the department had to scramble to create a process on the go, effectively reshaping reality to match the Premier's comments. A day or two later, the CHO clarified that they did not actually need a letter at all. I am not saying for a second that this stuff is easy or that I or anyone else should expect it to be perfect, but it is worthy of scrutiny.

If the government could set aside its fear of criticism, it might see how additional transparency and reflection would actually allow us to learn from and improve our response and do it even better next time—because, as much as we hope there will not be a next time, this bill and much of the commentary around the state of play in Queensland now clearly assumes that there will be. This is why I will again seek to move amendments to this bill to create a parliamentary committee to oversee and scrutinise the government's health and economic response to COVID-19. I table a copy of those amendments now.

Tabled paper: Public Health and Other Legislation (Further Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2021, amendments to be moved by Mr Michael Berkman [\[1330\]](#).

If we are going to pull through this pandemic, people need to have faith in the health directions and economic protections in place, especially during lockdown. On Tuesday this place here was locked down after antilockdown conspiracy theorists outside threatened to enter the building. It was only a handful of protesters this time but my concern is that this group could grow without better scrutiny and transparency. Keeping Queenslanders in the dark is not only undemocratic but it creates an environment where conspiracy theories can flourish. As we have seen in the US, that can be incredibly dangerous.

We are at arguably the most crucial point of the COVID-19 response where we have to deal with increasingly complex questions about things like vaccine passports, targets and criteria for ending lockdowns, and tackling future variants. It is no longer simply a question of following the health advice; in truth, it never really was that simple. The health advice is varied and could be used to justify


dramatically different decisions and outcomes. Modelling like that of the Doherty Institute can give some guidance about what outcomes we might expect as a result of different decisions, but it does not and cannot make those decisions for you.

We have already seen politicians use that modelling and other data to support their own positions or try to justify decisions while glossing over some crucial underlying assumptions—like the consequences of including kids under 12 in vaccination targets or the likely extent of infection if we open up at 70 per cent, or 80 per cent or even 90 per cent. No matter what vaccination threshold we choose for opening up, Queenslanders need to be confident that there is some visibility of how that decision is made. That is part of our job as members of parliament—to maintain oversight of how these extraordinary powers extended by this bill are exercised. It is literally a fundamental legislative principle.

While the government, the Chief Health Officer and all of our incredible frontline workers deserve great credit for a strong response to COVID-19 overall, it has been hard to get any clear justification for certain decisions—like blocking residents from coming home while waving NRL players' families through. The COVID-19 oversight committee that I am again calling on this House to establish would comprise three opposition MPs, one crossbench MP and three government members. Importantly, it would have a non-government chair. With powers mirroring relevant sections of the Crime and Corruption Act 2001, it would inquire into and report to the Legislative Assembly on the Queensland government's response to COVID-19, including border closures, lockdowns, hotel quarantine, contact tracing, hospital capacity, economic support for workers and renters, and national cabinet decisions.

The amendment proposed by the opposition that would require the publication of health advice appears to make some very narrow and, I would say, unfounded assumptions about what form health advice from the CHO takes. The opposition's proposed amendment is no substitute for the kind of scrutiny that an oversight committee would offer. This bill extends extraordinary COVID-19 powers until April 2022, yet there is still no opportunity for public hearings to scrutinise the decisions made under those powers. Even debate on this bill has been cut short to only a few hours. It is a pretty plain admission that the government do not want any genuine scrutiny, any genuine debate; they just want a rubber stamp.

I will cut my comments short in the interests of ensuring other members have an opportunity to speak. In conclusion, again I will be supporting this bill because our frontline workers must be able to implement the government's economic and health response to the ongoing threat of COVID-19, but I urge the government to stop hiding away from transparency and scrutiny. To get through this pandemic, especially during the vaccine rollout and as we work towards a transition out of emergency measures, the public must have absolute confidence in the government's response.

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (11.55 am): I rise to speak on the Public Health and Other Legislation (Further Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill. I would like to acknowledge the member for Maiwar's contribution. There is a lot of sense in that committee process. I would also like to acknowledge the member for Noosa's contribution today. There has been a radical departure from public health best practice going back centuries, where infectious diseases were controlled by the confinement and isolation of infected people, not the confinement and isolation of the healthy. Maintaining an eradication strategy risks a future of economic impoverishment, endless snap lockdowns, disruptive travel restrictions, panic buying, rationing and ongoing penalties for rule breakers.

In relation to transparency, we need to understand where this is going to stop, what is initiating these lockdowns and what is happening. As the member for Maiwar said, there is a very big push to conspiracy theories because we do not know what is going on within those areas.

Ms Boyd: You're pushing the conspiracy theories.


Mr ANDREW: No, I am not. People must be given access to all the information the government has on this disease, not just cherry picked bits and pieces. We need to know how many of these cases are asymptomatic—

Government members interjected.

Mr ANDREW: Madam Deputy Speaker, I am not taking interjections. We need to know how many cases are in hospital, how many are in ICUs, how many were breakthrough cases and much, much more. There also needs to be clarity about transmission of the disease outdoors. The mantra of keeping us safe is very good, but we need to start paying attention to some of the other problems and crises we are seeing out there.

Businesses are closing, workers are being laid off and the mental health of Queenslanders has reached crisis point. There are a lot of people contacting a lot of members on both sides of the House and the crossbench. Region wide lockdowns are being mandated with little or no notice, upending businesses which are banned from opening while McDonald's and Bunnings stay open. State borders are closed, then reopened, then closed again. Others are banned from visiting dying relatives interstate or accessing life-saving treatments, even when fully vaccinated. All of this, while Hollywood celebrities jet in and out with no problems. School and community sporting events are being shut down and social gatherings banned, while 40,000 fans are allowed to pack a stadium to watch a football match. For a country that once prided itself on egalitarian ideals—of a fair go for all and a healthy scepticism of authority—double standards like these have been hard to take.

The emergency powers provisions being extended by this bill were intended to be discretionary, targeted and strictly time limited. What must be made clear is that delegated legislation is an exception to the separation of powers. It grants the power of lawmaking to the executive, including unelected departmental officials, outside the close scrutiny and oversight of this parliament. Even during times of emergency, it is important that a committee such as the one the Greens member just put forward would enable people to retain the ability to hold their governments to account. This is a prime example of the difference between ruling and governing a state. When you rule, you answer to no-one. When you govern you are accountable for every action that you take.

 **Dr MacMAHON** (South Brisbane—Grn) (11.59 am): In rising to speak to this bill, I want to take a moment to reflect on how much Queenslanders have been through over the past 18 months. Since the advent of the pandemic, Queenslanders have locked down, cancelled plans, masked up when asked to and headed in droves to get the vaccine, curbing transition of COVID-19. It has been amazing to see the line-up of people outside the convention centre in my electorate heading in to get the vaccine.

Queenslanders have been so accommodating of lockdowns, changed plans, check-ins and mask mandates without comprehensive welfare support. However, when the government recently cancelled the Ekka show holiday there was more than a hint of frustration in the community. I heard from so many Queenslanders frustrated about the loss of a chance to catch their breath and spend time with their loved ones. The government is planning to create another public holiday on 29 October, and I say why not give us two? Give Queenslanders an extra public holiday to make up for the one that we have missed. We could have a recreation day like in Tasmania. We could have New Year's Eve off. We could have a picnic day. We could have a Queensland arts day to give a boost to the arts industry that has been struggling so much over the course of the pandemic with so many talented Queenslanders out of work or leaving the industry.

Of course, any talk of public holidays has to take into account the needs of workers. Many Queenslanders in casual work, especially those in industries like hospitality, the arts, tourism, fitness and education, have been hit so hard by this pandemic. We urgently need to increase JobSeeker to at least \$1,100 a fortnight and implement JobKeeper 2.0 across all sectors to ensure workers are not left behind. This is something our Greens colleagues federally have been campaigning on. At the state level there is plenty more we can do.

No-one has had a tougher ride than renters during this pandemic. The housing crisis is getting worse almost every day here in Queensland with families across our state being pushed out of rental properties, struggling to find housing and being forced to live in tents and cars, and the pandemic is not over. With the highly contagious delta strain, there is a chance we could be in for another lockdown—another potential week or month of lost income for many Queenslanders. Again, this bill offers no protection for those who are at risk of losing their home during the next lockdown. There are no plans for an eviction moratorium, no rental support grants, no mortgage relief and no ban on unfair rent increases for manufactured home owners.

The act extends the regulation protecting commercial lessees, including preventing evictions and lease terminations for affected tenancies. However, for residential tenants—for their homes—there is no such protection. This is a pretty stark double standard and it is a slap in the face for the 1.8 million Queenslanders who rent. During the last lockdown the member for Maiwar and I wrote to the Premier, the Minister for Health and the Minister for Housing seeking an urgent intervention to support renters by instituting an eviction moratorium, automatic lease extensions to ensure no lease ends during a lockdown and reopening the COVID-19 rental grant program, providing grants of up to \$2,000 to tenants affected by the pandemic who cannot access other income support.


There is also no protection in this bill for residents of manufactured home parks, now one of the only lower cost, long-term housing options for retirees and pensioners in our squeezed housing market. Market rent reviews were suspended by the government in the second half of 2020, temporarily

stopping park owners from hiking up site rents above inflation. Now we have come into the 18th month of this pandemic and many are feeling the economic pain more than ever. Why do these low-income residents, pensioners and retirees not get the same protection? This is particularly concerning because if these parks become unaffordable to low-income retirees and pensioners, they will not be able to find many other affordable options in our current housing crisis. No-one should lose their home because of the pandemic. The government should be putting these protections in place now, not waiting for the crisis to worsen.

We are pleased to see teachers and other essential workers and pregnant people finally included in the priority category for vaccine access. The federal government's dangerously incompetent rollout has put Australia far behind the rest of the world. I urge the state government to ensure that the current vaccine hubs are fully staffed and resourced to ensure that all Queenslanders can access a vaccine as soon as possible. This has to include outreach to ensure that eligible people sleeping rough in vulnerable communities, including people who cannot leave their homes, can readily access vaccines.

Eighteen months into the pandemic and while Queenslanders have locked down, quarantined, masked up and checked in, putting us in a relatively good position at the moment, public health decisions are more politicised than ever. My colleague the member for Maiwar has moved amendments to this bill to establish a COVID-19 oversight committee as a committee of the Legislative Assembly. This committee would inquire into, and report on, the government's response to COVID-19. Made up of representatives from the government, the opposition and the crossbench, the committee would provide the necessary oversight to ensure public health measures are adopted in line with best evidence and in accordance with the highest community standards. I commend these amendments to the House.

If they lapse, the member for Maiwar and I will keep working to ensure that public health decisions are created in line with expert advice and free from politicisation. Eighteen months into this pandemic and working on behalf of the many Queenslanders whose lives have been disrupted, the only way through is to work together to ensure all Queenslanders are supported.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (12.05 pm): This afternoon, I am speaking to the Public Health and Other Legislation (Further Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2021. At the outset I wish to thank all Queenslanders—indeed, all Australians. Our success in dealing with this pandemic is not because of a politician, it is not because of a senior health bureaucrat; it is because of the sacrifices that each individual Queenslanders has made. I want to add that our frontline health staff have been at the front line of addressing this pandemic throughout the past 18 months.

When this legislation was first brought to the House 18 months ago we were in a very different world. We did not know what we were really facing. We needed to quickly act to ensure that we controlled the outbreak of COVID in Australia. We thank the federal government, Scott Morrison and his team for quickly closing the international borders and ensuring we were able to manage the rate of COVID outbreaks within this state and nation. We also supported these laws because we needed to allow time for the development of vaccines, which again have been successfully created and are being rolled out. We also supported this legislation because we needed the time to come up with a path out of this pandemic. Now we are well on the path to addressing some of those.

Unfortunately, because of the mixed messages, especially of those opposite, there has been confusion, particularly around vaccinations. Our state is languishing at the bottom in terms of rolling out the vaccination not because of supply but because of the confusion and the concern created by the comments of the Premier. Because of the comments made by this Premier this week, we also now have confusion around our path out of the pandemic. When national cabinet signed up to an agreement there was a clear path out—that is, when vaccination rates got to 70 per cent and 80 per cent we would see changes that would bring relief, particularly for our small business operators, our tourism operators and mums and dads who have kids in schools across the state. All of those plans have now been thrown into confusion because of the comments of this government. I draw the House's attention to a quote of the LNP members of the Economics and Governance Committee in their statement of reservation in the report—

Politics has no place in pandemics and a clear and defined pathway to deal with what we all recognise is a serious public health crisis is essential to take this great State forward.


I repeat: politics has no place.

We will be moving—and I thank the shadow minister for health—a number of very important amendments. Yes, we need to extend these laws, but not to April next year. How about we extend them to December this year? That allows this state the time to address our lagging vaccination rates. Let's

get those vaccinations happening. I have had my double shot. I call on everyone in Glass House and across Queensland to do the same. Let's get it done. It also allows plenty of time for this state to sign up to the national agreement on our pathway out of this pandemic. I support that amendment that will be moved by the shadow minister for health.

The other is to introduce an amendment which would see the expert health advice received by the state government, which is used as the rationale for implementing public health directions, publicly released on the Queensland Health website. Again this week we have seen hypocrisy, inconsistency and a lack of compassion. What really gets the people of Glass House and the people of Queensland is when they are treated like fools and not told why these decisions are being made. Why can Queenslanders not come back to Queensland when sporting entourages and their families are allowed to come into Queensland? The inconsistency is what is galling Queenslanders. By supporting the amendments of the shadow minister for health we will have the transparency that this state needs. People need to see the expert health advice. I support the amendments to be moved by the shadow minister for health.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Gerber): Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House and the time limit for this stage of the bill having expired, I call the minister to reply to the second reading debate.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (12.10 pm), in reply: I thank all members for their contribution to the debate on the Public Health (Further Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2021. As difficult as the past 18 months have been, we must remember that the situation could have been and still could be much worse. Queensland has had fewer COVID deaths per capita than any other jurisdiction in Australia, except the Northern Territory. We have not been subjected to the kinds of extreme and protracted lockdowns that we have witnessed in other states and countries and which are still occurring at this very moment. Our success in combatting COVID would not have been possible without the temporary legislative measures that would be extended by this bill. These measures have enabled the Queensland government to respond decisively and effectively to the unpredictable and rapidly changing risks of the pandemic.

I point out that the member for Glass House said that our success has not been because of the Premier and has not been because of bureaucrats; it has been because of Queenslanders. Absolutely. Queenslanders have shone in their response to COVID, but let us be clear: it has also been about leadership. You cannot ask people to follow these directions without the framework and the legislative powers to do so. There is no possible way that we could have done what we did without these powers. You cannot hold people in quarantine, require people to stay in their homes or implement arrangements such as one per two square metres or one per four square metres in businesses without those powers. These powers are extremely important in allowing the framework and assisting us in staying safe.

Our success was not predetermined or based on luck; it was the result of the leadership of the Premier, the expert advice of our Chief Health Officer and the hard work of every Queenslanders and every health worker and expert who sits behind the Chief Health Officer, giving her advice every single day but also providing her with advice from every jurisdiction across the country and international information from various different sources on a daily basis. We have been able to live our lives with a degree of normality that is almost without parallel anywhere else in the world.

That is why this bill is so important. It allows Queensland to continue the approach that has made us a world leader in pandemic control. The success of this approach speaks for itself. The emergency powers given to the Chief Health Officer have allowed restrictions to be imposed quickly and in a targeted way and to be lifted or eased as soon as it has been safe to do so. These powers have also enabled the temporary closure of Queensland's borders when, as is now occurring with the delta variant, other states and territories have been unable to control the spread of COVID-19.

The bill also extends the powers that enable Queensland's contact tracers, police and emergency officers to rapidly detect and trace new cases of COVID-19 and to require persons who may be infectious to quarantine or isolate before they transmit the virus to the broader community. The bill also extends and makes improvements to the Queensland mandatory hotel quarantine system. This system has allowed persons travelling from overseas or from hotspots in other states or territories to travel to Queensland in a safe and orderly manner that does not put the community at risk or place an undue burden on travel.

I fully acknowledge that many of the measures that will be extended by the bill are extraordinary in nature, but so is the nature and severity of the risk that we are facing. We cannot let the delta variant run rampant in our community as it is doing in New South Wales and, sadly now, in Victoria and around

the world. Decisions about how to respond to COVID must be made on the basis of public health, not political expediency. It is for exactly this reason that the power to make public health directions is delegated to Queensland's Chief Health Officer.

As I have already made clear, COVID is a continually evolving threat that requires a rapid and flexible response. The Palaszczuk government has absolute confidence in the Chief Health Officer to consider all the relevant circumstances and make decisions with the wellbeing of the entire community in mind. Indeed, Queensland's success in containing COVID-19 is testament to the dedication and excellence of Dr Young and her team.

The bill will make clear that more than one deputy chief health officer may be appointed. This will support the appointment of three deputy chief health officers to provide additional leadership and operational support to the Chief Health Officer over the coming months. Allowing the Chief Health Officer or other senior public servants to make public health directions has been adopted in other jurisdictions. Victoria, the ACT, Northern Territory and Queensland have given their chief health officers the power to make directions. Western Australia provides powers both to its Chief Health Officer and Commissioner of Police and State Emergency Coordinator. Similarly, Tasmania provides power to the Director of Public Health and the State Controller. South Australia provides powers to the Commissioner of Police as the state coordinator to make directions through their emergency management act. All directions made in South Australia are made under their emergency management act instead of under the public health act. New South Wales is the only state where the power to make directions rests with the minister rather than a senior public servant. Facilitating the Chief Health Officer's ability to issue public health directions provides a platform for public health response measures such as those recommended by the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee or agreed by national cabinet to be implemented as quickly as possible.

I want to address the amendments proposed by the opposition in relation to this bill. While they have tried to reposition themselves as supporting the Palaszczuk government and the Chief Health Officer's approach to managing the pandemic, these amendments strip that facade away. The proposed shortening of the emergency powers does nothing except tie up the Chief Health Officer and Queensland Health with more red tape. It stands in direct contrast to the far more sensible approach of the member for Mermaid Beach. On 19 July at a committee hearing on this bill, in reference to a stakeholder submission that we ought to bring forward the sunset of the CHO's powers to 31 December, the member for Mermaid Beach said on page 16 of the committee hearing transcript—

... it seems a very short-sighted answer as to where this pandemic is at. As I understand it, the Prime Minister's commitment was 80 per cent vaccination by the end of the year, which I think is a mountain to climb. As I understand it, even if you have been vaccinated you can still get COVID-19, which is still the issue, and it is still circulating and you can still pass it on to those who are not vaccinated. In terms of your December time line, is that not a little bit short-sighted and unrealistic?

I never thought I would say it, but I agree with the member for Mermaid Beach. I think 'short-sighted and unrealistic' is the perfect way to describe the approach of those opposite when it comes to COVID. The lack of realism is evident in the other substantive amendment demanding the release of the health advice. The member for Mermaid Beach was absolutely right in his questioning in the committee. If we are to have a December date, we have to look at when the last sitting week is and work back from there. We need to make sure it goes to a committee for six weeks. Basically, we would be reintroducing a bill in the next four weeks. Is there any modelling anywhere that says that in four weeks things will have improved so much that we are not likely to need these health powers at the end of the year?

In fact, now both New South Wales and Victoria have said that their way out of transmission and outbreaks is vaccination, and they do not expect to hit their targets until November. New South Wales Health is actually saying that October will be their worst month. The pressures on their health system have not peaked yet. If we know that that is happening in October and we know that they are not even going to start easing restrictions in any sort of substantive way until they get to those levels of vaccination—and they are talking November, best case scenario—why would we think we can actually introduce a bill, consider it in November and say, 'We need to extend these powers now'?

We know now that we need to extend these powers for six months. If the emergency declaration ceases, then the powers cease. Whether the act is there or not, those powers cease because they sit on top of that declaration and as soon as that declaration ceases then so do those powers. In relation to the release of the health advice, I again take up the member for Glass House's comments that people want to know when we make decisions for lockdowns, for example, why we have made these decisions. The Chief Health Officer stands up almost every single day since the pandemic started and explains why she has made the decision to go into a lockdown or to put in place restrictions or to ease restrictions

based on the cases, the transmission, whether they are linked, whether they are in the community, whether they are in quarantine. These are facts. I have seen some of the information that comes through to the Chief Health Officer throughout the night—really complex, detailed medical information—that the general public are not going to be able to make sense of as far as the CT values and where they are at, what day they are at and where they have been. This is complex stuff from so many different sources.

Mr Mander: They're too dumb! You treat people like they are children.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Gerber): The member for Everton will cease his interjections.

Mrs D'ATH: I will take that interjection. It is offensive—

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members will not interject while the chair is ruling. Member for Everton, cease your interjections.

Mr Harper interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Thuringowa, you are warned under the standing orders. You interjected straightaway after I called the House to order.

Mrs D'ATH: There is not one jurisdiction in this country that has released complex, detailed medical information that sits behind every decision that is made. What they have tried to do is to provide clarity and simplicity to the messaging so that people understand, because this is a complex issue. Every day the Chief Health Officer is getting reports on sewage in every jurisdiction and where the cases are. It is not just about what is happening here; she is getting reports globally of what is happening. We are having a look at the cases coming into Queensland internationally, what is coming across our borders, what the risks are in other jurisdictions. Every case is different. Again, one case that has not been in the community is not an issue. One case that was in the community on 16 June in New South Wales has led to now over 23,000 cases and 107 deaths, so every situation is different. There is not a 'one size fits all'. You cannot put a manual out and say, 'This is how it works.' There was no manual on this.

The World Health Organization has put information out, but it is information that is digestible for the public because it understands the importance of the public knowing how this works and what it means, but it is not all of the complex science behind it and all of the clinical information that sits behind it. I do not want the Chief Health Officer having to get up every morning and collate all of that into a single report that can be uploaded online every day for everyone to have a look at to see, 'What's the reasoning for today's decision?' because we have to act quickly. Do members know what happens if we do not act quickly? You get 23,000 cases and 107 deaths. That is what happens.

Mr Hinchliffe: The gold standard of New South Wales.

Mrs D'ATH: The gold standard of New South Wales. The Chief Health Officer provides her advice to Queenslanders every day. She has provided it in parliamentary committees, she has made herself available in estimates and she stands up and answers questions to the public every single day through the media and the efficacy of that advice is on show for all to see. The opposition amendments cast doubt on the legitimacy of the CHO's decisions and you have to wonder how it is that after all of this time the LNP still doubts the Chief Health Officer. We know at the outset of the virus it called her a 'punch-drunk bureaucrat', or more specifically the member for Broadwater did. We know that it demanded that we open the border 64 times, contrary to her advice, but you would think that after Queensland has led the nation with our COVID response those opposite might change their approach and have some more humility. How can they look around our country and think that our health response is not up to scratch, that the decisions that the Chief Health Officer made are questionable, that they have led to bad outcomes?

Our response to the virus has now been adopted by the Prime Minister as the gold standard, to coin a phrase. I take no joy in the terrible situation other jurisdictions find themselves in, particularly in New South Wales. Our approach to instituting short, sharp lockdowns has always been the most effective approach to crushing the virus and keeping our economy open. The Palaszczuk government sees COVID for what it is: an existential threat to our way of life. The Leader of the Opposition spent some time in his very short contribution on this bill discussing the concept of hope. You cannot manage a pandemic with aspirational quotes, but you can create hope by showing that you have a plan to manage the pandemic. You create hope by ensuring that people can live as close to normality as we continue our vaccination rollout. I note that the member for Kawana also referred to the national plan and said that when you get to 80 per cent that is it; no more lockdowns. That is not what the national

plan says at all. It says that there may still need to be targeted lockdowns. When we are going to refer to these documents—and we are talking about misinformation and confusing the public—if you are going to cite these documents, cite them accurately.

I want to take this opportunity to again thank Dr Young and Dr Wakefield, the Director-General of Queensland Health, for their exceptional work in leading Queensland's public health response. I want to thank our healthcare professionals, our public health units, our exemption units, our support staff, our police and emergency services workers and our frontline employees who have worked tirelessly to keep us safe and provide essential goods and services. Finally, I want to express my gratitude to each and every Queenslanders who has made personal sacrifices during this difficult time in our history. From wearing a mask to getting vaccinated to staying home and getting tested when feeling unwell, each of us plays an important role in keeping our state safe and getting through this pandemic. The highest duty of any legislative body is to protect the health and lives of its citizens. Over the past 18 months this parliament has risen to that challenge, first by authorising and subsequently by extending the emergency powers and provisions in this bill. The legislative framework has underpinned the Queensland government's public health response from the beginning and it remains critical to the continued success of our efforts to respond to and contain the spread of COVID-19.

Now is not the time to let our guard down. We must remain vigilant about preventing the spread of delta until the vast majority of Queenslanders receive the vaccine, and I hope that I am not standing here in the very near future talking about something else as opposed to delta—a new strain—because we do not know what is around the corner. I call on all members to support this extension bill. We must do so for the continued safety and prosperity of all Queenslanders. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 7, as read, agreed to.

Clause 8—



Ms BATES (12.27 pm): I move the following amendment—

1 **Clause 8 (Amendment of s 4A (Meaning of COVID-19 legislation expiry day))**

Page 7, line 18, '30 April 2022'—

omit, insert—

10 December 2021

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

Tabled paper: Public Health and Other Legislation (Further Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2021, explanatory notes to Ms Ros Bates's amendments [\[1331\]](#).

Tabled paper: Public Health and Other Legislation (Further Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2021, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Ms Ros Bates's amendments [\[1332\]](#).

I rise to explain further the reasons we wish to move the first amendment, specifically referring to limiting the date for the expiration of the extraordinary powers given to the government and Chief Health Officer. As I have stated, the LNP proposes to end those powers on Friday, 10 December 2021. We fully understand the fluid situation that the pandemic presents to us and the need for agility in responding to the public health situation. If this amendment is passed, the parliament of Queensland would have the ability to further extend those powers if required. We are not asking for the powers to end; we are asking to have a say in whether they need to be extended again.

We would have the opportunity in the final sitting week of 2021, which ends on 2 December, to judge the evidence at that time. As the people elected to serve Queensland, surely we should have a say in whether these extraordinary powers are still needed. That is our job. The people of Queensland expect us to have a say in the way this state is handling this pandemic. As parliamentarians we would be able to debate and pass a new bill that grants an additional extension prior to the expiration if the medical advice told us that was required for the safety and security of all Queenslanders.

Over recent months we have seen the impact of vaccines in limiting the serious and deadly impacts of the COVID-19 virus. By December current modelling predicts we will be reaching up to 80 per cent of the population with vaccination protection. Surely then it is time to reconsider the powers

granted to the government to manage the pandemic to ensure they are fair, reasonable and still required. We need to be working towards a transition out of current restrictions. We have to consider the emotional, financial and social costs, as well as the physical health costs.

Let me be very clear, I am not denouncing these powers. We are only asking that this parliament be given the appropriate chance to ensure that they will suit the situation in December. This parliament should be able to debate and consider the situation in December, as families separated for months consider Christmas, consider plans for 2022 and consider what the future holds after two years of COVID-19. That is not unreasonable. That is democracy at work. Amendments 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 also amend dates notated in the bill to reflect the expiration of the powers as at 10 December 2021.

Mrs D'ATH: I did speak to this in my summing-up, but I want to reiterate that I absolutely understand the importance of continuing to review these powers and ensure that the times that we are allotting for them are reasonable and not longer than they absolutely need to be. Choosing a date in December is just not sensible. We have five sitting weeks left. It would require us to immediately start work on another bill and come back in the next probably two sitting weeks and reintroduce a bill. We would be reintroducing the bill sometime in October for us to meet the time frame of the full six weeks. There is nothing happening right now in Australia, no modelling whatsoever and, in fact, the evidence is to the contrary—

Ms Simpson: The Premier changed the sitting dates when she went to the Commonwealth Games baton relay launch in London, didn't she? The Premier also changed the dates for estimates, when it was convenient, to go to Japan.

Mrs D'ATH: That is not an interjection; it is just a very loud conversation, I think.

Ms Simpson: It was about the Premier changing the dates when she wanted to go to London or to Japan.

Mrs D'ATH: Okay.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Gerber): Member for Maroochydore, cease your interjections.

Mrs D'ATH: I appreciate that those opposite are now saying we should sit mid-December, but if we want this to lapse on 10 or 11 December surely we need to sit before then. Our last sitting week is the first week of December. We cannot push that back much—it would be one week—to meet their time frame. We know that come mid-October we can expect the situation here in Australia to be substantively worse. Victoria has said that, New South Wales has said that. They have not hit their peak. They said their worst is to come in October. Their health system is still to see the worst impact in October. When we have other jurisdictions telling us the worst is yet to come and that it is coming in October, why would we think that is the time that we need to reconsider pulling back on the powers? In famous last words, I support the comments by the member for Mermaid Beach that it is short-sighted and that these amendments should not be supported.

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

AYES, 35:

LNP, 30—Bates, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Camm, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Janetzki, Krause, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 49:

ALP, 47—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Kelly, A. King, S. King, 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.

Gm, 2—Berkman, MacMahon.

Pairs: Fentiman, Nicholls; Hunt, Crandon; Lauga, Langbroek; McMillan, Bennett.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendment (Ms Bates) negated.

Clause 8, as read, agreed to.



