



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, 12 October 2021

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TUESDAY, 12 OCTOBER 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.

ASSENT TO BILLS



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

The Honourable C.W. Pitt MP

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Parliament House

George Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

My dear Mr Speaker

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

Date of Assent: 23 September 2021

A bill for an Act about access to voluntary assisted dying and related matters, and to amend this Act, the Coroners Act 2003, the Guardianship and Administration Act 2000, the Medicines and Poisons Act 2019 and the Powers of Attorney Act 1998 for particular purposes

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

Yours sincerely

Governor

23 September 2021

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 23 September 2021, from His Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to a certain bill on 23 September 2021 [[1692](#)].

ABSENCE OF MEMBER



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have received advice that the member for Coomera will be absent from the sittings of the House occurring from 12 October until 16 November 2021. The member's notification complies with standing order 263A.

PRIVILEGE


Speaker's Ruling, Matter of Privilege Advocated in the Media



Mr SPEAKER: On 29 September 2021, I tabled a ruling regarding matters of privilege relating to a complaint by the Manager of Opposition Business. I was critical of an abuse of the process by prosecuting the complaint in the media. I ruled that I was not referring the matter to the Ethics Committee. I now refer to the matter so that if any member wishes to exercise their rights in respect of that matter under the standing orders they should do so immediately.


SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Queensland Portfolio Committee System, Anniversary


 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I will be hosting a panel discussion to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the portfolio committee system in Queensland. I will be joined by two architects of the portfolio committee system: the Hon. Judy Spence and the Hon. Lawrence Springborg AM, the chair and deputy chair of the former parliamentary committee system review committee. The member for Noosa will also be on the panel to give the perspective of a current committee member. The introduction of portfolio committees was a significant step in the evolution of our parliamentary system, aimed at strengthening the scrutiny of the executive and increasing public participation in the parliamentary process.

The panel discussion will take place from 10.30 am in the Legislative Council chamber. It will also be live streamed on the parliament's Facebook page. Panel members will share their insights about the reforms, the roles committees play in the democratic process and public engagement, and the effectiveness of the current committee system. The panel will also be answering questions from the audience. I invite all members who are available to attend.

Dyslexia Awareness Month


 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, October is GoRedForDyslexia month. Dyslexia is a learning disorder characterised by difficulty in reading, memorising and identifying words. Approximately 20 per cent of all people have dyslexia to some degree. Many dyslexics as a result of learning difficulties suffer anxiety and low self-esteem. Dyslexia is lifelong and genetic. It cannot be cured but dyslexics can be trained to learn differently to overcome the disorder. GoRedForDyslexia month is being championed in Queensland by SPELD, Supporting People Experiencing Learning Difficulties. Red is the chosen colour as it represents the scourge of the red pen, an experience faced by all dyslexics. In support of GoRedForDyslexia Month, this sitting week Parliament House will be lit red at night. I commend the work of SPELD and GoRedForDyslexia Month to the House.

School Group Tour

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

APPOINTMENTS


Changes in Ministry

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.34 am): I lay upon the table of the House the *Extraordinary Queensland Government Gazette* of 7 October 2021 which outlines recent changes to the ministry. These changes include: my appointment as Premier and Minister for the Olympics; the member for Murrumba appointed as Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic Infrastructure; the member for Woodridge appointed as Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment; and the member for Sandgate appointed as the Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement.

Hosting the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be the biggest single transformational project in Queensland's history. These new ministerial responsibilities are small but necessary steps in preparation for Queensland hosting the Games in 2032. I also advise the House that from 7 October 2021 the member for Aspley has been appointed as Assistant Minister to the Premier for Veterans' Affairs and COVID Economic Recovery.

Tabled paper: Extraordinary Queensland Government Gazette No. 31, dated 7 October 2021, regarding changes to Cabinet, assistant ministers and administrative arrangements [\[1693\]](#).

Opposition

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.35 am): Mr Speaker, I table changes to the titles of relevant shadow ministers as outlined in my previous correspondence to you.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 11 October 2021, from the Leader of the Opposition and Shadow Minister for Tourism, Mr David Crisafulli MP, to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt, advising of changes to the Shadow Cabinet [\[1694\]](#).

PETITIONS

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

Gympie to Tin Can Bay and Rainbow Beach, Road Upgrade

Mr Perrett from 12,148 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the upgrade of the road from Gympie to Tin Can Bay and Rainbow Beach and to provide a proper and safe passage for residents and tourists as a matter of urgency [[1695](#), [1696](#)].

Bells Bridge Intersection to Atkinson Road, Curra

Mr Perrett from 227 petitioners, requesting the House to investigate the numerous accidents and near misses from the Bells Bridge intersection to Atkinson Road, Curra and to reduce the speed limit from 100 kph to 80 kph [[1697](#), [1698](#)].

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

Regional Queensland, 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games

Mr Dametto, from 1,514 petitioners, requesting the House to guarantee regional project delivery, regional skills retention, regional population retention and implement programs to offset the net negative impacts on regions from the 2032 Brisbane Olympics [[1699](#)].

Helensvale North Railway Station, Car Parking and Name Change

Mr Boothman from 339 petitioners requesting the House to increase parking spaces to at least 500 at the proposed Helensvale North station and to change the name of the station to Hope Island Road [[1700](#)].

Emerald and Longreach, Schools of Distance Education Campuses

Mr Millar, from 3,772 petitioners requesting the House to preserve the purpose-built accommodation facilities at the Schools of Distance Education Campuses in Emerald and Longreach and to expedite the return of students and families to these on-site facilities [[1701](#)].

Tamborine Mountain, Roads

Mr Krause from 667 petitioners, requesting the House to cause an upgrade of roads on Tamborine Mountain, in particular Main Western Road, Golf Course Road, Guanaba Road and Henri Robert Drive [[1702](#)].

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

Queensland Chief Health Officer

624 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure that anyone appointed as Queensland Chief Health Officer must have worked and resided in Queensland for at least ten continuous years prior to appointment [[1703](#)].

Redland Bay, Dredging

430 petitioners, requesting the House to assess any application for dredging of the seabed at Redland Bay to include other sea locations [[1704](#)].

Driver and Rider Training

1,314 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake a range of measures relating to driver/rider training to reduce the road toll [[1705](#)].

Politicians and Government Employees, Wages

3,779 petitioners, requesting the House to direct that all politicians and any government employees earning over \$150,000 per year are to take a wage cut of 25% for the duration of any subsequent lockdowns imposed in Queensland [[1706](#)].

TABLED PAPERS

PAPERS TABLED DURING THE RECESS (SO 31)

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

17 September 2021—

[1424](#) Queensland Productivity Commission—Annual Report 2020-21

[1425](#) Brisbane Port Holdings Pty Ltd—Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2021

[1426](#) DBCT Holdings Pty Ltd—Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2021

[1427](#) Queensland Lottery Corporation Pty Ltd—Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2021

[1428](#) Queensland Treasury Holdings Pty Ltd—Consolidated Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2021

[1429](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 14, 57th Parliament—Annual Report 2020-2021

[1430](#) Committee of the Legislative Assembly: Report No. 31, 57th Parliament—Annual Reports of Former Committees 1 July 2020-6 October 2021

[1431](#) Response from the Minister for Tourism Industry Development and Innovation and Minister for Sport (Hon. Hinchliffe), to an ePetition (3585-21) sponsored by the member for Mount Ommaney, Ms Pugh, from 548 petitioners, requesting the House to establish a statue of our most capped Queenslander, Clare Polkinghorne, at Suncorp Stadium

[1432](#) Letter, dated 24 August 2021, from the Chair, Screen Queensland Pty Ltd, Ms Linda Lavarch, to the Premier and Minister for Trade, Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk, presenting the financial statements for Screen Queensland Pty Ltd

[1433](#) Screen Queensland Pty Ltd—Financial Report 2020-2021

20 September 2021—

[1434](#) Medicines and Poisons Act 2019: Extended Practice Authority 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners'

[1435](#) Medicines and Poisons Act 2019: Extended Practice Authority 'Indigenous Health Workers'

[1436](#) Medicines and Poisons Act 2019: Extended Practice Authority 'Midwives'

[1437](#) Medicines and Poisons Act 2019: Extended Practice Authority 'Pharmacists'

[1438](#) Medicines and Poisons Act 2019: Extended Practice Authority 'Physiotherapists'

[1439](#) Medicines and Poisons Act 2019: Extended Practice Authority 'Queensland Ambulance Service'

[1440](#) Medicines and Poisons Act 2019: Extended Practice Authority 'Registered Nurses'

[1441](#) Queensland Health Departmental Standard: Compounding—version 1, 27 September 2021

[1442](#) Queensland Health Departmental Standard: Monitored medicines—version 1, 27 September 2021

[1443](#) Queensland Health Departmental Standard: Pseudoephedrine recording—version 1, 27 September 2021

[1444](#) Queensland Health Departmental Standard: Requirements for an electronic prescription management system—version 1, 27 September 2021

[1445](#) Queensland Health Departmental Standard: Secure storage of S8 medicines—version 1, 27 September 2021

[1446](#) Queensland Health Departmental Standard: Substance Management Plans for Medicines—version 1, 27 September 2021

[1447](#) Queensland Health Departmental Standard: Dealing with restricted S7 poisons for invasive animal control—version 1, 27 September 2021

[1448](#) Queensland Health Departmental Standard: Substance management plans for regulated poisons—version 1, 27 September 2021

[1449](#) Queensland Health Departmental Standard: Competency requirements for authority holders dealing with poisons—version 1, 27 September 2021

[1450](#) Queensland Health Departmental Standard: Competency requirements for licensed technicians undertaking pest management activities with pesticides and fumigants—version 1, 27 September 2021

[1451](#) Queensland Health: Repackaging medicines into a dose administration aid: Guidelines for registered nurses—version 1

[1452](#) Optometry Board of Australia—Guidelines for use of scheduled medicines, 10 September 2018

[1453](#) Podiatry Board of Australia—Registration Standard: Endorsement for scheduled medicines, 1 August 2018

[1454](#) Safe Work Australia—Workplace exposure standards for airborne contaminants, 16 December 2019

22 September 2021—

[1455](#) Education, Employment and Training Committee: Report No. 10, 57th Parliament—Annual Report 2020-21

23 September 2021—

[1456](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (Hon. Furner) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Sugar Industry Regulation 2010, the Rural and Regional Adjustment Regulation 2011 and the Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Regulation 1998

24 September 2021—

[1457](#) Transport and Resources Committee: Report No. 12, 57th Parliament—Inquiry into Vehicle Safety, Standards and Technology, including Engine Immobiliser Technology

27 September 2021—

[1458](#) Community Enterprise Queensland—Annual Report 2021

[1459](#) Legal Practitioners Admissions Board—Annual Report 2020-21

[1460](#) Prostitution Licensing Authority—Annual Report 2020-21

[1461](#) Queensland Ombudsman—Annual Report 2020-21

28 September 2021—

[1462](#) Department of Agriculture and Fisheries—Annual Report 2020-21

[1463](#) Darling Downs—Moreton Rabbit Board—Annual Report 2020-21

[1464](#) Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority—Annual Report 2020-21

[1465](#) Safe Food Production Queensland—Annual Report 2020-21

[1466](#) Queensland Training Ombudsman—Annual Report 2020-21

[1467](#) Department of Employment, Small Business and Training—Annual Report 2020-21

[1468](#) Office of the Information Commissioner—Annual Report 2020-21

- [1469](#) Jobs Queensland—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1470](#) TAFE Queensland—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1471](#) Annual Report of Electorate and Communication Allowance Expenditure by Members of the Legislative Assembly—1 July 2020-30 June 2021
- [1472](#) Annual Report of Air Warrant and Alternate Travel Expenditure by Members of the Legislative Assembly—1 July 2020-30 June 2021
- [1473](#) Annual Report of General Travel Allocation Expenditure by Members of the Legislative Assembly—1 July 2020-30 June 2021
- [1474](#) Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1475](#) Response from the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement (Hon. de Brenni), to an ePetition (3573-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 229 petitioners, requesting the House to alter the various state and council housing guidelines and laws and make compulsory the installation of solar panels and batteries for all new, used and rental houses before contracts are signed and to remove all wood burning fires and stoves and not allow them into new buildings

29 September 2021—

- [1476](#) Queensland Parliamentary Service—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1477](#) Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1478](#) Queensland Treasury—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1479](#) Queensland Treasury Corporation—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1480](#) National Injury Insurance Agency Queensland—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1481](#) Queensland Competition Authority—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1482](#) Energy & Water Ombudsman Queensland—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1483](#) Motor Accident Insurance Commission—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1484](#) CleanCo—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1485](#) CleanCo—Statement of Corporate Intent 2020-21
- [1486](#) Energy Queensland—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1487](#) Energy Queensland—Statement of Corporate Intent 2020-21
- [1488](#) Ergon Energy Queensland Pty Ltd—Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2021
- [1489](#) CS Energy—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1490](#) CS Energy—Statement of Corporate Intent 2020-21
- [1491](#) Stanwell Corporation Limited—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1492](#) Stanwell Corporation Limited—Statement of Corporate Intent 2020-21
- [1493](#) Gold Coast Waterways Authority—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1494](#) Department of Energy and Public Works—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1495](#) Queensland Building and Construction Commission—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1496](#) Board of Architects of Queensland—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1497](#) Board of Professional Engineers of Queensland—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1498](#) Cross River Rail Delivery Authority—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1499](#) Ruling by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt—Matter of privilege advocated in the media, matter dismissed
- [1500](#) Queensland Rail—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1501](#) Health and Environment Committee: Report No. 12, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 12 May 2021 and 15 June 2021
- [1502](#) Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1503](#) Building Queensland—Final Report 1 July 2020-2 June 2021
- [1504](#) Office of the Independent Assessor—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1505](#) Queensland Reconstruction Authority—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1506](#) Queensland Investment Corporation—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1507](#) Queensland Investment Corporation—Statement of Corporate Intent 2020-21
- [1508](#) Queensland Investment Corporation Limited—Consolidated annual financial statements and directors' report for the year ended 30 June 2021
- [1509](#) Queensland Investment Corporation Private Capital Pty Ltd—Annual financial statements and directors' report for the year ended 30 June 2021
- [1510](#) Queensland Investment Corporation Properties Pty Ltd—Annual financial statements and directors' report for the year ended 30 June 2021
- [1511](#) Yambocully Water Board—Final Annual Report 2020-21
- [1512](#) Powerlink Queensland—Annual Report 2020-21

- [1513](#) Powerlink Queensland—Statement of Corporate Intent 2020-21
- [1514](#) South Bank Corporation—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1515](#) Ports North—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1516](#) Far North Queensland Ports Corporation Limited (Trading as Ports North)—Statement of Corporate Intent 2020-21
- [1517](#) Gladstone Ports Corporation—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1518](#) Gladstone Ports Corporation—Statement of Corporate Intent 2020-21
- [1519](#) North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1520](#) North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation—Statement of Corporate Intent 2020-21
- [1521](#) Port of Townsville Limited—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1522](#) Port of Townsville Limited—Statement of Corporate Intent 2020-21
- [1523](#) Department of Transport and Main Roads—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1524](#) Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1525](#) Gladstone Area Water Board—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1526](#) Mount Isa Water Board—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1527](#) Seqwater—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1528](#) Unitywater—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1529](#) Urban Utilities—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1530](#) SunWater—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1531](#) SunWater—Statement of Corporate Intent 2020-21
- [1532](#) Professional Standards Councils—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1533](#) Professional Standards Councils—Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2021
- [1534](#) Department of Environment and Science—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1535](#) Department of Environment and Science—Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2021
- [1536](#) Newstead House Board of Trustees—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1537](#) Seqwater—Operational Plan 2020-21

30 September 2021—

- [1538](#) Response from the Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts (Hon. Enoch), to an ePetition (3509-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 4,792 petitioners, requesting the House to amend the Manufactured Home Residential Parks Act to protect residents from unscrupulous price fixing in and alleviate unwarranted pressure on the QCAT grievance processes
- [1539](#) Response from the Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts (Hon. Enoch), to an ePetition (3524-21) sponsored by the member for Burleigh, Mr Hart, from 275 petitioners, requesting the House to review the existing conditions of placement of identified troubled tenants to make sure they are located in supervised appropriate accommodation
- [1540](#) Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1541](#) Tourism and Events Queensland—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1542](#) Stadiums Queensland—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1543](#) Queensland Art Gallery Board of Trustees—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1544](#) Library Board of Queensland—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1545](#) Queensland Performing Arts Trust—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1546](#) Residential Tenancies Authority—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1547](#) Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1548](#) Board of the Queensland Museum—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1549](#) Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee: Report No. 106, 57th Parliament—Review of the Crime and Corruption Commission's activities, interim government response
- [1550](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (Hon. Fentiman) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities (Justice, Land and Other Matters) Regulation 2008, Appeal Costs Fund Regulation 2010, Associations Incorporation Regulation 1999, Body Corporate and Community Management Regulation 2008, Building Units and Group Titles Regulation 2008, Casino Control Regulation 1999, Charitable and Non-Profit Gaming Regulation 1999, Collections Regulation 2008, Courts Funds Regulation 2009, Fair Trading (Code of Practice-Fitness Industry) Regulation 2003, Funeral Benefit Business Regulation 2010, Gaming Machine Regulation 2002, Information Privacy Regulation 2009, Interactive Gambling (Player Protection) Regulation 1998, Keno Regulation 2007, Liquor (Approval of Adult Entertainment Code) Regulation 2002, Liquor Regulation 2002, Lotteries Regulation 2007, Right to Information Regulation 2009, Second-hand Dealers and Pawnbrokers Regulation 2004, Security Providers (Crowd Controller Code of Practice) Regulation 2008, Security Providers Regulation 2008, Security Providers (Security Firm Code of Practice) Regulation 2008, Security Providers (Security Officer—Licensed Premises—Code of Practice) Regulation 2008, Tourism Services (Code of Conduct for Inbound Tour Operators) Regulation 2003, Tourism Services Regulation 2003, Trust Accounts Regulation 1999, Wagering Regulation 1999, Wine Industry Regulation 2009

- [1551](#) Response from the Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water (Hon. Butcher), to an ePetition (3512-21) sponsored by the member for Mirani, Mr Andrew, from 363 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure that the height of Rookwood Weir's wall is raised by a full one metre to restore the weir's capacity to the original promised volume of 76,000 ml
- [1552](#) Response from the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (Hon. Dr Miles), to an ePetition (3544-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 751 petitioners, requesting the House to mandate local councils to allocate 25% of council owned caravan parks as permanent housing
- [1553](#) Response from the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (Hon. Dr Miles), to an ePetition (3553-21) sponsored by the member for Mermaid Beach, Mr Stevens, from 514 petitioners, requesting the House to allow the recommendations of the Griffith University Research Team regarding the condition of the water of Lake Hugh Muntz in Mermaid Waters to be immediately actioned and maintain that budget annually until the lake has been restored
- [1554](#) Response from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (Hon. Furner), to an ePetition (3455-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 3,021 petitioners, requesting the House to demonstrate compassion and care by legislating to strengthen 'puppy farm' laws
- [1555](#) Crime and Corruption Commission—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1556](#) Queensland Human Rights Commission—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1557](#) Public Trustee Act 1978: Public Trustee (Fees and Charges Notice) (No. 1) 2021
- [1558](#) Public Trustee Act 1978: Public Trustee (Fees and Charges Notice) (No. 1) 2021, explanatory notes
- [1559](#) Public Trustee Act 1978: Public Trustee (Fees and Charges Notice) (No. 1) 2021, human rights certificate
- [1560](#) Queensland Family and Child Commission—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1561](#) Queensland Law Society—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1562](#) Queensland Law Reform Commission—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1563](#) Public Trustee—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1564](#) Legal Aid Queensland—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1565](#) Electoral Commission Queensland—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1566](#) Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1567](#) Department of Justice and Attorney-General—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1568](#) Surveyors Board Queensland—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1569](#) GasFields Commission Queensland—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1570](#) Resources Safety & Health Queensland—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1571](#) Response from the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs (Hon. Scanlon), to an ePetition (3521-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 562 petitioners, requesting the House to address the problem of litter by undertaking a statewide litter awareness and education campaign, increase litter fines, strengthen litter laws to allow on-the-spot fines, and to adequately resource local government to enforce litter legislation devolved to them by the State
- [1572](#) Response from the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs (Hon. Scanlon), to an ePetition (3525-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 2,296 petitioners, requesting the House to legislate to respect advice of the independent scientific panel commissioned by the Queensland government which recommended a ban on petroleum/gas activities and the unacceptable risks associated with gas fracking in the Channel Country of Queensland—the flood plains of Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre Basin
- [1573](#) Queensland Racing Integrity Commission—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1574](#) Department of Education—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1575](#) Department of Resources—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1576](#) Valuers Registration Board of Queensland—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1577](#) Response from the Treasurer and Minister for Investment (Hon. Dick), to an ePetition (3577-21) sponsored by the member for Kawana, Mr Bleijie, from 509 petitioners, requesting the House to implement a COVID business support package which would include giving businesses lump sum payments to cover loss of income during lockdowns and restricted trade and event cancellation rebates to cover financial losses if events are cancelled due to a lockdown or restrictions
- [1578](#) Response from the Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (Hon. Linard), to an ePetition (3528-21) sponsored by the member for Burleigh, Mr Hart, from 1,274 petitioners, requesting the House to change the bail act and introduce a range of measures to halt the increase of youth crime in the electorate of Burleigh
- [1579](#) Racing Queensland—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1580](#) Queensland Curriculum & Assessment Authority—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1581](#) WorkCover Queensland—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1582](#) Community Services Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Authority—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1583](#) Contract Cleaning Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Authority—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1584](#) Building & Construction Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Authority—Annual Report 2020-21

- [1585](#) Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (Hon. Fentiman), to an ePetition (3498-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 820 petitioners, requesting the House to replicate NSW's 2016 legislative changes and amend strata legislation to provide model by-laws that can be adopted by "Special Resolution" to protect lot owners and tenants from smoke penetration from other lots or common property
- [1586](#) Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (Hon. Fentiman), to an ePetition (3546-21) sponsored by the member for Morayfield, Hon. Ryan, from 925 petitioners, requesting the House to increase funding for community legal services in the Moreton Region
- [1587](#) Office of the Governor—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1588](#) Trade and Investment Queensland—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1589](#) Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1590](#) Office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1591](#) Parole Board Queensland—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1592](#) Non-State Schools Accreditation Board—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1593](#) Queensland Fire and Emergency Services—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1594](#) Public Safety Business Agency—Final Annual Report 2020-21
- [1595](#) Queensland Police Service—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1596](#) Queensland Audit Office—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1597](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. D'Ath), to an ePetition (3496-21) sponsored by the member for Traeger, Mr Katter, from 586 petitioners, requesting the House to repurpose the vacant Eventide Residential Aged Care Facility's hostel accommodation area at Charters Towers as desperately needed residential accommodation for elderly low income earners
- [1598](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. D'Ath), to a paper petition (3600-21) presented by the member for Gympie, Mr Perrett, and an ePetition (3549-21) sponsored by the member for Gympie, Mr Perrett, from 1,223 and 2,982 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to provide Gympie Hospital with a paediatric doctor and ward
- [1599](#) Response from the Premier and Minister for Trade (Hon. Palaszczuk), to an ePetition (3545-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 720 petitioners, requesting the House to consider giving the people the choice of more direct democracy in our systems of government and a voice on contentious issues by introducing citizen's initiated referendums
- [1600](#) Response from the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs (Hon. Scanlon), to an ePetition (3583-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 547 petitioners, requesting the House to implement the duty of care imposed by Justice Bromberg by stopping all new coal licences which have not begun mining coal and take other measures to lower emissions throughout the state
- [1601](#) Department of Health—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1602](#) Public Service Commission—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1603](#) Department of the Premier and Cabinet—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1604](#) Queensland Corrective Services—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1605](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3503-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 89 petitioners, requesting the House to install pedestrian crossings at both car park entry points at Ripley Valley State School
- [1606](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3548-21) sponsored by the member for Burleigh, Mr Hart, from 1,422 petitioners, requesting the House to hold a public meeting in Palm Beach to listen to local residents and answer their questions on the plan to extend the light rail south along the Gold Coast Highway through Palm Beach, Currumbin and Tugun
- [1607](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3551-21) sponsored by the member for Hinchinbrook, Mr Dametto, from 3,051 petitioners, requesting the House to legislate that all vehicle manufacturers must provide electronic warning devices in new vehicles that alert the driver to children who are left unattended in a vehicle
- [1608](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3570-21) sponsored by the member for Lockyer, Mr McDonald, from 1,933 petitioners, requesting the House to acknowledge the Warrego Highway truck de-coupling facility in Gatton as the truck driver's workplace and install adequate toilet facilities for these workers
- [1609](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3586-21) sponsored by the member for Gympie, Mr Perrett, from 236 petitioners, requesting the House to investigate the numerous accidents and near misses at the David Drive and Bruce Highway at the Puma service station at Curra, Queensland and to reduce the speed limit from 100 kph to 80 kph around the site
- [1610](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (3601-21) presented by the member for Buderim, Mr Mickelberg, and an ePetition (3563-21) sponsored by the member for Buderim, Mr Mickelberg, from 351 and 148 petitioners respectively, requesting the House install noise abatement barriers along Bellflower Road, Sippy Downs
- 1 October 2021—
- [1611](#) Queensland Integrity Commissioner—Annual Report 2020-21

- [1612](#) Response from the Premier and Minister for Trade (Hon. Palaszczuk), to an ePetition (3569-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 202 petitioners, requesting the House to modify the e-petition system to gather analysis of petitioners by electorates and to make this data available to interested members of the public
- [1613](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. D'Ath), to an ePetition (3557-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 464 petitioners, requesting the House to cease the imposition of fees and charges for car parking on hospital patients because it is no less than a tax on the sick
- [1614](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. D'Ath), to an ePetition (3559-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 440 petitioners, requesting the House to waive/cancel hospital patients parking fees and to ensure patient waiting times are much closer to appointment times and not two hours plus
- [1615](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. D'Ath), to an ePetition (3562-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 729 petitioners, requesting the House to initiate a referendum on voluntary assisted dying the next time all Queenslanders are required to vote and an ePetition (3564-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 419 petitioners requesting the House to take special cognisance of the views of electors within their respective divisions on all petitions dealing with the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021
- [1616](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. D'Ath), to an ePetition (3576-21) sponsored by the member for Mirani, Mr Andrew, from 17,872 petitioners requesting the House to oppose the Public Health and Other Legislation (Further Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill, to extend Queensland's 'State of Emergency' powers and measures into a third year
- [1617](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3504-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 280 petitioners, requesting the House to install multiple new overtaking lanes in both directions for the entire length of the D'Aguilar Highway
- [1618](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3505-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 574 petitioners, requesting the House to pass legislation including on the spot fines where cyclists ride on narrow roads and highways without cycle lanes where a purpose built cycle lane exists adjacent
- [1619](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3506-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 966 petitioners, requesting the House to introduce and pass legislation to require traffic control companies to remove/cover speed restriction signs when no roadworks are actually taking place
- [1620](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3507-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 135 petitioners, requesting the House to announce a start date and a projected completion date for the proposed Lindum Rail Station overpass
- [1621](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3508-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 219 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure a rebuild and resurface of the D'Aguilar Highway especially where pot holes continue to occur and where the highway is repeatedly patched and an ePetition (3555-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 142 petitioners, requesting the House to put in place a mandatory requirement for the Department of Transport and Main Roads and their contractors to clean up the site around each pothole at the same time as they are repaired
- [1622](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3533-21) sponsored by the member for Burleigh, Mr Hart, from 5,479 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure a comprehensive evaluation of all route and mode options for Stage 4 of the Gold Coast Light Rail and a pause on all planning, business case and land acquisition actions until the review is completed
- [1623](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3543-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 190 petitioners, requesting the House to adopt a range of measures to ensure a solution to the traffic volume, speeding, hooning and vehicle noise in Caloundra
- [1624](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3550-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 527 petitioners, requesting the House to install traffic signals at the intersection of Mt Cotton Road and Double Jump Road as a matter of urgency
- [1625](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3554-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 99 petitioners, requesting the House to pass new or amend existing legislation to require all local governments comply with Australian Standards for existing and future parking signage
- [1626](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3556-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 212 petitioners, requesting the House to reduce spending on football games and the Olympic Games and allocate additional funding to the D'Aguilar Highway for merge lanes at the intersections where King Street and Williams Road joins the D'Aguilar Highway
- [1627](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3558-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 86 petitioners, requesting the House to approve new traffic warning signage such as "Large Multiple Pot Holes Ahead" or "Drive on this Queensland Government Highway at your own risk"
- [1628](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3560-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 112 petitioners, requesting the House to inspect and rectify all dirty, faded and non-reflective traffic signs on state controlled roads and highways

5 October 2021—

- [1629](#) Response from the Premier and Minister for Trade (Hon. Palaszczuk), to an ePetition (3481-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 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

- [1630](#) Response from the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs (Hon. Scanlon), to an ePetition (3483-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 530 petitioners, requesting the House to approve and install three new Air Monitoring Network Stations at Ripley, Collingwood Park and Redbank Plains

6 October 2021—

- [1631](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. D'Ath) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996, Health Regulation 1996 and the Pest Management Regulation 2003
- [1632](#) Queensland Health—Notifiable dust lung disease register—Annual Report 2020-21

11 October 2021—

- [1633](#) Chief Psychiatrist—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1634](#) Mental Health Court—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1635](#) Mental Health Review Tribunal—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1636](#) President of the Industrial Court of Queensland (in respect of the Industrial Court of Queensland, Queensland Industrial Relations Commission and the Queensland Industrial Registry)—Annual Report 2020-21
- [1637](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Standard 2010
- [1638](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Tow Truck Regulation 2009
- [1639](#) Rail Safety National Law (South Australia) Act 2012: Rail Safety National Law National Regulations (Modification of FOI Act) Variation Regulations 2021
- [1640](#) Rail Safety National Law (South Australia) Act 2012: Rail Safety National Law National Regulations (Modification of FOI Act) Variation Regulations 2021, explanatory notes
- [1641](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts (Hon. Enoch) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Regulation 2009
- [1642](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement (Hon. de Brenni) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Electricity Regulation 2006, Energy and Water Ombudsman Regulation 2007 and the Gas Supply Regulation 2007
- [1643](#) Takeaway liquor authority notice number 23 issued in accordance with section 235D and 235F of the Liquor Act 1992 by the Commissioner for Liquor and Gaming
- [1644](#) Takeaway liquor authority notice number 24 issued in accordance with section 235D and 235F of the Liquor Act 1992 by the Commissioner for Liquor and Gaming
- [1645](#) Takeaway liquor authority notice number 25 issued in accordance with section 235D and 235F of the Liquor Act 1992 by the Commissioner for Liquor and Gaming
- [1646](#) Takeaway liquor authority notice number 26 issued in accordance with section 235D and 235F of the Liquor Act 1992 by the Commissioner for Liquor and Gaming

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Animal Care and Protection Act 2001, Electoral Act 1992, Environmental Protection Act 1994, Medicines and Poisons Act 2019, Planning Act 2016, Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, Prostitution Act 1999, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, Veterinary Surgeons Act 1936, Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011:

- [1647](#) Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Regulation 2021, No. 140
- [1648](#) Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Regulation 2021, No. 140, explanatory notes
- [1649](#) Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Regulation 2021, No. 140, human rights certificate

Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966, Biosecurity Act 2014, Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Act 1988, Drugs Misuse Act 1986, Medicines and Poisons Act 2019:

- [1650](#) Medicines and Poisons (Poisons and Prohibited Substances) Regulation 2021, No. 141
- [1651](#) Medicines and Poisons (Poisons and Prohibited Substances) Regulation 2021, No. 141, explanatory notes
- [1652](#) Medicines and Poisons (Poisons and Prohibited Substances) Regulation 2021, No. 141, human rights certificate

COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020, Medicines and Poisons Act 2019, Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991:

- [1653](#) Medicines and Poisons (Pest Management Activities) Regulation 2021, No. 142
- [1654](#) Medicines and Poisons (Pest Management Activities) Regulation 2021, No. 142, explanatory notes
- [1655](#) Medicines and Poisons (Pest Management Activities) Regulation 2021, No. 142, human rights certificate

Therapeutic Goods Act 2019:

- [1656](#) Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2021, No. 143
- [1657](#) Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2021, No. 143, explanatory notes
- [1658](#) Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2021, No. 143, human rights certificate

Disaster Management Act 2003:

- [1659](#) Disaster Management (Further Extension of Disaster Situation—COVID-19) Regulation (No. 3) 2021, No. 144
- [1660](#) Disaster Management (Further Extension of Disaster Situation—COVID-19) Regulation (No. 3) 2021, No. 144, explanatory notes
- [1661](#) Disaster Management (Further Extension of Disaster Situation—COVID-19) Regulation (No. 3) 2021, No. 144, human rights certificate

Forestry Act 1959, Nature Conservation Act 1992, Recreation Areas Management Act 2006:

- [1662](#) Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (COVID-19—Fee Waiver) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 145
- [1663](#) Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (COVID-19—Fee Waiver) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 145, explanatory notes
- [1664](#) Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (COVID-19—Fee Waiver) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 145, human rights certificate

Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994:

- [1665](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Further Variation of COVID-19 Business Support Grants Scheme (August 2021)) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 146
- [1666](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Further Variation of COVID-19 Business Support Grants Scheme (August 2021)) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 146, explanatory notes
- [1667](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Further Variation of COVID-19 Business Support Grants Scheme (August 2021)) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 146, human rights certificate

Education (General Provisions) Act 2006, Education (Overseas Students) Act 2018, Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005, Education (Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority) Act 2014:

- [1668](#) Education Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 147
- [1669](#) Education Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 147, explanatory notes
- [1670](#) Education Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 147, human rights certificate

Public Health Act 2005:

- [1671](#) Public Health (Further Extension of Declared Public Health Emergency—COVID-19) Regulation (No. 3) 2021, No. 148
- [1672](#) Public Health (Further Extension of Declared Public Health Emergency—COVID-19) Regulation (No. 3) 2021, No. 148, explanatory notes
- [1673](#) Public Health (Further Extension of Declared Public Health Emergency—COVID-19) Regulation (No. 3) 2021, No. 148, human rights certificate

Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994:

- [1674](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Variation of Rural Economic Development Grants Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 149
- [1675](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Variation of Rural Economic Development Grants Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 149, explanatory notes
- [1676](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Variation of Rural Economic Development Grants Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 149, human rights certificate

Nature Conservation Act 1992:

- [1677](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2021, No. 150
- [1678](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2021, No. 150, explanatory notes
- [1679](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2021, No. 150, human rights certificate

Casino Control Act 1982:

- [1680](#) Casino Control Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 151
- [1681](#) Casino Control Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 151, explanatory notes
- [1682](#) Casino Control Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 151, human rights certificate

Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994:

- [1683](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Further Variation of COVID-19 Business Support Grants Scheme (August 2021)) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2021, No. 152
- [1684](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Further Variation of COVID-19 Business Support Grants Scheme (August 2021)) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2021, No. 152, explanatory notes
- [1685](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Further Variation of COVID-19 Business Support Grants Scheme (August 2021)) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2021, No. 152, human rights certificate

Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994:

- [1686](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Tourism and Hospitality Sector Hardship Grants Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 153
- [1687](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Tourism and Hospitality Sector Hardship Grants Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 153, explanatory notes
- [1688](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Tourism and Hospitality Sector Hardship Grants Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 153, human rights certificate

MINISTERIAL PAPER

The following ministerial paper was tabled by the Clerk—

Minister for Resources (Hon. Stewart)—

- [1689](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Resources (Hon. Stewart) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Stock Route Management Regulation 2003

MEMBERS' PAPERS

The following members' papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Member for Bundamba (Mr McCallum)—

- [1690](#) Nonconforming petition regarding funding for the RSPCA

Member for Whitsunday (Ms Camm)—

- [1691](#) Nonconforming petition regarding x-ray facilities at Proserpine Hospital

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Coronavirus, Update



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.38 am): I can advise the House that in relation to COVID we had zero community cases overnight. We have four cases in hotel quarantine. Three cases are mariners from the *Imabari Queen*. We have had 8,727 tests, which is good news, but if people have any symptoms they still need to go and get tested. We have delivered 16,628 vaccines in the past 24 hours, which now means that 70.21 per cent of Queenslanders have received their first dose—isn't that excellent news?—and 52.7 per cent have received their second dose.