Mr BERKMAN (12.39 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

AYES, 37:

LNP, 30—Bates, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Camm, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Janetzki, Krause, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, 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, 47:

ALP, 47—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Kelly, A. King, S. King, 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.

Pairs: Fentiman, Nicholls; Hunt, Crandon; Lauga, Langbroek; McMillan, Bennett.

Resolved in the negative.

Clauses 9 to 22, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clauses—



Mrs D'ATH (12.42 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

Mrs D'ATH: I move the following amendment—

1 After clause 22

Page 11, after line 5—

insert—

Part 9A Amendment of Holidays Act 1983

22A Act amended

This part amends the *Holidays Act 1983*.

22B Insertion of new s 14

After section 13—

insert—

14 Particular public holiday in 2021

- (1) A public holiday is to be observed on 29 October 2021 in a participating district.
- (2) The Minister may, by notice published on the department's website, substitute another day for the public holiday under subsection (1) for a participating district if the Minister considers it is necessary or desirable to do so having regard to the COVID-19 emergency.
- (3) The notice is a statutory instrument.
- (4) The Minister must, within 14 sitting days after the day the notice is published, table a copy of the notice in the Legislative Assembly.
- (5) To remove any doubt, it is declared that a reference in an industrial instrument under the *Industrial Relations Act 2016* to a public holiday is taken, in a participating district, to include—
 - (a) 29 October 2021; or
 - (b) if the Minister substitutes another day for the public holiday under subsection (1) for the participating district—the substituted day.
- (6) In this section—

COVID-19 emergency see the *COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020*, schedule 1.

participating district means—

 - (a) the area of Brisbane under the *City of Brisbane Act 2010*; or
 - (b) the Moreton Bay local government area; or
 - (c) the Scenic Rim local government area.

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

Tabled paper: Public Health and Other Legislation (Further Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2021, explanatory notes to Hon. Yvette D'Ath's amendments [1333].

Tabled paper: Public Health and Other Legislation (Further Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2021, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Yvette D'Ath's amendments [1334].

Amendment agreed to.

Message from Deputy Governor



Mrs D'ATH (12.42 pm): I present a message from His Excellency the Deputy Governor.

Mr SPEAKER: The message from His Excellency recommends the amendment circulated by the Minister for Health. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

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

Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68

I, WALTER SOFRONOFF, Deputy Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly that an appropriation be made for the purposes of the attached amendment, to be moved by the Honourable the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, to a Bill for an Act to amend the Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997, the Corrective Services Act 2006, the COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020, the Economic Development (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Regulation 2020, the Environmental Protection Act 1994, the Explosives Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Regulation 2020, the Gaming Machine Act 1991, the Health Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Regulation 2020, the Justice and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Amendment Act 2020, the Mental Health Act 2016, the Public Health Act 2005, the Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Act 2021 and the Public Health and Other Legislation (Public Health Emergency) Amendment Act 2020 for particular purposes

DEPUTY GOVERNOR

Date: 1 SEP 2021

Tabled paper: Message, dated 1 September 2021, from His Excellency the Deputy Governor, recommending an amendment to the Public Health and Other Legislation (Further Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2021 [1335].

Insertion of new clauses—



Mrs D'ATH (12.43 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

Mrs D'ATH: I move the following amendment—

2 After clause 22

Page 11, after line 5—

insert—

Part 9B Amendment of Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011

22C Act amended

This part amends the *Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011*.

22D Amendment of pt 3, hdg (Functions of chief executive, chief health officer and deputy chief health officer)

Part 3, heading, 'deputy chief health officer'—

omit, insert—

deputy chief health officers

22E Amendment of pt 3, div 3, hdg (Chief health officer and deputy chief health officer)

Part 3, division 3, heading, 'deputy chief health officer'—

omit, insert—

deputy chief health officers

22F Amendment of s 53AA (Deputy chief health officer)

(1) Section 53AA, heading, 'officer'—

omit, insert—

officers

(2) Section 53AA(1), 'a deputy chief health officer'—
omit, insert—
1 or more deputy chief health officers

(3) Section 53AA(2) and (3), 'The'—
omit, insert—
A

22G Amendment of s 53AB (Functions of deputy chief health officer)

(1) Section 53AB, heading, 'officer'—
omit, insert—
officers

(2) Section 53AB, 'functions of the'—
omit, insert—
functions of a

22H Amendment of s 53AC (Delegation by chief health officer)

Section 53AC, 'the deputy'—
omit, insert—
a deputy

22I Amendment of s 139A (Meaning of *designated person*)

Section 139A(1)(ca), 'the'—
omit, insert—
a

22J Amendment of s 266 (Appointments and authority)

Section 266(ba) and (g)(iia), 'the'—
omit, insert—
a

22K Amendment of s 267 (Signatures)

Section 267(ca), 'the'—
omit, insert—
a

22L Amendment of sch 2 (Dictionary)

Schedule 2, definition *deputy chief health officer*,
'the'—
omit, insert—
a

Amendment agreed to.

Insertion of new clauses—



Mrs D'ATH (12.43 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

Mrs D'ATH: I move the following amendment—

3 After clause 22

Page 11, after line 5—
insert—

Part 9C Amendment of Industrial Relations Act 2016

22M Act amended

This part amends the *Industrial Relations Act 2016*.

22N Amendment of sch 5 (Dictionary)

Schedule 5, definition *public holiday*, paragraph (a), last dot point, '13'—
omit, insert—

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 23, as read, agreed to.

Clause 24—



Ms BATES (12.44 pm): I move the following amendment—

2

Clause 24 (Amendment of s 2 (Commencement))

Page 11, line 18, '1 May 2022'—

omit, insert—

11 December 2021

I outlined the reasons for this in my previous contribution.

Non-government amendment (Ms Bates) negated.

Clause 24, as read, agreed to.

Clause 25—



Ms BATES (12.44 pm): I move the following amendment—

3

Clause 25 (Amendment of pt 16, div 3, hdg (Amendments commencing on 1 October 2021))

Page 11, line 23, '1 May 2022'—

omit, insert—

11 December 2021

Again, I have outlined the reasons for this.

Non-government amendment (Ms Bates) negated.

Clause 25, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 26 to 30, as read, agreed to.



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I note that the minister's amendment No. 4 and the member for Mudgeeraba's amendment No. 4 both propose to insert new clause 30A at the same point in the bill. The minister's amendment will be put first.

Insertion of new clause—



Mrs D'ATH (12.45 pm): I move the following amendment—

4

After part 12, division 2, heading

Page 13, after line 7—

insert—

30A Replacement of s 362A (Purpose of part)

Section 362A—

omit, insert—

362A Purposes of part

The purposes of this part are—

- (a) to confer additional powers for the COVID-19 emergency on—
 - (i) the chief health officer; and
 - (ii) emergency officers; and
- (b) to protect the confidentiality of particular personal information collected in relation to the COVID-19 emergency.

Amendment agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—



Ms BATES (12.46 pm): I move the following amendment—

4

After part 12, division 2, heading

Page 13, after line 7—

insert—

30A Insertion of new s 362BA

After section 362B—

insert—

362BA Public health advice to be published

The chief health officer must, as soon as practicable after giving a public health direction, publish on the department's website the public health advice on which the direction is based.

As I have said, the LNP is committed to transparency about the medical advice that is used as a basis for the public health directions. I say to those opposite that not for one minute is this about questioning the advice; it is about the visibility of the advice. If we are asking Queenslanders to stay locked down, to not see their families who are interstate and to shut their businesses with just a few hours notice, we should be able to see the advice.

The LNP believes Queenslanders deserve to know. We know the Labor government operates in secrecy and at the whims of polling that they will not release, but the LNP believes in transparency. Do not treat us and the people of Queensland with contempt. Show us the advice on which you are basing these public health directions. It is not to question and dispute it; it is so that people can understand and so that people can plan. The amendment would allow the Department of Health to publish that advice on its website.

At some stage we must turn our attention to transitioning away from restrictions. We cannot go on like this forever. Seeing that plan, which dictates a method of transition grounded in expert advice, is not too much to ask. Everyday Queenslanders are asking why. Why is there one restriction for my family and another for movie stars and sportsmen and women? Making public this medical information would assist Queenslanders to understand. They would be able to see why these hard decisions have to be made and the hard yards done. Sharing that information means Queensland's small and family businesses will have an idea of what is coming and it will let them plan for the future.

For months the LNP has been calling for better communication from this government. This is a critical piece of communication that helps our communities understand. There is no doubt that there is too much confusion right now. The rules are different and they often change without us ever understanding why. People are understandably anxious when the ground moves under their feet without being able to know the reason. We have seen evidence of that just this week: wives and girlfriends, come on in; children sleeping in cars to escape domestic violence, stay where you are.

Queenslanders deserve better. They are not fools and they are tired of being taken for fools by this government. Releasing this medical advice would help Queenslanders have confidence that they are doing the right thing for the right reasons. The health advice needs to be released because transparent government is good government. In a crisis, Queenslanders deserve good government, not government in the dark.

Hon. YM D'ATH: As I said before, medical information and data comes in to the Chief Health Officer every single day from many different sources. We have people working throughout the night, 24/7, collating information in real time as it comes through, to get all of that before the Chief Health Officer to make decisions every day about what we need to do that day. That is not just daily; it is hourly. Once we finish our assessment in the morning, the Chief Health Officer goes off and sits down with the AHPPC and has further discussions about what is happening nationally; what is happening internationally; what are people's concerns about risk going forward; what do they think that risk modelling is; what should we be looking for; what is happening with the sewage; is that a sign that we are likely to have positive cases; what are we seeing from the positive cases that are coming up; what are we seeing with the new variants; what are we hearing internationally with the new variants; do we need to be concerned with what is coming next. What do they want us to release? Do they want us to simplify that into a single sheet for people to understand? Then they would be saying, 'But we want to see all the data behind that.'

The member for Mudgeeraba just said, 'We want the medical advice that backs in the directions, but we also want a plan. People want a plan.' That is not what the amendment says. The amendment is not saying, 'Release your plan.' There is a national plan. They say that people want to see what the plan is so that they can plan for coming months. We all would love to plan for coming months. I would like to plan for coming weeks! I have people saying to me, 'Do you think if we hold this event in four weeks time we'll be okay?' I say, 'Based on this minute, right now, yes, that could go ahead, but this afternoon that could change.' I walked into estimates in July with information that we had one case of coronavirus and by that night we had multiple. By the next day we were having to make a very difficult decision to lock down 11 LGAs. Things change rapidly and we need to be able to react quickly.

As far as planning and information goes, I would like to know why the Commonwealth has an international cap but then sends double that—outside of the cap. They are sending just as many people as are in the cap outside of the cap on charter flights without telling us how many flights are coming in and how many people are on those flights so that we can plan around our hotel quarantine capacity. We do not want to have to say to people, 'Sorry, we cannot let you in. We cannot let you relocate to Queensland right now because our hotel quarantine is full.' We could actually plan better if the Commonwealth told us how many charter flights were coming in and when and how many people were

on them—and also if they told us how many people they approve to leave Australia every single day on international flights and then come back six weeks later into our hotel quarantine. Why are all these people who are already here leaving? We do not get that. I would like to know how many vaccines the Commonwealth government has on stock today.

Mr Mickelberg: Plenty of AstraZeneca.

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

Mrs D'ATH: Oh, you know that? They do not release that information. Not one person in this chamber knows how many vaccines—Pfizer or AstraZeneca—are currently held by the Commonwealth. As many times as they have promised to release it, they have not. Do you hear those opposite asking, 'Where is the evidence of how much stock is on hand?' Don't you love the wonderful announcements every now and then: 'We have more stock'? 'Do you, or did you always have it?' We do not know. There is a constant spotlight on us in relation to what stock we have and when we are delivering it, but do we know what the Commonwealth has? No, we do not. We still do not have from the Commonwealth definitive numbers of how much vaccine is coming in October, November and December, yet we have to try to plan for it. This shows that those opposite are playing, to use the words of the Leader of the Opposition, pandemic politics. They are playing pandemic politics. That is what this amendment is about.

The people of Queensland have trust in the decisions that the Chief Health Officer has made and that the government supports. We know that because they supported us again at the last election. I also know that because every single time I step foot outside—into my supermarkets, in the community or at different business events; it does not matter whether it is a chamber of commerce event, whether it is a community organisation or whether it is me just doing grocery shopping—I get someone coming up to me saying, 'Thank you. Thank you for keeping us safe. Can you please pass my thanks on to the Premier and the Chief Health Officer?' They have confidence. The opposition might not have confidence, but the people of Queensland do because they know that the Chief Health Officer has stood up every day and has answered why she is doing what she is doing and giving the advice that she is. For that reason, I oppose the amendment moved by the opposition.

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

AYES, 35:

LNP, 30—Bates, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Camm, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Janetzki, Krause, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 49:

ALP, 47—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Kelly, A. King, S. King, 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.

Grn, 2—Berkman, MacMahon.

Pairs: Fentiman, Nicholls; Hunt, Crandon; Lauga, Langbroek; McMillan, Bennett.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendment (Ms Bates) negated.



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House, the time allocated for consideration of the bill has now expired. In accordance with sessional order 4, the House must now consider clauses or remaining clauses, schedules and any amendments circulated by the minister in charge of the bill. I note that the minister's amendments Nos 10, 11 and 12 are outside the long title of the bill and therefore require leave of the House. Is leave granted?

Leave granted.

Question put—That the minister's amendments Nos 5 to 12, as circulated, be agreed to.

Amendments agreed to.

Amendments as circulated—

5 After part 12, division 2, heading

Page 13, after line 7—

insert—

30B Amendment of s 362FA (Delegation)

Section 362FA(1)(a), 'the'—

omit, insert—

a

6 After clause 31

Page 13, after line 27—

insert—

31A Insertion of new ch 8, pt 7A, div 6

Chapter 8, part 7A—

insert—

Division 6 Protection of personal information

362MAA Application of division

This division applies if personal information is collected—

- (a) by using a COVID-19 application in accordance with a requirement under this Act; or
- (b) other than by using a COVID-19 application, if—
 - (i) under this Act, a person is required to collect, or make all reasonable efforts to collect, the personal information by using the COVID-19 application; and
 - (ii) it is not possible for the person to collect the personal information by using the COVID-19 application.

Example of a requirement under this Act—

a requirement under a public health direction or a direction given under division 3

362MAB Definitions for division

In this division—

consent means consent that is informed and in writing.

contact tracing means the process under this Act for preventing or minimising the transmission of COVID-19 by identifying, communicating with, assessing, managing or giving directions to—

- (a) persons who have, or may have, contracted COVID-19; or
- (b) persons who have, or may have, been exposed to COVID-19 by persons mentioned in paragraph (a); or
- (c) a provider, within the meaning of section 108A, in relation to a person mentioned in paragraph (a) or (b).

COVID-19 application see section 362MAC.

disclose includes give access to.

information holder means a person who collects personal information in circumstances mentioned in section 362MAA(b).

parent, of a child, includes a person having or exercising parental responsibility for the child.

personal information means information from which an individual's identity is apparent or can reasonably be ascertained, and includes information about the individual's health.

Examples of personal information—

an individual's name or contact details or information about an individual's presence at a place

relevant information means personal information in relation to which this division applies.

relevant person means—

- (a) any of the following persons who perform, or have performed, functions under or relating to the administration of this Act—
 - (i) an authorised person;
 - (ii) a contact tracing officer;
 - (iii) an emergency officer;

- (iv) a health service employee;
- (v) a public service employee; or
- (b) a person who is or has been involved in the administration, management or monitoring of a COVID-19 application; or
- (c) an information holder.

relevant provision means each of the following provisions—

- (a) chapter 3, part 3;
- (b) section 346;
- (c) this part;
- (d) sections 363 and 364.

362MAC Meaning of COVID-19 application

- (1) The application used for the purpose of contact tracing, known as the Check In Qld app, is a **COVID-19 application**.
- (2) Also, a regulation may prescribe another application to be a **COVID-19 application** if the application is developed or used for—
 - (a) the purpose of contact tracing; or
 - (b) another purpose relating to the COVID-19 emergency that is prescribed by regulation for the application.
- (3) In this section—

application means an application or other program used on a device to display or store information electronically.

362MAD Relationship of division with other provisions

- (1) This division applies despite chapter 3, part 3, division 3.
- (2) Also, if a provision of this division is inconsistent with another provision of this Act or another law, the provision of this division prevails to the extent of the inconsistency.

362MAE Extraterritorial application of division

It is the intention of the Parliament that this division have effect outside Queensland and in relation to persons outside Queensland.

362MAF Confidentiality of relevant information

- (1) This section applies to a relevant person who, in that capacity, has acquired or has access to relevant information.
- (2) The relevant person must not disclose the relevant information to anyone else, or use the relevant information, other than under this division.
Maximum penalty—100 penalty units.
- (3) Subsection (4) applies if the relevant person is an information holder.
- (4) The relevant person must take all reasonable steps to ensure a person who works at a business, activity or undertaking owned, controlled or operated by the relevant person does not disclose the relevant information to anyone else, or use the relevant information, unless the relevant information is disclosed—
 - (a) at the request of the relevant person; and
 - (b) for a purpose for which the relevant person may disclose the relevant information under section 362MAH(2)(a) or (b).

Maximum penalty—100 penalty units.

362MAG Disclosure or use by relevant persons other than information holders

- (1) This section applies to a relevant person, other than an information holder, who has acquired or has access to relevant information in that capacity.
- (2) The relevant person may disclose or use the relevant information—
 - (a) to the extent the disclosure or use is for—
 - (i) contact tracing or a purpose related to contact tracing, including, for example, ensuring the integrity or security of the relevant information; or
 - (ii) if the relevant information is collected by using a COVID-19 application prescribed under section 362MAC(2) and a purpose is prescribed for the application under section 362MAC(2)(b)—the prescribed purpose; or
 - (iii) ensuring a person's compliance with obligations under a relevant provision; or
 - (iv) investigating or prosecuting an offence against a relevant provision; or
 - (v) deriving statistical or summary information; or

- (b) with the consent of—
 - (i) the individual to whom the relevant information relates; or
 - (ii) if the individual is unable to consent—a parent or legal guardian of the individual.

- (3) In this section—

statistical or summary information means statistical or summary information from which an individual's identity is not apparent or can not reasonably be ascertained.

362MAH Disclosure by information holders

- (1) This section applies to a relevant person who—
 - (a) is an information holder; and
 - (b) in that capacity, has acquired or has access to relevant information.
- (2) The relevant person may disclose the relevant information—
 - (a) to a relevant person mentioned in section 362MAB, definition *relevant person*, paragraph (a), to the extent the disclosure is for—
 - (i) contact tracing or a purpose related to contact tracing, including, for example, ensuring the integrity or security of the relevant information; or
 - (ii) ensuring a person's compliance with obligations under a relevant provision; or
 - (iii) investigating or prosecuting an offence against a relevant provision; or
 - (b) with the consent of—
 - (i) the individual to whom the relevant information relates; or
 - (ii) if the individual is unable to consent—a parent or legal guardian of the individual.

362MAI Limits on use of relevant information and derived evidence

- (1) Relevant information or derived evidence—
 - (a) can not be accessed under any order, whether of a judicial or administrative nature, other than an order for the purpose of a relevant provision; and
 - (b) is not admissible in any proceeding, other than a proceeding under a relevant provision.
- (2) A person can not be compelled to produce relevant information or derived evidence, or give evidence relating to relevant information or derived evidence—
 - (a) in any proceeding, other than a proceeding under a relevant provision; or
 - (b) in compliance with a requirement under an Act or legal process, other than a requirement relating to a proceeding under a relevant provision.
- (3) Subsections (1) and (2) do not apply if the information or evidence is accessed, admitted, produced or given with the consent of—
 - (a) the individual to whom the relevant information relates; or
 - (b) if the individual is unable to consent—a parent or legal guardian of the individual.
- (4) In this section—

derived evidence means any information, or document or other thing, obtained as a direct or indirect result of relevant information.

order includes—

 - (a) a direction; and
 - (b) a decision on an application under an Act for access to information or a document; and

Example of an application for paragraph (b)—

an application under the *Information Privacy Act 2009* or the *Right to Information Act 2009*

 - (c) another process.

7 After clause 33

Page 14, after line 8—

insert—

33A Amendment of s 456 (Protecting prescribed persons from liability)

Section 456(3)(b), note, after ‘, chief health officer,’—

insert—

a

8 Clause 34 (Insertion of new ch 12, pt 8)

Page 14, line 19, 'Provision'—

*omit, insert—***Provisions****9 Clause 34 (Insertion of new ch 12, pt 8)**

Page 15, after line 17—

*insert—***507A Application of ch 8, pt 7A, div 6**

Chapter 8, part 7A, division 6 applies in relation to relevant information whether the information is collected before or after the commencement.

Division 1A Provisions applying on omission of chapter 8, part 7A**507B Application of division**

- (1) This division applies on the omission of chapter 8, part 7A.
- (2) This division does not limit the *Acts Interpretation Act 1954*, section 20.

507C Interpretation

- (1) In this division—
former, for a provision of this Act, means the provision as in force from time to time before the omission.
- (2) A reference in a provision of this division to the omission generally is a reference to the omission of chapter 8, part 7A.
- (3) Words defined under former chapter 8, part 7A and used in this division have the same meaning as they had under the former part.

507D Continuation of confidentiality requirements

- (1) This section applies in relation to a relevant person who, in that capacity, has acquired or has access to relevant information collected before the omission, whether the relevant person acquires or has access to the relevant information before or after the omission.
- (2) Despite the omission, former chapter 8, part 7A, division 6 continues to apply in relation to the relevant person.
- (3) To remove any doubt, it is declared that a proceeding for an offence against former section 362MAF may, after the omission, be started or continued under that section as if the section had not been omitted.

507E Continuation of limits on use of relevant information and derived evidence

Despite the omission, former section 362MAI continues to apply in relation to—

- (a) relevant information collected before the omission; and
- (b) derived evidence, if the evidence was obtained as a direct or indirect result of relevant information mentioned in paragraph (a); and
- (c) evidence relating to relevant information mentioned in paragraph (a) or derived evidence mentioned in paragraph (b).

10 After clause 54

Page 35, after line 1—

*insert—***Part 15 Amendment of Right to Information Act 2009****55 Act amended**

This part amends the *Right to Information Act 2009*.

56 Amendment of sch 3 (Exempt information)

Schedule 3, section 12(1)—

insert—

- *Public Health Act 2005*, chapter 8, part 7A, division 6 and chapter 12, part 8, division 1A

11 After clause 54

Page 35, after line 1—

*insert—***Part 16 Amendment of Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994****57 Act amended**

This part amends the *Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994*.

58 Amendment of sch 3 (Dictionary)

Schedule 3, definition *relevant offence*, paragraph (b)(ii), from 'the commencement'—

omit, insert—

9 March 2020.

12 After clause 54

Page 35, after line 1—

insert—

Part 17 Repeal**59 Repeal**

The Personalised Transport Ombudsman Act 2019, No. 24 is repealed.

Question put—That clauses 31 to 54, as amended, stand part of the bill.

Motion agreed to.

Clauses 31 to 54, as amended, agreed to.

Third Reading

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

Question put—That the minister's amendments Nos 13 to 15 be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendments agreed to.

Amendments as circulated—

13 Long title

Long title, after '*Health Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Regulation 2020*,'—

insert—

the Holidays Act 1983, the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011, the Industrial Relations Act 2016,

14 Long title

Long title, 'and the *Public Health and Other Legislation (Public Health Emergency) Amendment Act 2020*'—

omit, insert—

, the Public Health and Other Legislation (Public Health Emergency) Amendment Act 2020, the Right to Information Act 2009 and the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994

15 Long title

Long title, after 'purposes'—

insert—

, and to repeal the Personalised Transport Ombudsman Act 2019

Question put—That the long title of the bill, as amended, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Sitting suspended from 1.01 pm to 2.00 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**Nanango Electorate, Road Safety; Clancy, Ms T**

Mrs FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (2.00 pm): Like many members in this chamber, I have lost friends and family members to the cruel road statistics. The latest RACQ road statistics reveal that my electorate of Nanango is the second highest region when it comes to road deaths. That is heartbreaking. There is a tragedy unfolding, not just on regional roads. Families are being torn apart.


There have been 10 fatalities in the Nanango electorate between January and July this year. We had one death just last week. My condolences go to all of those families. We need to remember that those statistics only count the people who have lost their lives and not those who were injured or incapacitated in those accidents and will endure a lifetime of suffering.

There are so many roads that I could call out, but it is important that I talk about the GS Bond Bridge. The families with children who go to the Durong South State School are constantly worried about their children who must travel over the dangerous one-lane GS Bond Bridge. This is a bad bridge on a bad road—the Chinchilla-Wondai Road. It had been listed and touted by the Palaszczuk government for a \$13 million upgrade. After investigating this upgrade in QTRIP, where has the upgrade gone? It has disappeared. It has been wiped off the map. When we asked the department what was happening with regard to the \$13 million upgrade they came back with, 'It's not a priority.' The schoolchildren on the buses, the truck drivers, the mums and dads towing a van are a priority. I urge the Palaszczuk Labor government to bring this bridge upgrade back on and save more lives in my community.

I would also like to use this time to congratulate the Australian Olympic team, but especially beach volleyball silver medallist Taliqua Clancy. Taliqua grew up and went to school in Kingaroy and is the granddaughter of local residents Robert and Jocelyn Clancy. Taliqua is an amazing role model for our young regional kids. On behalf of the South Burnett community, I want to send her and her beach volleyball partner huge congratulations.

It is also important to acknowledge that Taliqua, like many Olympians, would not have been able to do what she does without the support of Ms Gina Rinehart. Ms Rinehart's sponsorship of Taliqua and indeed Volleyball Australia, the Australian Dolphins swim team and Rowing Australia has had a major impact on the Tokyo Olympics. The South Burnett is fortunate that Ms Rinehart quietly supports our community, be it with health care, Christmas lights and now beach volleyball—thank you.

Gold Coast Light Rail

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (2.03 pm): The much vaunted Light Rail stage 3 extension from Pacific Fair to Burleigh traverses 85 per cent of the electorate of Mermaid Beach. It is a popular addition to public transport opportunities on the Gold Coast and stages 1 and 2 have been well received by the Gold Coast community. However, that popularity is for one thing and one thing only. It is for its use as public transport. What our political leaders and private proponents are not admitting is that it is being used as a development density multiplier enabler to see more high-rise density built along the light rail corridor.

Guess what? This corridor just happens to be the most sought after and desirable real estate on the Gold Coast, being a short walk to the beachfront. No-one of political significance is owning up to the real reason governments are spending billions of dollars on this transport infrastructure because development apparently is a dirty word. The council blames the state government for planning density outcomes and as a child of the state government the Gold Coast City Plan must be endorsed by the state government.

It does not matter what commitments the council gives about not increasing density along the light rail corridor, the state government can and will say that they must increase their densities as per the density requirements under the South East Queensland Regional Plan and the only area on the Gold Coast that fits the public transport requirements for increased densities is along the light rail corridor. If the Gold Coast council does not agree with these increased densities, specifically designed for the construction industry—which is the second biggest employer on the Gold Coast—the state government will not approve the Gold Coast city planning documents. History already shows this increased density is a requirement of light rail as evidenced by the increased densities and height levels along Light Rail stage 1 from Southport to Broadbeach.

The main objections, I believe, to Light Rail stage 3 and proposed Light Rail stage 4 come from residents opposed to turning the Gold Coast into 'sardine city' along the light rail corridor. I believe that with the increased traffic and parking problems created by, in some cases, the doubling of overall densities, the residents have legitimate concerns. I am calling on the Palaszczuk state government to set in stone the current building densities to protect residents in my electorate and the southern electorates to the airport to prevent the Gold Coast Highway—with 93 per cent of residents driving a car, as per the department's own figures—from becoming a parking lot. Light rail is public transport for the future and is not to be a development enabler.

SplashSide



Mr SAUNDERS (Maryborough—ALP) (2.06 pm): On 12 June it was a slashing good day in Maryborough city. On 12 June the Assistant Minister for Local Government, the member for Pine Rivers, came up and opened SplashSide water park in Maryborough. This water park was funded by the rolled gold program called Works for Queensland. It is possibly one of the best programs any government has initiated in this state. Works for Queensland has enabled councils throughout Queensland to get things done that they could not afford to do from their rate base.

I thank Councillor Sanderson, Councillor Truscott and Mayor George Seymour from the Fraser Coast Regional Council whom I worked with on this project to make sure this project came to fruition. It is a fantastic water park. It is something that the children of Maryborough desperately needed. It was funded by the Palaszczuk Labor government and it was a \$3 million build.

When I go past there are kids there using it. We have just had to do some alterations to get it ready for summer. It was a bit cold on 12 June so the assistant minister and I did not go for a splash, but a lot of kids and their parents did. It is a fantastic thing for my community. Once again, that is the Palaszczuk government delivering for Queenslanders.

As I travel throughout regional Queensland, it is amazing the number of people who tell me how good Works for Queensland is. I was in Muttaborra—the dead centre of Queensland, as everyone knows—and I was looking at the Works for Queensland project there, the Muttaborrasaurus centre. It is absolutely fantastic. I was talking to some residents and travellers in Muttaborra the other day. The work out the front was done by the Barcaldine Regional Council under Works for Queensland. If one goes to Longreach, Aramac, Barcaldine and Blackall one finds that a lot of projects are done by councils under Works for Queensland.

Mr Tantari interjected.