It is 118 days since New South Wales recorded the first case of its current outbreak. In those same 118 days, Queensland has managed 433 COVID cases, 228 of which were locally acquired. The people who wear masks, use the check-in apps and go into quarantine stopped those cases from spreading any further, and I thank them. It is because of them our children are at school and their parents are at work. While millions of our neighbours were locked down, our freedom days stretched into weeks and months because we have always strived to put the health and safety of Queenslanders first—and we always will.

The credit for Queensland's strong health response to the pandemic belongs to each and every Queenslanders. In the past 118 days they have come forward to provide 1,745,000 tests. We have opened 156 vaccination clinics. They have helped deliver a total of more than 2.8 million vaccines, including at pop-up clinics everywhere from football finals to high school halls. We have mobile vans delivering between 50 and 200 doses a day in places as diverse as Dysart, Aurukun and Hope Vale. We continue to find new ways to bring the vaccine closer to people. I can announce today that starting this Saturday vaccine clinics are coming to Bunnings.

Honourable members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Wait—just wait!


An honourable member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Don't steal my line! More than two dozen sites have been identified across the state so families can get their Bunnings sausage and a dose of vaccine. The health minister will make further announcements as more sites come online, but as members can see we are taking the vaccine to the people. There is no excuse.

Yesterday the first of 1,000 Queenslanders wanting to return from interstate hotspots began to arrive. This trial of home quarantine is important. I am pleased to see that those taking part know the responsibility placed on them. To expand it to others, this trial must succeed. We know our success is fragile and our work is not done. Unlike our southern neighbours, most of Queensland's population lives outside our capital city. We are bigger than 90 per cent of the countries in the world. We are bigger than

France, Spain and Germany. Most of our state has never seen a COVID case, but it will in months and years to come. We have stayed safe by listening to the health advice, so I am urging everyone to listen now and get vaccinated. Do it today.

Hydrogen Industry

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.42 am): The green industrial revolution has begun and Queensland is once again leading the nation. We do not just want to export our sunshine and wind energy to the world; by backing investment in renewables and hydrogen, we want to bring the world's manufacturing of renewables right here to Queensland. We want to manufacture the electrolyzers, we want to build the wind turbines and we want to assemble the batteries right here in Queensland because we know that manufacturing means jobs—local manufacturing jobs in more regions across Queensland, and that means regional jobs.

I can confirm that my government is partnering with the private sector to build one of the largest hydrogen equipment manufacturing hubs in the world just near Gladstone. Fortescue Future Industries will invest \$114 million to build the factory that will see Queensland workers—let me say that again, Queensland workers—manufacture electrolyzers capable of producing renewable hydrogen as part of a billion dollar master plan for our state. This will create around 300 jobs in Central Queensland and we are working with Dr Andrew Forrest to support Fortescue to invest even more in Queensland in years to come.

It was great to travel to Gladstone to make this announcement alongside Dr Forrest, the Deputy Premier, the Treasurer, the Minister for Hydrogen, the Minister for Manufacturing and the mayor on the weekend. I think even a couple of the—

Mr Butcher interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, there were a couple of other people there; that is right.

Government members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right, yes. It will be interesting to see what their views are later, but, yes, they turned up.

Government members interjected.


Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, that is right; there was a bit of morning tea there.

Ms Grace: A very dynamic lot.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Very dynamic, yes. Yesterday we again joined Dr Forrest and Incitec Pivot CEO, Jeanne Johns, to witness the beginning of another historic partnership. Fortescue and Incitec will conduct a joint feasibility into the potential for a green ammonia production and export facility at Gibson Island. This agreement has the potential to create even more renewable jobs here in Queensland, making Gibson Island a global export hub for green ammonia and it will secure the long-term future for the 400 workers who are already working on the island. It was wonderful to meet with those workers. They are very excited and they understand everything that is happening and they were absolutely delighted. It was good to see other members join in this terrific announcement to support. The member for Lytton and Minister Farmer also joined us there.

Our government through CS Energy has earmarked a site at Kogan Creek near Chinchilla for a new renewable hydrogen demonstration plant. We are getting on with the job. Construction will start next year and I hope to see the facility up and running in 2023. For decades people have been talking about the future of hydrogen. The future is here. We want to power our manufacturing with renewables so that we have more jobs in more industries into the future. We are investing more than our competitors to ensure that we stay in the lead in the decades to come. Through our \$2 billion Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund we are investing in renewables and manufacturing to keep Queenslanders in jobs. We are investing in education and training to ensure that Queenslanders have the skills they need to do these jobs. We have coal, we have gas and we have renewables. We know that hydrogen is going to be the secret to our long-term success. That is why we are so proactive in making sure that we continue to turbocharge this industry.


Olympic and Paralympic Athletes

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.45 am): Last week Queenslanders were given the chance to welcome home our Olympic and Paralympic athletes. They brought back 56 medals—28 from the Olympics and 28 from the Paralympics. More than half of Australia's medals were won by Queensland based athletes. If Queensland was a country, we would have finished seventh in the world. This is a mighty achievement and a proud achievement. On behalf

of this House, we extend our gratitude to not just the people who won medals but everybody who competed. It shows enormous strength and determination to go through years and years of training to get to the standard to be able to go to an Olympics, and we commend every single one of them and all of their support crews as well.

The purpose of the games is to promote peace and the inspiration of sport—faster, higher, stronger, together. This is the Olympic motto and one that will guide us as we prepare to host the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Queensland. The most important word in that list is ‘together’. Our biggest challenge over the next 11 years is not what happens in those few weeks of competition; it is how we perform as a team to get our state ready. It will be up to us to harness all of the goodwill and energy of those who want to make their contribution and be part of the games. Eleven years is both a long time and no time at all. This will flash past faster than a Cate Campbell 100-metre freestyle. The Deputy Premier will soon release for comment an updated priority development area plan for Northshore Hamilton which includes the site for the athletes village. We cannot waste a day. Queensland’s golden age has already begun.

Hydrogen Industry

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (9.47 am): As members heard from the Premier, Sunday was a great day for Queensland. I joined the Premier, the Treasurer, the world’s first hydrogen minister, the member for Gladstone and Minister for Manufacturing, the Gladstone mayor and Dr Andrew Forrest to announce a partnership that will see Gladstone become a renewable energy and renewable hydrogen powerhouse.


Fortescue Future Industries will build one of the world’s largest manufacturing plants for hydrogen equipment that will produce up to two gigawatts of electrolyser capacity annually. Thanks to the Palaszczuk government’s health response, we are powering ahead with Queensland’s economic recovery with big game-changing projects like this one.

The facility will be up and running by early 2023. It will create 120 construction jobs and 53 operational jobs and more than 300 jobs over the life of the project, but most importantly it makes us a first mover in this kind of technology and a very attractive place to invest for other similar companies. I will have more to say about this in my speech to the CEDA Towards Net Zero forum later today alongside the Australian government’s Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction, Angus Taylor. I must say that I am very much looking forward to hearing what Australia’s energy policy is today. Queensland’s high energy intensive industries know that renewables and hydrogen are the key to protecting existing jobs and creating new ones.

On Monday we demonstrated exactly how manufacturing hydrogen generation equipment here in Queensland will protect Queensland industrial jobs. The Gibson Island fertiliser and ammonium factory was old when Incitec Pivot bought it. It was first built in 1969. With rising gas prices the workers there worry whether their jobs will still be there year after year. If they can use those Gladstone-made electrolyzers to make green hydrogen and green ammonia, both as their own feedstock and to export around the world, they will secure existing jobs and create hundreds more.

One does not have to look far to see that the world’s shift to clean energy is an opportunity for us to become a renewable energy superpower here in Queensland. That is why our \$3.34 billion Queensland Jobs Fund has renewable energy, hydrogen and manufacturing at its core. For the world to use renewable energy it will take huge amounts of new equipment to capture sun and wind and convert them to energy and fuels. We want that equipment to be built here in Queensland. Twiggy’s facility, when it starts producing electrolyzers in just over a year’s time, will be the world’s biggest, putting Queensland at the absolute centre of renewable energy jobs growth. When companies around the world buy hydrogen electrolyzers they will come with a ‘made in Queensland’ stamp and they will have created jobs right here in Queensland.

Hydrogen Industry

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.50 am): When it comes to green renewable hydrogen, make no mistake—we are in a race. If we do not get out in front and lead, we will be left behind. The Palaszczuk government has chosen to lead. Over the last two days we have made breakthrough announcements with Fortescue Future Industries and Incitec Pivot. Those commitments show that the plans we have put in place through our hydrogen industry development plan are paying off. That is what our government does: we develop a plan that works for Queensland and then we deliver on that plan.

Green hydrogen, made from electrolyzers stamped 'made in Queensland', can power aircraft, trucks, trains and ships. It can power new and existing industries and it can power new exports to new markets to support more businesses. FFI and Incitec Pivot are putting plans for a green ammonia plant under the microscope. Ammonia is vital to key Queensland industries and the operation of our modern economy. Our green hydrogen leadership will support new industries, new jobs and new opportunities in our state's great industrial cities like Townsville and Gladstone. It will also enable our traditional industries to face a changing future with confidence. Incitec Pivot has been producing fertilisers and explosives for over 100 years. This joint green ammonia study offers the possibility of new jobs and a new industry right here in Queensland and the rejuvenation of a century-old manufacturer. Yesterday Andrew Forrest had a clear message for those opposed to this future full of opportunities: you do not have to choose between Queensland's new and traditional industries, you can choose both.

The ludicrous culture wars perpetuated for so long by the likes of LNP members Matt Canavan and Barnaby Joyce have done nothing but hurt Australia's economic prospects. It was bizarre to see the federal LNP candidate for the seat of Flynn lurking in the background of Sunday's wonderful announcements for the people of Queensland. As a chronic climate change denier, he must have felt bewildered to hear Andrew Forrest talk about a bright, sustainable future for Queensland, one that has more jobs and more opportunities for Queenslanders.

As everyone knows, the market will decide where people put their money. Ultimately, governments can chart the course and accelerate investment decisions, but it is private sector investment that drives jobs growth—and the market has spoken. After the announcements on Sunday and Monday, the share price of FFI's parent company, Fortescue Metals, rose more than five percent yesterday. That is an increase in market capitalisation of more than \$3.5 billion—three and a half times FFI's initial investment in the Gladstone electrolyser factory. This sort of investment is a ringing endorsement of the Palaszczuk government's COVID-19 economic recovery plan, which is our plan for Queensland's future.

Mental Health; Education Queensland, Safe Work Strategy



Hon. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.54 am): As we approach nearly two years of living through a world health pandemic, the mental health of Queenslanders is of paramount importance to the Palaszczuk government. This week marks Mental Health Week and we are urging Queenslanders to focus on their mental health, not just this week, of course, but every day of the year.

Not only is mental health a priority for this government, but so is the health and safety of workers. October is Safe Work Month. Every year Safe Work Month reminds us of the importance of work health and safety and that every worker has a right to go to work and return home safe and healthy every day of the year—nothing is more important.

Queensland's schools are also workplaces and we have zero tolerance for abuse or violent behaviour towards any staff member or student in any setting. That is why I am proud today to launch the Department of Education's Occupational Violence and Aggression Prevention Strategy to tackle this issue head on. It has been shaped by extensive input from key stakeholders, including principal associations, union representatives, school based staff and experts in the fields of safety and wellbeing. Building on our previously announced Safe and Respectful Communities social media campaign, the strategy includes 20 targeted initiatives, including psychological first aid training, supporting staff after dealing with a stressful incident, an online resource hub to help staff who have been cyberbullied and abused online, strengthening school security and a new parent and community code of conduct outlining how parents, carers and visitors must conduct themselves on school grounds.

Our focus is on the role that schools play, but we also know support from the wider community is essential. We cannot do it alone. The strategy not only looks at how we can better support staff, but also how we can build a culture within our schools to prevent this kind of behaviour to begin with. We want Queensland schools and education department workplaces to be as safe as they can be and that is what this strategy launched today is all about.


Queensland Ambulance Service, Road Incident



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.56 am): It is with great regret that I inform the House of a fatal traffic incident which occurred inland from Rockhampton yesterday. The incident near Stanwell involved a Queensland Ambulance Service vehicle travelling to Rockhampton from Biloela carrying patients and Queensland Health staff.

Tragically a truck collided with the ambulance resulting in two fatalities, one patient and one Queensland Health nurse. My sympathies, and I am sure those of all members of the parliament, go out to the family, friends and colleagues who have been affected by this tragic incident. Today my director-general, Dr John Wakefield, and the acting ambulance commissioner, Craig Emery, along with other staff, will visit staff and colleagues in Rockhampton and Biloela to provide support following this tragic event.

Coronavirus, Home Quarantine


 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.57 am): Sadly the New South Wales cluster that commenced on 16 June yesterday reached a very concerning milestone: 100,018 positive cases from one cluster across four jurisdictions and 538 deaths—and this does not count the ones that have already been reported today. In total Queensland has had 2,067 cases. It is important that we do everything we can to implement strategies that will help manage the virus in our state. That is why home quarantine is the latest addition to Queensland's fight against COVID-19. Yesterday a trial commenced which will give 1,000 Queenslanders the opportunity to return home and safely quarantine in a home environment. Already 376 Queenslanders have been approved to come home this week as part of this trial and we know those numbers will grow. We have reached out to many people already—almost 4,000, in fact—to offer them this opportunity. This is in addition to Queenslanders returning and going into hotel quarantine. We want to see Queenslanders re-united with their loved ones, enjoying Australia's best lifestyle as our economy begins to bounce back from the pandemic.

Our home quarantine trial has important safeguards in place to protect the safety of Queenslanders and the Queensland economy. As part of the trial Queenslanders returning home will need to be fully vaccinated at least two weeks before travel, they have to have returned a negative PCR test within 72 hours of entry, use the home quarantine check-in system, quarantine at home for 14 days and undergo COVID tests on days 1, 5 and 12.

Participants have to have a suitable home with direct entry and arrive by air. They will need to nominate a quarantine address that must be located in one of the eight local government areas: Brisbane, Moreton Bay, Sunshine Coast, Noosa, Ipswich, Logan, Gold Coast and Redland. The nominated address will need to be within safe driving distance without stopping of the port of arrival, in this case, the Brisbane Airport. If there are other people residing in the same property they will need to quarantine for the full 14 days and take part in the scheduled testing requirements. I want to stress that anyone who breaches the conditions of the trial will be subject to fines and risk being put into hotel quarantine at their own expense.

As with any trial, this offers us the opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of the program and make improvements to enhance or expand the trial. If you have come forward to participate in this trial, check your emails and texts in case you have been offered home quarantine. We want as many people as possible taking up this opportunity and the best way they can do that is by getting vaccinated as quickly as possible. That will help keep our whole community safe. We want Queenslanders to return home. We will work with them to get them home safely and also to protect our Queensland communities.

Hydrogen Industry

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement) (10.00 am): In the last week all eyes have been on regional Queensland and rightly so. Queensland has confirmed its position as the hydrogen capital of the world with hubs in Gladstone, Mackay and Townsville. That is something the federal government should also recognise. Gladstone, in particular, is now home to two major international consortia progressing plans for hydrogen blending and large-scale production. We have Stanwell and Japanese giant Iwatani, and CleanCo and Sumitomo. Of course, we also have the world's largest electrolyser manufacturing facility thanks to the Fortescue Future Industries and Palaszczuk government partnership.


However, as Australia's hydrogen capital, Gladstone will not be the only hub in Queensland. In fact, Gladstone will be one of several hubs in Queensland. Today we put the Western Downs on the map. Today I can announce our publicly owned generator, CS Energy, will plant its stake in the renewable hydrogen sector. A production plant will be built beside the Kogan Creek Power Station near Chinchilla, with green hydrogen to be produced from solar energy in less than two years. The plan will deliver: a 700 kilowatt electrolyser, a two megawatt solar farm, a four megawatt hour battery storage system and a 30 kilowatt hydrogen fuel cell with a likely yearly yield exceeding 50,000 kilograms of renewable hydrogen.

CS Energy has been met with strong interest from domestic off-takers. Discussions are well advanced with a local heavy transport company to supply them with renewable hydrogen, enabling the replacement of imported fuel with 100 per cent Queensland owned and made emissions-free renewable hydrogen. Transport is Australia's second largest emitter after the electricity sector so there is enormous potential to decarbonise with Queensland-made green hydrogen. The project also creates demand for more renewable energy in the region.

As the Premier has said, Queensland can be front and centre of the green industrial revolution that is underway. We want Queensland to make the most of the jobs in more industries like hydrogen and manufacturing. We want Queensland to lead the way because that means even more Queensland jobs.

The projects announced last week really are the epitome of Queensland innovation, working from our traditional strengths in thermal electricity generation to advance into new technology and high-demand next-generation products. That is important because it protects existing jobs and creates new ones. With local end-to-end value chains, this is the Queensland renewable energy and hydrogen jobs superpower in full flight.

Hydrogen Industry


 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (10.03 am): Thanks to the strong leadership of the Premier and our Chief Health Officer, Queensland is open for business. Because we followed the health advice that kept Queenslanders safe, we are now in a position to deliver Queensland's plan for economic recovery from the global COVID-19 pandemic. We are doing this by supporting existing industries to grow and certainly to modernise, supporting thousands of existing jobs in Queensland. We are also developing industries to create even more long-term secure jobs such as those in the emerging green hydrogen industry. Queensland's green hydrogen future is moving at a cracking pace thanks to the Palaszczuk Labor government. Our investment in and support of the emerging green hydrogen industry is already paying dividends.

As we have heard, on Sunday I was pleased to welcome the Premier, the Deputy Premier, the Treasurer and the Minister for Energy to my home town of Gladstone for a massive and significant investment announcement by Fortescue Future Industries. Andrew Forrest announced that FFI would invest \$114 million to build one of the world's largest hydrogen equipment manufacturing facilities in Gladstone, which is expected to support more than 300 jobs over the life of the project. That is just another example that shows investors are confident about the settings that we have in place to grow industries here in Queensland.

This is not just great news for the workers of Central Queensland; it is a huge opportunity for the Queensland manufacturers we already have. We are now entering a golden era of opportunity for Queensland manufacturers to be the backbone of this new green hydrogen industry in Queensland. As the Minister for Manufacturing, I want Queensland manufacturers at the forefront of the supply chains, engineering and manufacturing the critical components that we need to build infrastructure and certainly to then export product to the rest of the world.

As we continue to move forward to our renewable energy targets, I want Queensland manufacturers to make the solar panels, I want them to make the wind turbines and I want them to make the electrolyzers. I want Queensland manufacturers putting clean renewable energy into homes and businesses right across Queensland, around Australia and around the rest of the world. That is why I will continue to focus on supporting Queensland manufacturers to move into advanced manufacturing, grow their businesses, improve their competitiveness and create good secure jobs for Queenslanders. At the end of the day, there is nothing better than something being made in Queensland.

New Economy Minerals Exploration

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (10.06 am): Exploration is a little like being a member of parliament: there is a lot of legwork and hard grind needed to get results. That is why the Palaszczuk government is investing \$23 million into our new economy minerals initiative to simplify and support the initial legwork, to help make more discoveries and to get more resource projects and jobs off the ground as we drive Queensland's economic recovery from COVID-19.

I am pleased to advise the House that the latest project under this initiative has unearthed almost 600 potential deposits of highly sought after new economy minerals right across Queensland. It is a fantastic achievement but it has not been done from a drill rig in the desert; it has been done from

behind a computer screen. A half-a-million-dollar joint project between the Department of Resources and the University of Queensland's Sustainable Minerals Institute identified those new mineral occurrences, including six possible rare earth systems. It is also creating a digital tool for explorers to identify priority areas for new economy minerals and it is free.

I have often said in this House that Queensland is rich with new economy minerals like cobalt and vanadium, which will be needed as the world transitions more and more to using renewable energy. The Palaszczuk government is working to ensure that Queensland minerals are powering that revolution. A lot of time and money goes into exploration and proving up those resources. For 18 months my department and the University of Queensland's Sustainable Minerals Institute have been working together compiling, analysing and putting together data and building a free data tool—and it's free. By using that free tool, explorers will be able to log on to find out more about where they can discover in-demand new economy minerals such as tin, tungsten, silica and cobalt.

It was nearly 100 years ago that the foundations for the future of the great City of Mount Isa were laid when a lone prospector stumbled upon rich depots of copper, silver and zinc. In 2012, thanks to the Palaszczuk government's open data portal—which is free—the next Mount Isa could be discovered from a laptop. Our government's incentives for explorers are paying off as demonstrated by recent Australian Bureau of Statistics figures.

Under the Palaszczuk government, exploration investment is on the rise in Queensland. In fact, in the 12 months to 30 June this year, more than \$706 million was invested in exploration in Queensland. That is up 10 per cent on the previous year and, even more impressive, 60 per cent on the same period three years ago. These figures show that the Queensland government's efforts and investment in boosting exploration are paying dividends.

Climate Change



Hon. MAJ SCANLON (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (10.09 am): It has been an interesting start to the week, with Australians waking up to find the front of newspapers across the country calling for action on climate change. While it may be a little later than some would have liked, it is good to see because seizing the economic opportunities that come with action on climate change will mean more jobs in more industries.

Unfortunately, we have not yet seen the same change of heart from the federal government. After eight long years of the Morrison-Turnbull-Abbott government, we are still asking: will Australia finally commit to net zero emissions by 2050? Scotty doesn't know. Even worse than that, does the federal government even have a plan for renewable investment and jobs in Queensland? Will the Prime Minister call out people in his own party who continue to spread anti climate change propaganda? We need national leadership on net zero emissions, yet we get zero leadership and zero action from Scott Morrison and the LNP. No wonder he does not want to go to Glasgow next month. I am hardly the biggest monarchist in this House, but I do agree with Prince Charles that Scott Morrison should front up to COP.

Every state and territory in this country has signed up for net zero emissions targets by 2050, and Queensland is taking action with a \$2 billion renewable energy fund, \$500 million Land Restoration Fund and a blueprint for jobs and action on climate change. On Sunday we announced that Central Queensland would become the home of the world's largest hydrogen equipment facility as part of our economic recovery plan. That is more jobs in more industries through cheaper, cleaner energy.

Australia seems to be the only remaining country to not commit to net zero. In fact, for the convenience of the House, I will table a helpful visual to show just how almost every other country across the board has signed up to net zero emissions targets.

Tabled paper: Chart titled 'Race to Net Zero: Carbon Neutral Goals by Country' [\[1707\]](#).

There is the US, Canada, South Korea, Spain, France, South Africa, Switzerland and our neighbours in New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Micronesia, Fiji and Samoa. Even countries like Barbados, Latvia, Rwanda and Uzbekistan are ahead of us. It is embarrassing, but what do you expect from a guy who said that electric vehicles would somehow end the weekend?

Scott Morrison and his LNP colleagues have had almost a decade to take action on climate change and position Australia as an economic and jobs powerhouse when it comes to renewable energy. Instead, they have spent their time talking down hardworking Australian and international scientists and the consensus on the impact of climate change. They have labelled climate action and the jobs they can bring as 'a scam', 'a distraction' and as 'something for the false gods'.

The jig is up. Queenslanders are seeing through the Morrison government's cheap marketing tactics and politicking. They know that through ongoing action, like our \$2 billion renewable energy fund, Queensland has the potential to create thousands of jobs in a low-carbon economy—the most of any state in the country in fact, as leading research provides. They have had eight years to take action and, instead, they have spent their time denying the science and attacking Labor's climate policies and jobs policies. Only a Palaszczuk Labor government and an Albanese-led federal government can be trusted to create more jobs in more industries while lowering our emissions and meeting our targets.

Innovation

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement) (10.13 am): We have embarked upon two major initiatives to further drive innovation in Queensland. One is building on our considerable successes over the past 20 years, including a strong science and research sector, vibrant start-ups, adoption of innovation across the economy and recognition of the entrepreneurial talent of Queenslanders. The other is a strategy to fully utilise the opportunities from Queensland's innovation places.

Since 2015, Advance Queensland has supported 7,500 innovation projects across the state, with over 60 per cent of recipients located in regional Queensland. Over \$965 million has been committed by program partners including industry and investors. It means that we can keep delivering Queensland's plan for economic recovery from COVID-19, and part of that investment is in renewables and hydrogen. We can be front and centre of the industrial green revolution, as we have heard from so many colleagues today.


By way of example, through Ignite Ideas we have been making a head start by backing Wildfire Energy. Wildfire Energy's game-changing gasification technology has the potential to convert landfill waste into synthetic gas and hydrogen for transport fuel cells and as a carbon reduced additive to reticulated gas in our homes. Wildfire Energy is on track to commercialise Australia's first waste-to-hydrogen process, saving landfill space and emissions.

The next decade for Queensland will be transformational as Brisbane prepares to host the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Through the development of innovative industries and attraction of new investment in renewable energy, hydrogen, resource recovery and emission reductions, Queensland has a once-in-a-generation opportunity. We can lead the way by creating new jobs through hydrogen and advanced manufacturing. Our investment in innovative industry and hydrogen is key to Brisbane delivering a carbon-positive 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. That is one step beyond carbon neutral, by making additional positive contributions to the environment.

Our task now is to chart a path that will deliver on that potential and build the basis for other strategic initiatives such as the \$3.34 billion Queensland Jobs Fund. We want to see Queensland lead by showcasing hydrogen at the 2032 games to the rest of the world because, as an innovator, that means even more local jobs.

MOTION

Amendments to Standing Orders

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

That schedule 6 of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislation Assembly be amended in accordance with the amendment circulated in my name, effective immediately.

SCHEDULE 6—PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

- (1) In accordance with s.88 of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, the following table establishes the Portfolio Committees of the Legislative Assembly and identifies their primary areas of responsibility; and
- (2) A reference to a Minister is deemed to include departments, statutory authorities, government owned corporations and other administrative units reporting to the Minister and parts thereof that report to the Minister with respect to the Minister's responsibilities as set out in the Administrative Arrangements.

Portfolio Committee	Area of Responsibility	Ministers	Oversight Responsibility
Economics and Governance Committee	Premier and Cabinet Olympic and Paralympic Games	Premier and Minister for the Olympics	Auditor-General Integrity Commissioner

Portfolio Committee	Area of Responsibility	Ministers	Oversight Responsibility
	Treasury, Trade and Investment Tourism, Innovation and Sport	Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement	
State Development and Regional Industries Committee	State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning Agricultural Industry Development, Fisheries and Rural Communities Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water	Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water	Independent Assessor
Education, Employment and Training Committee	Education, Industrial Relations and Racing Employment, Small Business, Training and Skills Development	Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development	
Health and Environment Committee	Health and Ambulance Services Environment, Great Barrier Reef, Science and Youth Affairs	Minister for Health and Ambulance Services Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs	Health Ombudsman
Transport and Resources Committee	Transport and Main Roads Energy, Renewables, Hydrogen, Public Works and Procurement Resources	Minister for Transport and Main Roads Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement Minister for Resources	

Portfolio Committee	Area of Responsibility	Ministers	Oversight Responsibility
Legal Affairs and Safety Committee	Justice and Attorney-General, Women and Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence Police, Corrective Services, Fire and Emergency Services	Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services	Electoral Commissioner Information Commissioner Ombudsman Queensland Family and Child Commission
Community Support and Services Committee	Communities, Housing, Digital Economy and the Arts Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs	Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs	Family Responsibilities Commission


Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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

Hospitals, Access

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (10.16 am): My question is to the Premier. When Labor came to power in 2015, ambulance ramping was 15 per cent, a month before COVID it was 29 per cent, and today ambulance ramping is 41 per cent. Is Labor's failure to address ambulance ramping over the past seven years the reason we do not have a pathway out of the pandemic?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will address the last part of that question first. The Leader of the Opposition talks about a pathway out of the pandemic. Let me make it very clear: yes, we are going through a pandemic. It is not just a national pandemic; it is an international pandemic. Nearly every other jurisdiction across the nation is experiencing similar levels of demand in relation to their hospitals. In relation to ambulances, we have had advice that in New South Wales there are waits of up to one hour for an ambulance because the hospitals are not coping with the number of people that are presenting because of COVID.

Mr Dick: People are dying in their homes. They have not got to the hospital; they have died in their home.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right.

Mr SPEAKER: The Treasurer will cease his interjections.

Ms PALASZCZUK: As the health minister said, in some other states people are using personalised transport to get to the hospital. Members opposite should not come in here and talk down our health system. I am sick and tired of the opposition coming in here talking down our health system.

Mr Dick: Shame!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Shameful!

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition! Member for Glass House!

Ms PALASZCZUK: The last time the Leader of the Opposition was part of the cabinet they decimated health in this state.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: They took an axe to health. They sacked the workers—

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, I have asked you three times to cease your interjections. You are warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am advised that *9 News* has reported that New South Wales Ambulance was unable to meet demand. The ABC's *AM* program reports that three western Sydney hospitals had to turn away COVID patients. The *Daily Telegraph* reported that the New South Wales ambulance service picked up—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Maroochydore, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Nanango, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Buderim, you are warned under the standing orders. I have asked for order, members, and I do not believe I am saying it in a language that cannot be understood.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The *Daily Telegraph* reported that the New South Wales ambulance service picked up 450 COVID patients in one day, with triple 0 calls reaching levels only seen on New Year's Eve, and is preparing to train firefighters to drive ambulances. This is a national emergency. That is why all of the health ministers have written to the federal health minister—backed in by the AMA—

Dr Miles: Every state and territory.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right; every state and territory. The member for Moggill knows about the AMA. It is backing the states' calls because the global pandemic is having an impact on hospitals.

(Time expired)

Hospitals, Code Yellow

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Premier. When Labor came to office there were 91 code yellows in 2015. The year before COVID there were 287 code yellows. Last month there were more than one per day. Is Labor's failure to address hospital bed shortages after seven years the reason we do not have a pathway out of the pandemic?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. I will go to the later part of his question—a pathway out of the pandemic. If we listened to the opposition and opened the borders, we would be in exactly the same position as New South Wales and Victoria. That is the Leader of the Opposition's position; that is his pathway—his pathway to New South Wales and Victoria.

Rather than criticising our health system and our health workers, I am proud of the work that our staff do each and every day keeping Queenslanders safe. They are out there vaccinating people right across the state—the most decentralised state in the nation. They are out there in remote communities and travelling out to rural and regional towns to try to get the vaccination rates up. They are out there doing the contact tracing that is needed. I applaud every single one of those people working in the contact tracing units.

Mr Bailey: We're not sacking nurses.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. I will take that interjection. We are not sacking nurses like the opposition did. The Leader of the Opposition sat around that cabinet table and made those decisions, brought in by the member for Clayfield and backed in by the member for Kawana. They all sat there. The member for Everton was there as well. The member for Surfers Paradise was there. The member for Nanango did not quite meet the cut. She was not in the cabinet, but she was an assistant helping out.

Mrs D'Ath interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. If we had a situation where COVID was running rampant throughout our state then that would then have a huge impact on elective surgery. In some parts of New South Wales and Victoria elective surgery is not happening. We know that there are pressures on the hospital system. Yes, they do experience code yellows from time to time, but in New South Wales they are preparing for code blacks. They are getting ready for code blacks as their hospitals are facing increased pressure due to the large number of COVID cases.

We wish them all the very best. It is great to see the vaccination rates increasing in New South Wales and Victoria. The key to the pathway out of the pandemic is vaccination. We see everyone on this side talking about vaccination in their communities. What about those on that side of the House, are they out there talking about vaccination or are they just leaving it to the government? The key is vaccination. Every single member of this House should be out there in their communities supporting people to get vaccinated.

Climate Change

Mr HEALY: My question is to the Premier and Minister for the Olympics. Will the Premier please update the House on actions the Palaszczuk government is taking to address climate change and the importance of renewable energy targets and emissions targets from governments?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Cairns for that very important question. It appears that the whole world, including media outlets—up there—suddenly has a new vision and is supporting this. It is great to see that everyone is almost on the same page when we are talking about—

Government members: Almost!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Almost everyone is on the same page when talking about some of the most fundamental issues the world has to confront—that is, zero net emissions by 2050. There is also our government's plan for 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030.

There is a very important conference coming up in Glasgow. Yesterday we heard Dr Forrest talk about the need for the Prime Minister to go to that conference. I say in all seriousness, I honestly believe the Prime Minister needs to be at that conference. He needs to represent the nation and the views of millions of Australians who realise that the time is now ripe. He needs to join other world leaders and make a stand and say, 'This is where Australia stands on these important global issues.'

If he does not go is he going to send Deputy Prime Minister, Barnaby Joyce? I do not think so. The member for Kawana would be happy to know that Prince Charles is also urging the Prime Minister to attend. There is a bit of a unity ticket here.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I was just talking about Prince Charles. Let me repeat it again for you.

Mr SPEAKER: Address your comment through the chair, Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will not repeat it. In all honesty, it is a very important conference. What we are seeing is that Queensland has been leading the way. When we see the huge investment coming from Fortescue Future Industries and Andrew Forrest spending two days in Queensland backing in our government's very clear vision for supercharging our economy when it comes to renewables and hydrogen we have the opportunity to be a powerhouse. What this means is jobs, jobs and more jobs. It means jobs in regional Queensland. We know that we are in close proximity to Asian markets. There is a huge appetite and huge demand for hydrogen into the future. We have the opportunity to supply that. It will benefit the regions from Gladstone all the way up to Townsville and Cairns. This is a great opportunity and something that we would like to see those opposite support.

(Time expired)

Hospitals, Surgical Waiting List

Mr JANETZKI: My question is to the Premier. When Labor came to office there were 30,000 people on the surgical waiting list. A month before COVID there were 56,000. Today it is nearly double where Labor started. Is Labor's failure to address surgical waiting lists over the past seven years the reason we do not have a pathway out of the pandemic?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am advised that we cleared the backlog of the opposition. I like questions about when we came to office because I am proud of what we have done in office. Let us contrast what happened when they were in office. It is always good to have that contrast. The deputy leader probably was not here for most of that so we can remind you.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: What happened was that there was a person called Premier Campbell Newman. He had a treasurer called Tim Nicholls, the member for Clayfield. They brought in a budget and it made savage cuts to health services. It decimated regional communities. They sacked nurses. They had a fight with doctors. They closed the Barrett centre. That is your legacy.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. The House will come to order. The Premier will address the question as it has been asked and will direct her comments through the chair.

Ms PALASZCZUK: When we came to office, we expanded our hospitals. We are building satellite hospitals. We have identified sites for the satellite hospitals. We have increased our frontline workers. If we had not increased our frontline health workers, we would not have been in a position to deal with this pandemic.

Mr Bailey: They attacked us for it.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. They wanted to open the borders and put more pressure on. Imagine if the virus had come in here and spread without the health workers. Those opposite should not come in here and try to lecture us on health when they had the worst health record ever.

Ms Grace: That is why they are sitting over there.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. Go and ask the people of Queensland. Oh, sorry—we have had three elections as well! They have backed in exactly what we are doing. A strong health response means that our economy is recovering. We can see this through all the different industries. In other states they are not able to make announcements about hydrogen in Gladstone or the green industrial revolution that is starting at Gibson Island at Incitec Pivot, protecting jobs for workers, because people are not at work. It is a bit—

Mr Last: There you go. There's an ambulance for you on its way to—

Mr Minnikin: Good luck getting to hospital!

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take offence at that. That is really quite despicable to be talking down our hospitals. We will always stand up for the health workers in this state.

Mr SPEAKER: The Premier's time has expired.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Those opposite should be condemned for what they did to health.

Mr SPEAKER: The Premier's time has expired. You will resume your seat.

Sunshine Coast, Economy

Mr HUNT: My question is of the Premier and Minister for the Olympics. Will the Premier update the House on the Sunshine Coast economic recovery and the COVID health response?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am enjoying this question time. I keep getting all the questions. That is great. Keep them coming. I thank the member for the question. We had a great day recently opening the brand new interchange on the Sunshine Coast. The interchange around Caloundra on the Bruce Highway is absolutely phenomenal. It is great to see partnership—

Mr Powell: Thanks to Scott Morrison—80 per cent.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Glass House will cease his interjections.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is great to see partnership between the federal government and the state. We can work together and get things done. That is a positive. You will not see me criticise that. We work best when we work together. We have said that quite often. In fact, I commend the Minister for Transport, who gets around the state making sure that our transport infrastructure is being built and that the planning is happening, whether it is the light rail on the Gold Coast or the M1 or the Bruce Highway going all the way up to Cairns. It is creating jobs for people.

It is also good to see that the Sunshine Coast vaccination rates are going quite well. The vaccination hub has returned to the Caloundra indoor stadium. It is open seven days a week for bookings and walk-ins—2,769 people got their vaccinations over the weekend. Since the Caloundra indoor stadium reopened on Friday, 5,035 vaccines have been administered. The latest statistics are around 73.2 per cent on the Sunshine Coast have received their first dose and 55.6 per cent are fully vaccinated. It is also great to have the health minister and Chief Health Officer travelling in the regions trying to drive up those vaccination rates. We know how important it is to get the vaccinations done as quickly as possible. The AMA is backing in how important that is as well.

On the Sunshine Coast and right around the state we are seeing the investment of this government making it easier for people to get home sooner and safer to their families but also creating jobs. It is fundamental to our COVID economic recovery. I am so proud that people are actually at work able to do their jobs because Queenslanders have responded so well. You only have to see the impact on the economy when they go into prolonged lockdowns—billions of dollars lost and people not working. You only have to look at the New South Wales roadmap to see that in December they will be basically where we are at now.

(Time expired)

Elective Surgery, Wait Times

Mr PURDIE: My question is to the Premier. When Labor came to office, two per cent of elective surgery patients did not have their surgery on time. In the month before COVID, it was 6.3 per cent. Now, over 10 per cent of patients get their surgery late. Is Labor's failure to address elective surgery over the past seven years the reason we do not have a pathway out of the epidemic?

Ms PALASZCZUK: As of 1 September this year, there were 1,752 long-wait elective surgery patients, down from a peak of 5,166 as at 1 June last year. Up until 31 August 2021, there were more than 24,100 elective surgery patients treated across the state. So far this financial year, 92.4 per cent of patients across all categories were treated within the clinically recommended time. In the last financial year—

Mrs D'Ath: Impressive considering the pandemic.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. I take that interjection from the health minister. That is very impressive considering we are in a pandemic!

Dr Miles: It was suspended for months.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. They will always talk down health. In the last financial year, 148,273 patients from the elective surgery waiting list were treated in Queensland's public hospitals. More than 15,175 additional patients, or 11.4 per cent more, received care in 2020-21 compared with the previous year. During 2020-21, Queensland Health also delivered 6.8 per cent more emergency surgeries than in the previous year. I hope the member is satisfied with that response.

Hydrogen Industry, Job Creation

Mr WHITING: My question is of the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure. Can the Deputy Premier outline to the House how the Palaszczuk government is seizing on the hydrogen revolution to create jobs in Queensland? Is he aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr SPEAKER: I call the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development et cetera, et cetera, et cetera.

Dr MILES: I think it is best if you use the whole title, Mr Speaker! I thank the member for Bancroft for his question. He knows that what people in our part of the world care about most is that their government is working to make sure that their kids have good, secure jobs into the future. They also know that having those jobs will rely on renewable energy and hydrogen.

Queensland is very well placed to secure those jobs of the future because the skills required are very similar to those required by our existing industries—skills in construction, mechanics, electricity, fitting and turning like my own dad. The overwhelming evidence is, and the overwhelming support is, that, if we embrace renewable energy and hydrogen and if we aim to achieve net zero emissions by 2050, we will be able to boost our country's gross domestic product by \$890 billion—billion—and in the process create 195,000 jobs.

Those figures are sourced by research and modelling from that respected left-wing think tank the Business Council of Australia. Members will be aware that the BCA represents AGL, BlueScope, Qantas, BHP, Rio Tinto and all of the big banks. The Business Council of Australia says it would be in our economic best interests to almost double our emission reduction targets for 2030. That is more support for that kind of action.

We understand that privately the Prime Minister wants to go to Glasgow and he wants to sign up to net zero emissions by 2050, but what is in his way? The Nats are in his way. The Queensland Nats are the last people left standing who oppose action on climate change. I saw recently that Facebook had to step in and correct claims being circulated by the LNP—

Mr SPEAKER: Please table it or put it down.

Dr MILES:—that blocks this information. They said it is false information, checked by independent fact checkers. In the process they have said, 'The information relies on inaccurate claims; its credibility is very low; it contains direct lies; cherry-picks information designed to mislead; all six claims are presented in a biased and misleading way'—and my favourite—'the text is a masterpiece: every single sentence is either wrong, insignificant or irrelevant,' like those opposite.

Health System

Ms BATES: My question is to the Minister for Health. Ambulance ramping at record levels, daily code yellows, ballooning waiting lists and more people not getting their surgery on time are undeniable proof that Queensland Health's performance has deteriorated under this government. On behalf of all Queenslanders, what has this government been doing for the past seven years to give Queenslanders the health system we deserve?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for her question. What we have been doing is investing in our health workforce and infrastructure and not sacking them. That is a good start. That is what we did in 2015 when we came into government.

When I was listening to the member's question about ramping and everything else, I thought maybe she was going back to some earlier time when a previous minister said: 'Ramped patients should go to GPs', 'Current ramping figures are not good enough', 'There needs to be a whole-of-hospital approach to properly address ambulance ramping' and 'Patients and paramedics are battling to get into Brisbane public hospitals as the flu season delivers higher days of bypassing and ambulance ramping'.

Mr Lister: When was that?

Mrs D'ATH: These are all from 2012. 'Health minister Lawrence Springborg says ramping will continue in Queensland hospitals even after a ban on bypass starts next year. Springborg also admits that elective surgery has been postponed in some hospitals due to an increase in severe flu cases.' A 30 August 2012 *Courier-Mail* article headed 'Long emergency department delays leave patients in agony' states—

The situation is so dire, a six-month-old baby suffering severe bruising from domestic violence had to wait almost four hours before being admitted to hospital, in one of the worst recent cases of ambulance ramping this year.'

The articles go on. In 2014 on ABC Radio Queensland health minister Lawrence Springborg said—

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Southern Downs, you have had a good go today. You are warned under the standing orders.

Mrs D'ATH:—'Ambulance ramping is still a problem at Hervey Bay.' These stories go on and on and on. There is even a report, 'Unions warn of ramping issue at university hospital—hospital ramping death revealed.' I raise all of these to point out that there have been pressures on the health system for a very long time, and the hypocrisy of those on the other side saying—

A government member interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: Seven years—I will take that interjection—2012. Do your sums, member for Kawana—

Mr SPEAKER: Through the chair.

Mrs D'ATH: Sorry. Mr Speaker, I think the member for Kawana should learn to do some sums. In 2012 that was all under their watch. Every single health minister across the country has acknowledged the demand pressures year on year on our health systems and that COVID is going to further exacerbate this demand. We need the Commonwealth to step up and work with us to ensure there is adequate funding for the whole health system, not just COVID. Those on the other side who want to go out and publically make comments about ramping and elective surgery first be honest with yourselves: go out and tell the public what was happening under their watch.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Burleigh and member for Maryborough, you are both warned under the standing orders. Your quarrelling across the chamber is not becoming behaviour in the House.

Economy

Mr MELLISH: My question is of the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment. Will the Treasurer please update the House on how the Palaszczuk government's strong health response to COVID-19 has underpinned our economic recovery, and can the Treasurer inform the House on the approach of others to this important issue?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Aspley for his question and his strong support for our economic recovery plan from COVID-19, which is delivering dividends for Queenslanders.

Yesterday New South Wales came out of lockdown after 107 days—almost four months. Let's be clear: while New South Wales has been in lockdown, Queensland has been getting on with the job. Our job vacancies reached an all-time high of 70,600 for the September quarter. That is the highest number of vacancies relative to the number of unemployed people that Queensland has seen since the mining boom, which ended 14 years ago. Queensland is still ahead of national average growth in household lending, dwelling approvals and residential housing starts, and we are ahead of the national average when it comes to business confidence and consumer confidence. All of that has been possible because of the hard work of Queenslanders who have followed the health advice and kept Queensland safe. They have also supported the next and most vital part of our strategy: vaccinations.

It is beyond disappointing to see organisations that pretend to represent workers doing the dirty work of anti-vaxxers, and that includes the Nurses' Professional Association of Queensland. Let me say this: the Nurses' Professional Association of Queensland is a fake union. Do not take my word for it. The Queensland Industrial Relations Commission—

Mr Mander interjected.

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

Mr DICK:—has decreed that it is not a union. The unelected officials of this union are running an LNP front. Those unelected officials are nothing more than cheap swindlers and grifters, but there is even worse. We read from Nine newspapers that they have actively encouraged their members to attend events where anti-vaxxers speak. It was bad enough to hear that crank, George Christensen, misleading Queenslanders. Those events actively undermined the health strategy that has kept us safe and allowed our economy to recover. There are people in this House who have a platform who need to speak the truth and listen to the science—people like the member for Callide, who of course is the LNP candidate for Flynn.

There are many hopefuls in that race. I have never said this before, but give me the member for Nanango every single day of the week. Didn't he look bamboozled and befuddled when we were there on Sunday, scratching his head on hearing Twiggy Forrest say, 'Well, you can have a future with the wind and the sun,' and he was standing in the wind and the sun. How confused he looked! The LNP have form in undermining science. The member for Callide is not alone: he is joined by members of the front bench who back the NPAQ, who are members of the NPAQ, and the Leader of the Opposition has done absolutely nothing about them. That is not leadership; that is craven weakness.

Coronavirus, Government Modelling

Mr MICKELBERG: My question is to the Minister for Health. It has been revealed that an 80 per cent vaccination level may not be the pathway to normality and that the government has undertaken modelling of its own. Given this is yet another change in the goalposts, will the minister release the modelling and the pathway out of the pandemic to provide small and family businesses with certainty and hope?

Mrs D'ATH: I find it a bit odd that the member talks about releasing people to go to work and everything else. You are not in New South Wales or Victoria—

Mr SPEAKER: Comments will be directed through the chair.

Mrs D'ATH: Sorry, Mr Speaker. The member is not in New South Wales or Victoria: this is Queensland. Can I just reiterate the points the Treasurer just made. The member probably was not listening. While New South Wales has been in lockdown, Queensland has obviously been getting on with the job and our economy is open. Businesses are open, kids are at school and people are enjoying life with the lowest restrictions in the country. Our job vacancies reached an all-time high at 70,600 for the September quarter. This is the highest number of vacancies relative to the number of unemployed people that Queensland has seen since the mining boom, which ended around 14 years ago. Queensland is still ahead of national average growth in household lending, dwelling approvals and residential housing. We are ahead of the national average when it comes to business confidence and consumer confidence.

The member asked me to release the modelling. The member should stand up and ask Scott Morrison to release his modelling because do you not think the public have a right to know what the modelling is that national cabinet have been considering? I think if the Commonwealth government is

going to lead modelling about what are the consequences of opening at certain vaccination rates, the public have a right to know what that looks like. They absolutely have a right to know what that looks like.

We can take some guidance from what has happened internationally. Singapore opened in mid-August with 80 per cent fully vaccinated. They opened up thinking, 'We're good now. We're right to go.' It was less than five weeks, and then their health systems were overwhelmed and they locked down. People went back to working at home and kids went back to learning at home. That is a significant shift in just five weeks. I know this is hard for the opposition because they actually have to try to understand the modelling and the conversations. You cannot simply just look at the percentage; you have to look at the actual number of cases that you have going through your community.

What is public is the Doherty Institute modelling that clearly says you have to be able to test, you have to be able to contact trace and you have to be able to quarantine to actually open up at these targets. You have to have the virus under control in your community, otherwise you will see your systems being overwhelmed. We do not have that situation interstate yet. We see that the Victorian numbers are still very high, the New South Wales numbers are still high and, sadly, the death rate continues to climb. That is what the member should be talking about.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Buderim, you interjected three times. You are on a warning. I think I have been very clear about the rules. You will now leave the chamber for one hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Buderim withdrew from the chamber at 10.51 am.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. During the answer that the minister was giving, the Premier was quarrelling and using the terminology of the first person 'you'. You have also warned the Premier on numerous occasions, Mr Speaker. I ask that members also not use the word 'you' when they are interjecting, as you have indicated.

Mr SPEAKER: I do not need your guidance, member for Kawana. There is no point of order.

Coronavirus, Vaccination

Mrs GILBERT: My question is to the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Can the minister update the House on efforts to increase teacher vaccination numbers and advise if there are any alternative approaches?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for Mackay because, as she knows, vaccination is a way out of this pandemic. We are encouraging all Queenslanders, including those in Mackay, to get vaccinated. I know how proud she was, as an ex-teacher, when on 8 August Queensland became the first state in the country to move all staff in schools and early childhood centres into the priority 1b vaccination category. The response to this decision has been amazing. So far we have had over 65,000 vaccinations of school and early childhood staff through the 1b group, and more than 25,000 staff have been double dosed. Last weekend, we made 18 schools available on our super vaccination weekend. We had pop-up clinics as part of that, and around 4,500 doses were administered on just that weekend. It was great to see families coming out to those schools and the P&Cs did the great fundraisers that they normally do.

It needs more than just messaging from us. We all need to get behind vaccination in this state. The difficulty we have is we hear almost no sounds from those opposite in support of the vaccination rollout. A case in point is NPAQ—and I continue on this from the Treasurer—which is now operating under the umbrella of the Red Union Support Hub, or RUSH. Let me tell you that no-one is rushing to get vaccinated under that organisation. I am a proud unionist and I know a union when I see it and I have never seen a faker union in all my days than that fake union that has even been made fake by the QIRC.

The interesting thing about this is that that union is aided and abetted by the LNP here. They are recruiting workers by exploiting anti-vaccination fears and they are aided and abetted by all of those opposite. Who are these people? They include: Jack McGuire, former president of the QUT Liberal National Club; Aenghas Hopkinson-Pearson, treasurer of the LNP State Electoral Council who was thanked by the member for Moggill for his work; Graeme Haycroft, a strong supporter of WorkChoices and individual contracts and former chair of the LNP IR committee; and of course the member for Mudgeeraba. These are members of NPAQ.

The interesting thing about this organisation and their grandstanding on anti-vaccination propaganda is that they are hiding their political connections. This is a cowardly act and amounts to nothing more than an LNP sponsored anti-vaccination campaign. The Leader of the Opposition should

show some backbone. He should come out and tell his members not to support NPAQ. They should support vaccination and not support these fake organisations. This is an LNP cover-up. This is an LNP sponsored anti-vaxxer organisation accountable to no-one. He should show some leadership.

(Time expired)

Coronavirus, Border Restrictions

Mr NICHOLLS: My question is to the Attorney-General. I refer to the Human Rights Commissioner's concerns that have been reported around Queenslanders wanting to get home after being locked out of their own state. What advice did the Attorney-General provide to the Premier concerning the rights of Queenslanders who have been rendered stateless by this government's decisions?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for the question. It is Queensland's strong health response which has not only allowed our economy to stay open but also saved the lives of Queenslanders. That includes making difficult decisions about borders. I know how tough some of these measures have been for Queensland families, and they are not decisions that the Premier or our cabinet makes lightly. We follow the health advice to make sure that Queenslanders are kept safe. We must all do what we can to protect the health of our community.

An important aspect of our human rights framework is that individuals who feel that their human rights may have been unreasonably limited are able to make a complaint to the relevant public entity, such as Queensland Health. I know that the commissioner has been working very closely with Queensland Health, the director-general and the exemptions unit. If the complaint is not resolved directly with Queensland Health, of course the person may go to the Queensland Human Rights Commission, and the commission aim to achieve meaningful resolution of human rights complaints through their conciliation process. As I have said, they are working very closely with Queensland Health, but these very tough decisions that the Premier has made following the advice of the Chief Health Officer are all about keeping Queenslanders safe.

I have no doubt that when those opposite are out in their local communities—whether it is at their mobile offices or at their local businesses—they will hear from community members about how lucky we are here in Queensland to be able to go and sit at a cafe, to be able to go to a restaurant and to be able to go to our place of work every day. Our economy is open because of our strong health response. That is due to the hard work of our Premier and our health minister working very closely with the Chief Health Officer.

It is about keeping Queenslanders safe. As we travel across Queensland, it does not matter what community you are in; people are just so very thankful that we have taken those strong actions to keep Queenslanders safe and to keep our economy open. Our economic recovery is absolutely due to our strong health response. We make no apologies for making hard decisions to keep Queenslanders safe and to keep our economy open.

Health System, Federal Funding

Ms PEASE: My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Can the minister please update the House on the importance of ensuring Queensland has a fair and equitable share of Commonwealth health funding to ensure Queenslanders can access the health care they need?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for Lytton for her question. When it comes to our health system, there is a partnership in this country with the Commonwealth which funds and provides funding to states to support the public health system—but there is also the responsibility on the primary and allied healthcare system of this country, which goes hand in hand. Since the pandemic, people have been saying that Scott Morrison had two jobs—that is, procuring the vaccine and managing quarantine. He failed at both. He absolutely failed at both. He had a third job as well; in fact he has always had this third job—that is, to properly fund the health system in this country. He has failed his KPIs every single year that he has been in government.

When we do not have an adequate number of GPs in the regions and in metropolitan and outer metropolitan areas, when we do not have private specialists, when people cannot see a psychiatrist or psychologist because the 10 counselling sessions that the Commonwealth put in place results in pushing everyone out of the system because they cannot take any new patients, when they are not providing aged-care beds in the private sector, when they are not providing disability packages to people who are spending not days, not weeks but months and, in some cases, years in a hospital bed—imagine having a loved one with a disability having to live in a hospital bed in a hospital ward when they

could actually be out enjoying a good quality of life, seeing families and friends, going on outings and living in a setting that is comfortable and friendly. Instead, they are stuck in a hospital bed because the Commonwealth is failing them.

There are fewer people taking up private health and people dropping out of private health. All of those things have an impact on the public health system because that is where people turn to when they cannot access that support or health care in the community. I have here not just one letter but three letters signed by every single health minister in this country, and I table that.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 30 September 2021, from the State and Territory Health Ministers' Forum, to the Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care, Hon. Greg Hunt, regarding long term solutions to issues impacting on hospital systems [\[1708\]](#).

Tabled paper: Letter, undated, from the State and Territory Health Ministers' Forum, to the Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care, Hon. Greg Hunt, as a follow up from the Health Ministers meeting in April and a request from National Cabinet to undertake data analysis on hospital activity [\[1709\]](#).

Tabled paper: Letter, undated, from the State and Territory Health Ministers' Forum, to the Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care, Hon. Greg Hunt, regarding work to identify solutions to address the delayed discharges of hospital patients, who are referred to as long-stay patients [\[1710\]](#).

As well as that, other stakeholders like the AMA, have said the Commonwealth has to step up and fund our health system properly—not just our hospitals, but the entire health system. They finally have to wake up to the fact that the current funding model that actually encourages and requires more activity—so if we divert people away from the health system we receive less funding—is fundamentally flawed. It is time that the Morrison government stepped up and took responsibility.

Regional Queensland, Water

Mr KATTER: My question is to the Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water. Can the minister ensure that under the Flinders River gulf plan water is allocated in sufficient quantities to well-defined and compliant community based projects that regenerate rural areas sustainably to the exclusion of other small and large projects that invite big players who employ FIFO practices and take all profits away?

Mr BUTCHER: I thank the member for the question. The Palaszczuk government certainly will continue to support regional economic projects and growth through the delivery of unallocated water, particularly in that scheme that the member was talking about. As part of our development program in the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water, 140,000 megalitres of unallocated water has become available out of the general reserve for the Flinders River catchment which we will release. We certainly encourage interest by proponents in accessing that water and recognise the potential economic growth to all of those regional communities. I thank the member for having a chat with me about that scheme itself and some of the smaller projects the last time I was out in the Richmond-Hughenden area.

Because the combined demand for that water on these projects exceeds the volume of unallocated water reserve under the gulf water plan, the department is developing a competitive sale process, as the member is aware. The department is on track to announce the terms of sale for the release of that unallocated water from general reserve in late November this year. As the member knows, the outcomes of that competitive sale process, which is currently in development, will decide which of those projects receives that water licence. I acknowledge that those smaller projects that the member is talking about certainly do deliver for those local projects in those areas. I have gone out there and had a look at the HIPCo project as well as viewing it from a helicopter. I know the member is quite fond of that project. Any release of that unallocated water will be based on science, ensuring that existing users will not be adversely impacted and also ensuring compliance with that gulf water plan.

While the government recognises the potential economic benefit of the Hughenden Irrigation Project to the region, the department will conduct a fair and open process to assess the viability of all proposals before them in allocating that unused water in the Flinders catchment. There has to be a fair and open process, which everyone expects these days, in planning to sell that 140 megalitres of water. For the member's benefit I can say that my department works closely with all local irrigators around the state with regard to current allocations and potential future allocations from any new projects. We will certainly continue to engage with all of those irrigators and all future projects. Along with the member, we will provide support to them where necessary as well as to those small irrigators looking for water allocations from not only new projects becoming available but also those councils looking for projects. We know the two councils in that region are certainly keen for those smaller projects to look after their council areas with their own people working on those projects. I am more than happy to work with the member through that.

Hydrogen Industry

Mr MARTIN: My question is to the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement. Will the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is transforming Queensland into a renewable energy and hydrogen superpower to create jobs?

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the member for the question. He understands that Queensland and Australia face an historic opportunity to transform our economy, to revitalise industry and manufacturing in this country and to create literally hundreds of thousands of jobs, just like the industrial revolution of 2½ centuries ago. Before us is a chance to supercharge our economy, an economy based on decent, secure jobs in decarbonised industries where we make things here in Queensland.

There is a saying that many members of this House would be familiar with, and that is that 80 per cent of success is showing up. When it comes to creating thousands of jobs, boosting local manufacturing and exporting our sunshine and wind around the world, the Palaszczuk government will turn up and do the hard yards. We already have runs on the board. We turned up to kick off the renewables boom in Queensland. We turned up to secure 44 large-scale renewable projects. We turned up to deliver the highest penetration of rooftop solar on the planet here in Queensland. We turned up to deliver a record energy budget this year and we have turned up to deliver massive hydrogen deals. We turned up to skill the workforce with the Pinkenba renewable energy training facility and the Beenleigh Hydrogen Training Centre of Excellence.

This week Dr Andrew Forrest turned up in Gladstone and on Gibson Island in Brisbane to invest in Queensland jobs thanks to our government's commitment to decarbonisation and the future hydrogen industry. It is a massive show of confidence in the work we have done to prepare our state for a renewables revolution. We will continue to do the hard work and we will continue to show up ahead of the United Nations conference in Glasgow in November where we will showcase Queensland's clean, green industrial credentials to the world.

To be fair, we were not the only ones to show up in Gladstone on the weekend. The Leader of the Opposition's hand-picked candidate for Flynn turned up to Gladstone's hydrogen announcement as well. I thought—we all thought—he had finally seen the light and he would join the rest of the world in discovering the potential for renewables and hydrogen. Instead, the member for Callide saw the historic announcement and the colour drained from his face. He took off only to turn up later at the buffet. In his defence, the bacon wrapped asparagus was delightful.

It is symptomatic of the entire LNP and Prime Minister Morrison: they simply do not show up. He is not even turning up to Glasgow. The only thing they have turned up for so far in renewables is to knock off a renewable energy project in North Queensland. That is his form and we should not be surprised. They did not show up when Australians were being ravaged by bushfires. They did not show up when Australians needed vaccines or quarantine 10 months ago. However, Labor's Matt Burnett did show up, and he did not just show up for the *Advertiser*.

(Time expired)

Mackay Base Hospital

Ms CAMM: My question is to the Minister for Health. When was the minister first informed that an external review was to be commissioned into the obstetrics unit at Mackay Base Hospital, and can the minister inform the House if the final report will be released in full to the public?

Mrs D'ATH: I can say that I have only been advised of that in the last 24 hours. I am seeking information from the HHS as to why that is the case. I am happy to provide further information when I receive a proper briefing from that hospital.

Great Barrier Reef

Ms LUI: My question is of the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs. Can the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is taking action to protect the Great Barrier Reef, the 60,000 jobs it supports and the \$6 billion in economic activity it generates for Queensland?

Ms SCANLON: I thank the member for Cook for the question. I know that she is a strong advocate for protecting the Great Barrier Reef and the jobs that rely on it. Of course, since 2015 we have banned the dumping of dredge spoil, have passed tree-clearing laws and have put in place regulations around the reef to make sure we have more sustainable practices. We have invested billions of dollars to try to reduce the amount of pollution that ends up in our waterways and increase the amount of renewable

energy that we in this state have to drive down emissions. We have done all of that because we know that the two biggest threats to the Great Barrier Reef are water pollution and climate change. More recently, it appears that there is an even bigger threat to the Great Barrier Reef—that is, those opposite, particularly Nationals members opposite.