Mr SAUNDERS: I take the interjection from the member for Hervey Bay. I know what is happening in Hervey Bay. We are in neighbouring electorates. There is a lot of work happening under Works for Queensland on the border of the Maryborough and Hervey Bay electorates. I know that the member for Hervey Bay is a strong advocate for Works for Queensland. We work well together. The people of Burrum Heads absolutely love Works for Queensland. We have a new boardwalk on the beachfront. That would never have been delivered by the Fraser Coast Regional Council, but was delivered through Works for Queensland.

As I keep saying, this is the rolled gold program for Queensland. It is delivering. No matter where you live in regional Queensland, this program is delivering services. It is delivering footpaths. It is delivering water parks. It is delivering anything that the council cannot afford to pay for out of their rate base. It is only being delivered by one government—the Palaszczuk Labor government.

Shute Harbour Boat Ramp; Shute Harbour Road



Ms CAMM (Whitsunday—LNP) (2.09 pm): I rise to speak on behalf of my community in the Whitsundays in regard to the lack of community engagement and consultation with both my local council, the Whitsunday Regional Council, and my community and constituents—in particular, the recreational fishing community—on the latest infrastructure debacle that has been delivered by the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. I am talking about the Shute Harbour boat ramp. I refer to correspondence I received from the minister which states—

The recent boat ramp upgrade works included widening the existing ramp from seven to eight metres, construction of a walkway support lane, and installation of a fixed sloping walkway. One of the benefits of the fixed walkway is it allows boaties to use the boat ramp and walkway without having to get into the water.

Unfortunately, the minister has been misinformed. I have written to him and invited him to the region, along with 40 other fishermen I met at the Shute Harbour boat ramp where clearly the platform that you walk down is submerged in the water.

For the minister's benefit and that of those on the other side of the House, in the Whitsundays we do encounter irukandji jellyfish in our waterways—in particular, from October right through to April. We also encounter the odd saltwater crocodile—in particular, in the area where boaties frequent. In the past we have also had some visits by local sharks that reside in that part of the world.

The infrastructure investment by this department and by this government fails to even meet the basic safety standards to allow children to be able to safely participate in recreational fishing with their families or to allow parents to put their boat in and safely leave their child holding the boat while they park their trailer. I welcome the minister to the region to see what a substandard \$1.8 million joke of a

boat ramp he has delivered for the people of Shute Harbour and the Whitsundays. We have one of the largest boat registrations in the state and that deserves significant investment. In particular, we deserve for this to be rectified immediately.

I would also like to bring to the attention of the minister the lack of consultation on Shute Harbour Road. Some two years ago, detailed design that was communicated to the community included roundabouts. We will now see five sets of traffic lights in a 1.5-kilometre distance under the Roads of Strategic Importance program, funded 80 per cent by the federal government and 20 per cent by this state government. I urge the minister to come and meet with the community and the Whitsunday Regional Council. This fundamentally changes the entrance to the Whitsundays. It fundamentally changes the ambience of what is a tourist destination. It is not acceptable. People are already planning to march on the streets and block that road. I urge the minister to engage.

Kabul Evacuation, RAAF Base Amberley



Mr MADDEN (Ipswich West—ALP) (2.12 pm): I wish to inform the House of the vital role that the Royal Australian Air Force Base Amberley played in the recent evacuation of Australian citizens and visa holders from Kabul airport in Afghanistan. More than 250 Australian Defence Force personnel were deployed from the RAAF Base Amberley to support the Afghanistan evacuation and included both RAAF and Army personnel.

RAAF Base Amberley aircraft that assisted with the US-led operation included an Airbus KC-30A refuelling aircraft, as well as two Boeing C-17A Globemasters. The C-17 is a large transport aircraft that first entered service with the RAAF in 2006 to improve the ability of the ADF to operate outside Australia and its region. They are all assigned to No. 36 Squadron based at RAAF Base Amberley.

For anyone living in Ipswich, C-17s are a regular sight flying over the city. C-17s also feature in the annual Brisbane Riverfire festival, flying at low level over the city. RAAF Base Amberley pilots expertly manoeuvre the aircraft between the Brisbane skyscrapers along the Brisbane River.

RAAF Base Amberley is located about 40 kilometres south-west of Brisbane on the outskirts of Ipswich in my electorate of Ipswich West. It is the RAAF's largest base and employs over 5,000 people.

In July I was honoured to be invited to attend the base for the launch of Exercise Talisman Sabre, Australia's largest bilateral exercise with the United States. The dignitaries present included: Peter Dutton, the Minister for Defence; Teresa Harding, the Mayor of Ipswich; General Angus Campbell, Chief of the Defence Force; Lieutenant General Greg Bilton; Gavin Sundwall, Charge d'Affaires at the United States Embassy in Canberra; Captain Matthew Ort, United States Navy; and Captain Iain Carty ADC, Senior ADF Officer, RAAF Base Amberley. The dignitaries present also included: Victoria Treadell, United Kingdom's High Commissioner to Australia; Manpreet Vohra, India's High Commissioner to Australia; Shingo Yamagami, Ambassador of Japan to Australia; and Jean-Pierre Thebault, Ambassador of France to Australia.

RAAF Base Amberley and the ADF personnel based there play a vital role in the defence of Australia, as demonstrated by the leading role they took in the evacuation of Australian citizens and visa holders from Afghanistan, ending Australia's involvement in its longest war.

With the Kabul evacuation, every flight in and out of Kabul Airport was a flight in and out of a war zone and, when our ADF personnel were on the ground, there was the constant threat that the airport would be overrun. Thankfully they did their assignment without casualty and they did Australia proud.

With the few seconds I have left, I would also like to mention that RAAF Base Amberley was the place that the member for Bonney's parents met and they eventually went on to marry.

Climate Change, Torres Strait Islands



Ms LUI (Cook—ALP) (2.15 pm): Climate change is a very important issue that affects all of us. For one region in my electorate of Cook, the impact of climate change has had a significant impact on people's lived experience. Today, I rise to speak specifically on the impact of climate change on the Torres Strait Islands and raise awareness for a global issue that is affecting the lives of people in our backyard.

While all the islands are affected in different ways, smaller low-lying islands such as Poruma, Warraber, Yam, Masig, Boigu and Saibai are considered the most vulnerable. Every year people in these communities endure the ongoing stress that comes with tidal inundation due to the rising sea level. Locals on these islands sit back every day and are reminded of where the shoreline used to be, but due to coastal erosion these beautiful islands continue to lose valuable shoreline.

Families have the traumatic experience of seeing parts of cemeteries being washed away. In speaking with local Masig elder Uncle Ned Mosby on the shores of Masig, he pointed to where the shoreline used to be, and the stories of traditions associated with certain areas that are no longer there and connection to place that no longer exists are becoming stories that are told to the younger generation.

When I visited Warraber Island, I heard from locals about graves of loved ones being washed away and the traumatic experience that comes with recovering bones. On Yam Island families were left homeless after losing their homes and belongings to tidal inundation. I visited Yam Island with Minister Crawford and was told by a family member how she was just about to sit down to watch TV and noticed water rushing through her front door. On Saibai Island every year parts of the community and homes are inundated.


I know from my personal experience living on the island that every year the community buckled down for, one, the king tides and, two, extreme weather events. King tides and strong winds are not a good match. The ongoing direct and indirect impact of climate change will continue to have a detrimental effect on the health and wellbeing on these communities.

I was reading a news article by ABC News from early August where reference was made to the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. It stated—

... the Earth will warm by more than 1.5 degrees Celsius within the decade, causing rising sea levels and more frequent and devastating natural disasters, unless drastic action is taken to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

The whole issue of climate change will continue to affect us no matter where we live. Scott Morrison is once again failing us by refusing to commit to a target of net zero emissions by 2050, after an international 'code red' warning on climate change was issued by global leaders. I say to Scott Morrison and his federal LNP government: sitting back and saying and doing nothing is not good enough. Do your job and start a national conversation to address the impacts of climate change for the good of this country.

Australian Catholic University, Banyo Campus

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (2.18 pm): As the Liberal National Party's shadow minister for education, I recently had the opportunity to visit the Australian Catholic University campus in Brisbane and to formally meet the new vice-chancellor, Professor Zlatko Skrbis.

I was pleased to discuss with Professor Skrbis how the Australian Catholic University considers its Banyo campus to be a vital part of its national network and a hub for a number of important university-wide and diverse initiatives including Indigenous education and improving higher education outcomes for our Australian Defence Force Veterans. I also greatly appreciated the opportunity to engage with students studying teaching and others undertaking health professional education, including nursing.

One student shared with me their passion about making a difference in Indigenous education. This student has now gone on to work in regional Queensland, becoming the youngest principal in Australia. I was interested to learn about the significant role the Australian Catholic University has undertaken with respect to initial teacher education in Queensland and that the Australian Catholic University has selected Queensland to be the state jurisdiction to host its significant education and learning research capability through its internationally recognised Institute for Learning Sciences and Teacher Education. This institute, which is led by Professor Claire Wyatt-Smith, is dedicated to developing research based solutions for a number of the significant educational challenges of our time.


The Institute for Learning Sciences and Teacher Education Works across six main areas: literacy, early learning, STEM, assessment and evaluation, teacher education and workforce studies, as well as data analytics. The institute, with other university partners including the University of Queensland, James Cook University, Griffith University and Central Queensland University, has also developed a revolutionary graduate teacher performance assessment tool that is helping to prepare thousands of teaching graduates to work in our schools. This tool is now recognised as the gold standard in assessing teacher graduates.

In my remaining time I also wish to acknowledge and congratulate the Hon. Justice Martin Daubney AM on his appointment to the position of chancellor of the Australian Catholic University. Justice Daubney is a local resident of the Moggill electorate. Justice Daubney's appointment follows a distinguished legal career and notable achievements, including his appointment to the Supreme Court in 2007, where he served for 14 years, as well as his appointment as the president of the Queensland

Civil and Administrative Tribunal in 2017. In 2018 Justice Daubney was made a member of the Order of Australia for significant service to the law and the judiciary, to education and to the community. As the Australian Catholic University's fifth chancellor and honorary fellow of the ACU, there is no doubt that the university will be well-served by Justice Daubney's unwavering commitment to the pursuit of knowledge, the furthering of humanity and the principles and values of the Australian Catholic University.

In concluding, I again congratulate the staff and students of the Australian Catholic University for their hard work and dedication towards improving educational outcomes for students here in Queensland. I certainly look forward to attending the university's eighth annual panel discussion and stakeholder dinner to be held later this year.

Australian Defence Force, Personnel

 **Mr WALKER** (Mundingburra—ALP) (2.21 pm): I rise today to acknowledge all of the men and women of the Australian Defence Force—those brave men and women who have served our country well and without question for more than a century. I commend all of their actions in serving our great country each and every day.


In recent times Australia's finest, along with many other countries', have spent the last two decades fighting a war in Afghanistan. My brother Anthony Walker, who served with the RAAF as part of peacekeeping force Interfet, was one of the many young men and women who served in East Timor—now known as Timor-Leste—back in 1999, ready to serve, facing tough conditions and helping our allies when the call is made. From our frontline soldiers right through to support battalions and everything in between, our service men and women do an outstanding job. It is important that we publically acknowledge our defence personnel and their families, who sacrifice so much serving our nation in peacekeeping through to war and even during natural disasters. I still recall seeing many brave men and women journeying through floodwaters in Townsville during the 2019 monsoon event, assisting vulnerable community members during their time of need.

It is very important now more than ever, especially during this time of transition from Afghanistan, that our defence personnel—Army, Navy and RAAF—know that we sincerely appreciate their sacrifice and service to our great nation. I have been watching the daily reports of the recent mission by defence personnel to evacuate Australians and Afghanistan nationals. The vision of our RAAF and Army showed their high level of professionalism, compassion, strength and level of calm whilst evacuating Aussies and those fleeing Afghanistan from a very dangerous, hostile and tragic set of circumstances.

The Townsville region is home to over 15,000 Defence Force personnel and their dependants, who account for approximately eight per cent of Townsville's population. Lavarack Barracks is the largest military base in Australia and is situated in the seat of Mundingburra. We also have the RAAF base at Garbutt, which is in the seat of Townsville. It played a pivotal role during the Second World War which continues right through to today, recently celebrating its 80th birthday. We love and respect our defence family and their families, and we acknowledge the important role they play in our city and the world.

While writing this speech I received a message from Townsville that we tragically lost two soldiers just west of Townsville near Dotswood. I want to publicly acknowledge these two men, craftsman Brendan Payne and his colleague Warrant Officer Ryan Leslie, both from Brisbane. They were loved and well-respected members of our ADF family, and their loss will be felt heavily by many. I also want to publically send my heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of these two men who have lost their lives serving our country. On behalf of the entire Townsville community I would like to say that we are all thinking of them during this very difficult time. Lest we forget.

Small Business, Pressures; Sippy Downs, Roadworks


 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (2.24 pm): The pressures small and family businesses are under now are unlike anything we have seen in our lifetime. Small business owners are working harder than ever just to keep their businesses alive, but for many every phone call is a customer cancelling a booking or a supplier looking for payment. Increasingly, business owners have also had to cut staff just to stay afloat. That means that they are alone and left to answer the phones and respond to emails every hour of the day and night, and that takes a toll. Many small and family business owners are at breaking point. The combined burden of months of uncertainty and the feeling that they have been abandoned has resulted in thousands of small business owners who simply do not know if they can carry on.

Across the state when I have met with small business owners over recent months the strain has been written across their faces: worry about where the cash is going to come from to pay the next bill; sleepless nights agonising about how to keep employees in a job; and hearts breaking watching a lifetime's work building a flourishing small business only to see it crumbling before their eyes. That tidal wave of anguish is now manifesting itself in mental health issues which, if not addressed, will tear apart the fabric of our community. Many small business owners have poured everything into their business and too often they put themselves last. While that may be a recipe for business success, when it comes to mental health challenges it is a recipe for disaster. Small and family businesses are the threads that bind our community together. We cannot afford to lose the small and family businesses that give so much, so now is the time for all of us to reach out to them in their hour of need. Help is available for them, but more needs to be done.

Before my time expires I would like to address the concerns of my local residents in Sippy Downs, who for years have had to bear the brunt of noise and dust associated with roadworks. For many years those same residents have sought relief from unbearable road noise emanating from the Bruce Highway, but to date they have been ignored by the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Despite houses sitting 60 metres away from the edge of a road where cars and trucks loudly accelerate to 110 kilometres an hour, the best the minister has been able to do to date is build a two-metre wooden paling fence that achieves next to nothing.

On Tuesday a petition with 499 signatures was presented to the parliament calling on the minister to build a noise barrier along Bellflower Road in the vicinity of the Bruce Highway. My message to the minister is: listen to local voices. Too often we have seen this state government ignore the needs of Sunshine Coast locals. I will continue to fight to ensure that the voices of Sippy Downs residents are listened to.

Mercurius Biorefining


 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.27 pm): Supported by the Palaszczuk government's 10-year futures road map, Mackay is shaping up to be a mecca for emerging industries. The Palaszczuk government has invested \$1 million to deliver a business case to potentially make the Mackay, Isaac and Whitsundays regions a hub for future foods and bioplastics and fuels. The additional focus on innovation and technology will also create more knowledge-intensive jobs in our region. Queensland is taking another step forward on its journey to build a sustainable biotechnology and bioproducts sector—a sector that has the potential to be worth up to \$1 billion to our economy.

US company Mercurius has brought its world-leading technology to Mackay to build a pilot plant and begin producing renewable diesel and jet fuel made from sugarcane waste. Mercurius Biorefining has developed patented technology called REACH that aims to significantly reduce the cost of manufacturing renewable jet fuel and other bioproducts. Finding a profitable sustainable solution for sugarcane waste will diversify our economy and put Queensland at the forefront of renewable and biotechnology. These projects are what the Queensland Palaszczuk government is all about and what we have been working hard to achieve. Mackay is now going to be looked at on the world stage for a three-month trial.

QUT and Mercurius are working together at the research laboratory at Racecourse Mill, and I look forward to seeing more opportunity in this sector. I went out to have a look at the plant and it is progressing well in its build. This project further strengthens Mackay's credentials as a leading biorefinery location. The operation of the pilot plant will support a range of skilled jobs to run the trials and test the products. The plant will scale up production of biofuels and biochemicals. The demonstration scale biorefinery will initially target production of four tonnes of renewable diesel and jet fuel daily and is expected to attract a combined investment of \$11 million and create around 50 jobs.

Over the longer term, based on the performance of the pilot and demonstration plants, the company plans to establish up to five commercial scale biorefineries across regional Queensland. This project is great news for sugarcane-producing regions of Queensland in terms of potential future high-value jobs and investment. It is because of our hard work and world-class health response that we can really focus on opportunities that will help us to recover from the impacts that COVID-19 has had on our economy.

Coronavirus, Queensland Border Restrictions

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (2.30 pm): I rise to speak about the communities in my electorate of Southern Downs along the border between Queensland and New South Wales. They along with many other Queenslanders are doing it tough at the moment because border closures make

people's lives difficult. They make it hard to do business, they make it hard to get kids to school and all of those things. The difficulties for the electorate of Southern Downs particularly centre around the exemptions which the Chief Health Officer intends to apply for those who are essential workers who should be able to cross between Queensland and New South Wales so that essential business can go on—such as in agriculture, health care and those sorts of things. I have written to the Chief Health Officer concerning the exemptions for essential workers. I table my letter for the benefit of the House.


Tabled paper: Letter, dated 30 August 2021, from the member for Southern Downs, Mr James Lister MP, to the Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young, titled 'Essential cross-border worker status: Police determinations at border crossings' [1336].

One of the difficulties with the current arrangements is that police on the frontline at the borders, who are doing it tough themselves, are in the invidious position where they have to make a final decision on whether someone is essential or not. Simply having a letter from one's employer and a completed pass to cross the border has been no guarantee for people who are genuinely essential—such as primary production workers, people in food and fuel businesses and so forth.

I have mentioned the Wallangarra General Store a number of times during the week. Its two owners and their staff member all live just over the border in New South Wales. That store is in Queensland. It is an essential service, selling fuel, gas and food, and all three of the staff are essential. The police on the beat are in the difficult position of having to say whether or not each staff member is indeed truly essential. They do not have the background on the business, nor should we expect them to. I have written to the Chief Health Officer to ask that the act of certifying that a staff member is essential should be ipso facto your proof of essentiality. The final decision should rest with the employer. I understand that there are some risks associated with entrusting the community with those decisions, but communities of mine along the border—in places like Killarney, Wallangarra, Stanthorpe, Texas, Goondiwindi and Talwood—are doing it very tough and experiencing pain.

We are talking about very sparsely populated areas where businesses always have and always will rely on markets and services on both sides. I ask the government to please take that into account and consult me and my border colleagues about the unique issues in each of our electorates. These issues may not be known to the people who are based in the city and are making many of these decisions about border closures. I do not object to the border closure. I just want it to work for my community.

Redlands, Liberal National Party

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (2.33 pm): The LNP in the Redlands are an absolute basket case. Let us look at all four heads of the LNP down there. I will start with the member for Oodgeroo, who has been caught out misusing his electoral allowance—this is a big no-no, rorting the system.

Dr ROBINSON: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Dr ROBINSON: The member is misleading the House. I find his comments offensive and I ask them to be withdrawn.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Is your point of order about being personally offended?

Dr ROBINSON: Yes.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Capalaba, I believe that the member feels personally offended. I ask that you withdraw.

Ms PEASE: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order is about the unparliamentary language from that side of the House.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will get some advice. I did not hear it but in the interim I will ask—

Mr MICKELBERG: Madam Deputy Speaker, I will help you. It was me. I withdraw.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr BROWN: I withdraw, but yet again we find that the member for Oodgeroo takes offence at the truth.

Dr ROBINSON: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Again the member is misleading the House. I find his comments personally offensive and I ask for them to be withdrawn.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Capalaba, he finds the comments offensive. I ask that you withdraw.

Mr BROWN: I withdraw, but the Clerk has agreed with me on this. The member for Oodgeroo sent out a survey to his electorate asking what political party they vote for. This is a big no-no and I am glad that the Clerk will be chasing down the \$8,000 to \$10,000 that he was going to claim on the electoral allowance.

Dr ROBINSON: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Again the member is misleading the House. No parliamentary funds have been spent—

Mr BROWN: Black and white.

Dr ROBINSON: No parliamentary funds—

Mr BROWN: Black and white.

Dr ROBINSON: Madam Deputy Speaker, may I have your protection to have a point of order?

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Oodgeroo, if you feel that the member for Capalaba is misleading the House, I would ask that you write to the Speaker. However, member for Capalaba, I would urge you to try to get through the speech in a manner that is least offensive to the member.

Dr ROBINSON: I asked him to withdraw. It was untrue and I find it offensive.

Mr BROWN: You cannot withdraw for untrue—

Dr ROBINSON: Madam Deputy Speaker, may I have my point of order.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Oodgeroo, you will need to write to the Speaker. If you believe that the member for Capalaba has said something that is misleading, you will need to follow—

Dr ROBINSON: I am asking for a different point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Mr BROWN: I have already written to the Clerk and he has—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Oodgeroo, please take a seat. I have heard your point of order. There is no point of order.

Dr ROBINSON: Madam Deputy Speaker, on a matter suddenly arising, I find his comments offensive and I ask them to be withdrawn.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Capalaba, he finds your comments offensive. I ask that you withdraw.

Mr BROWN: I withdraw, but I have already written to the Clerk and he has accepted, black and white. I table the document for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Brochure titled 'Oodgeroo's biggest survey' from the member for Oodgeroo, Dr Mark Robinson MP [\[1337\]](#).

Let us look at the preselection for the LNP for the seat of Bowman. The LNP has—

Mr HART: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Oodgeroo was giving a point of order and the member for Capalaba continued to talk all the way through that. I think that is completely inappropriate and beyond the realms of the standing orders.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order. Please take a seat.

Mr HART: Madam Deputy Speaker, I give notice that I shall move dissent from your ruling.

Mr BROWN: I am happy to debate this one.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): The member for Capalaba has the call.

Mr BROWN: I can see why they want to stop me from speaking in this debate. Let us look at the preselection for Bowman. It was an absolute rabble, yet again. They had infighting. They had a chance to choose someone different to Laming, but who did they choose? They chose another misogynist, another fat-shamer. Let us look at his statements. He has said—

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr BROWN: I am quoting him. He said that it—

... states quite clearly in the Bible that—

and then there is an expletive—

... a fat chick is a sin beyond redemption.

An article states that he also said—


I walked in on a scene of absolute sexual carnage ... we had (someone) in bed with what could only be described as a small planet.

No-one would call me a small planet because I am fit and lean, I am like a champion greyhound.

That is who they selected. Even the LNP HQ took two months to endorse this guy. I would take all the time as well. He had the lawyer and they succumbed two months later to select an absolute dud. They had a chance to replace someone of Laming's standard, and what did they do? They chose exactly the same. The LNP members on the executive resigned in disgrace because this guy was selected.

Let us look at the mayor down there. The mayor came third in this race. Is it any wonder she came third when she had South-East Queensland's highest rates increases for two years in a row. It was 4.4 per cent, while it was 1.7 per cent in Brisbane. We have got rorts. We have got rip-offs. That is the mess of the LNP. Is it any wonder our margins go up and up and up. I will no doubt see Donisha Duff down in Canberra. She will be a proper representative. Someone who does not fat-shame, someone who is not a misogynist and someone who is decent for the people of Redlands.

Toowoomba, Afghan Community

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.39 pm): Today I would like to speak about the diversity of Toowoomba. I have spoken about that regularly, but there is one community in particular that has had a very difficult time over the last couple of weeks and that is our Afghan community. I would like to speak a little bit about the contribution they make and the concerns that run deep right throughout our Afghan community.


I look at the youth members for Toowoomba South and Toowoomba North over the last couple of years, Afghan refugees Lena and Mahsa Nabizada. I think about the leadership on display from Rahila, a former high school leader at Harristown State High School, who is a now a USQ law student. I think about Zimra, our little 'Afghani Axe' and an amazing little Aussie Rules player who is making great strides in the big smoke of Brisbane.

The Afghan community in Toowoomba has come together as one with deep concern in their hearts. Over the last two weeks 50 families have gone through HumeRidge Church under the leadership of Ross Savill. These people are deeply concerned about what they are seeing, as we all are, in the traumatic images of Afghanistan on the coalition withdrawal. They have seen their families and their communities in Afghanistan damaged by the rule now of the Taliban. They are concerned and they desperately want to see their families brought to Australia or to another safe haven so they can be protected and look forward to a brighter future.

I think of Annie and Ruth, lawyers who are doing an amazing job. I have made representations in respect of the paperwork that many of these Afghan families, who are deeply concerned about their relatives who remain behind, simply cannot get their hands on as their family members are in hiding, terrified for their lives in the wake of the Taliban rule in Afghanistan. There is much that needs to be done to support these families as they go about trying to get out of Afghanistan wherever possible. Our community in Toowoomba has come together—not just at HumeRidge and not just with young lawyers like Annie and Ruth. I also think of Rahila, who is now a USQ law student, who is putting in time and effort. She is absolutely committed to getting as many of her family and friends into safety, whether that be in Toowoomba or elsewhere in refuge.

I also want to acknowledge the efforts of our veterans. I think of our colleague the member for Buderim and I think of Josh Hawkins in the Toowoomba community, who pulled together a group of veterans who met at The Spotted Cow for a catch-up. I think it is important that we say to our veterans that their efforts were not in vain, that the cause of fighting to protect freedom, promote freedom and advance freedom is never in vain. I want to give a shout-out to our veterans and our entire Toowoomba community that stands with our Afghan community.

Coronavirus

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (2.42 pm): I rise to discuss the implications of what the federal minister Karen Andrews, a Queenslander, has said and that is that the federal government is of the view that Queensland should be open. Let's unpack the message behind that. The message is they want us to open our borders. They want us to let the virus in. They want us to bring it in and let it rip. Their message is that Queenslanders should learn to live with it. The point is that we are not. Why should we? All we have heard recently is that it cannot be controlled. Yes, it can be. We are one of the only places in the world to crush a delta outbreak in eight days. We should be proud of that. It can be summed up by what Mark McGowan in Western Australia has said. I think he nailed it when he said, 'The federal government is on a mission to bring COVID into this state.' That may be overly dramatic, but he nailed it.

These are the implications of what the federal government is thinking and saying about us here in Queensland. There are three things. Firstly, it is very clear if we look at the evidence that the LNP want to undermine our strong borders here in Queensland. They want to dilute the health response that has kept us safe, and that includes people within this chamber. Let's look at some examples of that. They called for the border to be opened 64 times. The member for Burleigh gave us the great advantage of putting up a billboard calling for the same.

I have a question about what the member for Currumbin was saying today. Is she calling for the borders to be opened? She is calling for the border to be opened to parts of New South Wales that are quite close to the location of cases of the virus. I think there are some mixed messages there. Once again, I think that is undermining the message we are sending about strong borders, and that ties in well with what Karen Andrews was saying. Our strong border response has kept us safe and the LNP want to weaken that.

We also know that the LNP want to dilute our strong health response. We have heard them describe our hardworking staff as 'punch-drunk bureaucrats' or say that our response is like 'pulling a doona over our head' or 'living in a cave'. Today we heard the member for Mudgeeraba say that we should be transitioning away from restrictions. Once again, this is all about undermining our strong health response. If we look at the evidence and the examples, we see that the LNP want to wind back our strong health response and open our borders. 'Open it up!', they say. 'Let it rip.' They will not say it directly but they will hint at it all the time.

Climate Change



Dr MacMAHON (South Brisbane—Grn) (2.45 pm): Last week the IPCC's assessment report said climate change is catastrophic, it is happening and it is caused by burning fossil fuels. This means more extreme weather across the planet as we are seeing floods, heatwaves, wildfires, melting poles and sea levels rise. Meanwhile we have this government's climate action plan, a summary of pre-existing policies slapped together on a website. The government wants to cut pollution by 30 per cent on 2005 levels by 2030. The science is clear: we need a 75 per cent cut. This plan is a climate death sentence.

The government also proposes a 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2050, but after nearly seven years of Labor government we are at just 20 per cent. Climate pollution is now higher than when Labor took office in 2015. The plan does not mention that Labor refused to close coal and gas-fired power stations and that it proudly campaigned on 18 new coalmine approvals.

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Pause the clock. Members on both sides, I will ask that you stop quarrelling.

Dr MacMAHON: It does not mention extinguishing native title to approve Adani. Wangan and Jagalingou custodian Adrian Burragubba said Adani—

... will be a catastrophe every bit as destructive to our culture, and as hurtful to our people, as the blasting of the caves at the Juukan Gorge ...

The plan does not mention the government has released 80,000 square kilometres in the Channel Country for gas and fracking exploration. It does not mention that the government refuses to veto a taxpayer-funded handout to build the Olive Downs metallurgical coalmine while other countries crack on with green steel. Just this morning I asked the resources minister what the IPCC report means for Queensland. He said that coalmining will be part of Queensland's economy well into the future. He mentioned metallurgical coal but overlooked the role of green steel, made using hydrogen, already being rolled out in other parts of the world. In estimates I got no confirmation of plans to commence green steel manufacturing here in Queensland. Actually, the director-general asked me what I meant when I said 'green steel'.