We are a month away from the biggest global climate summit. Leaders across the world will come together to talk about climate action. Those opposite still cannot determine their own policy. Do they want to sign up to 2050 or not? It is incredibly embarrassing. Not only do they not have a position on 2050; they are actually using ministerial intervention powers to block renewable energy projects in Far North Queensland, as the energy minister just laid out. In fact, there are so many ridiculous and cooked comments that I have had to create a folder for all of the things LNP members have said on climate change!

Matt Canavan has questioned the expertise of scientists on climate change and COVID-19. George Christensen has said, 'There's no way, as long as the sky is blue, that I'm ever going to support it'—'it' being zero emissions targets. Scott Morrison's man in Toowoomba, Garth Hamilton—I had to google to find out who he is—is now siding with the Nationals. During budget estimates, Gerard Rennick prosecuted a deranged line of questioning to expert scientists in the CSIRO about climate change. As the Deputy Premier laid out, the member for Coomera shared climate-sceptic videos that were later flagged on Facebook as being false information.

Then of course we have Warren Entsch, the member for Leichhardt, who has been in politics for quite some time. In fact, he was elected when I was three years old! He was elected under the leadership of that ecowarrior John Howard. He then ran again under Tony Abbott, the former prime minister who said—and pardon my language—climate change is 'absolute crap'. Imagine having the Great Barrier Reef on your doorstep and running for a party under the leadership of someone like Tony Abbott, who almost exclusively campaigned against action on climate change. The member for Leichhardt should be ashamed. Then there are his limited achievements as the special envoy for the Great Barrier Reef. In fact, he really only took some delegates onto the Great Barrier Reef recently to show all of the work the Palaszczuk government is delivering. Members of Far North Queensland deserve a genuine voice in a lighter faith, not people like that.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, I ask that you withdraw the unparliamentary language.

Ms SCANLON: I withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you. For the information of the House, regardless of whether the language is in a quote it is unparliamentary. It does not make it any more parliamentary by being a direct quote.

Caboolture Hospital

Mr POWELL: My question is to the Minister for Health. When the issues of Caboolture Hospital came to light, the health minister reported that just three people had contacted the hotline. Now, with almost 100 people contacting the hotline, does the minister admit that there is a problem at Caboolture Hospital?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for his question. As the member is aware, there is a review being conducted currently. The reviewer has requested of the board to extend the report-back date by two weeks and I understand that the chair has approved that. I am not going to pre-empt what that investigation shows. The chair has said, very appropriately, that if there are genuine issues out there we want to know about them. We have called for people to come forward. All of that information will be put to the reviewer for consideration and will be reported on. I look forward to seeing that report, because it is important that we identify in the health system anywhere there are any deficiencies and certainly if there are any systemic problems. I am not going to pre-empt that review. It is ongoing and it is important that we allow that process to continue. Of course, if people have a complaint but they have not yet come forward, I encourage them to do so.

Port of Bundaberg

Mr SMITH: My question is of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Can the minister update the House on how the Port of Bundaberg is supporting Queensland's net zero emissions goal?

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

Mr BAILEY: I thank the member for Bundaberg, who is doing an excellent job representing his constituents with a new energy and vitality that the city certainly needs. The port at Bundaberg is a very important part of our publicly owned assets—saved by this Palaszczuk Labor government. I note that

the member for Bundaberg last week visited the port to inspect the new recycling project. Almost 100 per cent of the materials previously discarded during the port upgrades are now being re-used, which is fantastic to see. Workers recently upgraded the John T Fisher Wharf. All of the concrete that was crushed down is now being re-used on construction projects across Bundaberg. This is fantastic in terms of the environmentally sensitive operations in play. The old wharf's timber has also seen a new lease on life, in Melbourne. We are supporting more than 40 jobs in doing so.

I am happy to report to the chamber that the port is also gearing up to welcome the arrival of the new, massive turbines to be used for the new wind power farms across Wide Bay. There are 44 large-scale renewable energy projects under this government. How many were there under the previous Newman government? Zero. Let's compare that to the behaviour and the comments of the federal member for Hinkler, who really has his head in the sand about net zero. He wants Queenslanders to pay more in their power bills and mortgages, even suggesting that we pump \$250 billion into fossil fuels at a time when we are moving towards clean energy.

We have had eight years of coalition government. It is pathetic to see them scrabbling around at the last minute, on the eve of an election, trying to cobble together a net zero policy that we know they will not believe in and that they will not do anything about. They are not just slow to act; they have also blocked action for eight years. This government has acted from day one and will keep acting. The public will see through the fraudulent position of this slow-to-act Prime Minister.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

MOTIONS

Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.16 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders:

- (a) the Premier and Minister for the Olympics be permitted to immediately move a motion without notice, with the following time limits to apply—
 - 3 minutes for each member; and
 - total debate time before question put—60 minutes; and
- (b) at the conclusion of the debate the House will consider the Business Program motion (in accordance with sessional order 4).

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Climate Change



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (11.17 am): I move—

That this House supports the Palaszczuk government's commitment to net zero emissions by 2050.

We know that one of the most important conferences is imminent. In just over two weeks there will be an opportunity for the countries of the world to make very clear their position when it comes to one of the most important issues confronting the globe, that is, climate change. We already know that there is a division within the coalition ranks, with members of the National Party urgently demanding money—according to the *Australian*—in their bid to support the Prime Minister in relation to net zero emissions by 2050.

Today provides an opportunity for every member opposite, including the members for Callide and Warrego, to stand up and announce their position on net zero emissions by 2050. It is an opportunity for those opposite to stand up in the House and say whether they support our government's firm commitment to net zero emissions by 2050. We know that the Glasgow conference is really important. It is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to secure global net zero by mid century and keep 1.5 degrees within reach.

The second aim of the conference is to protect communities and natural habitats, the third is to mobilise finance, especially in developed countries—that is very important—and the fourth is to work together. It is absolutely imperative that the Prime Minister goes to this conference. He needs to be there. He needs to be represented there. He needs to stand up for Australians and back in this position.

Because of our strong policy position, we are already seeing investment happening in this state. With regard to renewable energy, we have over \$10 billion worth of investment on the books or currently underway supporting a whole range of renewable energies which means jobs in regional Queensland. We do not need the shakedown politics of the Nats or the Libs about funding, because the jobs are happening in regional Queensland.


In the last two days we have seen strong investment from the private sector from Fortescue Future Industries showing clearly that it backs our government's 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030 by backing in a brand new industry that is hydrogen—growing jobs and making sure that manufacturing is happening here in Queensland. The member for Kawana is obviously doing a bit of rallying around to see what everyone is going to say, but this is crucial. Today is the day that this House supports—

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The Premier's time has expired. Member for Southern Downs, you were on a warning. You can leave the chamber for one hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Southern Downs withdrew from the chamber at 11.20 am.

Mr SPEAKER: Members are reminded that if you are warned under the standing orders there are to be net zero interjections, so, members, it is very clear that those members interjecting will be asked to leave the chamber. Members on warnings include the members for Broadwater, Nanango, Buderim, Maroochydore, Maryborough, Burleigh and Everton.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.21 am): I will agree with the Premier on one thing, and that is that this is an important issue—so important that if the Premier was fair dinkum she would have come into this House and put forward a raft of things that we can do to achieve our goals. It is one thing to have targets 30 years in the distance, but I am interested in this government's record on the environment first and foremost before we discuss 2050. Let me talk about this government's record.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Sorry, member. Minister for Transport and Main Roads, you are warned under the standing orders. You are not directing your comments through the chair. Premier, you are warned under the standing orders. You have not directed your comments through the chair on multiple occasions today.


Mr CRISAFULLI: This government always talks a big game on the environment, but its record is appalling and I intend to use my contribution today to show the difference between what happens when a government is all about tokenism and not about delivery. On protected areas in this state, this government signed up to 17 per cent. It looked the world in the eye and said, 'We will get to 17 per cent.' It was at 8.26 per cent when it came to office and it has increased by 0.01 per cent—0.01 per cent. The government can make all the targets and use all the symbolism it likes, but if it does not have the attention to detail and it does not have the ticker it does not mean very much at all. This government came into office—

Dr Miles interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: My goodness! That sounds like hydrogen! This government came into office in 2015 and it said it had a vision to drive down emissions. Emissions have increased in the last seven years in Queensland. Emissions in Queensland have increased in the last seven years, so the government can set targets 30 years into the distance but I want to see KPIs along the way. I want to see deliverables. I want this government to be held accountable, because what I see on the floor of this House today does not look like someone who wants to do right by the environment; it looks like someone who wants to do right by Anthony Albanese. That is what I see. Everything that I have seen in the last six months looks to me like an opposition leader who is being propped up by the states and it looks like a silly little game. Yesterday I saw some comments from federal Labor in this space, and I agree with the Premier: there is an absolute desire for us to do what is right by this planet and Glasgow is an important milestone in that. I stand with members in this House in saying that it is going to be an important opportunity for our nation to play a role, and we must play a role. There is a transition and the globe will go through it, and we as a nation have to play our part. We as a state have to play our part. However, the greatest way we as Queenslanders can play our role is to put in this place a government that values the environment and will be held accountable to the measures it sets.


Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! Member for Thuringowa, you are warned under the standing orders. You are directing your comments directly at opposition members.

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (11.24 am): In this debate, the Leader of the Opposition had one job and one job only: does he support zero net emissions or not? What we got, to paraphrase Dennis Atkins in Queensland, was autobabble on autopilot. That is all we got from the Leader of the Opposition. I say this about the Palaszczuk Labor government: we are proud of our commitment to deliver net zero emissions by 2050. Almost one year ago that position was endorsed by the people of Queensland at the 2020 election, because in our sunrise state Queenslanders are optimistic about the new dawns ahead. Sunshine is on Queensland's side and the winds of change are blowing in our direction. Our government's \$3.34 billion Queensland Jobs Fund will provide cheaper, cleaner energy and it will provide more jobs in more industries and it will supercharge our resources sector and drive our government's commitment to net zero.

Labor is the only party of government committed to net zero emissions by 2050. Our commitment aligns with national sentiment, the international community and with scientific consensus. In contrast, the Morrison government has failed the nation. Prime Minister Scott Morrison is an outcast on the international stage. Scott Morrison refuses to commit to net zero, risking Australia's future and risking Australian jobs—threatening jobs in traditional and emerging industries, threatening jobs in Queensland and threatening jobs across the nation, and the state LNP is absolutely no different. The Queensland LNP is prepared to sacrifice Queensland jobs at the altar of its climate culture war. People like the Leader of the Opposition say when they are prompted that they believe in the science, but that really is an inconvenient truth for the member for Broadwater—a flexible belief that changes depending on the audience he speaks to. Not three months ago the member for Broadwater stood in the Queensland Media Club and he backed away from zero net emissions by 2050. When the time came to stand up for Queenslanders, he fell right back into party line. The member for Broadwater promised new leadership but, as everyone in this House knows, it is the same old LNP.

Net zero by 2050: that is our position. That is the world's position, but the LNP has been left behind. For every member like the member for Broadwater there is a climate change denier like the member for Callide, who claims that 'the fantasy of renewables is holding us back'. As world temperatures break records around the globe, he is stuck in the ice age. It really is the dawn of the dinosaurs in the LNP. There is one party that will deliver that and one government that will deliver that in Queensland, and that is the Palaszczuk Labor government.

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (11.27 am): What an absolute stunt this is. We are not here to talk about what rhetoric the government has on the environment; let us talk about what it is actually doing on the environment. If members look at state and territory greenhouse gas emissions, it shows that since it came to government carbon emissions have gone up by three per cent. The Newman LNP government in this state presided over lower carbon emissions than this current Labor government. Emissions have increased. For all their talk, for all their rhetoric, for all their targets—

Government members interjected.

Mr O'CONNOR: Look at the targets, Minister. The minister can look at the state and territory greenhouse gas inventories. That is the data that is on his government's own website. Carbon emissions have gone up and our carbon emissions from energy generation have actually increased in that time by 20 per cent. While Australia nationally has dropped per capita emissions by over 10 per cent, Queensland has only dropped by four per cent. For a state that has only one-fifth of the national population, we are producing one-third of Australia's total emissions.

We emit more greenhouse gases than any other jurisdiction in the nation, with over 164 million tonnes a year. The decrease in the level since 2005 has been nowhere near what it has been nationally. Compare it to other states: Western Australia has had a 20.8 per cent decrease; South Australia a 32.9 per cent decrease; Tasmania decreased by 108 per cent; New South Wales by 17.2 per cent; Victoria by 24.8 per cent. We are lagging the nation in our carbon emission reductions. One should not listen to what Labor says on the environment, but look at what their actions are.

As the member for Broadwater has prosecuted over many years, the protected areas target of the government is nowhere near being reached. It is increasing at a glacial pace of 0.01 per cent a year. This government calls for matched funding on the Great Barrier Reef despite spending only half of what the federal government spent. In the last week we found out that in three years only four farmers have accessed the \$10 million in funding that was provided to help farmers adapt to the reef regulations totalling about \$3,800. That is an absolute disgrace.


Government members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Order! Pause the clock.

Mr Fumer interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Minister, I will ask that you cease your interjections.

Mr O'CONNOR: I ask the agriculture minister how no-one in his department noticed that only four farmers were taking up that funding. Only \$3,800 out of \$10 million is an absolute disgrace. It shows they do not care about the actual impact on the reef, they do not care about actually changing those practices to improve water quality, they just care about the rhetoric, they just care about the talk.


 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (11.31 am): I rise to support the motion. It was interesting hearing the Leader of the Opposition asking for a raft of things we could do. I have some ideas for the Leader of the Opposition. Maybe do not veto renewable energy projects, maybe do not oppose sensible tree clearing laws that actually help us reduce emissions and do not oppose reform on electric vehicles because, contrary to the Prime Minister's belief, it does not ruin the weekend.

When it comes to emissions in this state we are very proud of setting reduction targets. Those opposite have had multiple opportunities to set them and at every opportunity have failed to do so. We have set both a 2050 target and an interim target and we are half way to achieving our interim target. Those opposite like to talk about some of those emissions, but they do not like to talk about the details that sit underneath them. In fact, when one looks at the large-scale renewable energy projects that have come online in this state, in 2012 we had none; in 2013, 2014 and 2015 we had none.

Since our government has come to power we now have over 40 projects. That is a large reason why we have been able to drive down emissions. When one looks at the land sector emissions we did, in fact, see a spike and that spike was as a direct result of the LNP repealing vegetation management laws. They have some nerve coming into this House and talking about changes to emissions when it was their policies that led to those increases.


Whether it is renewable energy, green hydrogen, manufacturing or new economic minerals Queensland is ready to seize the opportunities that are coming. Just like states and territories across Australia our government is doing the heavy lifting to make sure Queenslanders benefit. We have set achievable targets, we have put in place a blueprint of how we aim to get to our 2030 target—which is online and I encourage the Leader of the Opposition to take a look at it if he wants to know about things we could do to try to reduce emission in this state—which is in stark contrast to those opposite.

Recently the Leader of the Opposition again sidestepped questions from the ABC about whether they do support an emissions reduction target or not. One just needs to look at some of the examples in other states. Every other state and territory has signed up as well. Rio Tinto, Shell, the Minerals Council, the National Farmers' Federation, AgForce, the livestock council and a range of big business are backing a change in federal policy. Unfortunately though, the Queensland LNP have brought this to a head in the same mentality to Canberra. We have had minds like Gerard Rennick use the Senate to accuse the Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO of altering data to fit climate change agenda, we have had cosplay coalminer and former Gold Coast economist, Matthew Canavan, use Twitter to falsely claim that Brexit-induced food shortages in the UK are linked to their climate change ambition and George Christensen say that climate change is a conspiracy by the UN. Those opposite have some deranged ideas and this will be an interesting test to see whether they finally support climate action.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.34 am): In the last 15 years this area of policy is emblematic of an issue that has been used as a political weapon. For 15 years we have seen it across jurisdictions. The truth is that this is just the latest example of a highly politicised use of emotion. This is symptomatic of exactly what is wrong with this debate. We have seen it again here today. For this government it is an issue of rank politics and not about the policy. As the shadow environment minister has just explained, under this government all key environmental indicators have actually worsened. Whether it is increased emissions, growth in protected areas moving at a glacial pace or Great Barrier Reef funding matched by the federal government, the moving of this motion shows the rank politics at play.

The federal coalition's approach to this issue has always been about technology. I acknowledge the investment in the hydrogen industry. That is a clear way for the future and means new industries here in Queensland. It will be technology driven change that starts to address these greater problems. It must be driven by technological change rather than by tax. It must be a policy driven over the long term into these new renewable industries. That is why it is good to see this investment into the hydrogen industry. That is a way for the future.


Last Friday I visited the Oakey solar farm on the Darling Downs which is in the electorate of the member for Condamine. He let me come in for the day. Across our region there is a growing acceptance and willingness to engage in renewables projects. There is no denying that. We have wind farms right across the Darling Downs into the Western Downs, the South Burnett and out to Chinchilla in the member for Warrego's electorate. We have solar farms, such as the Canadian solar operation at Oakey that I visited on Friday, right across our region. It is supported by our local industry groups, by TSBE, by chambers of commerce and by the community at large. There is an acceptance that it will be technology driven approaches that will address these deep concerns. It will not be politics that solves these problems, but good policy on the ground by good communities.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (11.37 am): I rise to support the motion in support of our net zero emissions target by 2050. We have had three speakers from the opposition and not one of them could even bring themselves to say 'zero emissions target by 2050' let alone get behind what the world is talking about just weeks away in Glasgow. It is time to get serious about net zero emissions by 2050. Queensland is on board, as is New South Wales, Victoria, WA, South Australia, Tasmania which is already at net zero, the ACT and the NT. Every state and territory is on board. I cannot even mention all the business groups that are on board. That just leaves one major government out on a limb and that is the federal government. On the eve of Glasgow the National Party are having a fight with the Liberal Party on the world stage about supporting what we are discussing at Glasgow. It is embarrassing for Australians that their government is being dragged kicking and screaming every step of the way.

This motion is pretty clear. I have not heard one speaker from the other side get up and say they are going to support the motion. One has to question what those opposite stand for both at a federal level and at a state level. Do they stand for net zero emissions by 2050? We do not know. We know that they are very anti union and anti legislation—this House has seen motion after motion on those issues—but they are very pro fake unions, those unions that are not registered and those that are obviously aided and abetted by the LNP.

What we would like to know is exactly what those opposite stand for in this House. This morning I woke to see a news article in which Prince Charles was interviewed. I can tell all the monarchists opposite, and I look at the member for Kawana, that even Prince Charles is on board. He said that the Prime Minister of Australia should go to Glasgow. He is also a champion for zero emissions by 2050. Even Prince Charles can bring himself to stand for something when it comes to global change.

This is about the jobs of the future. This is about the renewable energy that will come with the jobs of the future. The minister outlined the programs and targets that we have in relation to this issue. This is about training our young people for the jobs of the future. We have a training fund to do that in Gladstone. We are embarking upon a renewable strategy. We are not backing the stagecoach when cars are being manufactured. Those opposite should stand for something and back this motion.


 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (11.40 am): I have seen a few stunts in this place and I might have participated in a few, but the one this morning is a cracker by a government that is under the pump. This government has a Caboolture Hospital health crisis. The government now looks increasingly like it has a Mackay Hospital health crisis. This government again has an ambulance ramping crisis. It is a government that has no plan for the future, no plan for businesses, no plan for when Queenslanders can expect to return to some degree of normalcy in their lives and no plan for lifting the restrictions that currently impede so many businesses and are keeping so many Queenslanders out of their home state, stopping them from coming home to Queensland.

We hear from the various members opposite—the Minister for the Environment, the Premier and others—that Scott Morrison should be going to Glasgow. The real reason they say that is because they really want to go to Glasgow. They want to stand on the world stage with Greta Thunberg. They want to jump up and proclaim their virtuousness publicly, declaring how good they are, while failing to deliver on their existing promises here in Queensland. They are more interested in standing on the world stage in Glasgow than they are in making sure that health, hospital and ambulance services are being delivered here for Queenslanders. That is their main aim. They cannot walk and chew gum at the same time, as Lyndon Johnson famously said.

Those opposite talk about Scott Morrison and the LNP, who are having a proper, sensible policy debate. It may well be that the coalition will come to some resolution in relation to emissions and emissions control, but currently the federal government are ensuring that Australia is beating its commitment to the Kyoto Protocol. They are doing better than they said they would, which is more than you can say for the Labor government here in Queensland.

What do we know about the Labor government? We know that their mate and ALP right powerbroker, Bill Shorten, has not got over the loss in 2019. They were all banking on it. The Treasurer from the AWU, the health minister and all of the AWU faction lobbyists were banking on Bill getting over the line, but then he snuck into Gladstone and told a worker on \$140,000, 'We're going to tax you a bit more!' They have gone quiet ever since. Then last month Albo turned up to visit a coalmine but did not tell anyone that he was going. That is what they think about it. So much for coexistence. I have seen this stunt before. It is a stunt that should be seen for what it is.

(Time expired)


 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement) (11.43 am): It is interesting to follow the member for Clayfield because of what he said during the 2017 election campaign. His campaign stood on the basis of ending support for renewables. He stood up with the members for Southport, Mudgeeraba, Mermaid Beach, Coomera, Theodore, Bonney and Broadwater and promised to end support for renewables. I ask the member for Clayfield: how did that go?

I am incredibly proud of the Palaszczuk government's record and legacy on renewable energy. What I am not proud of and what no Australian is proud of is the government that runs this nation. When Australians look back at this point in our nation's history we will remember LNP leaders void of leadership. We have a Prime Minister who accepts no responsibility for anything. 'I don't hold a hose'; 'Quarantine is not my job'; 'Vaccination is not a race': that is Scott Morrison's legacy. While Hawke is synonymous with Medicare and Keating gave us superannuation, Scott Morrison will forever be remembered for buck passing.

There is no greater failure of Prime Minister Scott Morrison's leadership than his government's record on renewable energy. In eight long years, what has the Morrison government achieved in the decarbonisation of Australia's economy? What has the Morrison government done to deliver cheaper cleaner energy for Queenslanders? In fact, Scott Morrison has held this nation back! To see that we need only look to this year's federal budget with no new money for renewables anywhere in the nation, not one new solar farm, not one new battery, not one storage facility, not a single wind turbine. In fact, the only thing they bring to the table is nothing. They take projects off the table. Who can forget the Kaban wind farm, which was extraordinarily vetoed by their very own minister for Northern Australia as they brazenly turned their backs on Queensland's renewables and jobs for North Queenslanders? That was a disgrace.

LNP leaders need to think long and hard about their legacy and the Australia that they want to leave for generations to come. They must come to the table and set a renewable energy target and an emissions target—and they must show up in Glasgow.

When it comes to voids in leadership, what does the member for Broadwater say to the 600,000 citizens of the Gold Coast, the community that he represents, about where he stands on renewables? He must explain why he wants to send the member for Callide to Canberra. As if things could not get any worse in the coalition, the most outspoken critic of renewable energy has been handpicked by the LNP to join the Morrison government. Why is the member for Broadwater backing a candidate who does not believe in renewable energy? The Leader of the Opposition has one job today and that is to ensure that every member of his party room supports Queensland's emissions reductions and renewable energy targets.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (11.46 am): I note that, while the amended motion states that the House supports the government's commitment to net zero emissions by 2050, once again it gives no indication of how the government intends to get to that target. We just heard from the Minister for Energy. He has had many opportunities to tell the people of Queensland how we are going to get to the 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030, but still we do not know. The last time I put that question to the minister, he informed me that we were at about 20 per cent now and we would be at 50 per cent at 2030 and the rest of it is just a void.

The public are looking to transition to a cleaner energy source. That is a given. We all know that. There is an enormous amount of money being put into that area, particularly in hydrogen. Hydrogen has a future, otherwise all that investment would not be happening. However, there is a transition period. It has to be affordable. Not one section of society should be lumbered with this load. I heard comments before about tree clearing and the farmers. It worries me a lot that rural Queensland is expected to do the heavy lifting, which it has been doing for a long time. I notice that the minister for mines is not in the chamber. He does not want to contribute to this debate because regional towns

throughout Queensland rely on mining. How are we going to look after them? Having these targets is wonderful, but you need to have a path to get there and it has to be fair and equitable for all sections of society. That is the part that worries me a lot.

We heard the member for Toowoomba South talking about his visit to the solar farm near Oakey. There are a few solar projects out there. There is the Coopers Gap Wind Farm just outside Dalby. Six months or more ago, I went to Canberra to visit a wind farm that is being built at Yass. There is no doubt that all of those projects have the potential to contribute to our transition. However, we will still need some form of base load power to get there. There is no doubt that hydro will play a part in that. I am a big supporter of hydro and in North Queensland there are lots of opportunities for that.

We need a clear path laid out. At the moment we do not have that. This motion gives us a target, but it does not tell us how we are going to get there. It is supporting a pig in a bag. We have not seen it. We do not have the plan. We have asked and asked, and I will continue to ask. I will give the minister more opportunities to show us and lay out the plan.

Mr de Brenni: I will make another announcement tomorrow.

Mr WEIR: The plan will be released tomorrow? I look forward to it, Minister.



Mr McCALLUM (Bundamba—ALP) (11.49 am): We are committed to more jobs through cleaner, cheaper energy here in Queensland, and that is being driven by our commitment to 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050. In 2015, after the LNP had cut off the renewable energy industry in Queensland at its knees, we came to government facing a very low base, sadly. We now have over 44 large-scale renewable projects. They represent over \$8 billion in investment and have delivered over 7,000 jobs, the vast majority of those in regional Queensland. We have over 20 per cent renewables here, and we are well on our way to 50 per cent renewable energy. That is also driving down power prices for our homes and our businesses.

The member for Condamine asks how we are going to get there. We are on the way, with \$8 billion in investment, 7,000 jobs, well over 20 per cent renewable energy and lower power prices. All of this has been driven by our 50 per cent renewable energy target.

Let's go through the 'greatest hits' in terms of the LNP's views on our renewable energy target here in Queensland. In debate of a motion in October 2017 the member for Burleigh said—

It is only those opposite who do not understand that their ideologically driven 50 per cent renewable energy target will have a detrimental effect on Queensland families, businesses and industry.

The evidence is in and, clearly, it has been the exact opposite. The member for Beaudesert in the same debate said—

The Labor Party should scrap the 50 per cent renewable energy target.

Scrap \$8 billion in investment. Scrap 44 large-scale projects. Scrap lower prices. The member for Nanango said the next day to social media followers that she—

... spoke in Parliament to condemn the Palaszczuk Government's reckless rush for 50% renewable energy.

That is a rush for more jobs, lower prices and more investment here in Queensland.

When it comes to the federal government, not only can Scott Morrison not commit to net zero; like the state LNP, they have a zero per cent renewable energy target. That is an absolute disgrace as we head into the Glasgow conference.




Mr BERKMAN (Maiwar—Grn) (11.52 am): God, the enthusiasm for this debate is overwhelming, isn't it! These are strange times when the *Courier-Mail* and all of the Murdoch press come out and get behind renewables. I honestly cannot believe that we are watching a fight about who is better on climate between the two parties that both support new coalmines, that both support Adani, that both support opening up the Galilee Basin, that both support new fracking across Queensland and that both oppose the phasing out of coal and gas.

Of course we support net zero emissions by 2050, but it is simply not enough. I have heard speakers on both sides refer to how they accept the science, but the science is telling us, with crystal clarity, that net zero by 2050 is not enough. 2050 targets are a distraction from what we need to do right now and how we need to drive down emissions immediately. Net zero by 2050 is absolutely a death sentence for the reef. No-one in here can pretend that it is otherwise. What we actually need is 100 per cent renewables by 2030, rather than this 50 per cent target; a 75 per cent cut in emissions by 2030, based on 2005 levels; and net zero emissions by five years later, in 2035. This is what the science is telling us.

When we compare ourselves with other states that have an emissions reduction target, we see that Queensland Labor's is now the worst. It is embarrassing. Queensland Labor is being outclassed by the New South Wales Liberals and Nationals, who have a target of a 50 per cent emissions cut by 2030. The Business Council of Australia is saying a 46 per cent to 50 per cent cut by 2030. Victoria is saying a 45 per cent to 50 per cent cut by 2030. The South Australian Liberals are saying a 50 per cent cut by 2030. Yet we are still in here crowing about 50 per cent renewables by 2050.

Based on the most recent data, as we have heard already, carbon pollution is higher now than when Labor took office back in 2015. We watch this government time and again refuse to shut down their coal-fired power stations. They are not on track to meet the 50 per cent renewables target by 2030. You can continue to put renewables on top of fossil fuels, but if you do not start closing the fossil fuel generators then emissions will not go down.

It is great that they are doing some work in hydrogen, but there is still no plan to get to 100 per cent renewables energy. After nearly six years of a Labor government, we are still just about last in terms of our targets. We cannot afford to persist with our coal-fired generation. We cannot afford to reopen the Callide C4 generator. We need to transition workers urgently—immediately. God help us if Clive Palmer is allowed to open up a new coal-fired power station here in Queensland.


 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (11.56 am): I rise to speak in support of the motion. Queensland is cementing its place as Australia's green hydrogen powerhouse thanks to the Palaszczuk government. Queensland's Labor government is planning and investing under the leadership of the Premier and has positioned our state as a major international player in the green hydrogen market. This investment is all part of our plan to develop more industries in renewable energy as we move towards our target of zero net emissions by 2050.

At the heart of this emerging industry is Gladstone, which is fast becoming Australia's hydrogen capital. As mentioned earlier today, recent announcements by Fortescue Future Industries and Stanwell with Iwatani highlight the confidence that investors have in our state and in the Gladstone region. Investors have this confidence because the Palaszczuk government's strong COVID-19 health response has kept Queensland out of long lockdowns and allowed our economic recovery to continue. This new energy source is one of those industries looking to get into Queensland.

Our government also has a pipeline of investment in regional water infrastructure that will provide important water security for the industry into the future. This includes the construction of Rookwood Weir, the Fitzroy-Gladstone pipeline and our investigations to raise Burdekin Falls Dam in the Townsville region.

The Palaszczuk government is also supporting the manufacturing industry to modernise, upskill and grow their businesses to become important parts of the green hydrogen supply chain. On top of that, there is a \$2 million investment by the education minister for Gladstone State High School to ensure that our students of tomorrow have an understanding of the importance of skills for the hydrogen industry coming forward. There will also be the ability for apprentices and traditional owners to gain work in these new industries in the Gladstone region. When you put this all together, you get more jobs in more industries.

I think it is a great outcome, but not everyone in here agrees. Take the member for Callide, for instance. Has he welcomed the investment in green hydrogen today and over the weekend in Central Queensland and the jobs that it will bring? No, he has not. Instead, he has been sniping away from the sidelines, like he always does, and peddling his climate change denying rhetoric in this House and outside. I really feel sorry for the people of Callide, because their member has deserted them. He has now based himself in Gladstone, where he heads to new announcements from the state government and stands in the media pack like a lost little lamb, trying to get some credibility through his support for a new industry in Gladstone. In fact, the member for Callide has previously paid for Facebook ads that say, 'The fantasy of renewables is holding us back.' Thankfully, neither FFI nor Iwatani listened to the supposed member for Callide.

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (11.59 am): I rise to support this motion and this government's commitment to net zero emissions by 2050. This is an important commitment that makes sure that we as a government leave a legacy for future generations—one that they will be proud of—when it comes to our planet, our environment and the economic opportunity that the renewables sector provides for all Queenslanders through harnessing our state's biggest asset, our amazing sunshine.


I am a proud Queensland hydrogen champion and I have been pushing this barrow for many years now, particularly out in the Redlands. The Redlands is where the rubber hits the road when it comes to research and development into hydrogen and sees the great work happening in the hydrogen

space in our regions up north. Through our government's plan and investment in renewables, particularly in hydrogen, we have seen at our Redlands research facility a lot of start-ups and incubators in the hydrogen space. QUT is out there.

In 2019 we exported the first hydrogen to Japan from the Redlands research facility. They are working on multiple different projects looking at how we can transition to a new energy future. We have vanadium flow batteries that are being tested. We went to the sod turning of the new \$3 million Lava Blue facility that is being built at the Redlands research facility. They are looking at how they can use minerals to create new batteries. They are looking at manufacturing high-purity alumina at pre-commercial scales. The facility they are building will provide the capacity to produce critical minerals for battery and renewable energy systems.

We also have out there Martin Newton from Zero Alpha Energy. He has been looking at green hydrogen, initially from his driveway on Coochiemudlo Island. It was the craziest thing to witness the systems he was developing there. He is now located at the Redlands research facility thanks to our government supporting these types of start-ups. Martin is looking at how he can decarbonise energy intensive assets utilising green hydrogen. I know that they had another trial with QUT out there last week. There is some amazing work happening in that space. In the skills and training area, I also had the opportunity to see the sod turning for Electro Group's \$23 million renewable energy training centre. That will be fantastic.

It is this side of the House that is focused on a renewable energy future. The only zeros our Prime Minister will be known for are those added to our national debt. There is zero in planning, zero in ideas and zero in action. It is embarrassing. He needs to get himself to Glasgow, represent Australia and make sure he positions our country and future generations.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (12.02 pm): We have had a great opportunity today for the Leader of the Opposition to tell us his position. What we see is even the coalition federal government, which has road blocked action on climate change for eight long years, crab walking to try to cobble something together because there is a federal election coming. We could have had a position from the Leader of the Opposition, but he squibbed it. He dodged like Manny Pacquiao in this debate. He did not have a word of substance to say. He could have come out and supported this, but did not say so. This is a weak leader of the LNP who stands for nothing when it comes to this.

Spare me the lectures from the LNP about their record on the environment. They have bagged our renewable energy target religiously over the last six years. The member for Clayfield was promising more coal-fired power stations. One member even said that plants will die. We know that those opposite did not allow one large-scale renewable energy project to happen in the entire three years of the Newman government. They blocked it. They used public assets to stop it from happening.

We have 44 either built or fully financed and closed under this government because we are committed to acting on climate change and we have had a policy of net zero for the last four years as well as a renewable energy target for the last six years. Net zero is in this government's DNA. We have acted on climate change and protecting the environment from day one. Our tree-clearing laws were empathetically and passionately opposed by those opposite. We even had the member for Maiwar moving amendments to water down our tough tree-clearing laws. Do not give me some lecture from the Greens party, which voted against an emissions trading scheme and precipitated a decade of division.

Mr Berkman interjected.


Mr BAILEY: The member for Maiwar moved an amendment in this place to water down Labor's tough tree-clearing laws. Lectures from the Greens party are all talk and no action. I will not tolerate it.

What we saw was the Leader of the Opposition going for the doona. We know his record on the doona. He bagged us on our—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Pause the clock! Minister, resume your seat. Member for Maiwar, your interjections are not being taken. They will cease.

Mr BAILEY: The Leader of the Opposition is all show and no go. When he is on the spot he does not know what to do. He is another failed leader just like the others those opposite have been putting up over the last 6½ years. Whether it is Campbell Newman, the member for Clayfield or the member for Nanango, what we see is an LNP that is not supportive of net zero. I note that they are not even going to legislate for it. A report in the *Financial Review* says that Morrison will not legislate his net zero agreement but instead will present an agreed road map. They are not even serious about it at a federal level and they are not serious about it at a state level.

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (12.05 pm): I rise in support of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to net zero emissions by 2050 and our commitment to 50 per cent renewables by 2030. Yesterday's Palaszczuk government announcement of a partnership with leading renewable energy and hydrogen company Fortescue Future Industries—I want to emphasise the word 'future'—will see the world's largest hydrogen equipment manufacturing facility built west of Gladstone. This will help us achieve the commitments we have made to the people of Queensland.


As the Treasurer said earlier today, this commitment from Fortescue Future Industries ends the culture wars perpetrated by the National Party on renewable energy. Visionaries like Twiggy Forrest are tired of the federal government's inaction on climate policy and are forging ahead without them. The future here is obviously an opportunity for this government. We have made commitments to the people of Queensland and we will continue to make commitments to the people of Queensland. The big question is what are those on the other side doing?

Up in my part of the world, I can guarantee members that, apart from having 3,000 beautiful reefs, 1,000 islands, 600 kinds of soft and hard coral and 1,500 different species of fish, we are seeing absolutely nothing from the federal government. The Palaszczuk Labor government acknowledges the importance of the 60,000 jobs connected to the Great Barrier Reef, the importance it has to our communities, the importance it has to our tourism industry and the fundamental contribution it makes to our economy.

We are hearing and seeing nothing from the federal government and very little from the other side here. They are contradicting the science and it is absolutely appalling. We are seeing what is happening around the world. We only have to look at what they are doing in the United States. The European Union, for example, is set to become the largest economic bloc in the world to completely ban the sale of combustion engine cars by 2035. Industry is moving ahead of government.

When people say 'give us a road plan', I say, 'It is already happening.' Industry is moving well and truly ahead and we are working with industry. The Biden administration in the United States has committed \$174 billion to accelerate supply chains for electric vehicles. The President has issued an executive order to secure critical materials for those supply chains. This is what is happening around the world.

As a result of a lack of leadership in Canberra we are being left behind. Governments like the Palaszczuk Labor government are setting goals. We are working towards zero emissions. Not only that, this is what is expected of us by the people of Queensland. I am more than confident when I talk to people in my electorate and talk to people in our region that they get the science. There is no self-interest here. I am very proud to be part of a government that recognises the importance of this and is working very hard to build new industries and secure future jobs.

 **Mr WALKER** (Mundingburra—ALP) (12.08 pm): I rise in support of the Palaszczuk government's motion for a 50 per cent reduction in emissions by 2030 and zero emissions by 2050. I joined the Palaszczuk team at the last election because of the strong leadership shown by the Palaszczuk Labor team leading into the last election. To explain my personal position, when I was in the Townsville City Council as a deputy mayor and councillor, I led the charge on the first solar city for Australia on merit. It is important that we have a plan moving forward, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is this government—the Palaszczuk Labor government—that has a true plan not only for the economy but also for the environment. That is why we have a strong minister in that field to make sure that we do all the right things not only for the industry but also for the environment to make sure that our young people have a bright future and are leading the way when it comes to educating their parents and grandparents on the right thing to do when it comes to managing green waste and hydrogen production.

That is why we are the first in the world to have a minister for hydrogen because we lead from the front. We do not talk the talk; we walk the walk. Since the start of this term of the Palaszczuk Labor government, we have heard announcement after announcement of smart environmental plans on waste reduction, energy production, jobs and investment. The world's best in the field of hydrogen has come to this state. We have seen only just recently good private investment by Australian companies. We are leading the world when it comes to the environment and zero emissions.

It is only with a true plan and strong leadership that we are going to reach those goals. Those on the other side have nothing. There is very little coming from the other side right now. They are working on a plan as we speak but they are doing it on the back of a beer coaster, while we have true structure and a true plan moving forward. We are moving forward for the people of Queensland and leading the country out of the COVID pandemic.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr WALKER: They are back. There is a murmur on the other side. They have awoken. Townsville will be on the world stage when it comes to hydrogen production. Our federal member for Herbert is missing in action. He has failed to get any federal funding for the production of hydrogen. He is missing in action.



Mr WHITING (Bancroft—ALP) (12.11 pm): I am proud to rise in support of this motion to support the march of this state and this government towards zero emissions. It is one of the most important things we need to do. I am one of the members in this parliament who represent a seaside community. There are many of us.

Ms Boyd: Seaside?

Mr WHITING: A seaside community indeed. For those of us who do have residents in close proximity to the ocean, it is incumbent on us to speak about what we need to do to counteract the effects of climate change. It poses a threat to our infrastructure. It poses a threat to our houses and our house values. It is hugely important to think about what we will face in future years with the potential inundation of our assets.

I say to a lot of members opposite—those members who represent the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast communities: this is an important issue that is playing on the minds of your constituents. Where does the future lie in these communities in an era when we face many effects and one of them is rising sea levels? I say to members opposite who represent those communities: listen to what your residents want. It is a real issue for them and it does play on their minds.

We have heard today that our march towards zero emissions does make great economic sense. We heard the Deputy Premier today, in answer to a question from me, say that embracing renewable energy will lead to an \$890 billion boost to our national economy and 195,000 jobs will be generated or boosted. We have also heard this week about how we are creating the hydrogen industry—one of the great frontiers of renewable energy. Queensland is at the forefront of that. We will reap the benefits of this movement towards renewable energy and zero emissions. It makes great economic sense to move down this path to reduce emissions.

I appeal once again to the LNP to follow us on this path because it is one of the only ways that we can make sure we deliver a secure economic future for our children. In appealing to the LNP, we have known what has been coming for many years. They have exploited this issue in terms of—

(Time expired)



Mr HARPER (Thuringowa—ALP) (12.14 pm): I rise to support the motion. In North Queensland we are powering on in the renewable energy space. From the Whitsundays to the Burdekin, Hughenden, Kidston, Ross River Dam in my electorate of Thuringowa and Rollingstone, we are investing in renewable energy, particularly in hydrogen. Sun Metals is leading the way. They have put over a million panels on their site. They are developing their own hydrogen unit to transfer hydrogen to their trucks to move the product to the port which is fantastic—the port being the largest port in Northern Australia.

They just signed an MOU with Ark Energy, which is investing in hydrogen. We had the minister up there. We are talking about Edify. We are talking about Imperium 3. This is the supply chain, creating thousands of jobs in the renewable energy sector which are absolutely welcomed in North Queensland. It is a shame that the federal government snubbed funding for Townsville in the hydrogen space, but the state is leading the way. We are getting on with it. We are delivering and investing millions of dollars into the energy sector. I have to ask the Leader of the Opposition: did he lock up the member for Callide? Is he in a cupboard somewhere? He is not in the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Member for Thuringowa, convention is that we do not refer to members' absences. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr HARPER: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. We are getting on with investment in the energy sector. I say to those on the other side: step up and get with it. We have an environment to protect. We have the Great Barrier Reef to protect. Billions of dollars will be created in the tourism sector because of what we are doing in the energy sector. We are reducing emissions. Climate change is a massive issue. What is the other side doing? The Leader of the Opposition in his contribution did not talk about a target. Come and join the target that the rest of the nation and the world is talking about. You cannot keep being a climate denier. You have to be on board with the renewable energy industry.

They are not paying attention. No-one on the other side is getting up and making a decent contribution because they have given up on the renewable energy target. They do not have one—just like the Morrison government. That is why the federal member for Herbert failed the people of Townsville. He is not interested in the renewable energy that we are investing in. It is about jobs and the supply chain and exporting hydrogen to the world—something that Queensland can be incredibly proud of. It is the next industry revolution. This will create jobs—thousands of jobs—in Queensland for decades to come.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): The time for debate on the motion has expired.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.


PRIVILEGE

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (12.18 pm): I rise on a matter of privilege under standing order 267. In question time, during contributions by the members for McConnel and Woodridge, there were certain imputations or inferences made which I utterly reject. I have previously written to the Speaker about such imputations and inferences which are false, defamatory and subject to legal proceedings. I indicate that I will again be writing to the Speaker about these matters.

MOTION


Business Program

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (12.18 pm): I move—

1. That the following business will be considered this sitting week, with the nominated maximum periods of time as specified:
 - (a) the Housing and Other Legislation Amendment Bill a maximum of 6½ hours to complete all stages; and
 - (b) the Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill a maximum of 3½ hours to complete all stages; and
2. The following time limits for the bill listed in 1. apply:
 - (a) the minister to be called on in reply by 30 minutes before the expiry of the maximum period of time.
3. If all stages of a bill listed in 1. have not been completed within the maximum period of time specified in 1., or any bill listed in 1. has not completed all stages by 5.55 pm on Thursday, 14 October 2021, Mr Speaker:
 - (a) shall call on a minister to table any explanatory notes to their circulated amendments, any statement of compatibility with human rights or any statement relating to an override declaration
 - (b) shall put all remaining questions necessary to pass the bills without further debate
 - (c) may interrupt non-specified business or debate on a bill or motion to complete the requirements of the motion
 - (d) will complete all stages required by this motion notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders.

Mr Bleijie: This is what I live for!

Mrs D'ATH: I take that interjection. In speaking very briefly to this motion, I have proposed that we have 6½ hours debate on the Housing and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and 3½ hours debate on the Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, allowing 30 minutes on both bills for the minister to be called in reply and also for consideration in detail. In moving this motion, I believe that it is a sensible and efficient way of moving through the work of the parliament but debating important bills before the parliament this week. I ask that members support the motion.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (12.19 pm): Wasn't it lovely last sitting week that we could debate an important bill without guillotine, without time restrictions. Everyone who wanted the opportunity to speak on the bill, as important as it was, got to speak. That is what the parliament used to do. If you were interested in a bill, if you wanted to fight for your constituents on a particular matter, you could speak on a bill and you would be afforded the opportunity. What we have seen over the years is the guillotining of debates, the shortening of time and the minister, the Leader of the House, getting up, as she has just done again, saying that this is sensible and it is about efficiencies. There is nothing sensible about the Business Committee. There are no efficiencies. There might be efficiencies—

Mr Nicholls: There is nothing sensible about the Business Committee.

Mr BLEIJIE: No. When you sit in the Business Committee you will understand what I am talking about. There is nothing sensible about it. It should not be there. The Business Committee should be abolished, because basically it is the Leader of the House coming to tell the crossbench and opposition what is going to happen this week. It follows a text message that she usually sends to me and Sandy Bolton, the member for Noosa, about what is going to happen this week. Nothing changes from the text message to the Business Committee, where you are told. I will tell you, Mr Deputy Speaker, that when the Business Committee minutes are released in 30 years you will be able to write a book on it. They are short minutes, but every week they are consistent: the government says what they are going to do and I oppose it. I have to say that more regularly now the member for Noosa opposes the Business Committee motion because she sees through it. She sees that all it basically does is give the government an excuse to ram through bills they want to do.

The bills this week are the resources bill and the housing bill. I have looked at the list of speakers. There are at least 42 speakers for the government and opposition, but that does not include the shadow minister's half-hour contribution, the minister's contribution and the minister's summation. With 42 speakers, that is over the six hours already. Based on our speaking list already not even the members who want to contribute will have that opportunity, and that is only 42 out of 93 members. Minister Bailey gets up in his amateur thespian performance every week and says the same monotonous speech—

Mr Bailey: You're stealing my terms! That's just plagiarism!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Pause the clock. I will just remind members who are under a warning at the moment: Broadwater, Nanango, Buderim, Maroochydore, Southern Downs, Maryborough, Burleigh—I will not be interjecting—Everton, Inala, Miller and Thuringowa.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take those disorderly interjections from the minister, the member for Miller. Hopefully, standing orders that apply to everyone else will soon apply to him. The reality is that the minister gets up every week and says there is filibustering going on. I say to the minister that, out of 93 members of parliament, there are only 42 speakers on the list to speak on the housing bill. Guess what? Not all of them are going to get to speak. That is the problem with this Business Committee. I have given—

Mrs D'Ath: You said you didn't know how many people were speaking on your side.

Mr BLEIJIE: Well, I do now. I have given the member for South Brisbane the opportunity to speak on this Business Committee motion because I note that, whether it is a Greens member or an opposition member, they have a bill introduced—and they have written to the government—which they will speak about, and the government has refused to cognate the two bills that deal with particular issues in the housing sector. When we had the hung parliament, usually bills that were of a similar nature were cognated so all members could speak on the bills. Whether or not we think the bill is good, we are not going to get that opportunity. The opportunity should be there and it will not be there. That is the problem with the Business Committee process that we have. Nothing has changed in the last five years that I have been speaking about it other than I hope members can see that when members are afforded opportunities to speak it is a better debate and Queenslanders are best served by better debates in this parliament without rushing such things through. I move the following amendment—

In paragraph 1(a)—

omit—

'6½ hours'

insert—

'8½ hours'

My amendment is to 1(a) of the motion. I have signed the amendment. I table the amendment to give eight hours debate on the housing bill instead of six hours debate. That way, all members on the speaking list should be given the opportunity to speak.

Tabled paper: Amendment moved by the member for Kawana, Mr Jarrod Bleijie MP, to the business program motion [\[1716\]](#).



Hon. MC BAILEY (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (12.24 pm): As sure as night follows day, you know that the member for Kawana will use up his entire speaking time on the Business Committee motion, wasting this chamber's time. There is a business motion. That is entirely normal. It should be accepted and we should be rolling on. This week we are dealing with two bills. There is adequate time for the opposition, government and crossbenchers to speak on it. What we are really seeing here, of course, is that when you have lost three elections all you can do is try to prevent

the government from legislating by filibustering and wasting time. That is about the extent of the opposition's tactics here, driven by the member for Kawana. It is a pretty low-grade tactic, one might say. As a government we are not going to be distracted from our mandate by the people of Queensland in terms of getting things done and getting legislation through.


Mr Watts interjected.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Toowoomba North and member for Logan, cease your private conversation.

Mr BAILEY: We will fulfil our duties with our mandate to legislate, as per what the people of Queensland want. We are not going to be distracted. I do take objection to the plagiarism of the member for Kawana in using the term 'amateur thespian'. He is starting to use my lingo. You know you are in trouble when you cannot even phrase your own debate. When you have to pillage the government's phraseology you are running out of ideas. One of these days those opposite will realise that the member for Kawana is a liability, not an asset, to that side. If ever there is a great example of it, it is this silly routine that he goes through during the Business Committee motion.

I am not going to use up my five minutes and waste this chamber's valuable time. This is a logical motion about ordering business. The opposition needs to not give repetitive speeches as well, to be quite frank. When they get up their speeches are all from the same song sheet. They use the same key lines and themes. It is not always a genuine contribution. I endorse the motion; it is logical and should be supported. I oppose the amendment.

 **Dr MacMAHON** (South Brisbane—Grn) (12.27 pm): This government has just one chamber and a complete majority, but they still only manage to get organised and tell us what is happening on Monday night. We have only seen the business program motion in the chamber just now. It proposes just six hours to debate their Housing Legislation Amendment Bill. This is the bill that they introduced in June. It is pretty much a watered-down version of the private member's bill I introduced in May, the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation (Tenants' Rights) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, which genuinely looks to protect renters, end unfair evictions, cap rent increases—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Member for South Brisbane, you are pre-empting debate on that issue. Can I just bring you back to the motion, please.

Dr MacMAHON: These are issues that need to be aired in this chamber.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for South Brisbane, come back to the motion, please.

Dr MacMAHON: We have just six hours to debate housing in the midst of a housing crisis in Queensland. Is that acceptable? The Community Support and Services Committee held a cognate inquiry into these bills. There is no reason why these bills should not be debated together. I would like to table a motion that I will move in a moment to debate these bills in cognate.

Tabled paper: Proposed cognate motion by the member for South Brisbane, Dr Amy MacMahon MP [\[1711\]](#).

Thus far the government has been unwilling to properly consider renters' rights here in Queensland. Just six hours of debate is rubbing salt in the wounds of the hundreds of renters who have engaged with the parliamentary process on the debate—the hundreds of shocking stories that we have heard from right across Queensland.

I support the motion that is put forward for 8½ hours. I had been going to propose nine hours, but I think 8½ hours gives us a proper opportunity to consider this bill and its amendments in detail. In the middle of a housing crisis, the Labor government should be doing everything they can to ensure that we have secure housing for all Queenslanders. My motion for a cognate debate does exactly that. I urge the House to support it.

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

AYES, 36:

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

Grn, 2—Berkman, MacMahon.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 49:

ALP, 49—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, Linard, Lui, Madden, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Palaszcuk, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

Pairs: S. King, McDonald; Lauga, Crandon.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendment (Mr Bleijie) negatived.

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

AYES, 49:

ALP, 49—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, Linard, Lui, Madden, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Palaszcuk, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

NOES, 35:

LNP, 31—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Camm, Crisafulli, Gerber, Hart, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

Grn, 2—Berkman, MacMahon.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

Pairs: S. King, McDonald; Lauga, Crandon.

Resolved in the affirmative.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Further Answer to Question, Termination of Pregnancy



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (12.37 pm): I rise to make a ministerial statement. In response to a question from the member for Noosa on 10 March 2021 when asked about termination statistics, I responded in relation to public and private sector statistics, which are in reference to data provided by the Department of Health on admissions to public and private facilities for a termination. It appears that there might be a misunderstanding in relation to the statistics I was quoting. By way of clarification, I wish to advise the House that I was referring only to statistics held by the Department of Health in relation to admitted patients to public or private facilities. I am advised that it does not include, because the Department of Health has no visibility over, the number of medical terminations of pregnancy that may be provided in a primary care setting as there is no Medicare item number for a termination of pregnancy.

In addition, the Department of Health does not have visibility of the figures published by the federal government regarding the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme in relation to MS-2 Step, which is information which has been quoted by some in this chamber. As such, the figures I used in my response to the member for Noosa were in relation to public and private sector admissions and there was no intention on my part to cause confusion or mislead members in my response.

I further wish to advise that it is not a simple exercise to quantify termination of pregnancy statistics in Queensland, as I have been advised that some prescribers are based in Queensland but prescribe medication to women across the country, therefore skewing the data. I would encourage all members to be careful when interpreting or using the data available.

LEAVE TO MOVE MOTION



Dr MacMAHON (South Brisbane—Grn) (12.39 pm): I seek leave to move a motion without notice.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

Mr SPEAKER: Ring the bells for one minute.

AYES, 35:

LNP, 31—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Camm, Crisafulli, Gerber, Hart, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

Grn, 2—Berkman, MacMahon.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 49:


ALP, 49—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, Linard, Lui, Madden, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

Pairs: S. King, McDonald; Lauga, Crandon.

Resolved in the negative.

SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSIONER BILL

Message from Governor

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (12.41 pm): I present a message from His Excellency the Governor.

Mr SPEAKER: The message from His Excellency the Governor recommends the Small Business Commissioner Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSIONER BILL 2021

Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68

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


A Bill for an Act to establish the office of small business commissioner and for related purposes, and to amend this Act, the COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020 and the Retail Shop Leases Act 1994 for particular purposes

GOVERNOR

Date: 12 October 2021

Tabled paper: Message, dated 12 October 2021, from His Excellency the Governor recommending the Small Business Commissioner Bill 2021 [\[1712\]](#).

Introduction

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (12.42 pm): I present a bill for an act to establish the office of Small Business Commissioner and for related purposes, and to amend this act, the COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020 and the Retail Shop Leases Act 1994 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Education, Employment and Training Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Small Business Commissioner Bill 2021 [\[1713\]](#).

Tabled paper: Small Business Commissioner Bill 2021, explanatory notes [\[1714\]](#).

Tabled paper: Small Business Commissioner Bill 2021, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[1715\]](#).

I am very pleased to introduce the Small Business Commissioner Bill 2021. By introducing a permanent Small Business Commissioner in Queensland, we are supporting our state's over 450,000 small businesses. The Palaszczuk government recognises that the needs of small businesses are distinct from those of larger businesses. Effective support mechanisms ensure that their issues are identified, and government services and programs meet their needs.

We know that the temporary Queensland Small Business Commissioner and supporting office, established as part of the Queensland government's response to the impacts of COVID-19, have helped many small businesses get back to doing business. In 2020-21, the temporary commissioner's office

carried out over 4,500 activities for small business, including enquiries, disputes, outreach and advocacy activities, playing a critical role in supporting Queensland businesses to avoid lengthy and costly leasing disputes during the pandemic with early information, advice and access to mediation services. The success of the temporary office and addressing the previous gap in support to small businesses, relative to other states, is why the government has committed to the appointment of a permanent Queensland Small Business Commissioner and the establishment of a supporting office.

The main objectives of the proposed bill are: to enhance the operating environment for small business in Queensland and to reduce the time and costs associated with resolving disputes involving small businesses. The permanent establishment of a Small Business Commissioner and a supporting office are also key initiatives under the Big Plans for Small Business Strategy. The Small Business Commissioner Bill 2021 will give effect to the government's commitments.

The bill provides a legislative basis for the commissioner's dispute resolution functions relating to retail shop leasing disputes under the Retail Shop Leases Act and to other small business leasing and franchising disputes on an opt-in basis. We know that dispute resolution can be costly and stressful for small business owners, and prior to the temporary commissioner being appointed, Queensland small businesses had to negotiate multiple pathways in the dispute resolution process. The government has consulted with Queensland small businesses, with jurisdictions that have existing small business commissioners and with key industry stakeholders in determining the permanent commissioner model.

Earlier this year, I consulted with over 2,500 small business owners and industry representatives across Queensland through the Small Business Roadshow. The roadshow included a series of face-to-face and virtual forums and an online survey on the Business Queensland website. The message received from small business and industry is clear. Small businesses want one-on-one support that is easy to access.

Through the permanent commissioner's office, Queensland small businesses will have a clearly identifiable, single point of contact in Queensland to provide advice and assistance to help them understand their options in a dispute. One of those options will be mediation—for retail shop leasing, other small business leasing and franchising disputes. The commissioner's office will also be able to provide initial advice and information to small businesses about any type of dispute and connect them to relevant assistance and support. Queensland's small businesses will have a permanent one-stop shop for tailored small business advice here in Queensland.

The temporary commissioner's office has fielded thousands of requests for assistance and has helped to successfully navigate tenants and landlords through leasing disputes. Under permanent arrangements, tenants and landlords in retail shop leases will have a clear and easy process for connecting and finding solutions before progressing to the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal or the courts, if required. Where parties to a small business dispute about other small business leasing or franchising want to try mediation, this will also be offered by the commissioner in addition to a range of informal resolution options to resolve disputes.

The bill will allow the Queensland government to permanently establish the Small Business Commissioner role, delivering small business engagement and support, including advocacy, and dispute resolution support. This bill also provides for the other important aspects relating to the Small Business Commissioner, including a ministerial statement of expectations, ministerial directions, reporting requirements, term of office and arrangements where a vacancy occurs. The commissioner will also work with the Office of Productivity and Red Tape Reduction to continue to deliver small business regulatory reform in Queensland. Having a permanent Small Business Commissioner brings Queensland into step with every other mainland state in Australia. We will continue to listen to the over 450,000 small businesses that make Queensland the place to do business. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. DE FARMER (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (12.47 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to Education, Employment and Training Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Education, Employment and Training Committee.

RESOURCES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 16 June (see p. 1874).

Second Reading



Hon. SJ STEWART (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (12.48 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I thank the Transport and Resources Committee for its inquiry into the Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 and its report on the bill, which was tabled on 6 August of the same year. I will also take the opportunity to thank the stakeholders who provided written submissions on the bill and took the time to appear before the committee to brief them on the various aspects contained within the bill.

When introduced, the bill had the following policy objectives: to clarify the legal standing of certain historically granted tenures, activities and entitlements under the Mineral Resources Act 1989 and the Petroleum Act 1923; to repeal the Personalised Transport Ombudsman Act 2019 and to make minor consequential amendments to the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994; to ensure water restrictions can be equitably investigated and enforced across the South-East Queensland region by amending the South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009 to align with the powers that local government water service providers have under the Local Government Act 2009; and to exclude cybersecurity measures reported to the Water Supply Regulator from being made publicly available to mitigate the risk of malicious attacks on water service providers and water supply schemes by amending the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008.

I note the amendments relating to the Personalised Transport Ombudsman Act 2019 and the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994 were passed by the House on 2 September 2021 as part of the Public Health and Other Legislation (Further Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Act 2021.

As members may be aware, the Speaker of the House has considered the application of the same question rule with respect to the Public Health and Other Legislation (Further Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Act 2021 and the Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. On 14 September 2021, the Speaker ruled that the same question rule is enlivened with respect to clauses 15, 16 and 21 of this bill and, as a result, ruled them out of order. I will be moving amendments to the long title of the bill during consideration in detail as a result of this ruling.

I turn to the Transport and Resources Committee's report on the bill and some of the issues raised by stakeholders during the committee process. Firstly, I welcome the committee's recommendation that the bill be passed. During the committee process, some stakeholders raised concerns about the Department of Resources' consultation processes in developing these amendments. I assure the House that the Palaszczuk government understands these concerns. That is why we have said that we will, where appropriate, provide 12 weeks of broad consultation on material changes that affect the resources sector. I note, however, that this bill does not make material changes that affect the resources sector. It simply provides for a range of urgent and necessary amendments to preserve and clarify the administration of existing rights and obligations but does not change those rights or obligations.

I also note that, in relation to the amendment to the Mineral Resources Act 1989, there are concerns that the identified administrative deficiencies relating to the issuing of a hard-copy instrument of lease may cast some ambiguity on the validity of the impacted mining leases. This is a historical issue. It affects 86 mining leases for coal and 847 mining leases for minerals that were approved between 1989 and 2010, some 32 years ago.

Let me state very clearly for the record that these mining leases are validly granted by the minister of the day. These deficiencies occurred after the assessment of individual mining lease applications had been completed by the minister and after the minister had formed the view that the mining lease should be recommended for approval. They are effectively minor procedural oversights that have no bearing on the outcome of the assessment process or the grant of the mining lease itself. Regardless

of this, the intent of the bill is to remove any ambiguity by clarifying that, despite the presence of these administrative deficiencies, the mining leases are validly granted. The amendment only addresses these narrow administrative deficiencies and is essential to ensure certainty for holders of these mining leases that they can continue to operate with confidence. In addition, it is important to note that, while the amendment is retrospective, it does not confer any new rights or obligations upon proponents, stakeholders or the government; nor does it impact any other aspect of the mining leases or associated approvals and agreements.

I also note the concerns about the transparency of information available to stakeholders in relation to resources projects as a whole. I would like to take the opportunity to reiterate the advice provided by my department on this matter. My department maintains a public-facing register in the form of MyMinesOnline, which is the publicly available electronic register provided in accordance with section 197 of the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014. A range of details about existing tenures and applications can be found on that register. In addition to MyMinesOnline, the department's website also contains a range of public-facing information about applications and existing resource authorities.

Concerns were also raised about the renewal of certain petroleum lease renewals under the Petroleum Act 1923. As has been made clear, however, these amendments simply remove an ambiguity in the Petroleum Act 1923 and provide greater clarity about the treatment of lease renewals. The proposed amendments in this bill will bring the standing of lease renewals under the Petroleum Act 1923 into alignment with provisions for renewals of other equivalent resource authorities in the Mineral Resources Act 1989 and the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004. This is required to provide certainty to current operations that have had production leases previously renewed. It also ensures the continuity of ongoing access and compensation payments to landholders.

The bill will also address a second issue within the Petroleum Act 1923 relating to the administration of authorities to prospect and the grant of new leases. Under section 25U of the Petroleum Act 1923, any remaining authorities to prospect under the act will expire and their associated production lease applications will lapse on 1 November 2021. These amendments will provide the holders of impacted authorities to prospect with the confidence that they will continue in force, despite the 1 November 2021 expiry. It will also ensure that any outstanding decisions on the associated production lease applications can be made after 1 November 2021 if they have submitted an application prior to this date. I am advised that the affected tenure holders have already done this.

It is important to note that these amendments do not alter the criteria for the decision; nor do they confer any additional rights or obligations upon the holders. These amendments merely ensure that anyone with pre-existing rights have their rights preserved if they have already made an application for a lease. The additional time to consider these four remaining authority to prospect applications is to ensure that we get these decisions right.

I understand that industry stakeholders questioned the wording of these amendments during the committee process because they were concerned that the language suggested that the relevant minister would be able to exercise a new discretion that did not previously exist when granting an application. I can advise that these concerns are incorrect. The amendments simply empower the relevant minister to exercise the powers under the former section 40 as they currently exist, requiring the minister to grant a lease in the listed circumstances. They are in line with the existing provisions of the act that ensure an underlying authority to prospect continues in force while an application for a production lease is being assessed. Without these amendments, any impacted authorities to prospect will expire and their associated production lease applications will lapse.

The water restriction amendments to the South-East Queensland (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009 in the bill aim to ensure that, should South-East Queensland water grid levels decline to a level that triggers the requirement for mandatory water restrictions, all water service providers can enforce water restriction compliance in an equitable and consistent manner. The amendments will help to ensure that our precious water resources are managed appropriately for the benefit of the entire community.

Local government water service providers Logan, Gold Coast and Redland city councils each have investigation and enforcement powers for water restriction offences under the Local Government Act 2009. Due to an historic anomaly, these investigation and enforcement powers are not available to distributor-retailers Urban Utilities and Unitywater. This means that, under the current legislative framework, water restrictions are not able to be enforced on a significant majority of the South-East Queensland population. While most Queenslanders act responsibly during times of drought, it is

important that our laws in this regard apply equally to everyone. Combined, Urban Utilities and Unitywater service nearly two million people and approximately 62 per cent of the South-East Queensland region. The amendments will achieve a consistent regulatory framework for all South-East Queensland water service providers, whether they are councils or distributor-retailers.

The amendments enable Urban Utilities and Unitywater to appoint authorised persons empowered to undertake investigation and enforcement actions against water restriction offences. Specifically, the authorised persons will have the same powers of entry as local government officers to search for evidence of potential noncompliance with water restrictions. The appointed persons will also be authorised to implement necessary enforcement or compliance actions, such as issuing penalty infringement notices. The amendments in the bill are supported by both Urban Utilities and Unitywater and simply seek to remedy an historical anomaly so that distributor-retailers have the same investigation and enforcement powers for water restriction offences as local government providers.