In Queensland, in terms of our mining and exports, we are a major contributor to climate change. What we do here matters. The IPCC report is clear and this tinkering around the edges by Labor is just not good enough. We need to stop approving new fossil fuel projects. We need to create thousands of new jobs investing in 100 per cent publicly owned renewable energy right across Queensland. We need an actual plan to phase out existing coal-fired power stations, thermal coal and fracked gas, including a full transition plan for workers. This government needs to listen to the scientists rather than its mining industry mates and get on with climate action.

Coronavirus



Hon. MT RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (2.48 pm): It is this Labor government's strong health response which has kept us all safe: the strong leadership of the Premier, the expert advice of Dr Jeannette Young and the full cooperation of the Queensland community, all working together on a strong health response to keep us safe from the COVID-19 pandemic. It follows that Labor governments will always prioritise the delivery of healthcare services for the people of Queensland.

Labor governments will always invest in the front line—in the doctors, nurses and allied health professionals that we need—and in the support staff at our hospitals and health clinics right across the state. We will invest in proactive, preventive health strategies and initiatives. We will also invest in the infrastructure that our community needs for world-class health services.

I am very excited to see that the Morayfield state electorate will be a major recipient of that Labor government investment. Not only will we have an extra ambulance station built in our community at Morayfield; we will also have a satellite hospital built in Caboolture. This satellite hospital will deliver services such as urgent care as well as other allied health services, taking pressure off Caboolture Hospital but also delivering services closer to the community. This is a welcome addition and a significant investment in health services. Of course, we also have investment in the major hospital, Caboolture Hospital—a \$400 million investment, essentially doubling the size of the hospital and investing in more services, more health practitioners and more facilities for our community. It is right that that happens.

We have also had significant investment in the front line when it comes to responding to COVID-19—not only supporting our health staff with the work they do and ensuring there is appropriate preparedness for any potential outbreak but also investing in the delivery of vaccines. The federal government should be leading on this, but it is up to the Queensland government to pick up where the federal government has fallen down and let the community down.

A Queensland Health vaccine clinic has been established in Caboolture. I encourage everyone to ensure they are registered for the vaccine. There are walk-in opportunities for First Nations people on Saturdays and opportunities for others to access the GP network. I know that the Morayfield health hub has a significant facility and resource to support people seeking information about vaccinations and people wanting to ensure they get vaccinated as quickly as possible. Just as we all are in this together in cooperating to ensure a strong health response, I now call on our community to get vaccinated and continue to prioritise their health and their family's health.

Mount Isa, Youth Crime



Mr KATTER (Traeger—KAP) (2.51 pm): I wish to talk about the crime that is gripping and tearing apart the fabric of our wonderful community in Mount Isa. Recently I have been told how the data shows that things seem to be coming under control. The government thinks we are doing a good job. I want to give some of my own data and outline some of the reports I have had to field in the past six to 12 months.


In January this year, one elderly widow who had lived in the same house for 51 years had her house ransacked, with furniture and personal effects destroyed. She was left fearful and terrified. Another lady saw girls in the shopping centre spitting, swearing and fighting, which is a regular occurrence, and scaring off an old lady, too. These are the reports that are coming into my office—an old lady too scared to go to the shopping centre. In November last year, another gentleman saw a vicious attack on his neighbours in a suburb we call the 'Bronx'. He attached photos of the injuries which I will be giving to the minister. He witnessed the attack and was attacked himself. He is now fearful to go outside.

In 2019, a lady was sexually assaulted and bashed by someone in her own home. She never recovered and died from those injuries. Heiner Schulz's 95-year-old mother, who grew up and lived most of her life in Mount Isa, was broken into five times in four years. She is since deceased, but she was at her wit's end. Certainly Heiner, her son, was. Kim-Maree Burton, a pillar of the community, was broken into six times in two years at three different locations. Someone took a video of her in bed, and that now appears on social media. She now suffers from anxiety, uncontrollable shaking and depression.

These are just horrible stories, and I am loaded up with them. I cannot walk up the street or go anywhere without people asking me, 'What are you doing about the crime?' I do not know what I am supposed to do. I am talking to the minister and to the government. We are giving them options. There are options out there. There are not great enough consequences for the kids. The police have told me that, yes, kids are going to jail under the new laws, but we have filled up the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre now so I do not know what else is happening. On Sunday I hopped on the plane with one of the worst car-stealing offenders, so he is back on the streets. I am not sure what we in this place are supposed to do or how we fix problems, because it is a problem. No-one is making this up. It is not hype on Facebook. It is not hype by the media. These are real problems. I am sick of hearing it. I am not sure if we are supposed to storm the Bastille, burn torches or wave around pitchforks.

The government need to listen. They listen by going up there and talking to people on the ground. They should not just talk to bureaucrats or people in departments. Some of them who are worried about their jobs must be saying what the government wants to hear, because I cannot reconcile what I am hearing from politicians with what is on the ground. People are angry. It is destroying their lives. Businesses are at their wits' end. It is costing them money. There must be something done to fix it. Relocation sentencing has to be considered.

Biosecurity

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (2.54 pm): As Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries, I take biosecurity seriously—as does the Palaszczuk government. It is no surprise that the federal LNP government has the deck stacked against us—stacked against our primary producers in this state and across the board. It all starts with the federal government's 25 per cent cut in the number of frontline biosecurity workers. Failures on the border have been noted by its own Inspector-General of Biosecurity and the Commonwealth Audit Office.

Australians have had enough of the *Ruby Princess* standards and 'gold' standards of the LNP. Biosecurity is no game, yet the federal LNP treat it as a game to gamble on, gambling at the expense of our farmers and fishers. Because they think it is such a game, they even have a deck of cards to go along with it. This deck may have the 52 reasons the federal LNP government should not be re-elected. They can play poker with a khapra beetle. Instead of an ace in the hole, it is a hole at the border. To make it worse, at the biosecurity casino the LNP always seems to let the pests win. It is clear that, over this and the past few terms of government, it has been playing games rather than playing fair with our farmers. Instead of gin rummy, it is importation of Mexican limes for their gin! It has been a bust when it comes to looking after agriculture. I expected to see David Littleproud as the joker of the pack but, sadly, the joke is on agriculture in this and every other state. I table what it has circulated.

Tabled paper: Deck of cards produced by the Australian government titled 'Australia's National Priority Plant Pest: International years of Plant Health 2020' (Pack contains 52 cards depicting plant pests) [\[1338\]](#).

As the song goes, 'You've got to know when to hold 'em, know when to fold 'em'—

Mr Millar interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Member for Gregory.

Mr FURNER:—'know when to walk away'—

Mr Millar interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Gregory.

Mr FURNER:—'and know when to run.'

Mr Millar interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Gregory!

Mr FURNER: It is time for the federal government to walk away and run!

Mr Millar interjected.


Mr FURNER: In this case, the quicker the voters make the right choice and hold the LNP to account, fold the ballot paper after voting for a Labor government—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Gregory, I cautioned you three times. This is the last time I will give a caution. The next one will be a warning.

Mr FURNER: Thank for your protection, Madam Deputy Speaker. In this case, the quicker the voters make the right choice and hold the LNP to account, fold the ballot paper after voting for an Albanese Labor government, the sooner they can walk away knowing that biosecurity is in safe hands after running the LNP out of town.

As someone who has always been willing to call a spade a spade, I speak from the heart when I say that the LNP club has form on neglecting biosecurity at state and federal levels by cuts, by failures and by diamond standard levels of neglect. I have seen the destruction the LNP caused while in government. It is apt that they go and play their games elsewhere. They need to stop dealing Queensland farmers a bad hand when it comes to biosecurity as they have always delivered. There is nothing at the front door and nothing on the borders—and that is all they have form for. That is why they will go at the next federal election.

Bonner, Mr NT

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (2.58 pm): I want to acknowledge a great Australian. I want to acknowledge one of my mentors. Fifty years ago last month, Neville Bonner was sworn in as a senator for Queensland and was the first Indigenous Australian to serve in the federal parliament. During his time as a senator, from 1971 to 1983, he was one of the leading advocates for Indigenous Australians and gave them a voice.

Neville was a proud Jagera man, born in 1922 under a palm tree on Ukerebagh Island on the Tweed River in New South Wales. Neville had only one year of formal education. He left school and worked as a labourer and farmhand in rural Queensland. The turning point in Neville's life came when he campaigned for the 'yes' vote at the 1967 referendum. This gave the Commonwealth the power to make laws in relation to Aboriginal Australians and to count Aboriginal Australians in the Census.

On 11 June 1971, Neville Bonner was chosen by the Queensland parliament to fill a casual vacancy in the Senate following the resignation of Annabelle Rankin. He had been preselected in third place on the Liberal Party's Senate ticket ahead of the 1970 Senate election. Ahead of the 1983 election, Neville was dropped to an unwinnable position on the Liberal Party's Senate ticket and resigned from the party.

In the early nineties when I was the Young Liberal president along with close friend Paul Scarr, now Senator Scarr, we invited Neville back inside the Liberal tent to address our Young Liberal state council meeting. In my 33 years membership of the Liberal/LNP, the speech Neville Bonner delivered that night was one of the most inspirational I have ever had the privilege of listening to. We encouraged Neville to rekindle his interests and get involved again and he consequently rejoined the Liberal Party in 1996 and was made a life member in 1998. Post politics, Neville was awarded an honorary doctorate by Griffith University in 1993 and he revealed much of his inner-driving force and vision for the country that he loved at the graduation ceremony. In what was truly a remarkable occasional address, the Indigenous elder statesman told his audience and the graduates that—


... dignity, courage, sensitivity, compassion, loyalty and responsibility ... are the ingredients for total maturity, no matter what race, colour or creed ...

...

My treasured sons and daughters of Australia, this beloved country of ours will flourish in harmony only when you view it through the knowledge that for an enthralling rhapsody to be played successfully on a piano, one has to play the white and black keys together.

There are good members on both sides of the chamber and next time members take guests on a tour of the parliamentary precinct please consider pausing near his magnificent bronze sculpture on level 5 and point out the fact that Neville Bonner was a proud Jagera man who, when pressed as to whom he really represented, would state that he represented all Queenslanders in the federal Senate regardless of their race, colour or creed.

Logan Electorate, Public Transport

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (3.01 pm): Today I am really passionate to rise to speak about improved public bus services in the Logan electorate. I know that we gather waiting for other things, but a friend of mine would be deeply pleased that we are continuing to deliver for the people who really need bus services. I speak particularly of the Yarrabilba bus service which has now been announced

to have a Logan Hospital extension as well as going to the Loganlea TAFE. This is connecting that growing community with its nearest major hospital and the major Loganlea TAFE, building on the new TAFE Connect that we are building within Yarrabilba. It is still going to stop at the Loganlea station, which is really important, and we are going to continue to fight to get it to the new areas, especially to the proposed new school in the future.

What is exciting about this bus service is that it is an all-electric bus service. The charging station is in Logan Village—double three-phase power charging installed on the regular network—and this is a fantastic option that is leading the way in South-East Queensland and doing it quietly, cleanly and with very quick acceleration. It is exciting that this technology's time has come and it is great that we have a minister and ministers who are backing these technologies. There is also route 535, which is the fantastic service that comes from Flagstone, and we have already seen that in place. It is something that the member for Jordan and I passionately advocated for. We are in negotiations to look for further options and further expansions, because that is what we are passionate about in that area and we know that that is great for people in the local area. The cost is just \$1.69 for a concession and \$3.37 for others, which is considerably cheaper than the old bus service. I encourage Logan people to get your mask on first, get your go card and get on the bus and get the service working, because that makes it easier for the member for Jordan and I to continue to push for further expanded services.

I also want to talk about demand responsive transport. In-between those two bus lines we have the fantastic demand responsive transport service, which is a service where you either use your app or ring the number and within two hours you can get the service to pick you up at your door and then deliver you to major bus stops. At some point in the future we will transition to a fixed bus line, but this is an exciting way to service an area that is not yet fully developed that has acreage and other more spread-out houses to deliver public transport. That is what this government is about—continuing to deliver enhanced public transport services to growing areas on the edge of Logan City. Mr Speaker, you are probably thinking, 'Is there a contrast, because surely any good government would do that?' However, these were services that were cut—bus stop services were cut—during the LNP's time. I want to continue to fight for a growing area to get improved public transport. I know that this government has ministers who back improved public transport and ministers who back improved electric transport in our state.

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Pegg, Mr D



Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the Premier, I wish to make just a couple of very brief remarks about my friend the late Duncan Pegg. I am very proud to have called Duncan my friend. I am very privileged to have known him. He was passionate about his job as a member of parliament and the community that he represented, and that passion inspired many people around him. The qualities that Duncan had in the time that he served in this place made him what I would call a great modern parliamentarian. In the past great parliamentarians were seen as raconteurs, passionate debaters and people who saw politics as more than a contest, and Duncan had all of these qualities in spades. I think that is why he was such a special individual who touched the lives of many and struck up friendships with so many people in this place. He was held in high regard by all with whom he served and no doubt we will hear many of those stories today.

As a mark of respect, on the day he passed away—Thursday, 10 June—flags on the parliamentary precinct were lowered to half-mast and the external display lights were left dark that night. As I have mentioned to some people, that is not always in fitting with protocol. However, it was a fitting tribute, particularly when it is a current member serving in the House. I offer my condolences to Duncan's family and I was pleased to be able to share some stories with Graham and Lindsey, Graham, Cameron, Lachlan and Grant, who was not able to be there, and cousin Mandee and Auntie Catherine. We thank you for being here today. It is going to be a very special condolence motion for a very special former member of this House.



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (3.06 pm): I move—

1. That this House desires to place on record its sense of loss this state has sustained by the death of Duncan Andrew Pegg, lately serving as the member for the electoral district of Stretton; and
2. That Mr Speaker be requested to convey to the family of the deceased gentleman the above resolution, together with an expression of the sympathy and sorrow of the members of the parliament of Queensland in the loss that they have sustained.

Duncan Pegg was a fine and talented Queenslander—a much loved son and brother in a proud family, an outstanding community representative for the seat of Stretton, a well-liked and respected member of this House, and a dear friend. Duncan was born in Townsville on 27 June 1980, the first son of Graham and Lindsey. The Pegg family later welcomed triplets—Cameron, Graham and Grant—then another brother Lachlan. I acknowledge and warmly welcome the Pegg family here today. Those of us who attended the service for Duncan in June were privileged to gain a deeper insight into the family's abiding love and admiration for him. We of course also came to greatly admire Duncan when he came into our lives, but it was wonderful to reminisce, to laugh and to cry with his family as they generously shared their memories of early years.

His brother Graham told us that Duncan started school in Glenmore State Primary School in Rockhampton in 1986 and was always top of the class. Then at Glenmore State High School and at North Rockhampton State High School Duncan also won subject prizes, which he was very modest about. Sometimes he filled a shift at Franklins supermarket instead of turning up to accept his awards. Graham also spoke volumes about Duncan's work ethic and about being a quiet achiever. If that was Duncan's character as a high school student, it is no wonder he went on to become such a dedicated community advocate and wholehearted parliamentary representative. I would like to also pass on Graham's excellent analysis of the three things that Duncan loved most in life, apart from his family and friends—politics, cricket and chocolate! We heard unique stories of young Duncan's propensities with family blocks of Caramello. As for cricket, the love was no surprise to us—indeed, the venue for his service was appropriately the Gabba—but we heard how Duncan knew his professional life had reached a new level when he was greeted on a first-name basis by Allan Border himself. Thirdly of course was his motivation to serve his community in public life in politics. That began, we were told, in primary school where one day he arranged the classroom as the federal parliament and assigned portfolios from the Hawke government.

In relation to schooling, it is worth mentioning Duncan's own words. In his first speech he spoke about the transformational power of education and in his last speech he said, 'State schooling has been a very important part of my life. I think it is a very important component of what we do as a state government.' In Duncan's name, because we share that view, let me assure the House that state schooling will always be a central focus of this government.

Duncan graduated from Griffith University with law and commerce degrees majoring in politics. He worked for Sciacas Lawyers and for the National Union of Workers. His heartfelt goal was for fairer and safer workplaces, for good jobs that come with permanency, fair pay, security and rights. He once told me that his aim to provide as much support as possible to as many people as possible was a lesson he learned from Con Sciacca. Although his approach was respectful, it was also practical: if someone disagrees with you write a letter to thank them for raising the issue and, if necessary, politely agree to disagree.

Duncan wanted to go further in working for people by entering representative politics. He first ran in the 2012 election, then was elected as the member for Stretton as part of the class of 2015—a wonderful night we will not ever forget. That is when he became part of our family too, admired and respected by his peers in government and by members on all sides as they came to know him. From day one as an MP Duncan focused on the dignity and value of education and employment, on the importance of community and multiculturalism, pointing out, as did the new member for Stretton this week, that the electorate has more people born overseas than anywhere else in the state.

At Duncan's memorial service Kevin Rudd and Jim Chalmers spoke eloquently about his outstanding traits as a local MP. In Kevin's opinion, Duncan would have been qualified to write a book with the title 'How to be a good local member' because he said Duncan was a masterclass in that. He said that among the many, many members of parliament he has met, Duncan was the standout because he was the genuine article, he was the real deal, he would always spontaneously go the extra mile because he knew in his heart of hearts that it was the right thing to do. I am sure we all agree.


My own perspective was that Duncan fundamentally grasped the value and importance of relationships—in politics, in the workplace and in life; that who we are and what we do is ultimately about how we relate to people and how we help them in their other relationships. The careers Duncan chose—law and politics—were to improve the way people dealt with each other, and in that way to improve their lives, whether it was in better, fairer and safer jobs and workplaces or better local communities. As Premier I am proud that Duncan was a member of our government—elected three times. I am proud because of what he said and because of what he did.

There is no better authority than Duncan himself to reflect on his achievements as an MP. If he was proud of certain things those things must have been very worthwhile. He said he was extremely proud of the tens of millions of dollars in extra funding for Stretton schools during his time. He helped deliver better access to the Gateway and Logan motorways and upgrades to Beaudesert and Wembley roads and he helped secure the release of Kuraby man, Hazem Hamouda, from prison in Egypt. Statewide, he said he was proud of the delivery of more hospitals, more frontline workers, more jobs, protecting the environment, improving workers compensation and supporting our multicultural communities.

Duncan's parliamentary input was also broad and productive. He thrived in the debating arena where his wit—and his funny bone—were put to excellent use. During his time in this place he also invested his keen legal mind and understanding in the service of this House and this state as deputy chair of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee, chair of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee and chair of the State Development, Tourism, Innovation and Manufacturing Committee. The committee system is a key plank in our democratic process and Duncan's intelligent leadership of various committees was one of his most valuable contributions.

Duncan Pegg passed away on 10 June this year, less than two months after he farewelled the House. His valedictory was one of the bravest, most articulate, strong-hearted and moving speeches ever delivered in this House. In fact, Mr Speaker, I was just sitting at my desk and looking at the chair that he sat in before he came into the House and gave that speech. I wish he was still here with us. No-one knows perfectly how to confront the prospect that Duncan was presented with. He approached it with grace and with love. As we heard at his service, he dealt with what came next with dignity and practical faith. I know his family will miss him, his friends will miss him, his colleagues here deeply, deeply miss him. We are all missing Duncan in our own ways, but our lives were all enriched by his presence. In the final analysis, that is the true measure of anyone's worth in public and private life.

Finally, let me reiterate my deepest sympathy and condolences to those who are with us today: Duncan's mum and dad, Lindsey and Graham, his brothers, Graham and Cameron, Aunt Catherine, cousin Mande and his friend Reena, and to his brothers Lachlan and Grant who cannot be here. On behalf of our government and the people of this state, please accept our grateful thanks for bringing Duncan into our lives.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (3.15 pm): It is with a profound sense of regret that I rise to participate in this debate honouring the life and service of our colleague, Duncan Pegg. Despite evidence to the contrary, we all think we are invincible. We think that the trials and tribulations that face others will not come our way. We think that every word we say in this place and our role as parliamentarians are the most important things we will do. How wrong we are.

Since Duncan announced his decision to leave this House in April I have spent some time thinking about what his contribution has meant. Members will not be surprised to know that Duncan and I did not share philosophical views. For some time I would sit in this place listening to his contributions and question whether I would ever have enough in common to fill even the briefest of conversations with him. That all changed one summer afternoon in 2019 at the Gabba. By good fortune the member for Gympie and I were seated beside Duncan and federal MP Jim Chalmers. As the beers flowed the conversation grew more relaxed. His knowledge of the game and its history was remarkable. On that hot summer afternoon we found common ground through our national sport. In the years ahead, whenever we spoke our remarks invariably turned to cricket. We never discussed politics, family, or even other sports. I did not even know about his misguided allegiance to the Parramatta Eels until the day I attended his service to see the sea of blue and gold jerseys on display.

In assessing Duncan's contribution as a member of parliament, political loyalty and community come to mind. Duncan was wedded to his community and he demonstrated that through his attendance at events throughout Stretton. As recently as last night, the member for Oodgeroo and I were at an event where an attendee spoke glowingly about Duncan's genuine interest in the community. One of Duncan's proudest boasts—aside from the fact his friendship circle involved a former Kangaroo and a test cricketer in Renouf and Khawaja—was that Stretton had the highest proportion of people born overseas. He was proud of that. His promotion of a multicultural Australia was genuine and he lived that experience every day in this House.

The genuine expression of regret and loss from so many community groups that followed his death speaks volumes about the regard in which he was held. The response reflects the high regard in which Duncan was held and the affection from his constituents. I am mindful of some comments made


by the federal member for Rankin in a contribution in the federal House where he told the story that on the morning Duncan was diagnosed with that terminal illness he fronted up in the afternoon for constituent meetings. He did not cancel one meeting. That is testament to his genuine engagement in his community.

Duncan also held a passionate belief in the power of education to improve people's lives. As a university graduate he knew the great importance of education and appreciated the life-changing benefits education can bring. There is another feature of his life that even I must recognise today and that is his devotion to the Australian Labor Party and its ideals. While our political views diverged, I respected the depth and the strength of his commitment to his cause. He contested Stretton in 2012 and it would have been a dispiriting experience. Yet he persevered and in 2015 his hard work was rewarded.

Duncan's appreciation and love for his family was absolute. He spoke of them in his first speech in this place and they were always upmost in his mind. In his final speech his genuine appreciation for what they did for him during his illness was moving.

On the day of his service, Duncan's father, Graham, came out of his way to thank me on behalf of all of the parliament, but particularly the former opposition leader and member for Nanango, for the support provided to Duncan during his absence from this place. I say to all of the Pegg family: to see the bravery with which he fought his illness is a credit to the son you raised. Regrettably, the brave innings of Duncan Pegg has come to an end. I extend my condolences and of those of my parliamentary team to his parents, Graham and Lindsey, and all his family, to all of those on the government benches and to all of us who held him in such high regard.

On the inside page of his memorial booklet there is a photo of a young Duncan Pegg holding a cricket oval cake. On his shirt there is a caricature of a batsman looking nervously at his wife. The writing says, 'Is there anything you need to tell me before cricket season begins?' Well, Peggy, here goes. The people of Stretton still speak fondly of you. Your family miss you dearly. The first test is again at the Gabba and Perrett, Chalmers and I promise to raise a XXXX in your honour. Vale, Duncan Pegg.

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (3.20 pm): I rise to pay tribute to a great man, a great Labor member of parliament and a great mate, Duncan Pegg, the former member for Stretton. I was proud to count Duncan as one of my closest friends. He was an amazing person, supremely intelligent, successful, sharp, loyal to his mates but also a true egalitarian evidenced by the fact that he made friends with almost everyone he encountered and Duncan certainly had a lot of friends.

I first met Duncan at Griffith University over 20 years ago when I signed up to the Labor Club. Pretty soon after we met it was clear to me that he was an incredibly talented individual. He had drive and focus and seemingly no fear. He was a brilliant strategist with an uncanny insight to instantly assess a situation. Once he put his mind to something, his resilience was legendary. He took on all comers and kept on winning. He wanted to help people and give them a fair go, particularly those from poorer backgrounds. That resilience would be a feature of his life; a quality that he would deploy on behalf of those he represented as a lawyer, union official and member of parliament.

Looking back I think his stand-out ability was to inspire those around him, to assemble a team of people passionate about the Labor cause and to work together to win and remain loyal to each other. I think it was clear to a lot of us back in those days that Duncan would end up in politics. None of us thought his journey would come to an end the way it did. I think he had much more to give.

After graduating, Duncan worked for Sciacas Lawyers and then joined the National Union of Workers. In both cases he actively helped working people and achieved some fantastic outcomes. There he also met two of his biggest mentors: the late great the Hon. Con Sciacca, from whom he picked up his love of Cuban cigars, and Greg Moran from the National Union of Workers who had a similar political mind.

In 2011, a 30-year-old Duncan decided to enter politics. While he, like many other hardworking Labor candidates, was not successful in 2012, he ran again in 2015 and was elected as the member for Stretton, successfully defending the seat in 2017 and 2020. On each of those occasions Duncan achieved swings towards him. That is a testament to his ability both to forge real and genuine friendships across all sections of the community and to deliver real policy outcomes for Stretton.

Duncan was fearless in coming forward when his community was under attack. When anti-mosque leaflets were delivered in our local area and 'no mosque' signs were put up on Warrigal Road, Duncan spoke out in this place in support of the rightful and equal place Muslim people have in our

community. Those signs were taken down. When the Brisbane City Council shut Illaweena Street without notice, Duncan leapt into action and unleashed the Stretton mums on the Lord Mayor and the local councillor. Illaweena Street was opened.

When his own love of strawberry milk came under attack by his political opponents, Duncan took direct action and proudly and publicly stood up in defence of his favourite beverage. Further, he was not afraid to make the tough calls when it came to sweet treats, publicly calling out the white chocolate Tim Tam for what it was: the worst Tim Tam ever! Duncan had a great sense of humour and did not take himself too seriously. He loved being the member for Stretton. He loved the community there and the community loved him back.

Duncan first announced his diagnosis in this House in November 2019. That revelation changed the personal worlds of so many of us sitting here and so many people beyond this chamber. Cancer is cruel and unfair. Duncan originally went to the doctor for a check-up for a sore shoulder. He had no symptoms of bowel cancer. He was 39 years old and in the prime of his life. It was a shocking moment for Duncan and for all those who knew him.

Throughout his treatment, Duncan chose to carry on with life on his terms. He continued to fight for his community even while fighting cancer. The resilience that I first saw in Duncan years before was on full display over the past 18 months of his life. Throughout his treatment he continued his duties in his electorate, attending events and functions, and meeting with residents. Up until two weeks before he passed away he was still booking in meetings.


Duncan was supported by an amazing family: his mother, Lindsey, his dad, Graham, and his brothers, Grant, Graham Jr, Cameron and Lachlan. The Pegg family rallied around their son and brother. To them I say: I hope you know what an incredible legacy Duncan has left in this place, in the community and on the many friends he made along the way.

Since Duncan passed a number of local sports clubs have named awards in his honour: the Duncan Pegg Best Batsman Award from the Brisbane Super Kings—he would have liked that one—and the yearly Club Spirit Award from Donald Swimming, to name just two. More are on the way and I will be sure to keep this House advised.

To the Pegg family, I know you are still grieving and I hope you know that we are all here for you. You will always be part of the Stretton family.

Duncan was a lot of fun. He was a storyteller. He could tell those stories for hours and I am sure many people in this House have listened to them. Above all, Duncan had a genuine affection for people and loved his life. It is an easy thing to say, but subject to the constraints we all have—time, money and health—he really did live his life to the full. I do not think he could have packed any more into his schedule, met many more people or helped others more than he did. He attacked life with charisma and flair, and not a day was wasted even in the last weeks of his life.

Duncan's last piece of advice to me was that I would have to run my own race. I will, mate, but you will always be part of my story and the story of so many others you helped along the way. Duncan, you left big shoes to fill and I will work as hard as I can every day to carry on your legacy. We miss you, mate.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumbidgee—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) (3.27 pm): A lot has been said about Duncan; it is hard to know what to add. This extended condolence motion is testament to the number of members who want to share their memories of him and also of how rare and sad it is to lose a sitting member of this parliament, especially one so young. I acknowledge Duncan's family in the gallery today. I knew Duncan as a true believer, a trade unionist, a sports tragic and a supporter of multicultural communities across Queensland. He was kind, funny and worked hard every day to serve the people of Stretton. In his final weeks he was awarded the prestigious life membership of the Australian Labor Party.

Duncan and I became friends when we were both at uni more than 20 years ago. He was at Griffith where he presided over a student politics empire that probably still endures. I was at UQ and a lot less successful. We were in Young Labor together, along with many other members of our caucus. We had some very eventful times in politics and occasionally while enjoying a drink or two at the Griffith SRC bar or salubrious venues like the Criterion and Alice's Rock Cafe.

I quickly learned that Duncan was a naturally great campaigner. He was brilliant at strategy. He knew how to identify issues and build coalitions. He knew how to win. Those are skills that I saw throughout his life: in student politics, in his legal practice, in his trade union work, in his community and in this parliament. He commented recently, 'Who would have thought all those years ago, drinking spirits at Alice's, we would one day both serve in the Queensland parliament together?'

I was forever indebted to Duncan for the support he gave my father-in-law, Ross. Ross had a very distressing workplace law matter. My wife, Kim, was very upset too. I called Con Sciacca and said that I needed his best employment lawyer and Con put Duncan on the case. Duncan not only won a settlement but also gave Ross great support and comfort.

I feel very fortunate to serve here with a whole bunch of people I have known most of my adult life, including Duncan. It meant we could catch up together more often, although I admit his encyclopedic sport knowledge was intimidating. Duncan was a much loved member of the NUW family, which carried through to my own union when the two merged to form the United Workers Union.

Duncan loved the Stretton community and they loved him representing them here. He especially loved to speak in here. I know there is a highlight reel floating around. He seemed to enjoy being provocative, not low-key like me! His last speech was the most powerful I have been present for, which is amazing given how unwell he was by then. He did not waste the platform he had then, with all of us listening intently, to keep campaigning. His words about voluntary assisted dying still ring in my ears. I have quoted them in every speech I have made on that topic since.

This year we commemorate the passing of another former member of this parliament, another trade unionist, campaigner and renowned orator. One hundred years ago, Thomas Joseph Ryan passed away. Many years ago I memorised the quote on the statue to Ryan in Brisbane's Queens Park and I think they are fitting words as we remember Duncan. The plaque says—

The life that ceased in mid-career

The light of other men shall be

With purpose high and conscience clear

Who seek to serve the state as he.

Vale, Duncan Pegg.



Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (3.31 pm): Mark Twain wrote—

Let us so live that when we come to die even the undertaker will be sorry.

Duncan Pegg, our colleague, friend and tireless community advocate, lived such a life. For those of us who had the privilege of attending, the love and admiration of the hundreds of mourners at his funeral made this abundantly clear. Friends and family, representatives of sporting organisations, leaders of our vibrant Brisbane south side and Logan multicultural communities, the Premier, cabinet ministers, federal and state MPs, councillors, former prime minister Kevin Rudd, the extended Labor Party family and even friends from across the aisle—Duncan was greatly loved by so many.

I had the honour of knowing Duncan Pegg for more than 20 years. I watched him grow from his student politics days to the advocacy roles he took up fighting for workers as an industrial and compensation lawyer and as a union official and then as the representative of the community he loved. Duncan was a fighter for what was right and he was a fighter for his community. We heard this time and time again in the many tributes that flowed following his resignation from this place, from standing up against racism in his multicultural community to fighting to deliver the funding for projects the people of Stretton needed.

Even as his illness took hold, Duncan continued to fight to deliver for his community, and his community responded. Despite battling so hard against what became an unbeatable foe, the response of that community and their support for Duncan was demonstrated so clearly in the 2020 state election, when Duncan achieved almost two-thirds of the two-party-preferred vote.

Duncan was the much adored older brother to Graham, Cameron, Grant and Lachlan and the cherished son of Graham and Lindsey—a family who showed to all of us extraordinary strength and an extraordinary bond as they came together to support Duncan and each other during his illness. While their loss is felt by so many, may they be comforted by the knowledge that Duncan lived a life full of purpose, a life that sought to improve the lives of others—a friend to all, a wonderful community champion and a great servant to the mighty Australian Labor Party. Vale, our friend and colleague Duncan Pegg.



Hon. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (3.34 pm): On 10 June 2021, sadly we lost our colleague and dear friend Duncan Pegg. Duncan will always be remembered as a passionate advocate for his local community, as a hardworking local member with strong Labor values and as a proud unionist. I am sure we will hear

these words time and time again this afternoon. Not only did Duncan know these values; he also lived them. To say I loved him is no understatement. It is very dear to my heart that I was able to tell him so before he passed away.

He was a proud product of state schooling and believed in the transformational power of good education. He knew there was no better investment a government could make than an investment in our young people. Duncan fought hard for his local schools and it bonded us very closely. He never missed an opportunity to sidle up and advocate very strongly for more and more additional education funding. Can I say, many in this House do that from time to time.

From the time he was elected in 2015, Duncan oversaw an investment of more than \$80 million in Stretton schools. This included an investment of \$40 million at Stretton State College alone, and I will always remember how proud he was when we walked through the school last year for the opening of their performing arts complex. The staff and students at the school loved him. After his passing, the principal of Stretton State College, Jan Maresca, paid tribute to Duncan. She praised his relentless support and advocacy, particularly his support for their instrumental music program. Duncan's memory and legacy will forever live on at Stretton State College, with the school naming their performing arts complex the Duncan Pegg Performing Arts Centre after unanimous support from the entire school community. Duncan had this relationship with so many of the people in his community and he only gave up serving them when he knew he could no longer give them his best.


When I was minister for multicultural affairs, I remember that at almost every event I attended with him people would come up to us and share their appreciation for all that he did. Duncan represented one of the most culturally diverse electorates in Queensland and was one of our strongest advocates for multiculturalism. I remember that he was determined to host the first multicultural event that I attended as multicultural minister in his electorate, and he achieved it.

To the Pegg family I offer my sincere condolences. To mum and dad, Lindsey and Graham, to brothers Grant, Cameron, Lachlan and Graham, I know how much he loved you all.

Minister Linard and I visited Duncan on the Saturday before his death and we covered many topics, from politics to music, and we both learned that his favourite karaoke song was Pat Benatar's *Hit Me With Your Best Shot*, which we all sang at the function on the Saturday night. I think we sent him the video, but I do not know whether he appreciated it all that much. I don't know that we did a very good rendition!

Duncan was a great and loyal friend. He worked on my first campaign. He was incredibly honest, with the most beautiful quick wit and a wicked sense of humour. I loved sharing a joke with Duncan. Although softly spoken, he certainly knew how to stir up those opposites and I loved watching him do it. I will miss his excellent contributions in this House.

We are all worse off due to the loss of Duncan Pegg. He will be sorely missed and was taken far too young. Rest in peace. Vale, my good friend and colleague Duncan Pegg.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (3.38 pm): It was with great sadness that on 10 June this year this House lost Duncan Pegg, member for Stretton. Duncan Pegg was in the prime of his life. Sadly, he lost his battle while serving right here in this House—a privilege that is afforded to so few of us. Everyone in this House is fortunate to have known him in varying degrees. He was, as has been said, a very passionate advocate for his community.

I want to tell a couple of stories about Duncan. I first heard about Duncan's uni days when I was at an event in Kingaroy. A former uni friend of Duncan's tried to tell me that he only joined the Labor uni club because he was stacking a faction; otherwise he would have joined our side of politics. I said, 'Seriously'—

Honourable members: Ha, ha!


Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Exactly! That was exactly my reaction as well. As I said to this friend of Duncan's, 'You haven't seen that bloke attack me in the House. Trust me, I know he was never going to join our side.' He seriously was a true Labor man.

As Minister Grace just talked about—I think she must have taught him—Duncan loved speaking in this House, we know that and it has been said, but I think he spoke on nearly every motion moved in this House, especially the ones that we proposed and especially if they had something to do with finance. Hence, that is why we very fondly called him the brains trust. We were always saying that he should be stepping into the shoes of Minister Dick, the now Treasurer, and saying we have the brains trust up here. It is terrible to say, but as provocative as he may have been, I think I may have been a little bit in return. I have fond memories of debating him during those motions.

I know that many in this chamber will talk about Duncan's contribution in this House because he did know his facts and he did argue very well. We both knew how to give it back to each other. It was fascinating that one day we ran into a bunch of schoolkids who had probably just seen us debating in the House, which is not a good thing, and I was able to say to the schoolkids that that is exactly what politics is about. It might be robust in the House but once you are off the field you are friends. That is what Duncan and I were.

Cancer is a terrible, insidious disease. There are many families that have been touched by it. We know that Duncan used not just his final speech but his final days to highlight the need for awareness and research, so I say to this House, 'Please give blood and get tested.'

Duncan, you served your community and you served it very well. You did your constituents proud. My deepest condolences to his family, Lindsey and Graham, whom I have had the pleasure of meeting. Duncan, they say only the good die young. May you rest in peace.

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (3.41 pm): I start by extending my condolences to Graham, Lindsey, Cameron, Grant, Graham Jr, Lachlan and their friends and family. I table Duncan's tributes and memories for the record of the House.

Tabled paper: Publication by various authors 'Duncan Pegg 27.06.1980—10.06.2021: Tributes and memories' [\[1339\]](#).

Undoubtedly, this will be the hardest speech I will have to give in this place and one I thought I would never have to give. You never expect to be speaking to a condolence motion for a mate who entered parliament at the same time as you. I did not get to meet Duncan until we both entered this place in 2015. I knew of Duncan's legend through our Young Labor days and I actually held a little animosity and jealousy towards Duncan. Duncan was on the opposite side of the party. I was always jealous of the fact that this little smart alec from the right kept on winning every single ballot he contested.

However, there were two decisions when we both entered parliament that allowed that animosity to quickly disappear and a great friendship to emerge. The member for Pine Rivers calls it a bromance. The first was the Premier's and caucus's decision to elect Duncan as caucus secretary and me as president of the first Palaszczuk government caucus. The second, and what I feel was more consequential, was the member for Springwood, the then whip, putting us on the same roster—a decision I think the member for Springwood would regret. This move allowed Duncan, me and the member for Ferny Grove to form the square bear club—an important think tank that would regularly meet on our hour off roster to discuss important parliamentary strategy. Despite coming from opposite sides of the Labor divide, it was at these important club meetings that Duncan and I would find out how many things we had in common—our passion for nearly every sport, particularly cricket, Rugby League and boxing; our backgrounds in trade union law; a deep affinity for the late great Con Sciacca; and we both had younger brothers named Lachlan.


We were also fortunate with our legal backgrounds to be put on committees together, particularly the legal affairs committee and the PCCC. I got to see firsthand how sharp Duncan's legal and political mind was. I remember particularly when he was chair of the legal affairs committee his ability to make the opposition think they were getting a concession without receiving any material gain.

It was his brilliant mind which led to our many phone calls for advice and to discuss strategy over the years. There is not a day that goes by that I do not wish I could pick up the phone and have a chat to him. I particularly liked our daily phone calls during election campaigns where we would swap notes and he would tell me what new psychological tactic he would inflict on his LNP opponents. I felt absolutely sorry for them.

Our friendship was not solely based around politics, but also our healthy love of sporting events. I was so glad to be able to join Duncan for his last visit to the Gabba to watch his beloved Bulls take on Western Australia on their way to the shield final. It was a great Sunday afternoon behind the bowler's arm at the Vulture Street end watching the Bulls batters take apart the Western Australian bowlers. Duncan and I tried desperately to get to the shield final, but, unfortunately, it was not to be. I was appreciative to be able to spend time with him at Greenslopes hospital to watch his mate Ozzie and the Bulls take out the shield.

It was definitely fitting to have Duncan's funeral at the Gabba. It was an absolute honour that Duncan asked me to be one of his pallbearers. He did forget to mention that he selected the heaviest casket known to man. I know it was not him weighing it down. Lachlan and the new member for Stretton can attest that a quarter of the oval was the longest walk we have ever experienced. I think I stopped sweating just in time to, at the end of the funeral, start the journey up the stairs. My bicep was killing.

Duncan was one of a kind and one of the best mates. I would again like to thank and pass on my condolence to Lindsey, Graham, Cameron, Grant, Graham Jr and Lachlan and all Duncan's family and friends for producing such a special person. I will miss him every single day.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (3.47 pm): I stand to offer my condolences to Lindsey and Graham, to the family of Duncan Pegg and to those who loved him, worked with him and were moved by his place and existence on earth. We come here to offer condolence. I do not often think about what that means. I looked up the root of the word—'con' means 'with' and 'dolance' comes from the root of 'doleful' and 'dour'. It is Latin and comes from the period of grief where a loved one was lost and the loss could be shared and reduced. I know that on this level there is much love and loss, but it pales compared to the loss you face as a family. We are with you though in condolence for all that we can offer.

Of all those on this level, I was the first to meet Duncan. I met him in the very first week he came down from Rocky to Griffith University. He was so young, so little and unsure in my mind and memory, yet I quickly saw he was knowledgeable, quickwitted and even then could stand his ground. I have a distinct memory in that first week of him telling off a misguided leftist who was trying to recruit him in the undercroft. He was telling them that he knew Trotsky was just as bad as all the rest of them.

He told so many the story that I was the person who got him to sign up to the Labor Party. He also told many stories about my behaviour at that time. From near that first day I met him to the very last, he lived his life in Labor politics. He embraced it, loved it and it was part of his many dimensioned identity and being. He was passionate about social justice and treating people fairly, especially if they came from a different background, and fairness for workers. He knew that to be socially just, results did not arrive just because you wanted them or posted about them on the internet; you had to organise. He became a lawyer and worked with my future wife at Sciaccas Lawyers and then as a union organiser. He was someone who certainly did not run with the pack and took his own path. Today I honour that quirky spirit and I wear this sky-blue tie to note his simply inexplicable support for the Blues in the State of Origin.

Duncan's mum told me a story that I think sums up a little bit about him. He organised a kind of sweep with his brothers on State of Origin night, picking for himself all of the New South Wales stars and giving his younger brothers all of the Queensland players who were unlikely to get off the bench. I think the story says a lot about how he cut against the grain at times but he also knew that if you wanted to get outcomes, whether over his brothers or in his political life, you needed to organise how the cards were going to be dealt.

Outside the place or in the little gathering up there they diminish and disparage a life lived in political service, yet for me Duncan's life was dedicated to Labor and our goals. There is something deeply honourable in our service to our party, to be part of a life devoted to the uplifting of Australian life through a political institution that has been the catalyst for so much good in Australian life. Duncan lived that life and it was a life worth living.


I cannot help but reflect, with dolefulness, on the 40 years of continued life we will miss. After we got the news, we gathered at Duncan's office. I spoke with James and in a moment of philosophical indulgence asked him: given the millions of years of existence in geological time, does a life lived so richly matter if it was 40 years or 80 years? James, wise beyond his years, silently looked at me giving me time, and I answered my own question: it means everything. The brief candle of expression we have here is in and of itself everything we can know.

Usually we do not get to see and hear others reflect on public life, but I was lucky to be with Duncan as we did get a chance to do that. At one event the public eulogised him as a saint; at another upstairs with drinks here his mates teased him with embarrassing stories. They were both essential parts of him. I looked around his many friends and noted how different they were, how diverse they were and how many different walks of life they came from. He reached out to many people in different worlds and in different ways.

Now there is something I have to do that is not normal to do in a condolence motion. He would always say that I needed to attack the LNP whenever I got the chance. I know the member for Scenic Rim is next and I have a 20-minute speech here giving him a character analysis! Sorry, mate, I let you down. I have let you down a little bit of late, and it hurts.

I want to take a moment to thank the then deputy prime minister Michael McCormack. I note that the speech in federal parliament was not unusual and it was a brave man that, as dark clouds were gathering around his political career, he took the time to listen to Jim Chalmers and to say, 'Here is something worthwhile that we can share about the life of someone who matters so much.'

I keep thinking I will look around and see him. He would always save for me some piece of analysis of someone on that side, or even someone on our own side! I keep thinking that in the next campaign when I have a difficult problem I will ring him up and ask him. I know that he left instructions for so many people. I kept wondering why he never left me instructions to help James, the new member for Stretton. He never did. I think the answer was simple: he knew me well enough to know that I would always do that. I will miss his advice. I will miss his presence. I will miss the fact that he always had a different way of looking at life and always looked for a contribution to make Australians more socially fair and just.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (3.53 pm): Today we mark the passing of one of our own in this parliament. I would like to express my deepest condolences to Graham and Lindsey and to all the family of Duncan Pegg, who was taken from this world at far too young an age. Losing a son, a brother or a friend at such a young age is always hard to deal with. I hope and pray that you find some small measure of comfort from the words that are spoken here today.

It is often said, especially by those who have been around parliament for a while, that in the end you will end up with more friends on the other side of politics than you will on your own side. Time will tell for me, but what I will say today in remembering Duncan is that he was a great parliamentary colleague as we both went about our role serving Queenslanders.

Since 2017, Duncan and I served on the legal affairs and community safety committee, the innovation and tourism—later the state development and tourism—committee and the PCCC. During much of that time he was the chair and I was the deputy chair. Duncan was a very cooperative committee chair and, in my view, did a good job of giving a fair hearing to witnesses and non-government MPs. As members know, there is a level of cooperation required between chairs and deputy chairs. Duncan did not always agree to everything that I asked for. For some reason he did not ever want to agree to my motions demanding that the government produce certain documents to the committee—but, all in all, you got a fair crack at doing your job. He was a great example of a parliamentarian in that regard.

During this time on committees we inquired into some very interesting matters which took us all over Queensland. In 2017, we had to review the liquor licensing bill that proposed to reduce fees for rural pubs. That inquiry took us to Cunnamulla, Charleville, Blackall, Longreach and Hughenden and then a few other places. It was a very intense inquiry and, as I recall, we were accompanied by the members for Capalaba, Pine Rivers and Coomera. It required, of course, visits to a number of licensed premises to hear feedback from publicans and locals. We held a number of roundtable meetings and we put together a report that recommended that the bill be passed. We must have missed something, because when the bill lapsed in 2017 the next committee did the inquiry, including the pub trips, again!

Another inquiry I recall was in relation to crocodiles. This involved again some more travel to Far North Queensland, with visits to crocodile farms and several meetings and hearings with locals in those parts. Again, Duncan, despite this issue being one that could cause a bit of grief for the government, managed to handle things well, giving good opportunity for all points of view to be put across.

It was either on this inquiry or perhaps one relating to blue cards in Indigenous communities that committee members found that Duncan did not really enjoy flying in small planes, as is required at times to get to various parts of the state. On one occasion we encountered quite a bit of turbulence. I can recall looking around to the back of the aircraft to see Duncan looking pretty green indeed. That did not seem to dampen his enthusiasm for that type of travel and committee work in regional Queensland as a whole.

Duncan Pegg was born in 1980, not long before me, and so it happened that the first time I met Duncan was during our time at university. In 2002, when Duncan was at Griffith University, I was at UQ. As I recall, we were both elected as delegates to the National Union of Students. It is the only time I have ever been elected as a union delegate! We were delegates for different groupings, of course—Duncan for a Labor Right group and myself for the Liberals. At that time there was not a lot of love lost between Duncan's Labor Right grouping and the Labor Left—NOLS I think they were called. I think the member for Stafford might have been involved in some of that as well.

Duncan and his mates in the Labor Right were a small grouping in comparison to the Left and the Libs, but it was eventually discovered that, if Labor Right and the Liberals teamed up, they could keep the Left away from control of the NUS in Queensland. That is when I first met Duncan Pegg—in 2002 at NUSQ. In the last exchange of text messages I had with Duncan before his passing, he reflected

on this time. Of course, despite the fact that the numbers were about 70 per cent Liberals and 30 per cent Labor Right, Duncan drove the deal so that he became the president of NUSQ from that minority position—which is a great political achievement from such a position.

After university, Duncan worked as a lawyer for several years before putting himself forward for preselection to be elected to this place. When he was elected in 2015, it was good to be able to make his acquaintance again and to reflect on times past, although there were no more coalitions.

Duncan was the same age as me when he passed away. His passing should cause us all to take stock of what we are doing and what we hold dear and to endeavour to use each day to the maximum. In that last text message exchange, he reflected on our many interactions in committees and in parliament and how he had enjoyed them and our friendship.

In closing, I again extend my deepest condolences to all of Duncan's family and friends and colleagues. As I said online at the time, Duncan was a good bloke. He is a credit to his family and they should be proud of his time in this parliament. May Duncan Pegg rest in peace.



Hon. ML FURNER (Ferry Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (3.58 pm): I wish to firstly acknowledge and pass on my condolences to Duncan Pegg's family—to both Lindsey and Graham and his brothers—and friends in the public gallery this afternoon. Duncan joined the great Labor Party at the young age of 17. He initially joined as a voice against the rise of Hansonism. With the richest multicultural society and community in the seat of Stretton, Duncan no doubt was the right man for that job.

During my time as an official—in fact, during my time as the secretary of the National Union of Workers in the early 2000s—we needed a strong representative for our members' legal affairs. Knowing our members were well served by Duncan while he was an associate at Sciaccas Lawyers put my mind at ease and also that of our members. Without fear or favour he represented our members in WorkCover claims, common law claims, compulsory third-party claims and statutory claims.

When it came to sport, Duncan just could not get enough. He was a tragic. He was the co-chair of the Parliamentary Friends of Tennis and Cricket. I remember quite well the evening of 1 June 2016—incidentally, the first State of Origin game of that year—while at Sun Moon Lake on a Taiwanese study tour we found ourselves in one of our rooms doing our best to watch the game. As a sports tragic, Duncan was not about to miss it. Somehow he managed to stream the match, and I think the current member for Stretton had something to do with that, so I thank him for that. While the game was being interrupted about every 10 to 20 seconds—you would see it on the 20-metre mark and then later on in the game somewhere they were scoring down the end—the disappointment on Duncan's face became apparent at the conclusion of the game when the Queensland juggernaut rolled on to defeat the Blues 6-4.


There were memorable events on that study trip to Taiwan and I wish to share one of them. Duncan, like me, was a loveable larrikin but had a greater ability to converse in Mandarin. On a trip out one night we enjoyed a meal and we were catching a taxi home. The joke was on the member for Toohey and me. Duncan was seated in the front with the driver providing directions back to our accommodation; Peter and I were in the back. Duncan was engaged in Mandarin taking the mickey out of Peter and me. Apparently the conversation was about what we did and where we were from. After I noticed the driver looking in the rear-vision mirror roaring with laughter my curiosity got the better of me. I asked Duncan, 'What's this all about?' Duncan replied, 'Oh, nothing. I'm just telling him you're a couple on a night out.' I think I can do better than that!

On Friday, 30 April 2021, Duncan announced that he could not continue as the MP for Stretton and a community thankyou and farewell was held at SunPAC, the Sunnybank Performing Arts and Cultural Centre. The venue caters for a maximum of 300 people, but the event was so quickly sold out—within hours—that many people were turned away. Many local, state and federal government members were in attendance, as were many senior multicultural leaders, school leaders, business and community leaders, members from all persuasions from all three levels of government, as well as former prime minister Kevin Rudd. While the event could have been quite a sombre occasion for those in attendance, Duncan's usual selfless manner kept the audience strong and relaxed for the entire evening. There were many tributes delivered on the evening, including by the member for Rankin, the Premier, many state MPs and cabinet members, as well as Kevin and myself.

Fortunately, on Tuesday, 8 June, the member for Logan and I were able to see Duncan when he was in palliative care. It was a sunny morning; I will never forget it. He had got his hands on an Eels scarf. Both Linus and I grabbed him and took him downstairs to get a bit of sunlight. It was great to be with him two days before his passing. I told him on that day that I loved him like a brother. He

reciprocated, saying the same. Despite the fact that he would not need any more brothers, it was great to have the opportunity to pass on my feelings to him that day. Duncan passed away around three o'clock on the morning of 10 June with his father, Graham, by his side. Given that New South Wales beat Queensland the night before I am sure that Duncan, being an avid supporter, passed away with some satisfaction over that result.

Duncan's life was celebrated at his funeral on Saturday, 26 June, at one of his favourite sporting grounds, the Gabba. Once again there were many family, friends and members of the community in attendance who were clearly there to show their love and support for this amazing man whom we lost from this world too young. His legacy for the community of Stretton and the Queensland parliament will be remembered in posterity for years to come. On Thursday, 10 June this year, we lost a warrior from the Labor movement. Don, we also lost a member of the square bear club, but there is time for more recruitment in that regard. Vale Duncan Pegg.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (4.04 pm): In many ways I feel this is the most important speech I will give in this place. When Duncan shared with me his regrettable fate he asked me to make this speech. After he got my agreement he made me promise it would be humorous. I must have displayed some kind of trepidation but I was told, 'If you don't make it funny I'm coming back to haunt you. I'm not kidding: I will haunt you.' With this looming threat hanging over my head and with your forbearance that this may not be a traditional condolence speech, we begin.

Duncan had an ease about him. He was quick to make friends and long kept them. He would often amusingly recount that our friendship formed in some of his first days here in the Members Dining Room. You see, when provided with the buffet Duncan immediately dived in and returned with a dessert to start his meal. This was to my glee and instant admiration, and I told him delightedly that I thought we would make great friends. Duncan self-identified many of his endearing traits in an early adjournment speech in this place when he said—

People born in the Year of the Monkey are said to be witty, intelligent and have a magnetic personality. Having been born in the Year of the Monkey myself, I am not going to dispute that assessment.

After interjections from honourable members he continued in his trademark style—

I take all of those interjections, because it is also true that people born in the Year of the Monkey are considered to be very naughty due to personality traits such as mischievousness and curiosity. They are also considered to be masters of practical jokes.

I think that many honourable members can recall being on the receiving end of Duncan's practical jokes. As the Labor class of 2015 found its feet in this place, many of us conquered our fears and, with our newly found confidence, decided to adapt our speeches to our own personal styles. For many, this meant delivering our speech from an electronic device. Duncan seized on this opportunity straightaway. It was not uncommon for Duncan to observe a colleague delivering a speech from a device, turn to a friend immediately beside him with a cheeky grin and a 'watch this' before running, in many cases catastrophic, interference with the speaker's device.

One of his boldest tricks happened when the Queensland State of Origin team came to the Speaker's Green. Along with the NRL I had worked out a way to get our paraphernalia signed. Part of the setup, which I organised after much back and forth, was to have a line of tables so the players could move quickly from piece to piece signing them. It came to pass that a few of us friends were standing there chatting together when Duncan, very coolly and in plain sight, moved off with a marker pen in hand and proceeded to adorn all of the merchandise laid out on the table with his own autograph.

Some of my most cherished memories in this place come from an iteration of the legal affairs committee of the 55th Parliament that included Duncan, the member for Capalaba and myself. The universe was kind to us not only because we had the ability to work together on some important legislation but also, thanks largely to the Katter MPs, we had the opportunity to travel through remote and regional Queensland together and share some really special experiences. We placed our marriage equality vote together in Hope Vale. We had a beer with Duncan at Australia's most northern pub. We went on a mission to resurrect the Betoota pub. We joined together under the Tree of Knowledge. In Longreach we discovered that he barracked for the Blues in the State of Origin. He educated us on the benefits of being a Hilton Hotel member, shared with us his love of sport and travel, good food and drink. We shared ideas, assessments and stories—but, most of all, so many laughs.


When the member for Maryborough surprisingly decreed that he would henceforth only drink out of crystal glassware, we three formed our beloved champagne club. It was the antithesis of us, and I think that is why we loved it so much. The member for Capalaba came along to what I recall might be

the inaugural meeting, ordered a glass of red wine and was promptly thrown out. Duncan delighted in blocking the admission of the member for Lytton, despite her lobbying to gain entry, until our last meeting, his farewell drinks, where he relented and she finally, gleefully, was admitted. He used to joke preceding her admission that she had formed a rival sav blanc club instead.

Duncan was ultimately a good human. He delighted in his family. He was an immensely proud older brother. He could often be heard boasting that he was a godfather many times over, but I have heard some of his dear friends joke that it was because Duncan was the only Catholic friend they had.

Duncan's faith was important to him, his humility undisputed. He was a warrior for his beloved community. As a local member, he quickly established a reputation for someone who would take up the fight and go the extra mile. You saw this many times: in his relentless campaign to reopen Illaweenah Street with the champagne mums of Stretton; in his fight to get Hazem Hamouda home; in his fierce advocacy for tolerance and community cohesion in the face of hatred and racism. For many, they will remember Duncan zipping around the electorate in his old Kevin07 ute. Perhaps it will be his legendary 24 hours in Stretton when he campaigned around the clock, leaving no minute wasted, preceding the 2017 election day.

Whether he was in this place, at the Gabba, in Central Queensland or in his beloved electorate, you always got the same relatable, witty, funny, intelligent and incredibly kind soul. He leaves behind a proud legacy and a Queensland that is better for having him in it. Rest gently, my friend, and please put your time to good use and haunt Pauline and the Tories instead.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (4.10 pm): I rise to pay tribute to Duncan Pegg MP, who was taken too early from us and who will remain in our memory as a man who lived life to the full, who never backed down from a challenge and who loved his community with sincerity and pride. The last time I was with Duncan was on 2 May at the Islamic College for the Community Iftar Dinner. His good friend Usman Khawaja, the Australian cricketer, was also at the dinner. This was one of many nights when Duncan was in his much loved community, delivering a speech with his wit and humour on full display. He thanked the community for their support, reminding them with a cheeky grin that his three tilts at the election had seen his support increase each time. Duncan embraced his multicultural community, and they returned their respect for his hard work at the ballot box and in their genuine affection for him, which was certainly on display at his funeral where hundreds came to celebrate his life and say goodbye.

Duncan and I had neighbouring electorates, with our offices on the same stretch of road. We campaigned together on each of his three wins. Each Saturday of the campaigns, I would be on the corner of Mains Road in front of Runcorn State School and Duncan's parents, Lindsey and Graham, and his brothers would be on the opposite side of the road at the Pinelands shopping centre doing street stalls and meeting people as they walked past.

He had a campaign energy rivalled only by a few. He also did not mind enlisting his trademark cheekiness, even with those on this side of the chamber, pushing and pulling to get a good-natured rise out of you. His sense of humour was with him until the end. Outside my office, there is an electronic billboard. For a couple of weeks before he had stopped his official duties, he ran an advertisement on that sign, literally right outside my office, with his photo, his big smile, and simply saying 'Farewell'. It is extraordinary how he met the challenge of campaigning last year in the same way he did every time he campaigned, even while he knew this campaign would be his last.