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

Debate, on motion of Mr Stewart, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Health System

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): Members in this House have heard me talk about the Queensland Health crisis. Well, now they know why—another inquiry into another hospital, a system that is in crisis. This time it is the Mackay Base Hospital and an independent review into the obstetrics ward. This is deeply concerning. Imagine being a young mum waiting for surgery or imagine being a young mum who has been through surgery. Imagine the questions that those young mums are asking themselves as of today—questions they are asking because of a government that cannot manage the health system in this state.

What is most significant is on the floor of the parliament today, upon being questioned by the member for Whitsunday, the health minister said that she had been informed of this development in the last 24 hours. I am going to guess it might be even a little sooner than within the last 24 hours. I am going to hazard a guess that the health minister found out about it via the media. If ever we need proof of a minister out of her depth and of a government losing control of a system, there it is right here today on the floor of this parliament, and this follows an inquiry into the Caboolture Hospital. I can tell you, Mr Deputy Speaker Kelly, the situation at Caboolture is real and I have seen it in the eyes of victims: people like Olivia, who has had her life turned upside down; a young man by the name of Jodie, who went in for routine minor surgery and has had complications beyond belief; and then on Sunday I met a woman in her 40s by the name of Janelle, who reached out, did what was asked and did not receive a call back about a system that has badly let her down.

As I have said many times before, this inquiry is too brief, it is too narrow and it is too closely connected to Queensland Health. It is the kind of inquiry that you have when you are not really looking for the truth. It is one of those inquiries. I welcome the two-week extension, but that only takes it from four to six weeks. When the minister first stood up when forced under pressure to have a hotline for people to report, the minister crowed that there were only several people who had contacted the hotline. As of this morning, there were nearly 100, and I would argue—if the government is serious and it would allow the time and if it would spend some of the dollars we see spent on self-promotion promoting to the people of Caboolture that they could come forward—there are many more. There are stories that need to be told, but what we have here is deeply concerning: two hospitals, two separate inquiries, too many reasons not to be deeply concerned about the Queensland Health crisis. We owe it to all of those victims to get to the bottom of a system that is in crisis.

This government hates scrutiny. Every time we seek to question the minister about her poor performance and about the government's lack of attention to detail, we immediately get the response, 'Stop talking down our hardworking health professionals.' Do those opposite want to know where the information is coming from? The hardworking health professionals—the doctors, the nurses, the paramedics. They are crying out for help. They are working to try and repair a broken system, and we have heard that consistently. When the shadow health minister and I have gone across the state, this

is what we have been told at health crisis town halls in Cairns, Rockhampton, Hervey Bay, Sunshine Coast, Redcliffe, Brisbane, Gold Coast. At all of them people stood up and the first thing they said is, 'I want to commend the staff and how much they try,' and in every one of those audiences was a current and former employee of Queensland Health reaching out to try and fix a broken system, and that is what it is.

Today we heard that the government will continue to try and find reasons to blame others for the state of Queensland Health, but it has had seven years—seven years—to get this system ready. What else did we hear? We heard that ramping at the time of the election of this government was at 15 per cent and then went to 29 per cent before coronavirus and it is now at 41 per cent. At some hospitals it is over 60 per cent. In the Redlands it is nearly two in every three. With regard to code yellows, there were 91 in the first year of this government, 287 in the year before coronavirus and in September there was one code yellow per day. The surgical waitlist was 30,000—

Mr Brown interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! Pause the clock. Member for Capalaba, you are warned.

Mr CRISAFULLI: The surgical waiting list was 30,000 at the time of this government's election and then it was 56,000 before COVID, and now it has nearly doubled from where we started. People are looking for a pathway out of the pandemic. They want the government to choose hope over fear. They want confidence over chaos. We have put forward our solutions, and they are solutions that have been garnered from those meetings attended by doctors and nurses reaching out—solutions like better triaging, better resourcing of beds, empowering the people at the front line to again make the decisions. They are the people who are crying out. Above all, they want to be able to share data in real time. You cannot improve what you do not measure and this government has a culture that it would rather things look good than be good. In other places you can look in real time and see the data which can drive the cultural change. That is what Queenslanders are yearning for. They want to know that a system will be there for them. They want to know that Queensland Health can be there in their hour of need. They want to know that the government has the solutions. Let us give Queenslanders a plan. Let us give them a target. Let us find a way to reunite families and help struggling small businesses. Let us choose hope over fear, because that is what they are looking for.

Today in question after question we heard members of the government look to blame everyone else but themselves. They are prepared to blame a government that will be 10 years in the wilderness at the time of the next election for why people cannot get surgery on time now. They will be prepared to blame a government domiciled in Canberra for the fact that they cannot allow frontline staff to be able to administer people in their hour of need because they are not properly resourcing it. They will blame COVID, they will blame the elderly, they will blame the private sector. They blame everyone involved in the health space aside from themselves. I say to the government: right now Queenslanders are desperate to know that this government is taking this seriously and that the government believes in the ability to find a way out of this pandemic, because every single day Queenslanders turn on the television and they see a government that is peddling fear. There are people who are stuck—Queenslanders who want to come home—and all they get is a government that wants to choose fear. When it comes to hospitals, they get a government that would rather play politics.

Every day they yearn for a government that will give them a pathway out of this pandemic. An operator in Cairns, who has been in the charter boat industry for 30 years, asked, 'If not 80 per cent what and if not Christmas when?' I think that is a relevant question from someone who every day gets out of bed and does not have the luxury of a fixed income. The deputy leader and I had him cry on our shoulder. He had a piece of paper that showed that on that day he was going to lose \$3,200 because he wanted to keep his staff in a job.

I see the member for Cairns shaking his head. If he went down and had a chat to Mr Jones he would find out the real story. He would find out that he is a guy who has put everything on the line. He is his business. There are some days that he does not want to leave his house. He spent three days struggling to get out of bed because his business is his identity. All he wants from this government is a pathway out of the pandemic. He wants a government to choose hope over fear. He wants to know there is a future for him and his family.

Federal LNP Government, Performance



Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (2.10 pm): All Australians know that Scott Morrison failed to prepare our country to deal with the COVID pandemic.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! The Leader of the Opposition was heard in relative silence. The Treasurer will be afforded the same courtesy.

Mr DICK: The facts are clear: Scott Morrison did not buy enough vaccines. That failure cost billions in lost economic output and it cost hundreds of lives in outbreaks that have devastated southern states. Scott Morrison failed to build quarantine facilities despite his constitutional responsibility—a constitutional responsibility that is 120 years old. That failure contributed to up to 30 breaches that have caused very costly and very tragic outbreaks across the nation, as well as lockdowns that have devastated livelihoods and small and family businesses across the length and breadth of this nation.

Who could forget February 2020 when this government, the Palaszczuk government, pleaded with the Prime Minister to activate economic support for the looming COVID disaster. Scott Morrison refused. Scott Morrison said he was going to the football. Scott Morrison will not learn the lessons of the pandemic. Labor and LNP states have come together on a bipartisan basis to ask for proper health funding. As one they are asking for proper funding to stop our hospitals from being crushed by demand. What do we hear from Scott Morrison? He says it is a 'shakedown' and he refuses to help.

The reason we have ramping and the reason we have people waiting for elective surgery is because Scott Morrison will not do his job and properly fund the health system in this country. That is what a responsible, accountable federal government will do. They are supposed to fund public hospitals properly as agreed on under the National Health Reform Agreement. They are supposed to run the system of GPs and primary health care, but that system is full, sending more patients to public hospitals run by states. They are supposed to run aged care, they are supposed to run a proper disability system, but we had 600 aged-care and disability clients waiting for placements. Scott Morrison and the federal LNP are failing in their responsibility across the board.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Southern Downs, you have been warned under the standing orders.

Mr DICK: The message could not be clearer. If you are a Queenslander who is waiting for elective surgery, if you are a Queenslander stuck in a ramped ambulance, Scott Morrison says this: 'You are on your own!' Scott Morrison is on notice. All states will hold Scott Morrison accountable for the demand that he has placed on our collective hospital systems. I put the state LNP on notice. When they find problems in the health system they will be reflecting on their Prime Minister. We are going to attribute responsibility for health failings where it lies: to Scott Morrison and the federal LNP government. Today we have heard a lot from those opposite about public hospitals. They cry crocodile tears about hospital ramping and emergency departments. That is all it is—crocodile tears.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Southern Downs, you can leave the chamber for one hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Southern Downs withdrew from the chamber at 2.14 pm.

Mr DICK: The state LNP sacked over 4,000 workers, including 1,200 nurses and midwives. Imagine how much better our hospitals in Queensland would be if those 1,200 nurses and midwives had never been sacked. The LNP cut funding to mental health support, which was the first time in the history of Queensland that had ever occurred. That appalling decision is now history, but to this very day the LNP has never accepted responsibility for what it did to the public health system in this state and has never apologised. Even today those opposite ignore the real reasons for pressure on our hospitals. They say nothing about the crisis in Medicare, in primary care, in aged care or in the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Do not take my word for it. Do not even take the word of Labor. Listen to Brad Hazzard, the LNP minister for health in New South Wales. Listen to the Liberal minister for health in South Australia. Listen to the Liberal minister for health in Tasmania. They all signed the one letter. That letter says—

The admission of NDIS participants and older patients into our hospitals has continued unabated, and there has been no improvement in the discharge rates once these individuals are clinically ready for discharge.

The only person who can fix the pressure facing public hospitals across Australia is Scott Morrison and the LNP. I call on them to fix their problems. I call on them to take responsibility. I call on them to act and to act today.

Queensland Ambulance Service, Road Incident; Caboolture Hospital



Ms BATES (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.16 pm): I rise to address this House about those opposite losing control of Queensland Health. First I join with my parliamentary colleagues on passing on our sincere condolences to the 65-year-old nurse and her 87-year-old patient, both killed yesterday in an accident in Central Queensland. Both were on their way to Rockhampton Hospital as part of a routine patient transfer when they were killed. A paramedic was also injured and we send our best wishes for their speedy recovery. It is a tragic reminder of the daily dangers facing our frontline staff as they complete their duties. We thank them for their outstanding work.

If it were not for the outstanding work of our frontline staff and brave whistleblowing patients we would not know about the true state of Queensland Health, in particular in Caboolture. Let me repeat that we on this side of the chamber have nothing but praise and admiration for frontline health workers throughout this great state. Throughout the duration of this pandemic they continue to deliver services to Queenslanders, but they are stymied every day by this government.

For the benefit of the House here is a reminder of how the events at Caboolture Hospital transpired. First the minister accused the opposition of not telling the truth when we raised the concerns of patients who came out of that hospital sicker than they went in. Those opposite said the opposition were exaggerating the claims of a woman who had gone in for what should have been one of the happiest days of her life—to deliver a baby—but came out with massive complications, with organs outside her abdomen, due to what could only be seen as medical incompetence. I pay homage to Olivia Keating here today. Then there was Janelle who went in for simple day surgery but ended up with serious complications after her bladder was nicked and her bowel was perforated. These patients stood with great courage to tell their disturbing stories and the media agreed that their anguish should be shared.

After days of pressure this minister conceded there should be a review. When the terms of reference were finally revealed it showed that the review would have excluded most of the brave patients with their complaints about the quality of care they had received. The people of Queensland are not fools. They saw the review for what it was: a sham. The opposition raised concerns at the outset. I wrote to the health minister about these concerns, but I have not heard back. The terms of reference do not indicate that patients will be appropriately interviewed or consulted. The terms of reference only had the review running for four weeks. It has now been extended to six. Finally, the terms of reference indicated no real level of independence. It was the type of review one has when one does not really want to know the answer.

Our offices continue to be deluged with people wanting to raise concerns and issues about their treatment at Caboolture Hospital. People are too scared to go through the official channels. They are concerned that the department is investigating itself and that their complaints will not be taken seriously. The complaints process is so difficult to navigate that people cannot even find where to go, so here is the phone number if patients want to raise issues (07)36479559. Concerningly, we have heard that the hotline might not be functioning like it should. People are waiting for a return call that never comes. I will repeat the hotline number (07)36479559. It is little wonder people feel hesitant to call the hotline.

I welcome the government's backdown. I welcome that they have extended the inquiry by two weeks in recognition of the level of concern and number of complaints already received. However, more needs to be done. We urge this government to ensure that this is a proper and thorough investigation. The people of Queensland deserve a proper investigation of the issues that have led to so many complaints about this hospital, which serves a growing region in our state. The people of Queensland deserve a chance to put their stories forward. They deserve to have those cases investigated and for recommendations to be developed so that patients can again have confidence in our health system. They deserve to know that when they enter a Queensland Health facility they will be treated properly and with respect. They deserve to know that when they leave that hospital they are not sicker than when they were admitted.

We want the people of Queensland to know that we will keep fighting for them. We will keep fighting to make sure that their stories are heard. We will keep fighting to make sure that this government is held accountable and that Queenslanders get the health system they deserve, no matter where they live in this great state.

Bancroft Electorate; Economy



Mr WHITING (Bancroft—ALP) (2.21 pm): Today I rise to talk about the economic strength of Queensland, which is being delivered thanks to the management of the pandemic by the Palaszczuk Labor government. Our health response has helped to create growing economic confidence in

Queensland. In the past couple of sittings the Treasurer has said that in Queensland household lending has grown by 52 per cent over the past 12 months, dwelling approvals are up by 32 per cent over the past 12 months and building approvals are up by 39 per cent over the year. The value of Queensland's exports is now \$62.5 billion, which is 26 per cent higher than that of New South Wales.

We have heard from the Treasurer that since March Queensland has added more jobs than any other state or territory, with 67,000 more Queenslanders in jobs today than pre COVID. All in all, our government has overseen the addition of nearly 320,000 new jobs in Queensland since 2015. During the pandemic, not only have we added more jobs than any other state; we have added more jobs than all the others states combined.


Our economy is open and growing because of our health response. Our economy is strong because our Premier has followed the health advice and we have kept Queenslanders safe and able to go to work. That is all possible because Queenslanders have done the right thing. Queenslanders know the right thing to do. They know that the pathway out of this pandemic lies with vaccinations and Queenslanders are getting vaccinated. I have seen that for myself over the past couple of Saturdays. I was at the North Lakes Health Precinct with the Chief Health Officer and the health minister where I talked with the staff at a pop-up clinic. Last Saturday I was at Deception Bay State High School where I spoke with students Riley, Mary and Casey about how they are encouraging their family and friends to get vaccinated. Queenslanders know that vaccination is the right thing to do for their families and they know it is the right thing to do for their businesses and their workers.

As I said, our health response is creating greater economic confidence throughout Queensland. We have seen evidence of that growing economic confidence in Bancroft. Quality Plastic Products will soon be moving to the Narangba Innovation Precinct. QPP is an innovative and inventive local business with a growing list of patents to its name. It employs 13 people. It creates plant nursery products, specifically pots for plants, using injection moulding technology. QPP prides itself on using recycled plastic, creating product lines using biodegradable plastics and closing down the loops of many parts of the circular economy. QPP has invested in a lot of new equipment. I welcome the company to the Narangba Innovation Precinct, which is a perfect home for that great local innovative business.

Many people would have driven past the Narangba Innovation Precinct. It is located on the highway, perfectly situated to take advantage of the Palaszczuk government's embrace of a renewable energy future. As we have heard today, a renewable energy future will mean an expansion worth \$890 billion to our national economy. Throughout Australia that will create 195,000 extra jobs. We can be a part of that because the Palaszczuk government is embracing a renewable energy future and the green hydrogen industry, and that is possible because people can see that Queenslanders have done the right thing.

Because the Palaszczuk government has made sure that we have the health response right and Queenslanders have done the right thing, we have the economic response right. As we have seen, schools are open, businesses are open and confidence is booming. We will see that confidence expanding in the Narangba Innovation Precinct. One of the reasons for that is we are working with the local government, the Moreton Bay Regional Council, to deliver planning certainty on the estate so that businesses can be certain that when they invest they are in a region that appreciates and recognises what they are doing, helping them to create what we think is about 2,000 local jobs in the manufacturing industry. We have the health response right and that means we have the economic conditions right.

Coronavirus, Vaccination

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (2.26 pm): Thankfully, finally Noosa has both supply and choice in vaccinations. That comes after months when there were access issues, including for our aged-care workers who had a mandated vaccination date yet no locally available supply to meet their deadline. Noosa now has over 70 per cent first and 60 per cent second dose rates. However, with hints of borders reopening we have more work to do to avoid long queues and potential vaccine supply issues coming into Christmas. In addition, to avoid confusion for those seeking to reunite with loved ones interstate, we need consistency, clarity and assurances now and into the coming months.

Firstly, all states need to be consistent with the national cabinet determinations. We are one country and we need and want to do this together. Differences between states in vaccination rates, moving targets or inconsistent rationales for snap lockdowns deepens the despair of Queenslanders, creating further uncertainty when what they seek is confidence.

Secondly, governments need to understand vaccine hesitancy and the communities that are experiencing low vaccination percentages. That will not be addressed by broad campaigns, texts or the chance to win \$1 million. It will be addressed by simplifying and sharing what is in abundance from

worldwide organisations, the TGA, our chief health officers and their 60 expert advisers, and translating that information in a culturally appropriate way, especially for our remote communities. A lack of trust has developed from misinterpretations and misrepresentations of data, deliberate misinformation, poor communications and a lack of response from governments to questions from constituents. As a member of parliament, when I have asked those questions on their behalf I was referred to various committee reports on the extension of emergency powers. Some answers were found there and others were found at various websites and in other reports, although not all. That was difficult and time consuming, and it should not have been. There were valid concerns, including about privacy and the Queensland app. At a recent hearing, the Queensland Information Commissioner indicated a need for legislative change and I trust the Attorney-General will act upon that. Then there is the big bugbear: ivermectin. Even though currently it is not approved by the TGA, trials are underway, including the Oxford principal trial that is expected to publish results in several months. Simply sharing that information with Queenslanders was all that was needed.


Thirdly, there is confusion regarding the legality of industry mandated vaccinations with neither federal nor state governments, nor national cabinet, clarifying the issues. Decisions such as the Fair Work Commission's two-to-one majority determination regarding the dismissal of an aged-care worker who refused to be vaccinated provide little clarity, with one commissioner diametrically opposed to the decision.

Providing reassurance and increasing trust must be a priority for all governments by addressing claims and providing responses on respective websites. The reality is that there will be some Queenslanders who will not or do not trust government or our medical advisers and, through their own personal health choices, will refrain from vaccinating. However, there are those who are simply hesitant or complacent and require clarity around where we are heading, why and when. We should not be fearful of speaking about what living with COVID looks like and the associated challenges.

For Queenslanders to have trust in government, government needs to trust Queenslanders. They will make their informed decisions based on what the benefits are and when these will be realised. This encompasses the date our country will again be one, versus the trauma of closed borders and the quarantine exemptions debacles which are segmenting and debilitating Australians. As well, the risk that some of us will get sick and some, very sadly, will die, even if vaccinated, has been relayed.

We have shown enormous responsibility, commitment, resilience and determination over many months. We know that we now need to face this delta strain to get to herd immunity as quickly as possible through vaccination as well as natural immunity from virus contact. However, we must ensure that everyone has had opportunity to vaccinate. We need to bolster our health services and clarify the date or target into the next phase, not just hint at it. Why? Our frontliners, resources, businesses and community capacities are now fatigued beyond breaking point and need that confirmation to give strength for the coming weeks and months. This fatigue has become our greatest challenge, maybe even more so now than when this virus entered our world nearly two years ago.

Hydrogen Industry

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (2.31 pm): What a time to be a Queenslander! Our health response to COVID has been world class, with stable leadership under a Premier who has been resolute in protecting the health of our people, which has in turn led to a stable economy. Our leadership has been noticed, and this is reflected in our internal migration rates particularly, as people flock to Queensland from other states and territories. I do not want to detract from the devastating toll that COVID has had, particularly in other jurisdictions, but there have been opportunities worth reaching for through this global pandemic.

The opportunity to work closer than ever before with industry partners to create the Queensland of the future has never been more present, and now we learn that Gladstone is set to become Queensland's green energy manufacturing centre following a government partnership with leading renewable energy and hydrogen company Fortescue Future Industries. This partnership will see the world's largest hydrogen equipment manufacturing facility built right here in Queensland. Hydrogen is cheap, is clean burning and is the most abundant element in the universe. It is often described as the fuel of the future—an energy source that can bring the world to net zero emissions. Can you imagine a future like that? I can and it is awesome.

The first stage of the project will be a hub that will build green energy infrastructure and equipment such as wind turbines. Importantly, it will manufacture hydrogen electrolyzers. It is the first step of a six-step, \$1 billion-plus operation—\$1 billion invested into this renewable energy operation right here in Queensland. It is a breakthrough not only for this state but also for Australia's green energy

market, and it is predicted to double hydrogen production capacity worldwide. The project will create over 300 jobs over the life of the project and is expected to create thousands of jobs in years to come, with construction starting as early as next year. This is another demonstration that progress towards net zero does not come at the cost of jobs; in fact, it creates jobs for the future—skills that are sought not just domestically but also globally.

The Palaszczuk government this year announced an investment of \$2 billion into renewable energy and hydrogen jobs as part of our COVID-19 economic recovery plan. This investment spearheads further development of Queensland's resources sector while at the same time helping to deliver on our 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030.

It is such a comfort to be living in a state with a Premier who is decisive, a Premier who values evidence and science—something that is becoming rarer by the day in Australian politics. What this country needs right now is leadership on climate change at the federal level. Sadly, we just do not have it. While Queensland is on its way towards achieving our climate reduction targets, we know that so many of the policy levers necessary to pull do see it at the federal level.


The 2020 Climate Change Performance Index prepared by a consortium of think tanks looked at national climate action across the categories of emissions, renewable energy, energy use and policy. Australia's performance was singled out, with the report saying that the re-elected Morrison government 'has continued to worsen performance at both national and international levels' and that the Morrison government 'is an increasingly regressive force in negotiations'. Now the Prime Minister has opted out of attending the upcoming Glasgow climate summit. What could we expect from the coalition, which in 2015 led Australia to the unenviable title of being the first nation in the world to undo legislated action on climate change with the repeal of the carbon price mechanism?

This federal government's climate change policy is weak, directionless and inconsistent. It would seem the Liberal-National coalition is becoming less like strange bedfellows and more like Stephen King's psychological horror *Gerald's Game*. While the Prime Minister continues to fall over himself to placate the Nationals, he risks Australia being left behind and risks investors withdrawing and channelling their efforts and innovations into countries with explicit climate reduction targets.

Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce likens climate change to a menu in a restaurant, demanding to know what is on the menu before he sits to order. I hate to break it to the Deputy Prime Minister, but if you do not have an appetite in the first place then nothing will satisfy you. If the Prime Minister had integrity he would ask Barnaby to acknowledge he is not hungry, to stand up and let someone else take a seat at the table.

This is what makes the Queensland government's partnership with Fortescue Future Industries so powerful: we can sidestep the lack of federal climate policy leadership and forge these relationships and investments in Queensland. Through this government's leadership, we will continue to grow Queensland's reputation as the global green energy superpower of the nation.

Coal-Fired Power

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (2.35 pm): This morning government members were at great pains to claim credit for their weak and inadequate plans to cut carbon pollution. Right now they have a real-life opportunity to walk the walk. Queensland Labor must use their legal power to stop Clive Palmer's proposed new coal-fired power station in the Galilee Basin. This disastrous project would, according to Palmer's company, burn four million tonnes of coal every year out to 2070. Even worse, the plant exists to run his Galilee Basin coalmine alongside the Adani mine, sending even more thermal coal overseas as the world is turning to renewables. As a rule, I do not generally get up in parliament and go after one of my own constituents, but for this far-right, anti-vax, coal billionaire I will make an exception.

Letting Clive Palmer build a new coal-fired power plant would totally trash Queensland Labor's emissions reduction target of 30 per cent by 2030, and it would blow any chance of reaching their renewable energy target of 50 per cent by that same year, 2030. Let me be clear: those targets themselves are weak, inadequate and dangerous, but this proposal would take them off the table. On a very practical level, the power station would still be burning four million tonnes of coal per year in 2050 and for 20 years after that point. So much for net zero emissions by 2050!

Let's be real: that 2050 target is a death sentence and a distraction anyway. We need bold action, starting immediately, to reduce emissions by 75 per cent at 2030 and to net zero emissions by 2035. Part of that plan must be a clear timetable for phasing out our existing coal-fired power stations and a commitment that no new ones be built. Queensland has incredible opportunities to transition our

economy to renewable energy and low-emissions industries, but the window of opportunity is rapidly closing. This week's announcements about hydrogen production count for naught if that energy is coming off a grid that is still being fed by Clive's new coal-fired power station.

If Queensland Labor's commitment to climate action is even half as deep as they claim in here then they will listen to the International Energy Agency, which said in May this year that there must be no new coal-fired power stations built, as of now, if we are going to stop the worst of disastrous climate change. They will listen to the chair of the Australian Energy Security Board, Kerry Schott, who said just yesterday that every coal-fired power station in Australia will likely be forced to close by 2035 or before. Even our relatively newer publicly owned coal-fired power stations here in Queensland are projected to start losing money by 2024, in only three years time.

The end of coal is coming, and at this point it is coming slower than the science demands but faster than Labor and the LNP are prepared to admit. If Labor lets Clive Palmer build this power station, it will be in direct competition with public and privately owned coal plants in Queensland. That adds up to uncertainty for those workers and adds to the potential for sudden, unplanned, disruptive closures. This is precisely why the Greens—the member for South Brisbane and I—have been joining the calls from so many outside the two old parties for a planned, orderly transition with a jobs plan for coal workers and coal towns. Coal workers and communities have done so much to help build this state, so they deserve a fair go. They deserve a plan funded by government and developed by the local community. They do not deserve surprise closures a few years down the track.

So far the Deputy Premier and Minister for Planning, who has the power to stop this project, has shrugged it off. That is exactly the approach he took with the Adani coalmine when he was environment minister, before his department approved it. For three years, Labor figures, particularly the Deputy Premier and former deputy premier, pretended the Adani mine would never happen and would never get funded, all the while giving the company special deals, fast-tracked approval, free, limitless groundwater, all over the objections of traditional owners. In the end, Adani got their approvals and their tax holiday and they are claiming to be on the way to exporting their first coal. We know that the federal LNP wants to help out its mate Clive Palmer so Queensland Labor needs to pick a side or this project will just become another Adani.

Right now there are two Queensland government assessment processes underway, meaning there are two ways for Labor to stop this coal power station dead in its tracks. The Deputy Premier, as planning minister, could use his powers under the Planning Act to call in and reject it or the department of environment, under Minister Scanlon, could refuse to grant an environmental authority. Both are totally within the law, and I am calling on both ministers to back Queensland's future and reject Clive Palmer's climate-wrecking thought bubble.

Ipswich Electorate, Small Business; Renewable Energy, Projects



Ms HOWARD (Ipswich—ALP) (2.40 pm): Queensland's future is assured as an emerging powerhouse of renewable energy and manufacturing with the announcement on Sunday that the world's largest hydrogen equipment manufacturing facility is to be built in Gladstone by Fortescue Future Industries. Queensland's potential as a renewable hydrogen exporter and advanced manufacturing powerhouse shows that the Palaszczuk government has a strong plan for the future—one that is built on the emerging industrial green revolution taking place all over the world right now.

This means more high-tech manufacturing jobs for Queenslanders, a strong renewables export industry and a clean energy future for our state. Queenslanders want to see more manufacturing happening in their state. Rheinmetall Defence Australia has established its Australia-New Zealand headquarters in Ipswich. It has created hundreds of highly skilled jobs and it has been a huge boost for our economy.

This government's plan for Queensland's future is built on our strong health response to COVID-19, which has kept our economy charging ahead despite the challenges. Our domestic economy grew by 4.6 per cent to June and household spending has gone up 14.9 per cent. Queensland has seen the biggest net gain of people moving here from interstate and new house approvals are up 41 per cent.

We are backing small business with our \$600 million package of COVID-19 Business Support Grants and \$70 million for the Queensland tourism and hospitality industry. Small business is a key pillar of Queensland's economy, and it is vital to local and regional economies. More than 9,100 small businesses operate out of Ipswich, employing thousands of people and contributing to the economy and the future of our city.

I had the great pleasure of connecting with Ipswich small business owners two weeks ago at a morning tea I hosted with the small business minister, Di Farmer. I acknowledge and thank Di for her support for this fantastic event and for meeting with our local business community. I also acknowledge our mighty Ipswich Chamber of Commerce & Industry for the work they do. Ipswich's small business community is a thriving and diverse group who love their city. They want to see Ipswich thrive and they want to play a key role in its growth and revitalisation. Their entrepreneurialism is driving a renewed optimism in our city and that is exciting to see.

We know that the recent IPCC report paints a dire picture for our global climate future if we sit back and do nothing. We know that global and domestic investors are turning away from fossil fuels and driving the momentum in financing new green energy projects that could create thousands of highly skilled jobs for Queensland locals.

Since the Palaszczuk government was elected in 2015, more than 40 large-scale renewable projects have been brought online, representing \$9.9 billion of investment and supporting 7,000 jobs during construction. Our renewable energy generation is now offsetting 12.6 million tonnes of carbon emissions every year. Our recent budget put renewables front and centre with \$2 billion invested into the Queensland Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund.

Our partnership with Fortescue Future Industries will see Gladstone become a world-leading hub for the manufacture of electrolyzers which are vital to produce renewable hydrogen. More than 300 jobs will be created over the life of the project and in years to come this partnership is expected to create thousands more jobs. This huge investment in domestic green energy manufacturing will open up new industrial opportunities throughout the state and benefit local supply chains, like we have seen in Ipswich with Rheinmetall.

The future will see strong demand from investors in green energy as the world moves away from a carbon-based fuel economy. This change is already happening. We are seeing Japan take a strong interest in our hydrogen export industry with Iwatani Corporation undertaking a feasibility study to export \$4.2 billion worth of renewable hydrogen from Gladstone, with the prospect of 5,000 jobs being created. Sun Metals in Townsville is transitioning their zinc refinery to 100 per cent renewable energy by 2040, which includes powering their trucking fleet on hydrogen.

The Palaszczuk Labor government's massive investment in this green energy revolution will not only not help us reach our newly announced goal of net zero emissions by 2050 but also fuel a surge in full-time, secure manufacturing jobs. Our dominance in the emerging renewable hydrogen industry will make Queensland an attractive destination for green energy investment as the world's finance industry pulls out of fossil fuels.

Queensland ticks all the boxes when it comes to being a dominant player in the green energy revolution. We have sun and wind, a highly skilled workforce, established infrastructure, critical economy minerals and a government that supports innovation, research and a partnership with investors and businesses. Because we are a government that plans for the future, our best days are ahead of us. I thank our Premier and her entire leadership team for providing Queensland with so many exciting opportunities.

Coronavirus, Border Restrictions



Mr JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.45 pm): Yesterday afternoon I was listening to Steve Austin's program on ABC Radio. On that program he had a woman called Meredith who had phoned in. Meredith is a retiree who lives in the Tweed with her husband, David. What she had to tell listeners to that program yesterday afternoon is another reminder of so many challenges facing those Queenslanders stuck across the border. In that interview yesterday afternoon she talked about 50 families they are helping support right now; that is, 50 Queensland families who are in New South Wales desperate to return home—who are at risk of losing their jobs and who are at risk of having their homes in Queensland taken from them if they cannot meet their rental payments. All the while, these people are bearing costs in New South Wales and here.

It was a reminder of the pejorative term that the Treasurer used in here a couple of weeks ago with regard to elected officials who were raising questions about borders and businesses. The pejorative term that the Treasurer used should not be limited to just elected representative. There is a range of people asking serious questions about borders and businesses right across the spectrum. We have the Human Rights Commission now talking about the favourability shown to celebrities over the rights of citizens and whether the disproportionate nature of some of the actions are out of step with the risks. It is business leaders, it is captains of industry, it is lobby groups that simply want this government to make a stand and commit to the national plan.

It is tourism operators in Cairns like Perry, who the Leader of the Opposition mentioned, who was weeping for his livelihood. I know he has been on the national media again today. All tourism operators suffered from a 30 per cent drop in international tourism last year. Then in the high season in June-July this year the borders to New South Wales and Victoria shut. These tourism operators are simply crying out for a plan—some idea from the government as to how businesses will prepare with Christmas just ahead. It is also a reminder that lifeline has reported a 19 per cent increase this year in people reaching out seeking help. The challenges are real and people are asking questions.