In 2016 Duncan, Mark Furner and I travelled to Taiwan with the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, and I still have many photos on my phone of that trip. Can I assure everyone there are none that would cause embarrassment. Every now and then a memory on my iPhone posts of our trip in Taiwan.

Duncan and I were always invited to the same events for the Chinese New Year, the Moon Festival and the Dragon Boat Festival, to name a few. At these events Duncan and I would often be sitting at the same table, and as the night wore on we would find ourselves sitting alone talking about the many goings-on that confronted each of us—those being, quite a few times, the campaigning, the politicking and the personalities we each had to deal with in our political lives. Also, it was about who caused us the most grief.

It would be of no surprise to anyone here to know that Duncan and I did not always agree, and we were not afraid to tell each other that as well. It was a relationship capable of sustaining enthusiastic debate, although I have to note that Duncan had often said to others that, because I was the same age as his dad, he did not need to listen to me.

Duncan and I were organising to go to China with a business delegation from our respective electorates in 2019, so we were speaking often to each other around the planning for this trip, the cities we may visit, our imminent departure and following the proper protocols. It is forever etched in my memory the phone call I received from Duncan to tell me that he would be unable to travel for our trip. He told me that his doctor had told him that it would not be in his best interests to travel to China and that he was to commence his treatment as soon as possible.

Farewell, Duncan. I know you are in a better place. My deepest condolences to his mum, Lindsey; his dad, Graham; and his brothers, Cameron, Grant, Graham Jr and Lachlan.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (4.15 pm): I rise to speak to the condolence motion and the shattering sadness that many in this place, both in the chamber and in the gallery, share at the passing of our good friend Duncan ‘Peggy’ Pegg. I was lucky to go to uni with Duncan and, indeed, with the current member for Stretton. I started at Griffith University a few years after them in 2003, so I am blessed to have almost 20 years of memories and milestones in that time. I thought about sharing some stories from our uni days which, as anyone who has ever met Duncan could imagine, are incredibly funny.

I could tell the story of how we used to play touch football together in our mixed touch team. The team was called ‘The True Believers’. Of course Duncan named us. None of us were any good, to be clear. We all played in the team because Duncan used to write these hilarious post-match reviews of our performance. We peaked one spring afternoon. We made the grand final and then we unexpectedly won this grand final against an all-male team of NRL wannabees who seemed to have no idea they were playing mixed grade touch. Duncan dubbed them ‘The Long Lost Minichiello Brothers’. They were gutted when they lost and they walked off the field five minutes before the grand final ended, but we took the win. A win was a win and we took it. These are really funny stories to me and they are treasured memories. They are the stories of things that Duncan did. Today I want to talk about who Duncan was.

Duncan’s relationships with his friends and family were without artifice. He engendered a strong loyalty in many here today, and I think that is in large part due to his beautiful family who were always there for him and each other in good times and in bad. I remember helping on his election campaign in 2012. I had a newborn at the time, Heath, and I remember speaking with his mum, Lindsey, on election night. She was so proud, even though the result did not go Duncan’s way that night. I know that he woke up the next day, he put it behind him and he got ready to go again.


Of course we know he ran again in 2015. Even though he was busy on his campaign, he was not too busy to provide advice to his mate Jess, encouraging me to put my hand up to run for preselection too. I remember many conversations but one afternoon he even came over to my house to screw together A-frames while we talked strategy, but he never sugar-coated anything. I remember clearly his advice when I said I was thinking about nominating for Mount Ommaney and that I would nominate if nobody else did. Pegg, ever the realist, replied firmly and clearly, ‘Jess, you have to know that no-one is going to stand aside and let you have something worth having. If you want it, you have to be willing to fight for it.’ It is advice that I have repeated to many young people over the years because it is exactly right.

Despite his blunt manner of delivering advice, he had such a way of making you feel worthy. He had this way of conveying a belief in you that made you believe that you were as good as he thought you were. When I lost in 2015, Duncan encouraged me to draw a line under it, just as he had in 2012: to take the learnings and focus on 2017. He had every confidence that the next time the outcome would be different and as a result so did I.

The last time that I saw Duncan was the day of the first State of Origin game this year. Despite being from regional Queensland, curiously, he had been a proud Blues supporter since childhood—something about sticking it to his brothers I recall him saying. As I said goodbye that day, waving on my way out the door, I said, ‘Mate, we are going to give you an absolute pasting tonight. You are going to cop an absolute flogging.’ He smiled at me with his cheeky Pegg grin and he said, ‘Don’t count your chickens before they are hatched, Pugh.’ Of course, we know how it worked out. That night the Pegg boys piled into his room to watch the game where the Blues marched to an historic victory. I want it on record that that is the only time in my entire life I will ever be happy to see the Blues win.

Duncan took the same mischievous spirit to everything that he did, from his service to his beloved Stretton community, to his parliamentary sparring, to his great love of his family and his friends. Shortly, after Duncan passed, I was talking to my son, Heath, who has known Duncan since he was an infant, about Duncan’s beautiful family, who are here with us in the gallery today. I was talking about how


strong their love and their support was for each other at this time and how even in their time of greatest sadness, they embraced Duncan's friends, family and colleagues and they made us all feel so welcome when we went to visit with him. Heath said to me with perfect clarity, 'Well, Mum, that makes absolute sense, because when you think about it, that's what pegs do. They stick together.' So to the Peggs I say: thank you. Thank you for sharing your precious son and brother with us and never once making us feel like we were intruding. Can I just say: Peggy, thank you.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (4.21 pm): I rise to speak on behalf of the three KAP members to the condolence motion for Duncan Pegg. First of all, I want to pass on our heartfelt wishes and condolences to Duncan's family and friends. I recently lost my father and I know the pain and the anguish that you must be going through, but this is an opportunity for us all to recount our experiences with Duncan and remember the person he was.

I first met Duncan at Parliament House shortly after he was elected in 2015. I was in the lift with Robbie Katter when Duncan stepped in. Because he looked so young, I asked him which MP he worked for? In a show of his quick wit and character, he set me straight. We had a laugh, which broke the ice for future dealings with Duncan.

Duncan served on many committees during his time which I understand he thoroughly enjoyed and made a heavy contribution to. It was during his time as chair of the agriculture and environment committee that I got to know Duncan more due to a number of what I called robust discussions about crocodiles and my safer waterways bill, which was before the committee. Some things we found out about Duncan were that he was always willing to give you time; he would listen to every argument and take it into consideration when he responded. Duncan was a man of conviction with very strong ethics and he was dedicated to any role that was offered to him. We have no doubt that he was popular in his electorate and well respected, even if you did not agree with his views. That is the thing about this place, we are often at each other's throats and have different opinions, but all of us have been moved by the passing of Duncan.

In closing, on behalf of the KAP, we admire Duncan's tenacity and fight. As you all know, he was still doing his job here in this House right up to the very end. He will be remembered as a man with qualities that many of us can only hope to ever aspire to.

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (4.23 pm): I would like to express my sincere condolences to Graham and Lindsey, Graham Jr, Grant, Cameron and Lachlan. I met Duncan on the very first day of parliament. As a newbie, I remember walking into this place in an out-of-body experience feeling quite overwhelmed with everything that was playing out before me. Just as I was about to take my seat, out jumped this very energetic, bubbly, so full-of-life person. He said, 'Hi. My name is Duncan Pegg. I'm the member for Stretton.' Little did I know I would walk into my very first committee meeting and there was Duncan. He said he felt like I was following him. Now I am not so sure because once again I have the member for Stretton sitting next to me. I am honoured to sit next to the new member for Stretton knowing not only how much Duncan wanted to see a Labor member represent the Stretton community but also how he wanted to leave Stretton in good hands with the now member for Stretton.


I fall into the category of having known Duncan for the least amount of time in this life, but I feel like I have known him for a lifetime. I will never know the true reason why we were seated in the same row in parliament or served on the same committee but, whatever the reason, it allowed me to gain a friend. I know now that that commitment and obligation as a friend comes with a great amount of responsibility as he made me promise—and I knew this was going to happen; the waterworks would flow—that I would get up today. It is my absolute honour and privilege to be able to pay tribute to my dear friend.

Duncan was the type of person who, if you needed him, would be there. The transition into this place for me was daunting. Even though he did not have to, Duncan took time to listen—to talk and to listen. He allowed me to open up to my fears and walked with me through my abilities to handle expectations and responsibilities and about just being a good member, one who takes time to listen and to understand. He became my sounding-board, but he never complained and always said that he wanted to see me succeed—and as our friendship grew he would always cheer me on. When I was too hard on myself, he would remind me of how far I had come.

Duncan loved politics and, sitting back and hearing all the feedback from everyone else today, I cannot say any more than that. Duncan did not have a bad bone in him. He loved his family and he loved his friends and he loved his beloved community of Stretton. I have to have a laugh because that was the end of my speech, but as I would say to Duncan every single time, 'I did the DP today.' I have no notes in front of me. He would say to me, 'Speak from the heart.'

Duncan was a genuine, genuine person. He was kind. He reached out to everyone. He loved Stretton; he loved the people. What I loved most about Duncan was his passion to fight injustices, and he did that in Stretton. People loved Duncan because Duncan took time to sit and Duncan took time to listen. It was not just a job for Duncan.

My friendship with Duncan was not just politics; we connected on a personal level. He loved everything about being in this place. When Duncan rang me to tell me that he was getting up in parliament to put in his resignation, I did not take it so well. After saying that that is what he was doing and there was no turning back and seeing how upset I was, he said, 'I was only kidding.' That was the type of person Duncan was; he did not want to see anyone hurt. He loved his mum; he loved his dad; he loved his brothers. He loved his friends—Don, Nikki, Clinton, James—and everyone in this House, everyone who had the pleasure of knowing him. I will miss him—I will miss his advice and I will miss his friendship, but I know he is in a better place.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (4.28 pm): Firstly, I want to offer my sincere condolences to Duncan's family. I had the great privilege of being the first government member to speak after Duncan's final magnificent speech in this parliament. I think I had the chance then to say many of the things that I wanted to say. I was only going to provide one anecdote tonight, but the speeches here have shaken a few more memories out of me.

It seems Duncan was a member of many clubs. It has been good to hear about the 'square bear club' and what was the other club?

Ms Boyd: Champagne.

Mr KELLY: Yes. It is a shame the member for Lytton has stepped out of the chamber, because there was a late-night club that happened on level 11 where all three of us had the pleasure of sharing the foldaway beds that you get when you do not get a bedroom.

If we put a name on that club, we would call it the 'Whatever was Leftover Club'. Often Joan and I were cleaning our teeth, in our pyjamas, ready to hit the hay—as sensible older people do—and Duncan would come back from one of the other clubs and say, 'It's a bit early, don't you think?' Given it was two or three in the morning, no, I did not think so. Joan, being mother to both of us, would run off and get a mountain of snacks that you could not believe would fit into one room but which Duncan and I would demolish. Then Duncan would come back with an absolute array of different drinks: dregs of whiskies from various Asian countries, little bits of bottles of wine and beer. We would always have a couple of drinks before we went to bed. But we did have standards. We did draw the line at the Lazy Bear that we got from the Taste of Bundaberg night. Sorry, most of what they do is good, but I am sure the Lazy Bear six-pack still sits up there on level 11! Believe it or not, there was another club after our club, but Joan and I certainly did not go to that club. I probably should leave it there! You would have to talk to the former member for Cook about that club and go to the casino. I am sure it was a good club as well.

The last time I tried to catch up with Duncan individually, sadly, did not occur. He was coming over for one of his many treatments at Greenslopes Hospital—very close to home—and we had arranged to try and catch up for a coffee, but the day did not go the way he was hoping. We both fairly much knew that the chances of doing that again would be pretty slim, but he rang or texted me probably more than five times over the course of that day to make sure that I was all right. I think that just shows the measure of the man.

I wanted to share an anecdote tonight to demonstrate a really important part of Duncan's character. When I took over from Duncan as the chair of the agriculture committee, we were finishing up a report on fencing. He was absolutely insistent that I thank the public servants with whom he had spent a few days travelling around remote parts of Western Queensland. I made sure I put that into the speech. Then he wanted to know when the speech would be given. We were on different rosters, so he made sure he was there for the speech. I gave the speech and dutifully thanked those public servants. He interjected just at that point, so when you go back and read the transcript, he actually gets to thank the public servants! I have no doubt that he sent my speech to those public servants with his words of thanks highlighted. It says a lot about him. He not only genuinely appreciated people but also went to great lengths to let them know that he genuinely appreciated them. I saw that over and over again at various community events and things I attended in his electorate. I saw it here a million times.

I know that he was very thankful to all of the nursing, medical and other health workers who cared for him. I know this for a fact because my wife was one of them. I think he would want us to formally acknowledge and thank all of those health workers from the floor of this parliament. I do that on Duncan's behalf, just as I thanked those other public servants.

I will finish with a few words perhaps of comfort for the family from a famous singer from the United States, Warren Zevon, who wrote a song for his loved ones just before he died of cancer—


Shadows are falling and I'm running out of breath

Keep me in your heart for a while

If I leave you, it doesn't mean I love you any less

Keep me in your heart for a while.

Rest in peace, mate.

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (4.33 pm): As was the case for the member for Pine Rivers, this is one of the hardest speeches I have ever had to make in this House. I never thought I would have to make it. I always said to Duncan that I wanted him to say good things about me!

I first met Duncan Pegg when I ran for the seat of Keppel. At my street stall this young bloke came up and I said, 'Send me a letter'—there were no emails in those days—and he did. In Western Queensland terms, I was flogged by the Hon. Vince Lester. I would reflect on that letter. If I had followed what was sent to me back then by that young man, I might have won the seat because, even then, quite obviously I was doing the campaign wrong. I have kept following Duncan's life through his union and Labor history.

In about 2010, my daughter was having problems with a company. Of course, they would not allow her to be in a union. I rang up the great Con Sciacca and said, 'Con, I need a bloke to defend my daughter.' He said, 'Yeah, look, I'm busy at the moment but I'll call you back tomorrow.' The next morning he rang me back and said, 'I've got this bloke. He's the best.' I said, 'Who is he?' He said, 'He's Duncan Pegg.' I said, 'He's still in high school.' He said, 'Look, he's the best.' Consequently, Duncan and my daughter won the case. Duncan was getting my daughter to do a lot of the work. I rang him up and said, 'Listen, Duncan, I know you're a solicitor and I'm paying you all this money but you're making her do all the work.' He said, 'She'll learn from it.' He won the case resoundingly. I look at my youngest daughter now. She is a union organiser. I thank Duncan every day because she would not be in the position she is now without Duncan Pegg.

Then he ran in the 2015 election. My daughter was living in his electorate so we plastered her fence with 'Duncan Pegg' signs. After the election I rang him and we had a bit of a chat, and I reminded him of the letter he sent me after my dismal failure in Keppel.


In 2015 I nominated for the seat of Maryborough. The first person to ring me after the health minister came up to announce my preselection for the seat of Maryborough was Duncan Pegg. He said, 'What are you doing? You can't win that seat. There's 11 per cent of the vote.' I said, 'I think I'm going to win it, mate.' He said, 'You're an optimist!' We kept in constant contact throughout the campaign. On the night of the election, when we knew we were going to win but could not announce it, the first call I took was from Duncan Pegg to congratulate me. He said, 'I didn't believe you could do it.'

We came here together—the class of 2015. Then we formed the champagne club. As the member for Beaudesert said, I thought I had the numbers to be the president of the champagne club. I thought I was in. I texted my wife and said that I would be the new president of the champagne club, but I was rolled by Duncan. I will never forget it. I never thought the member for Pine Rivers would vote against me, but I did not do the numbers too well!

Every day I come into this House I look for Duncan. I have not deleted his number from my phone. I still pick up the phone some days and think, 'Will I ring him? I want to ask him.' Although he was a lot younger than me, he gave me some good advice. He always had a solution for every problem, every time I rang him. I rang him constantly throughout the 2017 campaign because we were under a lot of pressure. He was always there for me. I really appreciated every bit of advice I received from Duncan. I said to him, 'An old bloke like me taking advice from a young bloke like you?' He was as smart as a whip. He was an unbelievable person. I do not say this too often to anyone, but Duncan Pegg was an absolute champion of a man. You could see from the way he was raised—and condolences to the Pegg family—his principles and the great bloke that Duncan was. Not only will we in this place miss him; the whole of Queensland will miss him because he was destined for bigger and better things.

I went out for dinner with Duncan in Stretton. He was so popular. When he drove me back to the House I said, 'Don't come to Maryborough. You're not doing numbers on me! You're banned.' Then the member for Cook and I got a lift to the Gold Coast. When we got out of the car he said to me, 'Do you

want a lift back?' I said, 'No, I'd rather walk back rather than go back with you.' He was not the best driver! I honestly think Duncan was one of the greatest blokes I have ever met. I will really miss you, mate.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (4.38 pm): Duncan was cheeky, smart, strategic, generous, honest, articulate and funny. He had a huge heart and was so many other things. I cannot remember for how long I knew him—I do not remember whether it was through Labor Party circles or from his National Union of Workers days—but I do know that getting to know him over however many years was like peeling an onion. I mean that in the nicest possible way. Just when you thought you knew what sort of a really great person he was, you saw yet another and even better layer and you had an even greater insight into what a really special person you had in front of you.

I loved being on the finance and administration committee with him where we did some fascinating inquiries. When we looked at four-year fixed terms, I saw just how smart he was and his ability to see through to the core of the issues. When we looked at sandmining on Stradbroke island where tensions were running high, I saw his ability to connect with people, to level out what the real issue was. When we looked at restoring employment conditions for government workers in key elements of the Work Health and Safety Act, I saw just how deep his sense of social justice was and his belief in opportunity for everybody.


When I attended his Women's Week events every single year which were packed out, I saw just how much he did for every single person to make sure that they were the best that they could be. When he got all of us to come on board to support Hazem Hamouda and his family, I saw just how big his heart was—and it kept on going. However, from the time Duncan stood up in this House on 22 April to tell us that he would be leaving parliament, from that point, to me he was in a class all of his own. As we all cried across both sides of this chamber, he gave a speech that is probably one of the best, most astonishing speeches I have ever heard given in this place. It was dignity and it was capital 'C' for class.

The thing that struck me about it was that he was going to go out on his own terms. Although he could not ultimately control what the illness did to him, that was the only thing he could not control. For the rest, he was not going to allow it to define him. He was going to stand proud and shine a light on his beloved community. He was going to acclaim his friendships and his family and he was going to say his farewells in the way he wanted to, and he was going to make his passing matter. I know more than one person who heard his words about the VAD legislation, on which we are about to vote in the next sitting, and who made up their mind that day when he said—

Let us be very clear. People with terminal illnesses do not want to die; they want to live. They fight to live every day. I personally fight to live every day ... However, if you are diagnosed as terminal then ultimately you are going to face death. People with terminal illnesses want to have an option.

For those of us fortunate to attend his community farewell event, I do not know about anyone else in this House, but I have never seen anything like it. Any MP would give their eyeteeth to see that number of community representatives coming out for them, that number of community leaders wishing to pay tribute to their local member because of the difference that he had made in their lives. I was proud to stand in front of that audience and say that I loved Duncan.

Since we all became aware that we were going to lose Duncan, everyone has had their own story to tell—and there have been many more stories today—and it has been like seeing the layers of the onion again for the people in this House for whom Duncan meant something and why and the things he did for people and the value and the investment he put into his relationships. To the end, Duncan made sure his community was looked after and his final contribution was to put forward James Martin as the next candidate for Stretton—a person he knew would have the same heart, the same work ethic, who would care as much as he did—and I know that James will do him proud. We should all have someone in front of us who inspires us to be better than we are, whom we walk away from an encounter with and think, 'I'm going to try to be a better human being now because that person sets a high bar.' Duncan was that person in so many ways. To his beautiful family, thank you for sharing him with us in these last incredibly difficult months. I cannot even imagine how difficult today must be, but please know that every single member of this House is sending love your way. Your son was beautiful and the world is a richer place because of him. We are the richer because of him. Vale, Duncan Pegg.

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism Industry Development and Innovation and Minister for Sport) (4.43 pm): This is a condolence motion like no other that most of us in this chamber have experienced. This is a condolence motion where we are speaking about a

colleague—not someone from the past, not someone that we have heard of second hand, not someone that we might have met on a few occasions, not even someone who we might have a close relationship with but was of a different era; this is a colleague, so this is very different. As a consequence, I went a bit counterfactual in thinking about this condolence motion and my contribution. I went and did what we do with the other ones—that is, I went and had a look at the first speech. We have heard today from other contributions and some very eloquent words from members around this chamber that Duncan's first speech and indeed his last speech reflected so many key points that were important to who he was as not only his contribution to this place but also his contribution as a person.


One significant element was clearly his commitment to multiculturalism and his commitment to the diversity of the community that he represented, but his commitment that predated being a representative of that community and even being a part of that community per se. I know that his commitment against racism in all of its manifestations and his commitment to the diversity that makes up our society and that makes it so much stronger was very core to who Duncan was. I saw that firsthand in my opportunity to be minister for multicultural affairs in this government, as the member for McConnell made mention of earlier, and it was such a strong connection that he had with multicultural communities, not only in his own electorate but right throughout the state where he was held in high esteem and high regard.

Also manifest in those two speeches was his commitment to working people and the best interests of working people and the way that their lives can be improved and bettered by good advocacy and good representation—representation by the trade union movement, representation in parliaments like this one. Duncan no doubt stood up for that and was committed to that innately and passionately. We certainly saw that passion on the fly in this chamber on so many occasions. In the parliament from 2015 to 2017 when I had the honour to sit in the Leader of the House's seat and be in the chamber for so much time in what was a parliament where we sat for extensive periods of time I saw Duncan come to the fore in full flight but generally on the basis of being an advocate for those who needed advocacy, being an advocate of those who would otherwise be harmed in our community. He spoke up for the voiceless and spoke up for those who did not have the ability to have their voice heard.

The third element that was referenced so many times in so many speeches was his family, and I want to acknowledge Graham and Lindsey and Duncan's brothers and pass on my deepest sympathies to them at this time. It was a powerful experience to be at Duncan's funeral at the Gabba and his commitment to his family and the love of his family for him was so significant. I was not as close to Duncan as so many other people in this chamber, but while he was 10 years younger than me we shared a number of things: we both had a strong connection with Rockhampton, we both had our first full-time employment with a boss called Con Sciacca, we both were unfortunately unsuccessful at the 2012 state election and—

An honourable member: You like to support rubbish football teams?

Mr HINCHLIFFE: There are some things we do not share in common such as I am a Maroons supporter but I am a Dragons supporter, which made his support for the Eels all the more puzzling. However, sport was something that we had in absolute common—both underperformers but great passionate people about sport and the way in which it brings community together and tells the story of a community. On that note, I will quote from a text exchange that we had in April on the occasion of the announcement of the redevelopment of the Gabba for the purposes of a 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. He sent me a text that morning saying, 'Great news about the Gabba but no drop-in pitch though right?' As probably evidence of the final thing that we had in common, which was quite a devilish sense of humour, my reply was that that would involve my dead body. His reply was, 'Excellent!'

 **Dr MacMAHON** (South Brisbane—Grn) (4.49 pm): I would like to share my condolences with the family and friends of Duncan Pegg on behalf of myself, the member for Maiwar and the Queensland Greens. Duncan and I only shared this chamber for a few short months—indeed, too short—but beyond parliament we crossed paths at many multicultural and community events over the years and I saw up close his commitment to his community. He was much loved by those he served. His electorate of Stretton is a very special part of Queensland that he served with care, attention and commitment, which I am sure the newly elected member of Stretton will carry on.

My colleague, the member for Maiwar, has reflected that while he and Duncan had not spent much time here working together directly, Duncan was always eager to take a moment to talk about the political issues of the day and especially issues where they shared common ground. He was warm,

genuine, collegiate and enthusiastic about his work in parliament and it is such a sad loss for Queensland politics. I also want to share some words from some of our Greens colleagues who had the pleasure of crossing paths with Duncan on the campaign trail. Claire Garton writes—


Duncan was a strong advocate and supporter of the community in his electorate of Stretton, and was taken way too soon by the cruelty of cancer. Duncan was highly respected by so many because he worked hard for the local community, right where it matters. He showed that when politicians listen to and advocate for the people they represent, the people express their appreciation at the ballot box. Duncan was a politician for the people. My heart is with his family, friends, and colleagues during this difficult time. No-one deserves to have their life taken so early.

From Andrea Wildin—

I met Duncan during the 2020 State election when I was a candidate for Stretton. Being a wheelchair user and the only woman, and my first time as a candidate, I was a bit nervous, but Duncan and I quickly found common ground and became friends. I liked his old school manners he could bring on when he wanted to, (he introduced me to his parents and brothers during the election too and I could see where he got his charm from) his sense of humour when things got tense was really helpful, but most of all—I liked that he didn't treat me any differently even though I used a wheelchair. He saw me as just another person, but on wheels. It was refreshing and unusual. I appreciated him very much for that.

We did discuss his diagnosis. And we discussed mine. We cried together. Then we pulled ourselves together and got on with the election. I was sad to say goodbye.

In closing, it is a tragedy to lose someone so young to such a tough disease and I can only imagine the sadness that many in here feel today. I know this experience and Duncan's passing will strengthen the resolve of all of us in here who carry the responsibility of the state to create a Queensland that is compassionate and caring, where everyone, regardless of your life stage, gets the love and support they need. Vale, Duncan Pegg.

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (4.53 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to this condolence motion for everybody's friend, Duncan Pegg. I want to start by acknowledging the Pegg family and acknowledging the grief that I know you are living with now and will live with for quite some time. It is a deep belief in my culture that the veil between the living and the spirit world is very, very thin and that ceremony, just like what we are doing here today, is an important part of understanding that veil and knowing that you can reach the other side through love and story. Our ceremonies, and I look to the member for Cook and the member for Bundamba, range from smoking ceremonies to dance to, of course, the way that we interact with each other around the story of the person that we are seeking to see on the other side. It is my absolute hope and prayer that your time of grief is short and that the veil remains very thin for you and that this ceremony today becomes part of your understanding and your belief that he is just there and that the love and the story are the things that will keep you close.


Like many others from the class of 2015 I had the great pleasure of meeting Duncan for the first time. We share a boundary between our electorates—we are right next door to each other—which meant that I got to share many a stage with Duncan, lots of school awards nights and various banquets. We ate a lot of food together given our combined multicultural communities that we represent. As everybody has shared today, he has always been an incredibly politically astute person. I had seen him in action many a time. He was also an incredibly cheeky person. All of those times when we would share a stage or be at a banquet, somehow he would always manage to lean over and make some comment that only I could hear. He would be laughing at me and I would need to be pokerfaced to not reveal what he had just said to me about somebody in the crowd. It was incredibly painful, let me tell you. That was his way.

One of the things that I am always in awe of is the way that he managed the Illawarra Street issue. We have heard about that a couple of times this afternoon. He was able to absolutely manifest the wrath of the Stretton mums to a point where they absolutely, still now, are ready to jump up in an instant if there is anything to do with Illawarra Street. He would laugh about that so much. He loved it. He loved the fact that it was the way that he was going to win this issue for them.

One of the things since his passing that has struck me is that when I go to the events that we used to share many a time I have families come up to me to talk about how they met Duncan and the impact that he had on their lives. It reminds me of how many times he had said to me how important family is and how important families are and that he would always be there to advocate on their behalf. He used his own love of his family to see himself in their issues.

Today we have heard so many stories, and I have heard so many stories of people who want to share their interactions with Duncan. I could do that too, but I want to give the family a story when we reflect on this idea of the thin veil between the living and the spirit world. I am a Quandamooka woman and when I look across Quandamooka—Moreton Bay—sometimes it is like glass and there are times when you can see every single beacon along the way. Those beacons are there to absolutely tell you

which way to go to avoid the sand bars, the traps, to see where the deep water is, where the fish are, where you are going to see the abundance into the future. For me all the stories that we have heard today are part of those beacons. Duncan's stories are those beacons that map out for us where the deep water is, where the safe path is, where you will find the abundance. I want to give that story to you because for me that story represents that thin veil. Every time I go to Quandamooka and I see those beacons I will think of Duncan and I will think about how close he is to us and to you in every way. He will be sadly missed, but he is only on the other side.

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (4.58 pm): I rise to contribute to this condolence motion and put on record my thoughts, feelings and condolences to Duncan's family and closest friends. Now I have this chance, for the first time ever I would like to take the opportunity to have a last word in the round with Duncan. Duncan has the distinction, dubious or otherwise, of being the first Labor member I ever met or engaged with in any political manner. I know in my first speech I acknowledged those past and current members of this House who supported me to run for the first time, but on reflection that honour actually belongs to Duncan because in 2001 I too was a student at Griffith University at the Mount Gravatt campus. I was studying part-time while I was working full-time as a police officer.

One night after footy training, I attended a politics in the pub event at the Nathan campus. There was a flyer for a free drink. Ostensibly, the event was to discuss the rise of and response to Hansonism, which was prevalent at the time. It was there that I first met Duncan Pegg. We got on pretty well, but you could see very much his mind ticking over when he realised what I did for a living.

In the context of 2001, in Brisbane we were preparing to host CHOGM and, as a member of the Public Safety Response Team, I had spent weeks and months preparing for what was predicted to be a tumultuous event with many and varied planned protests. One of Duncan's biggest issues on the campus at the time was with the controlling body of the Griffith Uni student council. He referred to them as the 'Trots'. I was not 100 per cent sure what that meant. They were expending student council funds on supporting protest activities and bankrolling CHOGM blockades, so he knew how to pull my strings.

As I said, you could see Duncan's mind ticking over. In that manner he convinced me to run on the ticket at Mount Gravatt for the SRC for the Real Student Party so I ended up on my first-ever ballot. I think that night I actually might have joined the Labor Party and, listening to everyone talk, I might have joined the Right. I am happy to be corrected on the record for that.


I had never campaigned for anything in my life but luckily I had someone like Duncan to take me through my first-ever campaign. Also luckily, my little sister had lots of friends on campus so that helped me get over the line. I managed to get up for my first-ever electoral win on a platform of student money being spent on student campus and free pancake mornings. Duncan's ticket stormed home in that election.

Duncan also liked to have a bit of fun playing on my job. I think it has been commented that he was a bit of a stirrer. He would ask me along to the student functions and parties. You could see the glint in his eye as he would introduce me to the rest of the partygoers: 'Here's Mel. She's on the SRC as well and she's a copper.' I am sure he did that just to hear the dead silence that would descend over the uni student party as a few people subtly left the room.

I cannot say that the life of student politics took with me and 2002 would be my only stint at the Griffith Uni SRC, but that was no fault of Duncan's. He made it fun and he made it accessible, which is not something that you can often say about student politics. I will remember the curly mop of blond hair. I will remember that cheeky grin. I will remember the sparring and the quick quip.

I would not encounter Duncan again until 2014, when we were both candidates for the 2015 state election. He was running for his beloved Stretton, which was exactly where he was at home and where many of those uni student parties had happened. He was at home, he was in his element and he loved the local area. He had my 100 per cent support because that was my old stomping ground and I could not think of a better representative for the electorate or my old high school, Runcorn State High School.

Duncan, you were a friend and a mentor despite your young age. You will be missed here in this House and in the party that you loved so much. You will be missed in your community that loved you so much. Rest in peace.


 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (5.03 pm): My condolences to Duncan's family, friends and staff, many of whom are here today. It is great to have his good friend succeed him in Stretton. I want to make a couple of remarks about Duncan. I did not know him for as long as a lot of people in this House but a couple of things really struck me about Duncan. There was a real dichotomy to him. He was great at a political stunt but also cared deeply about issues in and the people of his electorate.

Back in the day when we could move around and sit next to people as they were giving speeches, during the adjournment debate it was always good to sit next to Duncan and be his cheer squad as he had a crack at those opposite or spoke about whatever issue he was concerned about. It was always good for a laugh.

One issue that really stuck with me that he spoke on a couple of times was the case of a local in his area, Hazem Hamouda, an Egyptian-Australian man who was imprisoned overseas. A few other members have also mentioned this. On an issue such as that you could very easily just write a letter to the minister, go through the motions, fob it off and say that you had done all you could. However, Duncan pursued it pretty fiercely. He really supported the family through it. I do not think it is in any doubt that his contribution to that issue really made a difference to what happened at the end of the day. Obviously he was not pursuing that issue for any electoral gain; he had a deep-felt passion for that issue and he really believed in it. That will stick with me in this place as being something that Duncan did that really mattered.

Something that shows the other side of Duncan was, and it has also been mentioned by a few others, Illaweenah Street and the Illaweenah Street mums. When Duncan found out that my opponent in the last election was going to be a former Brisbane city councillor, he phoned me and offered to bus the Illaweenah Street mums to Aspley to help campaign. I said that that would probably be taking things a little too far, but it would have been a good laugh to bring them up. Duncan was always ready to help out other members of parliament and candidates when he knew there was an issue.

Duncan was, of course, very deeply embedded in his community. He would follow up issues for locals who had no-one else to help them out. If someone had no-one else to turn to, he would pursue their issue because that was his job as a local member of parliament. That is something that will really stick with me. Vale, Duncan Pegg.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (5.05 pm): I rise to contribute to the condolence motion about our colleague, Duncan Pegg, the former member for Stretton. As with the member for Greenslopes, the anecdotes are starting to loosen from the mind and come forward. In the 55th Parliament minority government, I spent two years as the whip. There were many late nights. I remember often, when it was getting close to voting time late at night, I would say to the member for Logan, 'Where's the member for Cook?' He would say, 'He's with Duncan.' I would think, 'This could go a number of different ways.' Generally they would turn up. They would bustle in just before the bars came down. Sometimes Duncan would look a little pale and silent, which was unusual, but he would get there. He never let me down.

I am still getting used to the fact that he will not be with us when we walk into this chamber. I am starting to comprehend that never again will the class of 2015 be all together in one place. On this side of the House the class of 2015 is a pretty tight bunch. Thirty-two Labor people arrived in this parliament for the first time in 2015. Duncan was amongst us. I was reflecting that in Queensland history there has been only three groups of Labor members of parliament like us: 1915, 1989 and 2015. We are an historic group.

However, we know that when we get together in the years to come there will always be a vacant seat at the table. No doubt in the years to come there will be more vacant seats at the table. Duncan has made us recognise that now. That thought and its riposte is pretty well expressed in the following way. At Duncan's funeral at the Gabba there was a song going through my head. It was *Permanent Way* by Charlie Cunningham. The lyrics are—


One light fades

Let another shine in its place

It's just the moving of colours

Thinking of those lyrics today reminds me that we, the class of 2015, will get older and we will fade away, but not Duncan. He will never fade. In our minds he will be always as he left us and that is bright, funny, outrageous and, as the current member for Stretton has said, fearless. That is how he left us and that is how he will always be in our mind's eye.

As the Premier said, Duncan lived a full life in half the time. Those of us from the class of 2015 pay tribute to our bright star, Duncan Pegg. He has shown us how to live life in a blaze of colour before we fade. I hope we can live up to his example. My condolences to Lindsey, Graham and all his family. Thank you for gifting him to us.

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (5.09 pm): I rise to offer my contribution. I begin by offering my condolences to Duncan's family and friends. I came into this House in 2015 with


that large number of members the member for Bancroft referred to. From the outset, Duncan was certainly a shining beacon. I can still remember that many of us found it a bit confronting to sit here in this place with people on the other side like Jeff Seeney and others who had been here for a very long time. Most of us did not take the opportunity to antagonise people like Jeff Seeney and others; Duncan relished it. I can remember sitting there watching Duncan intentionally baiting the member for Kawana and the member for Nanango. It was like a fishing expedition to him. If he hooked Jeff Seeney, it was like the biggest catch. He relished that, because for Duncan it was certainly sport and he was very good at it. We learned a lot from him, as the member for Maryborough said.

I was on the finance and administration committee with the member for Bulimba as the chair. In Duncan's valedictory speech he talked about being out at North Stradbroke Island and how there was a shortage of beer one night. I was his partner in crime in that expedition, and we corrupted Brett Nutley from the Parliamentary Service to source some beer for us for the second night because we were going to be short. Brett used initiative and made sure that he kept the beer cold in a container he found which, unfortunately, had recently contained seafood. In his speech Duncan talked about drinking beer that had an awful seafood smell to the side of the cans. I can remember ringing Duncan the next morning and demanding that he come back to my room to help me clean up this amazingly awful stench of stale beer and seafood.

While travelling around with the committee that looked at four-year fixed terms, as the member for Bulimba said—and I think the members for Condamine and Coomera and a few others were with us—Duncan said to me, 'We need to come up with a code word for when we need to sneak off and grab a sneaky beer. How about we use the word "sushi"?' In the middle of parliamentary committee hearings, unbeknown to the member for Bulimba—she probably still does not know it to this day—Duncan would say to me, 'Craig, I'm hungry. Do you think we should go and get some sushi?' I would say, 'Righto, mate, no worries.' We had a lot of sushi in a lot of towns. At every single one of those pubs, in the corner of the bar there would be a television and there would be a cricket match on from somewhere in the world. It always amazed me how much he knew about every single player, every code and every country. He very much loved it.

In closing I will relate one of the funniest things I ever saw in this House. A couple of terms ago I sat around the middle of the chamber. The member for Capalaba was giving a speech. He thought he would give a speech off his iPad, as some members do—this is a good lesson for many—but he had not put his iPad on flight mode. Duncan, sitting a couple of rows behind, realised this and started shooting the member for Capalaba emails or photos and they were popping up on the screen. The member for Capalaba was swatting them off like flies, trying to get through his speech. It was the most dysfunctional, unorganised, start/stop speech ever, and Duncan sat back with an incredible grin on his face. If my memory is right, I think he even did it to the member for Ipswich West and probably plenty of others. There is a tip for all members.

Duncan will be sadly missed by all. As has been said by everybody, Duncan loved this place. This was certainly his oval and he loved being on the field.

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (5.13 pm): I rise to speak on this condolence motion and to acknowledge the amazing contribution of Duncan Pegg to the people of Queensland. As a newbie in the class of 2017, I have to say I was slightly excited to hear about this champagne club. I was like, 'What is this all about?' I know that Duncan will be deeply missed by his good friend and my good friend the member for Capalaba. After hearing everybody's stories over the past few hours, I think I can say that he will be deeply missed by everybody in this place.


Duncan was taken way too soon. Cancer is an extraordinarily cruel disease. I have to say that I was extraordinarily grateful to Duncan for the advice he provided about cancer treatment and what the journey might look like for my partner last year. He was very generous in sharing that with me. He led an incredible life in 40 short years—I think more than many get to experience.

He was a fighter and a true champion for his diverse community of Stretton. I recall back in 2019 being asked to represent the sports minister at the Brisbane Super Kings junior cricket presentation awards. I remember being introduced on that day. It was not that I was there representing the minister for sport; I was there representing the member for Stretton, Duncan Pegg, because everybody in that place, cricket lovers everywhere, knew Duncan. That was an absolute honour.

As everybody has said, Duncan was an incredible orator. I loved listening to all his speeches. If I saw his name on the scream list on a Wednesday, I certainly would make sure I was in here to hear him—the brevity in his debates, mixed with his quick wit and a really wicked sense of humour. He sure knew how to rile the other side. I think the member for Nanango alluded to that in her contribution.

I remember Duncan's last speech in this House. He absolutely was, as the Deputy Premier said, still campaigning right up to that point about his desire, as a person with a terminal illness, to fight hard to live every day. He was the ultimate servant of his community right to the very end. He really has set the benchmark for us all.

To Duncan's mum and dad, to his brothers, his family and his friends, my deepest sympathies. He will be sadly missed by everybody.

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (5.16 pm): I rise with a heavy heart to speak to this motion and pay my respects to the former member for Stretton, Duncan Pegg. Duncan and I shared a lot. We had always been around the party, from different parts of the party, both committed trade unionists and sport tragics. I had the privilege of sitting next to Duncan in this place and enjoyed his quick wit and fierce intellect close up. He was the first person I ever got to sit next to in this place, because when I was first elected there was the pandemic and we were all distanced.

As chamber neighbours do, we would always chat about the way of the world and our place in it, both inside and outside of political life, and more often than not we would share a joke. The favourite recurring joke on each sitting day for Peggy concerned the parliamentary business item of appointments. He lamented that there was rarely ever any appointments announced and he was concerned that the item seemed superfluous, so he took great delight in sharing some appointments with me in hushed tones which included gems such as, 'I've got a dentist appointment this Friday—not real keen,' or, 'Mate, did I tell you the servo closest to my place got a new casual staff member?' Often he would share the names of players that he thought would make the best appointments to his favourite sports teams.

One time, at Peggy's insistence, we even cooked up a plan on how to bring back the old South Queensland Crushers. I was trying to prepare for a speech, which Peggy knew full well, but he flashed me that cheeky grin and said with enthusiasm, 'Come on, mate, let's bring 'em back—you and me.' It was clear that resistance was futile, so I acquiesced and joined in, which maybe at the time seemed a little ill-advised but in retrospect was in fact investing in a now treasured memory.


Sitting next to someone, you also get a close-up of their passions and values, and Peggy's commitment to fighting racism and celebrating our rich multicultural tapestry was matched only by his dedication to public service and his community. Of course, we also spoke about how he was feeling, be it his treatments or his mental health and whether he was feeling up or a little deflated. Peggy was values driven, which means he was also strong and determined, and that stood him in great stead as he showed incredible courage in the face of the reality of his terminal illness.

We all keenly remember Duncan's valedictory speech in this place. Afterwards I walked with Peggy, just to make sure he was okay, and accompanied him to your garden, Mr Speaker, for the quiet celebration afterwards. It was one of those things that you do without even thinking about it. The next day I got a text from Peggy saying, 'Thanks, mate. You really helped me out yesterday.' It absolutely floored me. Here is a bloke who, amidst fighting an insidious terminal disease and who the day before had been forced by that illness to resign from representing the community he loved for the party he loved, still took the time to drop me a line to say thanks for something that really deserved no acknowledgement at all. It is a real measure of the man. It is the small private moments that most define us, and that moment told me everything I needed to know about Duncan.

I was and remain honoured that Duncan asked me to succeed him as co-chair of the Parliamentary Friends of Tennis and this week we joined, along with you, Mr Speaker, and many other members, and the team from Tennis Queensland to celebrate Duncan's contribution as the founding co-chair.

Peggy's funeral at his beloved Gabba was truly special and beautiful. The sheer number of people who attended to pay their respects was a testament to that. They included the former member for Stretton, Stephen Robertson. It was just one example of how much Duncan meant to so many, and that includes Duncan's great mate the current member for Stretton who, as the new champion for the Stretton community, will carry Duncan's legacy forward.

To Duncan's family—Lindsey, Graham and his brothers—and his broader family I offer my sincerest condolences on your loss. Thank you for sharing Duncan with us and with his community. Peggy, thank you for your great contribution to the Labor Party, to this place, to your community and to the state of Queensland. Vale Duncan Andrew Pegg.

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—ALP) (5.21 pm): I start by thanking previous members for their contributions. Recognising where I am on the speaking list, rather than repeat some of those reflections, can I associate myself with those beautiful words about Duncan's service to this House and to the Stretton electorate.

It is well documented how much community support Duncan had and it is certainly true that he entrenched that over his years of hard work as the member for Stretton. I think that goes back a lot further. That support locally was long held. I remember his campaign launch, it must be have been, at the end of 2011 ahead of the 2012 election. Even then he had so much support from his local community and local community leaders that the MC at the start of his launch took about 45 minutes just to get through the dignitaries. I think the member for Algeester knows that is not a joke.

I had the honour of serving with Duncan in the parliament for only a short time so I thought it would be more appropriate for me to focus my comments on Duncan's earlier political years in the lead-up to his election to this place. Duncan was a very passionate leader in student politics and made a significant contribution to both Queensland Young Labor and the university student movement. I am vehemently resisting the temptation to tell jokes and war stories about his Young Labor days on his NUS national conference days, other than I should put on record for *Hansard* that when a young university student is introduced to what is endearingly known as unity punch—a liquid served out of a plastic garbage bin—it is truly a life-changing moment.

Seriously though, it was obvious from those early years that Duncan was a very good campaigner, he was a very good negotiator and he was a very good numbers man. As the new member for Stretton said in his first speech on Tuesday, with Duncan it was more than just numbers. With Duncan it was leadership. He brought people together for a common goal, a common purpose, based on shared beliefs and usually an underlying friendship.


I feel both lucky and proud to have worked with him in those years. In particular, I am proud that we were part of a team that forged a strong and cooperative relationship and partnership between the Griffith Labor Club and the UQ Labor Club. It is not as public as his record in this chamber, it is not as tangible or physical as the infrastructure right across the Stretton electorate, but it is still a great contribution that he made to our party and it is a legacy that is well and truly alive to this day.

While others reflect on Duncan as a lawyer, a parliamentarian, dedicated committee member, perhaps a spear thrower, community champion, a great sports fan and musician, I will choose to remember him by the best description I have for him—our convenor. To those closest to him in those days and since—to Annette and Dave, to Monique, Merric, Clinton, Jaques and, of course, James, the now members for Stretton and others—I do not pretend to speak for them, but I think with our respective life directions and perhaps a few forks in the road along the way, any of them could easily be standing in my shoes today or even in those of the member for Stretton speaking as a member of that generation that came together through those years. I would like to say to them: you are not looking through rose-coloured glasses; those interesting, even inspiring days were real and Duncan will be remembered for all of it.

As I said, Duncan was a good numbers man so it should surprise no-one that when one of his brothers studied at UQ he was promptly recruited by Duncan, perhaps persuaded by Duncan, to run on our ticket, and what an addition he was. Cameron brought such energy, a love of life and a real dynamic approach to student politics, and we were all the wiser, more energetic and happier for it.

I direct my final comments to Cameron and Duncan's broader family. Firstly to the broader family: your strength and courage in these times was a real gift to many of us in ways that you probably would not have even thought of. For me it was quite an intellectual and emotional tap dance to try to confront the loss of somebody way too soon while also trying to work hard and campaign for his legacy. The commitment of your family to the by-election I think provided us with that mental space to work hard for the by-election and to be able to campaign when, to be frank, campaigning just felt a little bit wrong. It was an inspiring campaign. James and Stella should be proud. Indeed, they did Duncan proud.

Thank you to the entire Pegg family for making that possible. To Cameron—I do not pretend to know how to best manage grief. I know that there is no silver bullet. Can I offer just this: with your lust for life, energy and the goodwill that you create for others around you, I hope that this tragedy, as horrible as it is, does not strain or dent that energy and goodwill. Instead, I hope you can take a little bit of Duncan with you on your journey. Vale Duncan.

 **Mr SPEAKER:** The night after Duncan Pegg gave his valedictory speech there was a gathering. At that gathering, in a very Duncan way, he knew that I would have the last word. He asked me to say something very simple. It was to say, 'How I would love to have a beer with Duncan because Duncan was my mate.' Honourable members, can you please stand in your place for one minute to express your agreement with the condolence motion that we have all just been a part of.

Whereupon honourable members stood in silence.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates and Referral of Auditor-General's Report



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (5.28 pm): I seek to advise the House of the determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 136, that the Economics and Governance Committee report on the Superannuation (State Public Sector) (Scheme Administration) Amendment Bill by 15 October 2021 and the Education, Employment and Training Committee report on Queensland University of Technology Amendment Bill by 15 October 2021.

The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 194B, that the Auditor-General's *Report 1: 2021-22 Enabling digital learning* be referred to the Education, Employment and Training Committee.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from 16 June (see p. 1910).



Hon. MT RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (5.29 pm): Mr Speaker, I start by acknowledging you on your reappointment as Speaker of the parliament. It is always good to have someone as fair-minded and diligent as you as the Speaker. I congratulate you and commend you again. It is certainly good to be back and it is good to have the opportunity to respond to the Governor's address. I thank His Excellency for the kind words that he gave of the government's agenda. I look forward to working alongside all of my parliamentary colleagues in delivering the expectations that the people of Queensland have for this government and for this parliament.

At its heart politics is about people, not only the people who represent community in this House but the people who make up community. It is about their wishes, their desires. It is about ensuring that there is opportunity for people to reach their full potential. I think sometimes what gets lost in the robustness of debate is the individuals who make up our community and the impact that decisions in this House can have on those individuals and also the opportunity that we, as members of parliament, have to make an impact on people in our own communities, to help them in the challenges that they face, to work with them to create opportunity for jobs and economic activity for the future, for their children.

I want to start by sharing a few stories that I have gathered in just the last 12 months about the impact that politics can have on individuals in my community. I want to start by talking about a dear friend of mine Davina Oliver—an outstanding woman. I met Davina four years ago when she came to visit my office about a health challenge that she had. She had had a laryngectomy. Back in 2017, the only medical equipment that was subsidised for people with laryngectomies was not up to scratch. There were dressings and such. Davina and others who had laryngectomies were subject to getting infections. It was very difficult.

I developed a bond with Davina because my dear grandma, Grandma Ryan, at a very early age had had a tracheotomy. Grandma Ryan is one of my idols. She was so passionate about the labour movement. I was very sad that she died the year before I was elected to this House, in 2009. She would have loved to see me here. So I developed this bond with Davina. Davina and I went around lobbying people to get the subsidy approved by Queensland Health for devices called HMEs, which would make a big difference for people with laryngectomies.

We saw then Minister Dick. He provided very good guidance and asked us to continue our lobbying. We then saw the next health minister, Minister Miles. He again provided great guidance to us and was able to help convince Queensland Health to fund that subsidy. I was able to send a message to Davina in January 2019 to congratulate her on her advocacy. She responded by saying—

What can I say but thank you so much for all the assistance with this matter. I really could never have done it without you.

The fact that you had a very personal experience with your grandmother has made it perhaps a little easier for you to represent us to all the appropriate people concerned, not only once but twice and followed it through right to the end.

It is a great win not only for us who live with it but a lot of the credit must be attributed to you and your effort.

The credit should be attributed to Davina—a determined woman from Caboolture who met with her local MP because she wanted to make a change for many hundreds of people. I saw Davina's husband, Ian, during the last election campaign. He floored me with something that he said. He said

that six weeks before I had run into him before the election Davina had passed away. I am not normally a person who just cries, but at that moment I broke down because I was so inspired by Davina and her advocacy and her determinedness that it reinforced to me the power of people to make a difference. I hope, as a believer that there is something after this life, that Davina has caught up with Grandma Ryan and that they are cheering on this parliament to continue to make a difference for people in our community.

I also want to talk about Scott and Kerry, who came to see me about their daughter, Zara. They were having trouble getting information about EpiPens for their little daughter, Zara. Through advocacy we were able to get Zara recategorised and seen by Queensland Health. They were able to get the necessary paperwork across the line to get those EpiPens on the PBS. I received a little note from Scott and Kerry this year which said—

Again we wanted to take the time to thank you because without your intervention we would not have been recategorised nor would we have been given the opportunity to purchase an epipen under the PBS. Today we were fortunate that we could afford the epipen next time it will have been you who saved her life. So thank you.

I want to talk about Ashley, Justyna and Hugo, who had some trouble getting the paperwork done to get the stimulus money to purchase their house which the Queensland government and the federal government had coordinated during the pandemic. They sent an email in desperation the night before applications closed. For some reason I got up early that morning and I checked the electorate office email. That would not be my normal practice, because normally I would read the paper or check ministerial briefing notes or the like. For some reason I checked the electorate office email and I saw this email from Ashley, Justyna and Hugo asking for help. Before 6 am I rang my parliamentary colleague Scott Stewart and said, 'Mate, I need you to help get the paperwork processed on this. This is the last day for these people to get the paperwork in.' I got this email from Ashley, Justyna and Hugo which said—

When Brent called and advised that Minister Ryan had read my email on Friday morning and had contacted Minister Stewart who then contacted the department I was speechless.

We got Titles and successfully settled ... We are now citizens of Caboolture!!

...

Thank you once again for your help.

I also want to highlight the massive impact that we can have by advocating on behalf of people who need a little bit of help, who are experiencing some disadvantage. One of the biggest inquiries that comes into my electorate office is about housing from people who are in need of help, people who are in need of some guidance. Noela came into my electorate office recently, and I want to wish her well. We were able to assist her to get some disability accommodation. I want to acknowledge Robert who, because of his PTSD, anxiety and depression, found it very difficult dealing with government agencies. We were able to assist him. I want to acknowledge Casey, who was a survivor of domestic violence and had three boys and was living in a tent and needed some assistance. We were able to assist her into housing. We must never forget the people who put us here but we should also never forget the people we can help, the people we can provide opportunity for.

This gives me the opportunity to acknowledge the outstanding support that I receive as a member of parliament from many different people: firstly, my electorate office—Brent, Michael and Yvonne—and the wonderful volunteers who come in and help every day in my electorate. Those stories of helping people are the stories of the effort of my electorate office, the stories of their compassion, their determination and their initiative to provide assistance. I want to give a particular shout-out to them and the absolute selfless dedication they have to create a better community in the Morayfield electorate.

I also want to acknowledge my ministerial staff, who are tireless workers for the Labor movement. They are outstanding people. They not only provide great support to members of parliament to ensure that members of parliament have appropriate support in dealing with constituent inquiries relevant to my portfolio areas but they have a real compassion for every single Queenslanders. They dedicate many hours and endure many stressful moments to ensure that this government delivers for the people of Queensland. I want to acknowledge all of my ministerial staff, in particular my chief of staff Ellen McIntyre, who has been a long servant of Labor governments in Queensland. She is an absolute gem and a valuable asset to me, and I certainly would not be able to be as effective as I am without her support.

I also want to acknowledge the outstanding labour movement and the Australian Labor Party—this proud movement that has been responsible for so much progressive change in our state and our nation, and for the wonderful opportunity I have to represent that movement not only in my community

but here in this parliament. I thank all of the Labor Party members, volunteers, unionists and general supporters for their assistance during the last campaign and beyond. I certainly have the support of some wonderful people who are tireless in their contributions. I would particularly like to acknowledge Michael, my campaign director, and Drew, who has been a great support to me, as well as Craig and Alex for their dedication during the last campaign along with Yvonne, Nathan and the rest of the supporters. Well done; thank you very much. As a final word of thanks before moving on to some of the great things I look forward to achieving during the next term I of course acknowledge my family: my mum and dad, Pete and Robbie; my brother Gerry; the extended family; and my wife Holly and my two boys Daniel and Flynn—

Ms Pugh: Hear, hear!

Mr RYAN: Thank you very much, Jess. I would not have two boys or a wife like Holly without Jess introducing me to Holly, so thank you very much. Jess is the reason I have all these grey hairs.

An honourable member: At least you've got hair, mate!

Mr RYAN: Touche. I want to acknowledge my family. When I was first elected to representative politics, to this parliament, I did not realise the impact it has on those who most care for you. I did not appreciate it, but over time I have grown to become overwhelmed by it and concerned by it, because often those who most care for you are most impacted by criticism of you. We as representatives develop a bit of a thick skin. We as representatives choose the combat. We choose this arena, but often our families do not. The support that I receive, particularly from Mum and Dad, Pete and Robbie, my brother Gerry, and Holly and our two boys, is overwhelming and it is extraordinary. I love them all very much. I know that they give so much of themselves to support me, and I hope that they know I am also giving a lot of myself to them in building a stronger, safer, better community. I acknowledge all of them.

It truly is exceptional to be back in government and back in this House. I know that the Palaszczuk Labor government will continue to deliver for the people of the Morayfield state electorate. I want to particularly thank all of those people who voted for me and for those who did not, because it is through that strong conversation, that strong dialogue that we all have in our communities around how to build a better, safer, stronger and more caring community, that we are able to challenge each other to find ways to achieve those lofty goals. I was able to build on some of the hard work that I have done since first being elected over a decade ago now. In 2009 I was first elected to this parliament.

An honourable member: You were so young!

Mr RYAN: You have to look closely for the grey hair and wrinkles and sometimes I feel very old. I was able to build on some of those successes. I was pleased to achieve some very good election commitments which are already in train and we are already starting to deliver.

There is funding for a new PCYC at Caboolture. This will make a big difference. We are going to put the PCYC right in the middle of town. We are going to have a new facility that is fit for purpose. The only thing we are waiting on is the federal government's co-contribution, so again I say to Terry Young, 'Show me the money. Give me the money.' We will get there. We also have some money for a new clubhouse for Caboolture Rugby and Touch; and new money for Caboolture hockey—I know the member for Bancroft loves his hockey—so Caboolture hockey is going to have some new facilities.

There is a new ambulance station at Morayfield. We got the satellite hospital. We got an upgrade—and I acknowledge the member for Kurwongbah and his advocacy—for the Burpengary train station. We got a security fence, which has already been delivered, at Morayfield East State School. We got a new school hall for Morayfield State High School which is almost finished. We got a new joint school hall for Caboolture State High School and the Lee Street Special School.

We also have more money for the Bruce Highway upgrades. We have more money for new classrooms in the electorate. We have an outside school hours care facility going into Caboolture East State School. That will make a big difference. As part of the government's overarching commitments to delivering more frontline services we also have more police coming to our area, more teachers, more doctors and more nurses, and of course we are investing in those services around early intervention, prevention and health care.

As a minister in the government I also have the opportunity to serve the people of Queensland in other ways. I am very grateful for that opportunity. I am grateful for the opportunity to meet people all over the state, to work closely with stakeholders and to continue the government's great work of

investing in the front line and building better, safer and more caring communities. I did very much appreciate the opportunity to travel around the state during the election campaign and support many people in this parliament.


Mr Harper: On the bus.

Mr RYAN: On the bus and otherwise, doing the diagrams and otherwise and not selling the Townsville academy; we did that too. I want to finish off where I started, by reflecting on people. As I travelled around the state during the last campaign I had a couple of conversations that have stuck in my mind. At times you get a little spring in your step because you use them as a bit of a straw poll about how we are going, how people are going to vote and what things are looking like on the ground. When you've got the taxidriver in Townsville who drives you from the airport out to the Stewart prison, where we got the bus from, saying how good the Labor government is doing and how the Labor government is delivering for Townsville, and when he's dropped you off in front of the TV cameras and he's honking the horn as he is going saying 'vote Labor', you know you're going alright. When you've got the fish and chip bloke in Cairns—best fish and chips in the universe, by the way—saying how good the government is doing investing in the front line, having a vision for the community, keeping the community safe from COVID-19, you know you're going alright. At pre-poll at Bundaberg I could not believe the number of people who were coming up to Tom Smith, giving him high fives, encouraging him and saying 'good job' and 'well done' to the government for keeping the community safe. When you hear that you know you're going alright. When you've got people from the gel blaster community coming up to you saying 'thank you very much' for securing the industry but in a safe, controlled way—

An opposition member: You're kidding! You must be joking!