When I speak of mental health challenges, I acknowledge a deeply-respected family in the Darling Downs living with these border challenges right now. John has reached out and spoken to me a couple of times. His daughter, wife, four grandchildren and son-in-law have been given advice from Queensland Health about travelling from South Australia. The advice to them from Queensland Health was that if they did not stop overnight in western New South Wales they could cross the border into Queensland. John's daughter did not just take this first advice. She called not once, she called not twice but she called three times for advice. They got to the border at Cunnamulla and they were stopped from crossing the border. This family is now trapped at Moree and they have been there for over three weeks.

Mr Krause: It's un-Australian.

Mr JANETZKI: I will take that interjection. It is un-Australian. It is unacceptable for so many of our people not to have any answers as to when they can cross the borders. Where is the compassion?

It is not just the words that are spoken or the decisions that are being made; it is the tone of the language that we are now hearing from the government. When the Premier says: 'Are you going to go to India?' it is not just the words that are offensive but the tone in which they are delivered. It is the tone and the sarcasm with which those words are delivered that is making those people across the border even more upset. It is adding to their deep concern. Where is the compassion from this government?

Now is the time for this government to stop playing petty politics when our vaccination rates are lagging, to stop using straw man arguments, to stop making statements without modelling. It is time to stop the inconsistencies in the exemption unit. It is time for the government to show some compassion, some clarity and consistency of message. It is time for this government to show us a pathway out of the pandemic.

Townsville University Hospital



Mr WALKER (Mundingburra—ALP) (2.50 pm): It is happy birthday for the Townsville University Hospital. It is in fact a happy 20th birthday. This team of committed Queenslanders has a lot to celebrate. They have served our community with distinction by doing a fantastic job in the largest tertiary hospital in Northern Australia. I say a huge thank you to all the doctors, nurses, staff, maintenance crew, security team, our champion volunteers and all of the stakeholders who support staff, patients and their family members.

It has been a big 20 years for the Townsville University Hospital since it relocated from the former North Ward site and opened its doors in Douglas on 10 October 2001. The first Townsville hospital was established in 1882 in North Ward. The two-storey brick building accommodated only 70 patients. In May 1903 Cyclone Leonta struck Townsville causing extensive local damage and the hospital partially collapsed. The second Townsville general hospital opened in North Ward on 21 April 1951—70 years ago.

You will now find the Townsville University Hospital located near James Cook University in Douglas. The Townsville University Hospital provides 742 beds and bed alternatives like dialysis chairs. The hospital has also been funded \$13 million for an extra 32 beds at the south block. This is on top of the recently completed extra 12 beds for the paediatric emergency department. You may recall, Mr Deputy Speaker, the announcement of a new paediatric cardiac unit for the Townsville University Hospital. This was to help treat and manage over 150 young people from across the Townsville and North Queensland region who have serious cardiac conditions.

Next year will mark 140 years of providing health services to Townsville and the region—140 years of amazing change and challenges in the area of medicine and health. The most challenging and the most recent is the COVID-19 pandemic—a challenge that the medical professionals and volunteers have met head on. They have done us very proud and kept us safe.

Since our first hospital in Townsville nearly 140 years ago, we now have a world-class tertiary hospital right next door to James Cook University, a world-class university providing professional courses like a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery and several nursing and midwifery degrees. It is a fantastic partnership.

I might add that my beautiful daughter Chantelle completed her Bachelor of Nursing at James Cook University. She worked on Palm Island and with a highly skilled team in ICU at the Townsville University Hospital and now works with a team of very dedicated professionals at the Princess Alexandra Hospital here in Brisbane. I give a big shout-out and thank you to all health professionals who have kept Queensland safe. Your services are truly appreciated.

I know those on the other side of the House do not like hearing the truth. However, it is the Palaszczuk Labor government that continually delivers on improved health services that keep Queenslanders safe. In this financial year, 2021-22, there has been a \$1.352 billion investment in health infrastructure alone across the state. That is right: a \$1.352 billion investment in infrastructure alone. We have a lot to celebrate here in Queensland, especially in Townsville, with the continual investment in the region's health services.

Mr Healy interjected.

Mr WALKER: I take that interjection. The Townsville University Hospital sits in the heart of the seat of Mundingburra alongside James Cook University. It is very important that we continually invest in this health facility and work closely with James Cook University and others to expand health services as the population grows.

Mr Deputy Speaker, as you may be aware, 40 per cent of the world's population lives in the tropics on 36 per cent of the world's land mass. A report from State of the Tropics states that by 2050 half of the world's population will be living in the tropics. Queensland, being a leader in research and development in so many areas, can also be a leader in tropical medicine research moving forward. I feel that the Townsville University Hospital, James Cook University and private sector partners are at the forefront of tropical medicine research.

Once again, very happy 20th birthday to the Townsville University Hospital and a big thank you to the very important team there that provides a world-class service to not only Townsville but all of Northern Australia. Happy 20th birthday!


(Time expired)

RESOURCES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 2908, on motion of Mr Stewart—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (2.56 pm), continuing: Having this sensitive information publicly available, either online or via request, may make Queensland's water service providers vulnerable to malicious cyber attacks and could place a community's water supply at risk. An application for such information can be made and considered under Queensland's Right to Information Act 2009 and the Information Privacy Act 2009. However, it is anticipated that highly sensitive information will not be released through this process.

The proposed amendments to the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008 seek to ensure the protection of sensitive information and mitigate cybersecurity threats for all Queensland water service providers. During consideration in detail of the bill, I will seek leave of the House to introduce urgent amendments that are outside the long title of the bill. I will now briefly speak to them before seeking leave at the appropriate time during consideration in detail of the bill to move them.

The amendments are needed to provide further time for addressing implementation matters concerning statutory role requirements for coalmining operations that would otherwise come into effect on 25 November this year. The requirements under the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999 require coalmine operators to ensure persons appointed to certain statutory positions for coalmining operations are employees of the mine operator. These requirements commenced on 25 May 2020 and included an initial 18-month transitional period to provide coalmine operators with time to meet the new requirements. However, a 12-month extension to the existing transitional period is required to enable industry to address challenges it has identified in implementing the requirements.

As foreshadowed earlier, I will also introduce amendments to the long title of the bill to give effect to the Speaker's ruling on the same question rule. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr KATTER: I seek leave to move a motion without notice.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member, we are currently within a debate, so you cannot seek leave to move a motion in that period. You can only do that during the breaks between debates.



Mr WEIR (Condamine—LNP) (2.59 pm): I rise to speak to the Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. The Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill was introduced into the chamber and referred to the committee on 16 June 2021. The committee was to report back to the chamber on 6 August 2021. This is an omnibus bill which amends five separate acts across three portfolios: resources, transport and water. The committee received 13 submissions in total. As stated in the committee report—

The purpose of the Bill is:

- to clarify the legal standing of certain historically granted tenures, activities and entitlements under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* and *Petroleum Act 1923*
- to repeal the Personalised Transport Ombudsman Act 2019 and make minor consequential amendments to the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994—

As has been mooted by the minister, those have been removed from this bill and we have been denied the chance to speak to that. That was a motion to remove an ombudsman that was never an ombudsman and an office that was set up for an ombudsman who was never appointed at a cost of about \$470,000. It was seriously like something out of *Utopia* or *Clarke and Dawe*—

- to ensure water restrictions can be equitably investigated and enforced across the South East Queensland region by amending the *South East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009* to align with the powers local government water service providers have under the *Local Government Act 2009*
- to exclude cyber security measures, reported to the Water Supply Regulator, from being made publicly available to mitigate the risk of malicious attacks on water service providers and water supply schemes by amending the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008*.

I intend to speak predominantly to the section that amends the Mineral Resources Act 1989 and the Petroleum Act 1923, which relates directly to the shadow ministerial portfolio of natural resources and mines. The first section of the report handed down by the committee relates to the consultation process in the drafting of these amendments.

As with many pieces of legislation introduced into this House by the Palaszczuk government, there has been very little consultation with affected stakeholders. In fact, a number of stakeholders were critical of the Department of Resources' consultation process with regard to the proposed amendments. The Environmental Defenders Office expressed their disappointment, stating that to their knowledge no representatives of the conservation sector or the environmental law sector were involved with the bill prior to the day it was introduced into the Queensland parliament. The EDO stated at the public hearing—

We would really implore the Department of Resources to improve their consultation process. We were quite surprised by this bill.

The Queensland Resources Council advised—

The QRC is regularly considered a major stakeholder to bills related to the resources regulation. On this occasion we were informed of the bill only one day before it was introduced, although we did know it was being planned through a discussion with the minister. We are disappointed that the Department of Resources did not consult us through the development of the bill when we could have provided valuable input and any issues such as concerns with language could have been rectified prior to the bill's introduction.

The QRC stated that they do not oppose the bill; however, some of the wording is of concern. They stated—

It has left some issues that are a little bit grey. Some of the language is not clear. Because obviously this is not the first-time bills have proceeded without adequate consultation, we are using this instance to highlight the importance of due process. In future, we would like to see a proper 12-week consultation between the industry, the department, the minister and other relevant departments and ministers to ensure that when this legislation comes to the House there are no grey areas in it and that the language is not ambiguous.

It is not an unfair request, I would suggest, and I may come back to that point later in my contribution.

The purpose of the proposed amendments to the Mineral Resources Act 1989 are to validate the number of mining leases that were granted between the commencement of the Mineral Resources Act 1989 and 2010 which may have administrative deficiencies insofar as: the minister did not comply with the requirement under former section 271(1)(a) to recommend to the Governor in Council that an instrument of lease be issued to the applicant for the lease with respect to the whole or part of the land the subject of the application for the lease; or an instrument of lease was not issued to the holder of the lease.

When introducing the bill, the minister stated—

The bill amends the Mineral Resources Act 1989 to validate certain mining leases which may have administrative deficiencies. Prior to 2012 mining leases in Queensland were granted by the Governor in Council based on a recommendation by the minister. Up until 2010 the minister was also required to recommend to the Governor in Council that an instrument of lease be issued.

The Department of Resources identified that there were 86 mining leases for coal and 847 mining leases for other minerals that have one of the following or both administrative deficiencies: firstly, the minister did not recommend the issuing of the lease; secondly, the instrument of the lease was not issued to the holder. The explanatory notes identify that the amendments are necessary to ensure certainty for the holder of these mining leases and, whilst having retrospective effect, do not confer any new rights or obligations on any stakeholders. The proposed amendment allows that—

... any mining lease granted with either or both of these administrative deficiencies is taken to be, and always to have been, as valid as they would have been if both requirements had been met.

The department has recently become aware that prior to 2010 a number of mining leases were granted by the Governor in Council where one or both of the following occurred: either the minister did not recommend the issuing of the instrument of lease to the Governor in Council; or the instrument of lease itself was not issued to the holder. The department acknowledged that, while the department believes that these mining leases are valid, these deficiencies do create some uncertainty for their holders and could give rise to potential legal challenges about the validity of individual leases. The identified minor administrative deficiencies relate only to the issuing of a hard copy instrument of lease and have no impact upon the assessment or the validity of the approval of the leases. They occurred at the end of the assessment process in place at the time after the responsible minister had formed a view about the mining lease application.

The Department of Resources notes that there has been no requirement to issue an instrument of mining lease since 2010. This historical oversight only recently became apparent to the Department of Resources, and the government is acting to ensure that there is certainty for those who hold mining leases that are impacted. This was identified during investigations relating to a recent Land Court proceeding concerning the New Acland stage 3 expansion project. For that proceeding the Department of Resources reviewed the documentation held concerning the stage 1 and stage 2 approvals. During this process the Department of Resources identified that a number of mining leases granted at that time were subject to these administrative deficiencies. The department stated that this issue will not occur again, as there is no longer a requirement to issue an instrument of mining lease. This requirement was removed in 2010.

The proposed amendment of the Mineral Resources Act 1989 was supported by mining industry stakeholders. The QRC stated—

The retrospective application of this amendment rectifies this administrative deficiency and provides certainty to the holders of the affected mining leases.

Not surprisingly, this was not the view held by the Environmental Defenders Office, the Queensland Conservation Council or the Lock the Gate Alliance. The Lock the Gate Alliance expressed its concern regarding the management of mining regulation in Queensland. It provided a number of examples where there has been ‘a history of successive breaches and noncompliance with environmental conditions’. The Department of Resources advised—

It is important to note that this amendment will only validate these grants to the extent that they are impacted by one or both of the identified administrative issues. It does not address or validate any other issues that may exist in relation to individual leases, including any noncompliance or unlawful activities.

We will not be opposing these amendments, as they in no way compromise the approval process. In the current form they do provide an opportunity for those determined to oppose mining projects another avenue of appeal. All mining proposals do go through a rigorous approval process which includes environmental and social impacts, and if they meet all necessary regulatory requirements a mining lease will be granted.

Regrettably, we are increasingly seeing environmental lobby groups that have been unsuccessful in preventing a project challenging the approval on whatever legal technicality they can come up with. There is no greater example of this than in the approval process surrounding the New Acland stage 3 proposal. This project is now in its 13th year after being subjected to objection after objection, despite receiving all the necessary federal and state approvals. The most shameful thing about the process is that this Palaszczuk government have been complicit. They have publicly stated many times that, whilst there is a legal challenge pending, they will not grant Acland a mining licence. Therefore, the objectors know that they do not even need to oppose the expansion on environmental grounds. All they need to do is keep challenging on whatever obscure legal grounds they can come up with and they will drive another nail into the heart of the Oakey community. This is how weak this government have been on this issue.

If the minister wishes to see the impact this indecision is having, he should go for a drive to the town of Oakey. Two of the town's hotels are now closed. Of the remaining two, one is not serving counter meals and is for sale and has been for some time. There are empty shops and businesses in a time when we need small business to be thriving. The minister has the power to step in and issue the necessary approval and reinstate hundreds of jobs for the region. If the minister truly wants to show the industry some leadership and give a degree of confidence about the approval process, then this is the opportunity. Approve Acland stage 3 and save the jobs of hundreds of Queenslanders and the Oakey community.

The purpose of the proposed amendments to the Petroleum Act 1923 is to address two issues in relation to authorities to prospect and production leases granted under the Petroleum Act 1923. The explanatory notes identify that the first issue refers to an ambiguity in the provision relating to the renewals of existing production leases granted under the Petroleum Act 1923 which was identified as part of a matter that is currently before the Land Court of Queensland. The ambiguity relates to whether a PL continues to be enforced where a validly made application to renew the production lease has been made, but not decided upon, prior to the expiry of the production lease. Whilst this is allowed for an authority to prospect in the Petroleum Act 1923 and similar provisions in the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, it is not expressly provided for in relation to a PL. The explanatory notes state that the amendments are proposed to operate both retrospectively and prospectively to provide certainty to all stakeholders and ensure the ongoing integrity and consistency of the tenure management framework.

The second issue refers to ATPs that are subject to undecided applications for PLs under the Petroleum Act 1923 immediately before 1 November 2021. The intention was that from 1 November 2021 all ATPs and new PLs would be administered under the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 and therefore all authorities to prospect would expire on that date. There are no transitional provisions provided for authorities to prospect which are subject to applications for a production lease but which remain undecided on 1 November 2021. Under the existing provisions, ATPs with associated PL applications will expire and the associated production lease applications will lapse if they remain undecided before that date.

The amendments propose to amend the Petroleum Act 1923 to provide that these ATPs will continue to be enforced if their application for a PL remains undecided on 1 November 2021 and also to clarify that the associated PL applications may be decided after 1 November 2021 if required. Any ATP that is not subject to application for a PL will expire on 1 November 2021. The Department of Resources advised the committee that they are aware of six remaining ATPs on which PL applications have been made. The department advised—

No further authorities to prospect can be issued under the Petroleum Act 1923, so these proposed provisions will only apply to the six remaining authorities and any production lease applications made over them.

The department said—

At this point in time there is sufficient uncertainty as to whether the applications will be decided in time for the 1 November 2021 deadline. This is due to a range of factors that may impact the timeline for deciding individual applications including:

- the quality of the application materials received;
- the complexity of the issues presented; and
- whether the Department of Resources needs to seek further information to assist its assessment.

The QRC supported the intention of the amendments, stating—

... it is right that the government has stepped in to provide a legislative amendment to prevent those applications from expiring on 1 November. In the absence of any transitional provisions, this amendment was necessary to prevent the affected tenures from being returned to the state despite having been validly granted and through no fault of the proponent.

Once again the environmental advocacy groups were not supportive. The EDO stated—

For example, there are ATPs in the Channel Country Strategic Environmental Area under the Regional Planning Interests Act 2014 (Queensland) which are inappropriately over areas of vulnerable floodplain area, including one of the last free-flowing desert rivers in the world in Cooper Creek, and which should not be extended.

There has been and remains some concern over any future resource activity in the Channel Country and other areas of the state such as prime agricultural areas, but this bill is not the vehicle to address these concerns. This amendment is to address a technical oversight.

A number of stakeholders raised concerns regarding the fact that no time limit has been included in the bill on the ATPs with a submitted PL application. The Wilderness Society have suggested a maximum time frame of two years, or until 1 November 2023, would be reasonable. This was an area they and QRC were in somewhat of agreement, with QRC stating—

... something that we have consistently advocated for is clear time frames on approvals for the assessment process. We have time frames in place under the Environmental Protection Act, but they are not extended to the resources side.

QRC has a point. I have already spoken about the drawn-out approval process regarding the stage 3 expansion at New Acland. Yes, the approval process needs to be rigorous. However, it also needs to be specific to the issues regarding the project. In this context, the environmental lobby groups have an important role to play in highlighting areas of concern which may need to be addressed. However, when these objections just descend into legal warfare it undermines business confidence and credibility. Industry stakeholders expressed some concern with the wording of the amendment in clause 6. The QRC advised that it seeks—

... further clarity around the intention of the amendment to s 52B. Under section 40(2) of the Petroleum Act 1923, the holders of an Authority to Prospect are entitled to the grant of a production lease, provided they satisfy certain requirements. Although the production lease is considered an 'entitlement,' s 52B (2) states:

"the Minister may grant the lease or leases under former section 40;"

The language used here in this new section is inconsistent with the remainder of the Act as it suggests the Minister will have some discretion in granting an application. This would constitute a change in the policy approach taken by the Department of Resources, but this is not reflected in the explanatory notes.

The QRC suggested—

... the Department considers using this alternate wording, which is consistent with the language of the 1923 Act:

"the Minister will continue to be bound by the requirements under former section 40 to grant the lease or leases"

APPEA suggested the following alternative wording—

... the applicant is entitled to have a lease granted under former section 40(2) ...

The department advised that applications will still fall back to section 40 with the proposed amendment. We will not be opposing these amendments as they do not undermine the approval process and objectors still have the right to object on fair and reasonable grounds.

The amendments to the South East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009 insert a new section 53E which provides for compliance powers of entry for water restriction officers to provide investigation and enforcement powers for water restriction distributor-retailers. These powers will align with the powers local government water services providers have under the Local Government Act.

Water restrictions will be imposed by the South-East Queensland water service providers when the combined level of the South-East Queensland water grid declines to 50 per cent. Under the existing legislative framework, local government water service providers Logan, Gold Coast and Redland city councils have existing powers to investigate and enforce water restriction offences under the Local government Act 2009. Due to an historic anomaly, equivalent investigative powers are not available to Urban Utilities and Unitywater.

The other amendment is in response to recommendations from the 2017 Audit Office report which identified that there was significant risk to urban water security as a result of these documents containing highly sensitive cybersecurity information being required to be made publicly available under sections 575 and 575A. The proposed amendments remove the current requirement to make available highly sensitive cybersecurity information and reporting metrics. There is no change to the requirement for cybersecurity information to be reported to the water supply regulator. I was a member of the committee to which that Audit Office report was referred and I support this amendment.

This is not a controversial bill and we will not be opposing it. Before I close, the minister has pre-empted an amendment that he is going to move during consideration in detail and I hope I have the opportunity to speak to that at that time. However, given that sometimes these debates meet a very hurried end, I will make some comments about it now. This relates to the industrial manslaughter legislation that went through this House last year when the member for Burdekin was the shadow minister and I was the deputy chair of that committee. During debate on that bill it was recommended that statutory regulatory officers, whether they be OCEs, ventilation officers or mine managers, come

under the direct employment of the mine owner and not a labour hire provider. That part of the bill was never included in the original discussion of that bill. It was never put out for public consultation with industry. They knew nothing about it until the bill was introduced in the House. It took industry by surprise and, as we have found out, it came with heavy support from the AWU and CFMMEU.

During the committee hearings—and I note the former chairman is in the chamber, so he knows this as well as I do—that was raised as an issue. The complexities around the mine ownership of many mines throughout this state are so complicated that it was put to the committee that this would not be workable; this would not be feasible. That was why the time frame came in. Even with that time frame, it has been proven that those words ring very true. I spoke against it when this bill came into this House. I spoke against it strongly. The member for Buderim was also on the committee, and it has come true. I accept that the minister is trying to tidy up an error from a previous minister, but this goes back to what was said in here; it was about that lack of consultation, and it has been raised again in this bill. The reason we are trying to tidy this up today is because of a lack of consultation.

We support mineworker safety. The minister and I went a long way from anywhere, to Mount Mulligan, to go to a memorial service for 75 miners who were killed in a mine explosion 100 years previously to the day we were there. It was probably one of the most moving services I have ever been to. It was good to see a turnout from across the industry to support that. Over the last two years we have seen nine mineworkers killed in this state and we need to do everything we can to ensure that every miner who goes to work comes home safely. However, the legislation has to be workable. That is what the committee process is there for. It is so we go through it and ensure we do not have to do what we are now doing. I will not be opposing the bill. I will be interested to hear how the minister intends that correction to take place because I still have concerns that it is unworkable.

While on that subject, those nine deaths are all subject to investigation. I would appreciate if the minister could update this House on where they are at because there are families of the miners who died, their colleagues and the statutory officers; their whole life is in limbo until these investigations are finalised. If the minister could inform the House of that in his concluding remarks that would be much appreciated because that provides confidence in the process.

We will not be opposing this bill. I hope I get a chance to speak to that a little further during the consideration in detail. If not, I hope the minister takes that on board.



Mr MADDEN (Ipswich West—ALP) (3.26 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021, which was tabled by the Minister for Resources on 16 June 2021. Before I do so and while I am on my feet, I hope you allow me this indulgence, Madam Deputy Speaker. I would like to acknowledge and thank the 6,000-plus members of the Queensland State Emergency Services whose valuable community service we acknowledge this week during SES Week.

After tabling, the Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 was referred to the Transport and Resources Committee, which recommended that the bill be passed. As detailed in the explanatory notes, the bill covers three principal areas of legislative reform. The Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill aims to provide certainty to industry and community stakeholders and ensure the integrity of the tenure system by clarifying the legal standing of certain historically granted tenures, activities and entitlements pursuant to the Mineral Resources Act 1989 and the Petroleum Act 1923. The bill also aims to reduce unnecessary expenditure and regulation in the context of significant impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the personalised transport industry by repealing the Personalised Transport Ombudsman Act 2019.

The bill also aims to enhance the water restrictions compliance and enforcement framework by ensuring water restrictions can equitably be investigated and enforced across South-East Queensland. It also ensures that the water service providers have adequate protections for the non-disclosure of critical operational information related to their cybersecurity procedures and protocols.

Resources and mining remain one of the key pillars of the Queensland economy along with construction, tourism and agriculture. The hydrogen industry in Queensland is a key element of our resources industry and has the potential to match our liquid natural gas industry. As part of the Queensland Jobs Fund the Palaszczuk government has committed \$2 billion to growing renewable energy and hydrogen jobs. CSIRO has been working on the industrial applications of hydrogen for the last decade. Its big breakthrough came in 2017 when it developed a metal membrane that enabled the element to be separated from ammonia. This was a global first that was critical because ammonia is much easier to transport than hydrogen.

The following year CSIRO signed a deal with Fortescue Metals to help commercialise hydrogen technology. Japan's largest domestic hydrogen supplier, Iwatani Corporation, are undertaking feasibility on a project to export \$4.2 billion of renewable hydrogen from Gladstone, which would support up to 5,000 jobs. In Townsville the Palaszczuk government is working with Sun Metals as they move to operate their refinery on 100 per cent renewable energy by 2040 and use a hydrogen trucking fleet.

It was announced yesterday that Queensland's role as a global leader in the manufacture of renewable hydrogen has taken another step forward with the fertiliser manufacturer Incitec Pivot reaching an agreement with Fortescue Future Industries to study the feasibility of green ammonia production. Ammonia is also used as a precursor in most modern nitrogenous fertilisers. The feasibility study will assess whether industrial scale manufacturing of green ammonia at Gibson Island and Gladstone is technically and commercially feasible on an existing brownfield site.


Mr WEIR: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. It is very interesting, but I raise relevance. I am not sure whether this is relevant to the bill. It is very interesting, but it sounds to me like the member is speaking to the wrong bill.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Gerber): I was listening very closely. I will ask the member to ensure that his contribution is within the long title of the bill.

Mr MADDEN: Thank you for your guidance, Madam Deputy Speaker. I appreciate the contribution of the member for Condamine. This all means that our great state of Queensland is set to become a renewable energy and hydrogen superpower. In closing, I wish to thank the minister for introducing—

Mrs Frecklington: That's the best thing you've said!

Mr MADDEN: Cruel! I wish to thank the minister for introducing this important bill to the House, the Transport and Resources Committee, the committee secretariat, Hansard and the submitters. I commend the bill, as amended, to the House.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (3.30 pm): I thank the member for Ipswich West for his fantastic contribution!

Mr Perrett: Wrong speaking notes.

Mr MILLAR: They were the wrong speaking notes. That is unusual for the member for Ipswich West. He is diligent in his speaking notes and he is a man of knowledge. In fact, I think he probably needs to be in the ministry as the minister for agriculture. He has a background in agricultural science, as a scientist himself. He is someone I would certainly enjoy seeing.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Gerber): Member for Gregory, I bring you back to the long title of the bill.

Mr MILLAR: In addressing this bill, as deputy chair of the Transport and Resources Committee I firstly acknowledge my fellow committee members. I also gratefully acknowledge the hardworking secretary, Deborah Jeffrey, her assistant, Zac, and her colleagues in the committee secretariat.

This is one of the ALP's favourite types of bill: an omnibus bill. Perhaps it would be better called a 'dustpan bill', because the ALP uses these bills to sweep up all kinds of government issues. This bill does a fair bit of energetic sweeping. The bill takes its title from the amendments to the mining and petroleum legislation contained within it. Both the mining amendments and the petroleum amendments are related to an administrative error. It has taken a Land Court case for that error to become apparent.

As the Transport and Resources Committee heard, since 2010, when mining leases are issued tenure holders receive an official letter granting the lease and setting out the conditions, rights and obligations. Before 2010, dating back to 1989, there were a couple of extra administrative steps involved. The minister had to recommend to the Governor in Council to issue an instrument for the lease. The Governor in Council then duly did so. However, since 2010, that power now resides with the minister, so the extra steps are no longer required. So far, so good. However, the department then discovered that 86 coal leases and 847 leases for other minerals had been issued prior to 2010 without the required administrative niceties.

I stress to the House that the committee was assured that the affected leases were still fully assessed prior to being granted and have operated in compliance with departmental oversight and the conditions of their lease. However, the administrative oversight means it is necessary to ensure certainty for the tenure holders that they are operating on a sound basis. These amendments will do that.

In order to make a full correction, it is necessary that the amendments be retrospective. This is against best legislative principles, so I want to underline the fact that the amendments are very narrow and seek only to correct the administrative error. They do not confer any new rights or obligations on the holders. I also assure the House that the error cannot be repeated because the administrative requirements that caused it were removed in 2010.

As all members of this House know, the resources industry is a major contributor to Queensland's economy. Despite the challenges of operating an export industry in a challenging global marketplace and despite the challenges of operating during a global pandemic, the Queensland resources industry continues to anchor Queensland's and Australia's prosperity. It is only right that this House should ensure that mining tenure holders in Queensland are not penalised for what is a government administrative error.

During the committee's inquiry, environmental advocates including the Lock the Gate Alliance, the Queensland Conservation Council and the Environmental Defenders Office tried to paint this error as a symptom of significant systemic issues with the regulation of the Queensland resources industry. As a Bowen Basin MP as well as a member of the Transport and Resources Committee, I have a fair bit of experience observing the regulation of this industry in real time and in real settings. To argue that there is a systemic problem with Queensland's regulation of the mining industry is not just an overreach; it is untrue. However, I listened with great interest to their argument for more transparency.

While we do have the MyMinesOnline website, it is not an easy task for a landholder to find out about a mining company's intentions and status. Environmental stakeholders have pointed to the publicly available register of mining leases in New South Wales as a path Queensland could take, and the department has said that it is open to discussions.

Similarly, the environmental advocates argued against the amendments in this bill relating to the petroleum industry. The government's intention was that, from 1 November this year, all authorities to prospect, ATPs, and all production leases, PLs, would be administered under the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004. Because of a lack of transitional arrangements for ATPs that are subject to undecided PL applications on 1 November, any such ATPs will lapse on that date. According to the department, six ATPs, including in the Lake Eyre Basin, would be affected. The environmental groups urged that these be allowed to lapse in line with the government's election commitments to environmental advocates. This would be completely wrong and would abrogate the rights of other stakeholders, including local residents and the Indigenous peoples of the Lake Eyre Basin and the associated Channel Country strategic environmental area.

In 2011, Queensland attracted one in four dollars spent on mining exploration in Australia. Last year that figure had fallen to one in eight dollars. Poor consultation and too much reliance on retrospective legislation directly contributes to the perception of Queensland as a risky place to invest in mining. This is not good at a time when we should be moving towards a boom in rare-earth minerals to support battery production.

I urge the government to conduct genuine and wideranging consultation with stakeholders. In Gregory, too often I see consultation only happen with hand-picked groups that then are used to protect the government's policy. Governments should not ignore some stakeholders while listening to others. Genuine consultation is the foundation of good policy. Lock the Gate Alliance has expressed concerns about the retrospectivity of the required amendments impacting on part of a matter currently before the Land Court of Queensland. That matter, too, is being avidly followed by my constituents in Gregory.

The amendments will clarify an ambiguity around whether a PL continues in force where the renewal application has been validly made but not decided before the expiry of the existing PL. ATPs are specifically allowed to remain in force in this circumstance under both the Petroleum Act 1923 and the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004; however, PLs are not expressly provided for. This bill will clarify that the leases remain valid while a decision is being made on renewal. The amendments are retrospective to ensure there is legal clarity around any historical leases which are subject to renewal applications. However, once again, they do not confer any new obligations or any new rights. They reflect the current departmental approach. I am satisfied that this bill will affect only six ATPs and that no other applications are affected.

I stress that the department specifically told the committee that the amendments do not change the department's historic interpretation of the act or the existing administrative processes. Renewal applications remain subject to the department's tenure assessment and technical assessments. I realise that this may disappoint both environmental lobby groups and landholders who had hoped to

see a strengthening of their rights; however, this is not the bill to address those issues. What is needed is a review of the Regional Planning Interests Act, which replaced the Strategic Cropping Land Act. The intention of the act was to confer protection of valuable agricultural land. This is something I find incredibly important for agriculture right across Queensland.

God or nature are not making any more strategic cropping land. Apart from the important environmental considerations, if we are to have self-reliance in relation to food security and fibre security, we must protect the land we have as our most valuable inheritance, yet, to my knowledge, under the Labor government not a single authority for resource exploration or production on strategic cropping land has ever been refused.

There is also the issue of farmers' rights. This has been raised with me most sincerely by Karen Lennon-Smith of Rolleston. Karen's partner, Clinton Smith, together with his brother Brendan, farms a property just outside of Rolleston called Vesta. They have found themselves wrestling with Denison Gas regarding the recommissioning of wells on Vesta. This is a good example of the need for greater transparency around resources tenure than is currently available to Queensland landholders.

Other constituents in the Rolleston area are furious with the state government over the lack of transparency around the massive expansion of the Mahalo gas project. This expansion was approved last year and will see 190 extra wells added—more than doubling the total number of wells, to 383—but the state government is not communicating with affected landholders. Nor has anything been said by the minister about State Gas's plans to trial carbon sequestration in West Rolleston, yet the company has talked about them in the media.