Mr RYAN: When you have people from the gel blaster community acknowledging what we have done—now because of our framework the industry in Queensland is worth over \$200 million and employs hundreds and hundreds of people—you know you're going all right.

Finally, when you are at the Caboolture markets standing next to a sign with the Premier's face on it and a fellow comes up to you and says, 'I've never voted Labor in my life, ever, but because of her I'm going to vote Labor for the first time,' you know you are going all right. He did also then say, 'But don't let it go to your head, mate. It's because of her, not you.' Elections are about people. Politics is about people. I am very proud to represent my community in this parliament. I look forward to serving them for the rest of this term.

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (5.49 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker Kelly, I start by congratulating you on your election to the role of Deputy Speaker. I also congratulate the member for Mulgrave for being elected to be Speaker yet again. Mr Deputy Speaker, you are doing a fine job thus far in the parliament. You have not kicked me out yet so I can only speak up until now.

I want to thank the good people of Capalaba. It is always an absolute privilege to rise to give this contribution in the address-in-reply because it means they have installed their faith in me to represent them in these hallowed halls. I particularly want to thank them for voting in greater numbers this time. It is always good to see a swing to you, and it always drives me to get even more and more each time.

I love the community of Capalaba. It is where I grew up. It is where I went to school at Birkdale State School. It is where I did my swimming at Birkdale Breakers. It is where I played my rugby at Redlands Muddies Rugby Club. It is where I played my cricket at the Redlands Muddies Cricket Club. I played my basketball at the Capalaba PCYC. I did some gymnastics there as well. I only did it for a term and I then told mum, 'This is not for me.' I played tennis at the Mooroodu tennis courts. I fished in the mighty Tingalpa Creek. It was a great childhood. Obviously, it reminds me that I want to leave Capalaba as good a place to live, if not better, than what I grew up in. It is a treasured place and one that I am very proud to have been elected to represent. I am grateful every time I get to stand up in this parliament to represent the good people of Capalaba.

I want to thank my family for helping me in this journey. You cannot do it without the family structure behind you. My lovely wife, Mel—

Ms Boyd: She's a saint.

Mr BROWN: She is a saint. I take the interjection from the member for Pine Rivers. She is a fantastic woman.

Mr Watts: I don't know her but she must be an amazing woman.

Mr BROWN: She is an amazing woman, yes. To put up with me, she is an absolute saint, and to raise our young son, Oscar, as well.

Mr Mellish: Another Oscar.

Mr BROWN: Yes, another Oscar to the Labor caucus family. It is fantastic to see. Obviously, my mum and dad are two of my biggest supporters. Dad sometimes gives me too much support and too much advice, and I have to say, 'Mate, you've had your time.' They are always there to give me advice and support and are always helpful on the campaign trail, at pre polls, on street stalls. They are two of my biggest supporters. I would also like to thank Mel's mum for coming down in recent times to help us in the raising of Oscar. It has been invaluable.

Before the last election, we had the birth of our first child, Oscar. It was a joyful time. Being new parents, we did not know what to do and how things should be. Over the first couple of years with Oscar, we knew something was not correct. We would be told that we needed to wrap Oscar up because every baby loved it, but Oscar did not. We started to obviously worry about his hearing and speech. We just knew that something was not right. We went to specialists for the hearing, and his hearing was okay. We went to different specialists along the way. I think they do this to come to the realisation of a diagnosis. I will turn to my wife's words because she put it a whole lot better than me. She wrote—

Today Oscar received his formal Autism diagnosis. Like all first time parents, Don and I have been watching Oscar's development like hawks and have together wondered if he was on the spectrum for some time.

Oscar, Don and I have been very lucky to receive specific support during this process to diagnosis. We are incredibly grateful that Oscar has a fantastic Early Learning Centre with passionate and dedicated educators, who love him to pieces, and have provided Don and I with overwhelming kindness and confidence. We have a wonderful team of therapists and specialists who are helping Oscar to understand the neuro-typical world and are teaching Don and I about ways to fulfil Oscar's neurodiverse needs. Along with our extended family support, my mum has moved from Bundaberg to live with us and help support Oscar during this phase of early intervention.

Like anyone on the spectrum, Oscar will have his challenges unique to him and we want our friends to understand that. But what we don't want to forget is that Oscar has his strengths and passions. He is a Batman enthusiast and a lover of firm cuddles. His loyalty to those he has a connection with is intense and he will go out of his way to let them know. He has an amazing memory and mind blowing attention to detail. He's a dramatic dancer with a love of music, and a comedian with a whacky sense of humour.

If you bump into us out and about, try not worry that he doesn't like you or he's being rude. At the moment he just needs extra time to process what's going on in social situations. Sometimes verbal communication is hard and sometimes he needs some space if he's over stimulated; but ultimately he's just like neuro-typical folk and craves connection, love and acceptance.

I am so thankful that we now live in a community where we have the support of the NDIS. I would classify us as a well-resourced family at the upper end of the social scales, but the NDIS has been fantastic for our family. We have been able to provide the therapists that Oscar needs and also the support he needs, whether it is as simple as swimming lessons. I do not know where I would be without it. It is such a great Labor initiative and I appreciate everything it has done for our family. I hope many other parents who are not as well-resourced as us have the ability to get onto the NDIS and not have to jump through as many hoops and barriers along the way.

I would like to thank my campaign team—obviously Jesse McNamara, Tim Mills, Marj and so many others who come to my aid each and every election. I could not do it without the Capalaba red army. It is a loyal bunch and I would not be here without them. My EO staff of Zach, Chase, Murray, and also Mattie Sellars, Chanel who has left us for bigger and better things over the term, and also Alex. I thank them again for all they do for the Capalaba electorate. They are always faithful servants to the Capalaba electorate and they ensure constituents get the support they need while I cannot be there for that.

I want to also thank the Premier, the Deputy Premier, the previous member for South Brisbane, Jackie Trad, Jules, the UWU, Gary Bullock and Matt. They ran a fantastic campaign and helped me get re-elected. I particularly want to acknowledge Jackie Trad and the effort she made to fight for South Brisbane. People had suggested to her that she should move to an easier seat to win, but she stuck it out. It was her community and she fought every step of the way to ensure that the people of South Brisbane had a Labor voice and she delivered in spades.


I particularly want to thank my neighbours, the member for Redlands and the member for Springwood, who have come on board. In my first term I was out in the Redlands by myself and it was quite a task to get around the whole place and be the government representative there. Their coming on board in 2017 has really helped out and obviously has delivered in spades. I would also like to congratulate Irene for running a fantastic campaign in Oodgeroo, falling just short.

While I am standing I want to acknowledge the role that COVID played in the election and the way in which—

Debate, on motion of Mr Brown, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Bancroft, Mr P

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (6.00 pm): After serving in the role for an outstanding 31 years, Paul Bancroft OAM recently retired as executive principal of Cleveland District State High School. I would like to congratulate Paul not only on his length of service and extraordinary leadership of a wonderful school in my electorate but also on his many achievements along the way. Appointed principal in 1990, Paul contributed greatly to the school's significant growth and fine reputation over the years. He was very much a well-respected and hands-on principal who kept a keen eye on things to make sure everything went according to plan. I recall joining him on one occasion to check out the construction of new buildings for the year 7s coming to high school for the very first time. Nobody blinked an eye at seeing Paul escorting the state member around the grounds, both of us in vests and hard hats and getting more than a little dust on our hands.


Paul was instrumental in the school becoming an independent public school. In fact, Cleveland State High School was one of the first Queensland schools to become an IPS. Paul believed in the ability to hire the best staff and to set up business partnerships without excessive red tape. His vision certainly came to fruition and the school continues to build on its success. Paul possessed the ability to connect the school with the wider community and to grow great partnerships. The University of the Third Age Redlands is just one example.

Paul was awarded a medal of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday 2014 honours list for his service to education, sport and professional organisations. He has been credited with reshaping the school and introducing many improvements in educational programs and international studies. In addition to the OAM, Paul's accomplishments have been recognised with Cleveland State High School winning several prestigious awards. He was honoured to be named Education Queensland Principal of the Year in 2017, a fitting acknowledgement of his dedication and commitment to the role over many years.

Undisputedly, a project that will stand as a lasting legacy to Paul is the school's magnificent, state-of-the-art auditorium, aptly named the Paul Bancroft Centre. Paul is extremely proud of his multipurpose teaching, sports, arts, performance and presentation space. The completed building will long serve as a reminder of his steely determination and unwavering perseverance. It was a privilege for me to join with former members for Cleveland Darryl Briskey and Phil Weightman to stand alongside Paul at the official opening of the centre and to recognise his efforts.

On behalf of the school community and the Redlands community at large, I thank Paul for all that he has done for Cleveland State High School and for all that he has done throughout his distinguished career in advancing lifelong education for the young and the young at heart. I wish him and his family all the very best for the future.

Coronavirus, Vaccination Hubs


 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (6.03 pm): When it comes to beating COVID-19 we are in the race of our lives. How can our state and nation win that race? They can do so by standing up, rolling up and getting vaccinated. That is why the Palaszczuk Labor government has set up mass vaccination hubs in communities like Logan. This includes at the Logan Entertainment Centre in the electorate of Woodridge. Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk; Queensland's Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young; the member for Logan, Linus Power; the member for Springwood, Mick de Brenni; and Logan multicultural leaders and I all visited recently to help get the message out to residents to come and get vaccinated. Our community and state are strongest when we are united. If we can improve understanding about our vaccines and health directives, we are going to increase vaccination rates and reduce time spent under the veil and the threat of COVID. The Logan vaccine hub was set up in June and since then has administered around 50,000 vaccine doses. That is a huge effort and a credit to our community and a result that has been made possible because of the hard work of many.

I would like to acknowledge the multicultural leaders of Logan who have helped promote the importance of vaccination within their communities. This includes from our Eritrean community, Girmay Gebremdhin; from our Congolese community, Blaise Itabelo; from our Burundian community, Venantie Niragira; from our Maori community, Mary Bartlett-Johnston; from our Samoan community, John Pale; from our Cambodian community, Sovannary Uk; from our Pakistan community, Ahsan Assadi; and from our Indigenous community, our First Nations community, Uncle Barry Watson, just to name a few. I

would also like to give a shout-out to the other community and health leaders who are ensuring we are getting more vaccines into arms sooner. This includes Gail Ker from Access Community Services, 'Eddie' Lubari and Brooke Hutchison from Metro South Health, Associate Professor Ignacio Correa-Velez from the Queensland Program of Assistance to Survivors of Torture and Trauma, Christine Castely from Multicultural Australia, Hussein Ahmed from the Somali community and the Moorooka Imam, and Habib Jamal from the Islamic Council of Queensland.

The Culturally and Linguistically Diverse COVID-19 Health Engagement Project Team are also getting great results helping members of our multicultural community access the right COVID information faster. I want to express my appreciation for the work of Donata Sackey, Grace Edward, Faysel Ahmed Selat, Ally Wakefield, Vicky Jacobson, Paul Schmidt from Red Cross, Dr Jishu Das Gupta, Benny Bol from the Queensland African Communities Council, Kerrie Woodrow from Multicultural Australia, and Julie McDougall and Wayne Briscoe from Multicultural Affairs Queensland. Seeing so many local residents rolling up their sleeves and getting vaccinated gives me an immense sense of pride and hope. Finally, I want to thank each and every Logan resident, including residents of the Woodridge electorate, for protecting themselves, their loved ones and all Queenslanders.

Maiwar Electorate, Primary School


 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (6.06 pm): I rise to give an update on the progress of the much anticipated and long overdue new primary school in the inner west in my electorate of Maiwar. After years of overcrowded classrooms and demountable buildings, we are getting closer to giving west side kids a bit more breathing space. We are now nine months into the consultation process and the education department has arrived at two possible sites: Indooroopilly State High School or the former Toowong bowls club at Gailey Rd in Toowong. A report yesterday on the latest round of consultation shows that the former Toowong bowls club site scores better, on average, among residents against the department's criteria, with 70 per cent approval compared to Indooroopilly State High School with 43 per cent approval. That is broadly consistent with the feedback I have received, but locals know that neither site is perfect and both have some pretty significant challenges. My position has always been that the state government should spend their \$100 million plus budget allocation on private land to build this school. It is disappointing to see that the department has only considered using public land so far.

Turning to the Toowong site first, the biggest concern I have heard from locals about that site is the loss of the bowls club building itself and the greens as public space. That is along with traffic, flooding and a significant nearby colony of endangered flying foxes. If that site is chosen, the state government should fund a land swap to offset the loss of that community asset. The council and the state government could still buy back the ABC site to create a beautiful, landmark riverside park, but that is certainly not the only option! The government could also expand Perrin Park by converting the currently off limits SES depot into public parkland. They could even buy back commercial property to expand the Toowong urban common on Sherwood Road and High Street, an upgrade which council has sadly neglected to date.

At the Indooroopilly State High School site, the biggest local concern has always been traffic and pedestrian safety, along with flooding and community access to the ovals. My office organised a large survey of more than 1,000 parents at the four existing schools in this precinct, and we have published a list of six public transport upgrades and 16 pedestrian safety improvements that the state government could fund together with council. As a member of the project reference group and the transport working group, I have been working with the department to try to get some of those solutions funded and put in place. Making it safe and attractive for more than 6,000 students in this precinct to walk, cycle and bus to school is cheaper than building or widening roads.

One of the most exciting ideas residents brought to us, and which I have taken up, is to reopen the Tennyson train line between Yeerongpilly and Corinda. That would link the western suburbs with the south side and take cars off the Walter Taylor Bridge, Coonan Street and Lambert Road. A decision on the location is due by the end of September, and I will keep working up until that date and beyond to get the best outcome for the community.

Star of Taroom

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (6.09 pm): I have spoken before about the Iman people and the town of Taroom, my mother's home town. I have spoken of how I and my family have no doubt benefited from the dispossession of the Iman people from their lands. My desire for reconciliation is genuine, and I believe it is shared by most Australians. We have a deep rift at the centre of our shared history that needs to be actively healed.


Recently I had the wonderful opportunity to participate in returning the Star of Taroom to the Iman people. Removed from Iman lands, the star is a celestial marker—one of a network that helped guide the Iman people to the Bunya Festival. It is a thing of great beauty, now resting in the Iman section of the Taroom Museum. I encourage all people to make the journey to see it.

Johnny Denalis, at the request of his father, who had removed the star, worked with a team of volunteers to return the star to its rightful owners. They walked this star, a 100-kilogram rock, from Brisbane to Taroom—over 500 kilometres. I joined the walk from Wooroolin to Wondai with Johnny and other volunteers, elders—including my uncle Father Vince Carroll, and my cousin Bette Dines. It was a special and a spiritual day. We were allowed to touch the rock and given support to understand the country we were walking through by neighbouring Wulli Wulli people Uncle Bob Clancy.

I returned to Taroom on 24 July for the arrival of the star. It was really wonderful to see the Iman people celebrating their culture, being proud of their culture and being so welcoming and forgiving. There was a sense of healing not just for the Iman but also for Taroom. I acknowledge Uncle James White, who took a great deal of time to explain much about the Iman culture to me and my wife. I definitely want to thank the elders of the Iman Wardinggarri Aboriginal Corporation. I also acknowledge the member for Lockyer, who joined the walk for part of the journey as well. I thank the member for Cooper, who helped Johnny Denalis get a bit of a start on this project. It was a pleasure to meet the member for Cooper in Taroom, show her around the town and share afternoon tea at Stoney Crossing, a place where my mother and her brothers learned to swim. It was a pleasure to watch my second and third cousins swimming there that day.

After the official duties, it was fantastic to retire to the Leichhardt Hotel, where we shared a few beers, dinner and games of pool. Most importantly of all, we talked together honestly, which was possible because we had walked together honestly. As I looked around the pub that night, surrounded by my extended family interacting with Iman and non-Iman people who were brought together by a desire to the right thing, I realised that reconciliation is a really big thing but we will only get there via lots of little steps. This, the Star of Taroom, was a really important step.

Crocodiles

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (6.12 pm): In June 2016, the government made a big deal about allocating \$5.8 million over three years for crocodile management, including a comprehensive monitoring program to study crocodile populations. Over five years later, after constant questioning from the KAP, a short, glossy, eight-page brochure was delivered. The brochure provides a wide estimate of crocodile numbers in the waterways of North Queensland and stated an average of 1.7 crocodiles per kilometre of rivers surveyed, and 1.2 crocodiles per kilometre in the Cairns region. Another finding was that the Northern Territory has three times the crocodile population, with the report trying to infer that Queensland's crocodile problem is not so bad after all. I would hardly call that comprehensive or a valid use of taxpayers' money.


If I were a business owner who gave \$5.8 million to a company which took five years to produce an eight-page brochure, I would be pretty angry and would demand my money back. It appears that the report has been delivered on the run and that the findings are in direct conflict to everyday feedback on what is happening on the ground in Far North Queensland. Did the department talk to any fishermen in Far North Queensland? I have, and they have informed me that at night they can count up to 17 crocodiles within one kilometre in the Russell River alone. I was at the Russell River the other day and there were two crocodiles at the boat ramp!

It is now common knowledge that anyone who tries to swim across any section of any major river in Far North Queensland will not make it to the other side. Those living in Far North Queensland are sick and tired of hearing when crocodiles are reported in populated waterways that the department will monitor the crocodile to see if it presents any danger. Any crocodile in any populated waterway is dangerous and should be immediately removed. The reality is that the government's crocodile management plan is a dismal failure. The millions in funding spent over the past five years could instead have been used to employ more Indigenous rangers, establish an effective egg-harvesting program and open a Queensland crocodile authority based in Far North Queensland to deal with crocodile issues locally.

I clarify that the KAP has never in the past supported—nor ever would support—the widespread, unchecked slaughter of crocodiles which occurred in the 1970s; however, we will continue to advocate for a more proactive approach to crocodile management that will see the problem dealt with locally

instead of in an office tower in Brisbane. Both major parties previously opposed our bill but still have not provided a solution that meets community expectations. I will be submitting a revised safer waterways bill on behalf of the KAP to address the shortfalls in the current program.

Aspley Electorate

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (6.15 pm): Tonight I rise to speak about some of the remarkable individuals in the Aspley electorate and about the winners of the inaugural Aspley Local Legends Awards for Queensland Day 2021. After what has been an incredibly trying 18 months for many members of the community, it was great to have the ability to highlight some of our local legends who continue to go above and beyond. The six winners of my Local Legends Awards were: Sharlene, Harley, Holly, Tara, Tamzine and Robyn.

Sharlene was a nominee of Craigslea State School, of which remarked that she had made exceptional contributions to the school community after being a foundation student in 1972. In 2015 Sharlene returned to the school to coordinate its sensitivity unit and had significantly trained up a group of dedicated volunteers in the unit. Now Sharlene is busy serving the school through the P&C, leading the outside school hours care service, redesigning the school library and organising the prep playground. She is currently heavily involved in organising the school's 50th anniversary celebrations.


I was also pleased to honour three exceptionally hardworking individuals in some of our local kindies. Robyn is the lead educator at C&K West Chermside and was nominated by several parents, who said that her care and dedication left a mark on the children so much that, wherever the West Chermside kindy uniform is seen, parents and children ask about how Ms Robyn is going. Tamzine is a teacher aide at C&K Geebung kindy. I take this opportunity to thank all our teacher aides in Teacher Aide Appreciation Week. Tamzine was nominated by parents and peers, who said that she is extremely passionate about caring for all the children at Geebung kindy. This was shown during the height of COVID-19, when she took the initiative to check up on families in their transition to online learning. Tara, who is the Marchant Park P&C president, was nominated by a number of parents in our community due to her full-time devotion to supporting the kindy. She had taken the initiative in her own time to plan for new projects such as their recycling facility, which the children taught me how to use when I was last there. It was great.

The fifth recipient of my Local Legends Awards was Harley, who I have mentioned previously in parliament. Harley is a true local legend who has dedicated 30 years of service to Boondall Neighbourhood Watch, holding a variety of positions, and also seven years at Aspley Classes for Seniors, of which he is treasurer. They do so much in our local community.

The last recipient of the Aspley Local Legends Awards was Holly, who is a volunteer leader at Aspley District Girl Guides, leading two unit groups and assisting with planning unit and district events such as camps and outdoor activities. It was remarked by Laina, who nominated her, that Holly is always the first to lend a hand when help is needed. Aspley Girl Guides are a great group in Marchant Park. I am always happy to support them in whatever initiatives they undertake.

I thank all six of these local legends for their service to the community. Of course, there are so many more in our area. I thought it really important to honour these six. They all are very deserving of the title of Aspley Local Legend.

Green Hydrogen

 **Mr BOYCE** (Callide—LNP) (6.18 pm): Green hydrogen is the latest alternative energy solution touted by the state government to meet its 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030. Many business and industry representatives are on board as they aspire to meet the commitments to decarbonise Australian industry. The Gladstone Hydrogen Ecosystem is part of the overall plan.


What is green hydrogen? Put simply, it is the process of splitting the water molecule—H₂O—into its basic elements of hydrogen and oxygen using renewable energy. This is water electrolysis and involves the passing of a huge electrical current through water via a machine called an electrolyser. The electricity comes from green energy produced by solar, wind or hydro generators, hence the term 'green hydrogen'. We can argue all day as to the viability and economics of such proposals, but rather than do that I would like to point out some issues and questions that have yet to be answered.

It takes around 10 litres of fresh water to produce a kilogram of hydrogen. If we expand that out to producing industrial quantities of hydrogen—and I am talking millions of tonnes of it—we will require hundreds of thousands of megalitres of fresh water, so where is the water going to come from? Water is the necessity of life and we live on one of the driest continents in the world. Water is our most precious

resource. Our state relies on flooding rains to continue our production of clean, fresh food, fibre and fodder, with dam storage and underground water supplies being replenished by these large seasonal downpours.

To make the Gladstone Hydrogen Ecosystem viable, there needs to be an abundance of water. It is my understanding that both Awoonga Dam at Gladstone and the new Rookwood Weir allocations have been fully allocated to other industries and household use. I have recently written to the Queensland Minister for Energy and the Minister for Water asking for their answers to this question. My answer is to build the Nathan Dam between Taroom and Theodore in Central Queensland. The Nathan Dam is the largest shovel-ready water infrastructure project in Australia with all approvals in place. It is an 880,000 megalitre dam situated on the Dawson River approximately halfway between the small towns of Taroom and Theodore in Central Queensland. If the Nathan Dam were to be built, downstream flows to supplement the Rookwood Weir would enable water to be pumped to the Gladstone area via water pipelines, thus providing a water source for a future hydrogen industry at Gladstone or possibly to the proposed green hydrogen project at the nitrate plant at Moura. Without water, the green hydrogen industry will not succeed. There is a problem with the Nathan Gorge dam, and that is that the Coordinator-General's report has now lapsed, so I have asked a question of the Minister for State Development to clarify exactly what is the status of the Nathan Dam proposal. I eagerly await an answer or a different answer to this question: where is the water coming from?


Afghanistan

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (6.21 pm): I rise to place on record my concern about the current situation in Afghanistan and the impact it is having on the population in the rapidly deteriorating country, the Afghan community here in Australia and the Australian veteran community. The images and news coming out of Afghanistan over the past fortnight have been heartbreaking to watch. We must remember that this is not a country or population that sought such conflict nor chooses such devastation. No civilian population deserves to have war, civil or otherwise, in its midst. I have a small but thriving Afghan community in my electorate and we have discussed the fears that they hold for their family members and loved ones who have endured so much over the past two decades but remain. From veterans I am speaking to, there is a range of mixed emotions, from despair, anger, frustration and shame. I do not intend to weigh into the debate about Australia's presence in Afghanistan or the reasons behind it but just know that when a member of the Defence Force steps up to deploy they give their mission their all, regardless of the political reasons behind it. There is not to reason why, if I may appropriate Tennyson.

What has disheartened veterans is the treatment of the interpreters and other support staff whom our troops relied on so heavily. Commitments were made. Assurances were given. I have worked with interpreters on deployment. For many of my missions they are the key to success in any community engagement. Their knowledge, understanding and forbearance were integral to achieving successful outcomes. Living and working with them in close conditions for months on end breeds trust and for many veterans to see those assurances forgotten or abandoned is particularly galling. However, let us not see this painted as a recent event, that we have only had two weeks to get these allies out of a country in which their mere presence has been a threat to them personally as well as to their families and local communities. The veteran community has been calling on the government to evacuate these people for months and even years, so to see the mad scramble for evacuation—to know that those who had visas were still left behind—shows how poorly this was handled at the highest levels.

Our soldiers care. They are good global citizens and many of them are using their own networks and funds to assist their mates. Our soldiers do not abandon their mates and, despite the lacklustre support from the federal government, they will continue to support their mates. There are, rightly, grave concerns held for the future of the advancement of women and education more broadly within the new regime. I understand that this is a delicate issue diplomatically, but as Australians we cannot resile from protesting any backward step for women and vulnerable people in any country.

Toowoomba, Quarantine Facility

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (6.24 pm): I rise to speak about a situation that is really concerning the people of Toowoomba. First of all we had the most unusual and unprecedented step of locking our border to other states for Queensland residents under any circumstances. This has caused a lot of distress because people have family members who are trapped on the wrong side with no accommodation, no money, no ability to earn an income and no ability to pay for the hotel that they are even staying in. The border lockout with no possibility of anybody coming in is just unbelievable, but


what is more unbelievable is that the day after that announcement was made the Premier flew a plane up to Toowoomba and landed in Toowoomba and announced that she is going to build a quarantine facility and that the government finances—the taxpayers' money—for that facility will be commercial-in-confidence and she did not outline any form of a plan in relation to it. I want to draw the House's attention to a letter I wrote on 27 January—eight months ago. It is addressed to the Premier and says—

Due to overwhelming feedback from the community, a majority of which is not in support of the facility, I do ask that yourself and the Chief Health Officer travel to Toowoomba to outline in full detail the plan for a quarantine facility at Wellcamp. It's important that Australians can get home safely, but we must also safeguard those in the Toowoomba community that I represent.

Simply, this was all I was asking for: where is the plan? How are we going to manage this facility? I wrote several letters after that, none of which I got a decent response to. The only response we have had is eight months after the letter was written the Premier flies in, speaks to one or two people who live in Toowoomba and explains nothing and gets on the plane and flies back out again.

There has been no plan outlined as to how medical facilities might be able to deal with this. Toowoomba does not have the facilities to deal with a medical outbreak of COVID. We can move them to Brisbane and that would be fantastic, but unfortunately we do not have enough paramedics and we do not have enough ambulances to move them down to Brisbane. We already have one in three ambulances ramped at the back of the hospital. We do not have spare beds. We do not have the negative pressure rooms. We do not have the ICU units. We do not have the capacity to deal with an outbreak, so please, Premier, explain to the people of Toowoomba how this is going to work and please, Premier, provide us with some of the medical facilities that will be required if we have an outbreak in Toowoomba. I am very concerned. There are currently no spare beds. If COVID gets out in my community, it is going to be a travesty for the people of Toowoomba.

Share the Dignity

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (6.27 pm): We have just come to the end of August, which is Share the Dignity month, and I know that many members that I have spoken to this week across the House are in fact collection points for Share the Dignity. There are a few collectors for Share the Dignity in the House tonight, so that is fantastic.

A government member: Good cause.

Ms PUGH: It is a good cause, and I am sure we can all agree on that. Obviously it is something that is a little bit embarrassing to talk about, but I have been collecting for it for the last eight months and I was still a little bit embarrassed to get up and talk about it tonight. However, that was before I had heard of two amazing 4074 locals—Kim and Olivia Hamson. Not only do they promote Share the Dignity on Facebook; they went on the nationally televised show *The Project* to talk about period poverty and the personal impact that period poverty has had on their lives. That was absolutely sensational and that gave me the kick in the pants that I needed to get up here tonight and talk about the impact that periods and period poverty can have on women in our community.

I know that period poverty is an issue that my electorate cares about. Last year on the 4074 Facebook page, which is incredibly popular and run by the 'Lisas squared', as we call them, there were 1,300 votes cast on the issue of providing free menstrual products to school students, specifically ones who could not afford them. Of the 1,300 votes cast, just 21 people voted against providing products. I do not know what that breaks down to statistically, but it is fair to say that there is overwhelming support in my electorate for ending period poverty.

We have just come into September which is when we are banning that first round of plastics and we know that, increasingly, menstrual products are a really big offender in this space, but the great news is that there are alternatives on the market. I put this call out: because I am a year-round collection point for Share the Dignity, I would love for people to consider, as I have, donating more renewable options. We have things like period undies, which are increasingly affordable and really effective. There is the DivaCup, which is also incredibly effective. The great thing about these is that if you are donating them to a woman in need who is suffering from period poverty they are not a one-use and throwaway item; they can use that item month after month, year after year. That is a game changer—that is, when we are talking about ending period poverty, that is going to provide something that is going to give them months and years of continued use. As I said, they are incredibly and increasingly affordable. Periods and period poverty are a fact of life. We are never going to move the needle on talking about this issue if we are not willing to talk about it in society and in parliament. Thanks to Kim and Olivia for being fearless and setting that example.

The House adjourned at 6.30 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly, King A, King S, Knuth, Krause, Last, 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