It is devastating for landholders that these discussions go on and they are left out in the cold and they seem to have no rights. I urge the minister and the government to review this urgently to see if landholder consultation and protections can be strengthened. It is important. This is fundamental if the gas industry is to enjoy a social licence to operate. Secondly, the resources minister and the minister for agriculture need to put their heads together to ensure that the Labor government is affording our priceless strategic cropping land the protection it so desperately needs and deserves. That is what needs urgent scrutiny, Minister, and urgent reform. I will continue to work for that outcome as the member for Gregory at every opportunity.



Hon. GJ BUTCHER (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (3.40 pm): This afternoon I rise in support of the Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. This is, as other members have said, an omnibus bill and I will be using my short time today to speak to the water side of it. The Palaszczuk government is committed to supporting local councils and water service providers right across Queensland to address urban water security and to improve their water supply and sewerage systems.

As the Premier has said previously, it is a priority for the Palaszczuk government to ensure urban water security for all of Queensland, and there are many examples where our government is doing just this. Last month I officially opened round 6 of our hugely successful Building our Regions program which will deliver over \$70 million of funding for regional councils to improve water treatment and wastewater treatment services in Queensland. Our investment in supporting urban water supply also includes new infrastructure planning such as Townsville's Houghton Pipeline. Stage 2 of the pipeline will connect with stage 1 and enable Townsville City Council to access supplies from the Burdekin River, providing a safer and more efficient transfer of water.

Mr Harper: And it's great that the state backed it.

Mr BUTCHER: I take that interjection. The planning for the Toowoomba to Warwick pipeline will ensure a shovel-ready project is ready—

Mrs Frecklington: How's that going?

Mr BUTCHER: I take that interjection; it is going great. As I was saying, that planning is going great to secure drinking water supplies for over 20,000 residents in the region. When the town of Stanthorpe was affected by drought, this government stepped in to provide over \$11.6 million for the carting of water using a panel of local transport contractors.


Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr BUTCHER: We have a further \$8.1 million invested in the early works—and this is for the benefit of the member for Nanango—for the Toowoomba to Warwick pipeline. We have \$8.1 million invested in that project. Surveyors are already on the ground in that region establishing potential routes for the new pipeline.

While investment in infrastructure is incredibly important, it is also important to have the right legislative framework in place to protect those water resources. The amendments in this bill seek to ensure the appropriate governance frameworks are in place to do just that. Currently in South-East Queensland, the distributor-retailers, Urban Utilities and Unitywater, cannot undertake certain investigations or enforcement actions against people suspected of not complying with mandatory water restrictions during times of drought. It is important that they are able to undertake these tasks just like councils do because, combined, Urban Utilities and Unitywater service nearly two million people and approximately 62 per cent of the South-East Queensland region. While the overwhelming majority of Queenslanders act responsibly during times of drought, it is really important that the laws which relate to enforcement and compliance with water restrictions apply equally to everyone.

The amendments to the South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009 give the distributor-retailers investigation and enforcement powers equivalent to those available to local water service providers in South-East Queensland. It will not matter if a person resides within the Urban Utilities geographic area or within Logan council; the rules will be the same across the board. The amendments also enable Urban Utilities and Unitywater to appoint authorised persons who will have the same powers of entry as those local government officers to gather evidence in circumstances of potential noncompliance. The appointed persons would also be authorised to implement necessary enforcement or compliance actions such as issuing penalty infringement notices. The amendments will help to ensure our precious water resources are managed appropriately for the benefit of the entire community.

Another important step for ensuring Queensland's water security is helping to protect the state's water service providers against potential malicious cybersecurity attacks. The amendments to the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008 provide that highly sensitive cybersecurity information is not made publicly available where cybercriminals can access it and then target Queensland water service providers. Recently we have seen these types of things happening and shutting down major services in Queensland. We certainly do not want that to happen, and that is why we have added this amendment to the water supply act. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BOYCE** (Callide—LNP) (3.45 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. Firstly, I want to take the opportunity to convey my condolences and thoughts and prayers to the families, relatives and friends of all those who were involved in the tragedy on the Capricorn Highway yesterday near Rockhampton. It is a sobering reminder of how quickly and unexpectedly these events occur and my thoughts and condolences are with all those concerned.


The purpose of this bill was to clarify the legal standing of certain historically granted tenures, activities and entitlements under the Mineral Resources Act and the Petroleum Act; to repeal the Personalised Transport Ombudsman Act 2019 and to make minor amendments to the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act; to ensure that water restrictions can be equitably investigated and enforced across the South-East Queensland region by amending the South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act to align with powers local government water service providers have under the Local Government Act; and to exclude cybersecurity measures reported to the Water Supply Regulator from being made publicly available to mitigate the risk of malicious attacks on water service providers and water supply schemes by amending the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act.

The committee made three recommendations—that the bill be passed; that DTMR investigate the banning and recall of licence plates issued by PPQ that misrepresent themselves as limousine or taxis; and that DTMR publish material to inform the public about limousine and taxi licence plates and the differences to book hire vehicles. I want to make some comment firstly to resource tenure. I think it is most important to have all paperwork correct in respect to petroleum and mineral resources and their various tenures and leases. However, I find it a little concerning that there has been little or no consultation with major stakeholders with regard to this, in particular the Queensland Resources Council and the Environmental Defenders Office. Their concerns have been noted in the committee report.

The repealing of the Personalised Transport Ombudsman has been dealt with and is another example of the Labor government wasting another half a million dollars of taxpayers' money, which is unfortunate.

With respect to the water part of this bill, it is clearly evident that water and water supply management in South-East Queensland is of growing concern. There is not enough thought, planning or preparation for the provision of water infrastructure—dams, weirs and pipelines—to service the ever-growing demand and population increase in Queensland. This not only affects the south-east

corner but all of Queensland. Australia is the driest habitable continent on earth and water is our most precious resource. Without water there is no life, no agriculture and no industry, so I think it most important that we ensure adequate water supply infrastructure and manage it accordingly. I will close on that comment. As always, I want to acknowledge my fellow committee members and thank Mrs Deb Jeffrey and her team for preparing our meetings, papers and reports.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (3.49 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill—my final contribution from my time on the Transport and Resources Committee. I wish to thank my fellow committee members. I have really enjoyed my time on the committee. I thank all of the ministers and the current committee chair, the member for Kurwongbah, for his stewardship of the committee and the member for Bancroft for his time on the committee. I have served my entire parliamentary time on this particular committee and I have really enjoyed it. I also want to thank the secretariat for the work they have put in. In the last term we had the wonderful Jacqui Dewar. She did an outstanding job. A lot of work over a long period has gone into the issues contained within this bill. I feel now is a good time to put that on the record and to say thank you very much. I have really appreciated my time on the committee and I am happy to hand over to the member for Stretton.


I thank the many witnesses who appeared before the committee on this bill. The committee has recommended that this bill be passed. As we heard from the member for Condamine, this bill does have bipartisan support. Picking up from where my learned colleague, the member for Ipswich West, left off, Queensland is in the middle of a renewables boom. It is very exciting. However, there could be an issue if those 847 mining minerals leases were challenged. Some of these leases cover copper and other minerals that we need for this renewables boom. It is really important for the renewables boom that these leases stay intact and that the businesses that have these leases continue to have those validly granted leases.

An honourable member interjected.

Ms PUGH: That is exactly right. In this particular case the retrospective nature of the bill, rather than changing the conditions in which the leaseholders have been operating, will instead act to ensure that the leases which were believed to be properly granted and held are, in fact, considered to be properly held. The identified administrative deficiency related to mining leases may potentially mean that they are invalid if legally challenged despite being otherwise validly approved at the time.

The department has identified 86 coalmining leases and 847 mineral mining leases that were issued without either a recommendation to the Governor in Council or the actual issuing of an instrument. The amendments will operate retrospectively, but it is important to note that they will not confer any additional rights or obligations upon those stakeholders. This House always carefully considers the idea of passing retrospective legislation. It is not normally considered ideal as it often imposes conditions on stakeholders that did not exist at the time they undertook the specific behaviour. In this case the opposite is true. Unless the legislation is retrospective, leases that were thought to be properly held at the time may, in fact, not be.

Moving on to the non-resources aspects of the bill, once again I thank the many submitters and witnesses who gave their very clear feedback. The issue of a personalised transport ombudsman was very dear to the heart of the member for Kurwongbah, who saw that entire process through right from the start in his last term. It was something he was incredibly passionate about. I know that he is really happy with where that outcome has landed. I think it is fantastic that that feedback has been taken on board. I note the bipartisan support from the member for Chatsworth. It is always good to see. I think this is really good legislation and I commend it to the House.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (3.53 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution on the Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. First I would like to thank Deb and Zac, who do an enormous amount of work making sure the committee keeps on track. I would also like to thank my committee colleagues.

It is disappointing that we have to come into this place and fix up pieces of legislation because gaps have been caused by processes that have been missed by the executive. This really is a tidy-up bill. The fact that this went on for so long and was eventually highlighted by a Land Court action is concerning. It is concerning that the executive of the Labor government for years and years did not pick this up.

What I find most interesting is that something that is, in fact, before the Land Court can come into this place and be retrospectively changed. I was under the impression that the government would not touch anything that was before the Land Court. Certainly the people of Oakey, and specifically the miners at Acland, have been told repeatedly, both in writing, in public statements in the media and on

TV over a number of years now, that if it is before the Land Court they could not possibly do anything to change that, they would have to let the process complete. It turns out that if there are 80-odd and another 800-odd leases that have not been administratively processed correctly by the executive, we can override the Land Court because that suits us right now and it would be a complete and utter mess for the industry if we did not.

This type of oversight is contributing to the fact that Queensland is not top of the world when it comes to lack of governance risk. When miners are looking internationally for where they might spend their capital, Queensland is slipping down the ranks when it comes to sovereign risk. This lack of administration detail, flip-flopping on certain issues and picking what is politically appropriate is causing some of those problems. I urge the minister, now the precedent has been set to not wait for the Land Court, to make an announcement. The opportunity exists today before the press closes to issue that lease to the people of Acland and everybody can have their jobs back. I am sure the people of Oakey would appreciate that.

There are a couple of other issues that fall into that same lack of proper administration. This is about how the executive is operating. If you do not have transparency and open debate, if you do not use the processes of this parliament appropriately, such as not guillotining every piece of legislation that comes forward, you end up making mistakes. Regardless of what the department might think and regardless of what some in the executive might think, most particularly the Treasurer, they are not always right on everything all of the time. There is a lot of wisdom held by ordinary Queenslanders who are going about their job trying to find their way through the bureaucracy to deal with the governance rules that have been put around them. Here we are with retrospective legislation trying to fix up an oversight. I am pleased to see that it does not affect any rights or obligations.

I am not opposing this legislation because I think it is appropriate that we do this for all of those people who hold those leases. That said, we should not be making these kinds of mistakes. The fact that there was lack of consultation on this bill, which is fixing up the fact that we missed some stuff generally, is a reason why we should be consulting widely and over an extended period of time so that this House, the people's house, can get the legislation right every time.

The abolishment of the Personalised Transport Ombudsman is interesting. It does not have a lot to do with resources, but I note this bill includes in its title 'other legislation amendment bill'. This is a half-a-million-dollar waste of money. This was a process that was set up by the government. It was a bit of a knee-jerk. It was not really widely consulted on. There was not good transparency around what was going on. Money was spent. Office chairs and some desks were bought. It was going to fix up the personal transport industry.

An opposition member: How did that go?

Mr WATTS: It did not go real well. It might have been mentioned by some in this chamber that this would not be the solution. In particular, one of my colleagues in Brisbane might have mentioned this was not a solution. Here we are, half a million dollars later, and it turns out it is not the solution.

We come in here to abolish something, but again without wide consultation. There was no wide consultation on whether to set it up in the first place, which cost half a million dollars of taxpayers' money. The next time someone pays stamp duty, let's remember where stamp duty went: it went on office furniture that nobody has ever used in the transport ombudsman's office. A lot of people in the industry would have loved to have seen that half a million dollars go towards compensation for legislative changes. Instead, it went towards the maladministration of this executive's ideas and concepts that were not widely looked into.

My colleague the member from Condamine outlined most of the detail of the bill and I endorse every word he said. I know he wants to speak to the manslaughter provisions. The industrial manslaughter issue was widely discussed at the time. I hate to say 'I told you so' but I am fairly certain that some people will be in that place. This was never going to work. At that time it was mentioned that there are incredibly complex legal and structural arrangements around the ownership and operation of mines, how they work and everything else. It was a blunt instrument of ideology to try to force through some regulation that was never going to work in a practical sense.

This debate will be guillotined and we are on a time limit, which is a shame because obviously that is when mistakes are made. We could have saved these hours by not making mistakes in the first place, making the whole thing a bit more efficient. That said, I hope we get an opportunity to discuss some of those issues because it is very important that people understand what is going on there. We do not want anybody losing their life whilst at work, whether it be on a mine site, a building site or any other place. We need to make sure that the legislation is effective, we need to make sure it works and


we need to make sure that it is done properly. The fact that we are now pushing it out again would indicate that none of those things happened in the first place. That could all have been solved with a bit of consultation.

I will mention briefly the Urban Utilities and Unitywater issues. I was really pleased to hear the minister announce—although I did not quite hear how many millions of dollars he has put in—the building of the pipeline that I know they have been consulting on. I am really pleased that the government will be upgrading the pumps to Toowoomba and increasing the pipeline so that Toowoomba does not lose its water security, which it paid a substantial amount to achieve. I look forward to that. With reference to the amendments to the bill, obviously we do not want people to waste water and those who do should be fined. Appropriate action should be taken against them, as was outlined in the 2009 act. If the 2009 act had been widely consulted on and discussed with people, without input from an arrogant executive, maybe we would not be here fixing this up because it might have been picked up at that time.

My overriding message to the people of Acland is that we look forward to the minister's announcement later this afternoon. When Queenslanders think about why they are paying so much in state government tax, they should think about the transport ombudsman who swallowed half a million dollars but was never used effectively for anything.

An opposition member: Nice chairs though.

Mr WATTS: They are very nice chairs. The last thing that I would say is that if this place does not do its job properly, widely consult and act in a transparent way, and if the executive does not give members time for proper debate these mistakes will keep happening and in this chamber we will keep wasting the people's time.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (4.03 pm): I too rise to contribute to the debate on the Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This is an omnibus bill that amends or repeals five separate acts across three different portfolios. For the purpose of my contribution I will largely be focusing on the amendments that deal with the water portfolio. However, I do wish to take up the points made by the shadow minister and my neighbouring member of parliament, the member Condamine, as well as the member for Toowoomba North. They both spoke eloquently as, with hope, they pleaded with the minister.

My colleague the member for Toowoomba North was being quite sarcastic—I think that is the term—in his contribution when he said that he looks forward to the minister for mines approving the Acland mining licence. Wouldn't that be a wonderful day for the people of the Darling Downs, the people of Oakey, the people of Goombungee and the people of my area as well? People who live as far away as Blackbutt and Kingaroy work in that mine. They are spread all the way around the Darling Downs, the South Burnett and into the North Burnett. That mine and its workers are looking to the minister to stand up for Queensland and their community.

I hear what is being said about renewables and all the rest of it. I agree, because our communities support Brisbane members by supporting those renewable projects. We need only look to the electorate of the member for Warrego, where hundreds of thousands of acres are now solar farms. Wind farms are being built right across this great state. This morning the minister stood up and said, 'There were no wind farms under them.' Go figure! What about the Coopers Gap Wind Farm? It was our government that put the proposals in place for the Coopers Gap Wind Farm and took it outside of the authority of the local government. I can see the minister agreeing with me because he knows that it was the former LNP government that put that in place. These guys opposite are trying to pretend that they now support the industry but they would not have a clue about what it does for regional Queensland. It goes hand in hand with the agricultural industry and it goes hand in hand with the mining industry. I join the member for Toowoomba North and the member for Condamine in saying that we very much look forward to the minister for mines standing up on behalf of the people of the Darling Downs, the South Burnett and the south-west and approving that mine. It is what the community has wanted and it is what that community deserves.

I turn to the water part of the bill, which is important. The minister talked about an amendment to address the fact that Urban Utilities and Unitywater are not able to enforce water restrictions in the same way as other water providers. I note from the committee report that the Queensland Conservation Council said that this amendment would—

... lead to greater security for South-East Queensland water users, and the more uniform application of water restrictions across the South-East Queensland region will lead to greater equity, fairness and uniformity on how they are applied across the region.

As the shadow minister in this space, I also have a view on this.

Make no mistake: there would be no need for these heavy-handed water restrictions if the Palaszczuk Labor government or former Labor governments had actually done some planning around what we need in the south-east for water, not just for Brisbane but also for areas around the south-east where the fruit and veggie growers are located. That is what it is all about and it is called 'planning'. As of today, the Wivenhoe Dam water levels sit at 40.4 per cent. We need to bear in mind that we are currently working on an amended full supply level for Wivenhoe Dam of 90 per cent, which is in place while works are being undertaken at Somerset Dam. The south-east's main water supply is just 40.4 per cent so obviously the situation is fairly dire. While I welcomed the heavy storms that we have had, I note that not a great deal fell in the dam catchment.

Mr Stevens: And they cancelled Wolffdene.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection: they cancelled Wolffdene. It was also a Labor government that planned dams without pipes, that built pipes without dams and that ripped up communities in and around the electorate of the member for Gympie for Traveston dam. When it comes to Labor and water, it is a bit like oil and water: it just does not mix.

The best way to increase water supply for the south-east and indeed the whole of Queensland is to have a government that plans for water infrastructure. We know that when it comes to water infrastructure the Palaszczuk government's record is dire. I need say no more than two words: Paradise Dam. It is the biggest infrastructure fail in Queensland's history—in fact, I would say in our nation's history. We on this side of the House know that water means jobs, productivity and security and hope for our primary producers, small businesses and families.

While we are on the topic of renewables, renewables need water as well. Go figure! Isn't that incredible? We know that this Labor government has not stepped up and committed to funding of new water projects like Urannah Dam, Nullinga Dam, Emu Swamp Dam, Nathan Dam, the raising of the Burdekin Falls Dam—

Mr Harper: What about Kidston? Kidston Hydro.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Absolutely. I support hydro 100 per cent, and I will tell the member why. It was a coalition government in Queensland that built Queensland's first hydro water plant, at Wivenhoe Dam. The way we can make these dams affordable is by adding hydro to it. That is exactly what the Urannah Dam project will do. We can add hydro to the water project—tick, tick. We have cheaper electricity. We also have water for farmers. That is how we make these infrastructure projects work.

It is shocking that those on the other side of this House think that just because they say the word 'renewable' they can yell out 'hydro' and think we would not support it. What an idiotic statement! It is we on this side that get that practical infrastructure projects like adding hydro to dams works. That is why we on this side of the House get why water means jobs. Water means jobs. Those on the other side have absolutely no clue.

What did they do with the Paradise Dam? They ripped down the dam wall. What do they do when they work out a town is running out of water? They send the Premier out without any information at all—and I am looking at the member for Southern Downs—where the Premier announces, 'The pipeline will be built by October 2020.' Well, it is now October 2021. How is that pipeline going, member for Southern Downs?

Mr LISTER: I think we've all forgotten about it.


Mrs FRECKLINGTON: We on this side have not. We will continue to hold the government to account—

Mr Kelly: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Gerber): Member for Nanango, what you were saying was very interesting, but I ask you to come back to the long title of the bill.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Thank you, Madam Acting Speaker, I thought it was as well. I am happy to take that interjection because this bill actually amends many acts which do go into the water portfolio. It was the Minister for Water who was talking about the pipeline from Toowoomba and he announced it within his speech, yet, like the member for Southern Downs so rightfully called out, the people in his area know a furphy when they are fed it.

I will get back to the long title of the bill, but there are a couple of things I quickly want to say. The minister for mines, please just give the people for the Darling Downs some certainty and issue that mining licence. To the Minister for Water, if you are going to come in here and talk about water, how about you talk about water infrastructure, build some dams, and make sure that South-East Queensland has the water security that they are so desperately screaming out for.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (4.13 pm): I would like to speak in support of the Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. This bill seeks to give clarity and certainty and ensure the integrity of the tenure system by clarifying the legal standing of certain historically granted tenures, activities and entitlements under the Minerals Resources Act 1989 and the Petroleum Act 1923 and, as others have said, there are other acts in relation to this bill, but I would just like to stick to these two.

We live in a time of great uncertainty as we navigate the global pandemic. Queenslanders have worked hard to keep our industries in operation and to keep them safe. This is in contrast to industries collapsing and being mothballed as the pandemic has ripped through other communities. Businesses want certainty, whether they are directly involved in mining or exploration, or one of the many businesses supporting the resources sector, community and stakeholder groups. My community is one of those that support the mining industry and we certainly do know what it is like to have certainty.

This bill will ensure the continued effectiveness of key regulatory frameworks within the resources portfolio. It amends the Minerals Resources Act 1989 and the Petroleum Act 1923 to give the certainty that resources communities are seeking. This bill clarifies the validity of certain historically granted tenures and the standing of existing application.

The amendments to the act are to validate certain mining leases which may have administrative deficiencies. Prior to 2012, mining leases in Queensland were granted by the Governor in Council, based on recommendations by the minister of the day.

The Department of Resources has identified that there were 86 mining leases for coal and 847 mining leases for other minerals that have one of the following or both administrative deficiencies: firstly, the minister did not recommend the issuing of the lease; secondly, the instrument of the lease was not issued to the holder.

The bill is necessary to protect these over 900 mining leases from being challenged and having legal mining operations being questioned as illegal operations. There are currently no challenges based on this issue, and the amendments will retrospectively operate to provide certainty to holders of already granted tenures.


The bill also removes any doubt for the petroleum industry. It will provide that a production lease under the Petroleum Act 1923 with a validly made application for renewal will continue in force from the expiry date until the application is decided or otherwise resolved. The department has a longstanding administrative practice that preserves existing rights while the renewal decision is pending. The bill removes any ambiguity over production or prospecting that may occur after 1 November with the prospect of leases lapsing.

Without removing uncertainty for stakeholders and investors who would be potentially affected, there could be broader impacts on industry and further investment in the Queensland resources sector.

Queensland is good at mining with modern and effective operations supporting national, state and local economies. The mining industry directly and indirectly supports many families in my region. It is an industry that we need to support and to have the necessary legislative framework in place. The mining industry is moving with demands of the modern economy. The resources sector will be a vital section of our community for generations to come. We need to protect its certainty.

There is a debate from time to time regarding all types of mineral extraction and the future viability of the leases. There has been a lot of work done to keep the viability of current leases in my region going into the future. Where there was extraction of overburden in open-cut pits, the overburden was seen as unusable top layer of no significant value. Recent research of the minerals in the composition of the overburden piles has detected rare minerals. The stockpiles could possibly be re-mined, not as a nuisance layer, but of a layer of high value.

Our resources sector is with us for many years to come. It will be a matter of what it will look like and what will be the new minerals we are finding new uses for and the value of the new minerals being sought. Queensland is mineral rich. I support the bill.

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (4.19 pm): This bill is a demonstration of government incompetence. The lack of consultation for the changes to the Mineral Resources Act 1989 and the Petroleum Act 1923 is disappointing but not surprising, with this government showing again and again it cannot work constructively with industry. That is, of course, combined with the embarrassing initial inclusion in this bill of repealing the Personalised Transport Ombudsman, which passed only two years ago and which was repealed last month and cost almost half a million dollars.

The purpose of the proposed amendments to the Mineral Resources Act is to fix historic administrative issues in the granting of mining tenures. The department has identified 86 mining leases for coal and 847 mining leases for other minerals that have administrative deficiencies—where either the minister did not recommend the issuing of the lease and/or the instrument of lease was not issued to the holder.

Prior to 2010, when recommending the granting of the mining lease, the minister was required to also make a recommendation to the Governor in Council that an instrument of lease be issued. Some grants of lease have been found where the minister of the day did not include the recommendation to issue the instrument of lease to the Governor in Council. All leases impacted were prior to 2010 so the amendments are retrospective in their effect to ensure the holders of mining leases can continue to operate with confidence. The mistakes were only discovered during the recent Land Court proceedings concerning the New Acland stage 3 expansion project, covering serious procedural issues which the shadow resources minister and the member for Toowoomba North have covered in detail already in this debate.

I turn to more on the lack of consultation. The Queensland Resources Council have said they were disappointed by this, extraordinarily only being informed of the bill one day before it was introduced into this place. They have asked in future to see a proper consultation period between industry, the department and the minister to ensure that when legislation comes into this House there are no grey areas in it and that the language is not ambiguous. That seems reasonable to me. They have pointed out some of these grey areas in the bill, which again have been covered in other contributions to this debate.

The department's response was that 'these proposed amendments do not have a material impact, but rather seek to preserve and clarify the validity of existing rights', and as such we will not be opposing the bill. The department also noted—

Within the time available, the Department of Resources is unable to provide definitive advice on how many of the affected leases are also affected by the issue where the Minister of the time did not make a recommendation to the Governor in Council that an instrument of lease be issued.

That lack of consultation and detailed analysis of the tenures in question is one of the issues with this bill. While we will not be opposing this legislation, I would hope the minister has asked his department to undertake a full assessment of the issues this bill covers and attempts to rectify.

Conservation groups were also critical of this bill, citing it as a significant oversight and a signal of broader issues when it comes to the transparency of mining leases and failures in the processes to grant them. They have called for a public register of all mining leases similar to what New South Wales has. While we have a number of different avenues to essentially achieve the same thing, the department has said they would welcome an opportunity to discuss the idea of a register with all interested stakeholders, and I welcome this.

The bill also includes changes to the Petroleum Act 1923 to allow production leases to continue if they have made a valid application prior to the expiry date of 1 November 2021, even if the application has not been renewed. This was built in through the 2004 amendments, reflecting the fact that prospecting permits will no longer be issued. Given this expiry date has been there for the last 17 years, it is worth questioning why the government needs this provision and why it could not have made these decisions earlier.

In response to calls from the Environmental Defenders Office regarding authorities to prospect in strategic environmental areas that are impacted by the decision, the department advised—


There is an ongoing policy process seeking to balance environmental protections and economic development activities, such as gas extraction. This process is currently being led by the Minister for the Environment ... and is beyond the scope of the Bill. It would be inappropriate to take away existing rights without a clear policy of government. These amendments are intended to provide additional time to allow the policy position of government to be finalised.

If the government knew this expiry date was coming, why did they not ensure they had the framework in place before we got to this point? For the sake of transparency and to give a clear direction to stakeholders, the government should have done the work and ensured they had the policy settings clear within the time frame in question.

The amendments to the South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009 sensibly provide the same authority as local councils have to water providers to impose penalties during times of water restrictions. Furthermore, the bill removes the need to publish information relating to the security of drinking water to strengthen cybersecurity.

Finally, the bill initially included a provision to repeal the Personalised Transport Ombudsman Act 2019 and the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994, although that has since shifted out of this bill and was repealed last month. I welcome the government belatedly coming to the same conclusion as key stakeholders and members from this side that this was a flawed proposal and a waste of taxpayers' money. I have no doubt the shadow transport minister will go into that in much more detail in his contribution.

To conclude, the bill before us is only here because of the profound administrative incompetence of those opposite. It shows their mismanagement over several years, their inability to consult with industry effectively and how little they value taxpayers' money.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (4.25 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I would like to thank the members of the committee and the staff for their consideration of this omnibus bill. We know that they are synonymous with the Department of Natural Resources.

The bill amends the mineral resources and petroleum acts and repeals the Personalised Transport Ombudsman Act. It also ensures water restrictions can be equitably investigated and enforced across the South-East Queensland region, by amending the South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act to align with the powers local government water service providers have under the local government legislation. The bill also amends the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act to exclude the requirements for water service providers to make publicly available highly sensitive cybersecurity information and reporting metrics. We are advised this is to ensure Queensland's water service providers' vulnerability will be reduced when it comes to malicious cyber attacks on communities' water supplies.

The bill amends both the mineral resources and petroleum acts. The minister advised the House this will give certainty to industry and community stakeholders by clarifying the validity of certain historically granted tenures and the standing of existing applications. The proposed amendments are, by necessity, retrospective in effect. We were also advised by the minister that the amendments to the Petroleum Act 1923 are to clarify the standing and validity of applications to renew production leases under the Petroleum Act where the decision to renew is made after the term of the lease has expired. These amendments will also apply retrospectively. We are advised that this is necessary to remove any doubt that the leases renewed before the commencement of the proposed amendments were validity renewed, even if they were decided after the expiry date of the lease. We have amendments in this bill that give certainty to industry and community stakeholders and are also retrospective.

This is a far cry from the situation that is occurring with petroleum activity on priority agricultural area lands. I particularly want to mention those in the Kupunn district near Dalby who are dealing with petroleum activity. Community stakeholders like Bev Newton are not feeling that certainty when it comes to petroleum activity. Mrs Newton advises that at the present time they are being under drilled for petroleum from a neighbouring property without any assessment being done as to the impact directional wells will have on their farm business. The Department of Resources claims it does not deem it to be preliminary or advanced and that each case needs to be judged on a case by case basis. This is not occurring and Mrs Newton advised that no-one is policing the situation.

We heard earlier in the debate on the bill the minister talk about addressing administrative deficiencies. There are certainly some deficiencies when it comes to the petroleum activity as Mrs Newton has described. She also advises they already have one landholder who has suffered subsidence that has caused economic loss to farming land. This landholder also has ring tank infrastructure that is directional drilled well under the ring tank and is now suffering water loss through seepage at a much greater rate than normal evaporation.


The manner in which this Labor government is administering its responsibilities in the Kupunn district and where these petroleum activities are occurring is not giving certainty or confidence to community stakeholders such as Mrs Newton and other landholders. Mrs Newton advises that coal seam gas development across the flat flood plain has never been done before and that the resource activities in the Kupunn district are experimental. She is concerned that the subsidence issues across the flood plain will not be able to be rectified in the future.

This flood plain has some of the best of the best agricultural cropping land in Queensland. The current legislative profile is deficient when it comes to adequate protections for the Condamine alluvium and this cropping land from petroleum resource development. Mrs Newton states that the company

Arrow Energy should have been made to do a regional impact development approval for this irreplaceable priority agricultural area land. She is disappointed that yet again the state Labor government has let Arrow self-assess the situation.

She also states that landholders with no conduct and compensation agreement have no negotiating rights, no access to Land Ombudsman services, no ability to recoup legal or professional costs and no ability to force Arrow to go through the regional impact development approval. The deviated wells agreement being proposed will not fulfil all of those requirements. A conduct and compensation agreement with landholders negotiating and signing an agreement at least allows the impacted landholder input.

These are the relevant issues at present that the Labor government should be taking charge of. The government has the motivation in this bill to provide certainty to industry and community stakeholders through retrospective legislation. I ask: when will the government provide certainty to the landholders in the Kупunn district by addressing these deficiencies in legislation? These deficiencies place the tenure holder in conflict with the landholders and create uncertainty for the future of their agricultural businesses and the tenure holder.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (4.31 pm): I support the Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. I thought I would start with some brief rebuttal of the member for Toowoomba North. It was fascinating to hear him talking about the fact that the executive is not always right and this being a reason why consultation is important. I presume that he is speaking from great personal experience being a member of the Newman government. He would have experienced on many occasions—in fact, almost daily occasion—the executive not being right. He would have also experienced on many occasions the lack of consultation by the Newman government in relation to a whole range of things including perhaps the 1,600 nurses or so that they sacked, the damage they did to health care and the damage they did to a whole range of things in our community. Being lectured to by the member for Toowoomba North about consultation is like the former leader of the Western Australian Liberals Zak Kirkup lecturing Mark McGowan on how to win an election!

This bill provides certainty to the industry and to community stakeholders. It ensures the integrity of the land tenure system. It enhances water restrictions compliance and enforcement. More importantly, it demonstrates Labor's ongoing commitment to the resources and mining industry.

Many members in this chamber come in here and rightly advocate passionately on behalf of the people in their community who derive their income from the mining industry. I often like to remind those members that, as the member for Greenslopes, I represent perhaps one of the biggest mining communities in the state. I base this on the fact that, whenever I am out doorknocking, whenever I am at street stalls, whenever I am at community events which is very frequently, whenever I am at bus stops, I meet people who are involved in the mining industry. Yes, true, I meet quite a few fly-in fly-out miners—people who actually work at the mines—but more frequently I meet people who do data management, who are Workplace Health and Safety officers, who are ventilation engineers, who specialise in marketing, who are geologists, and who work in the area of native title. All of those people are involved and engaged in the mining industry and they all live in the electorate of Greenslopes.

The Greens political party fantasise about getting their hands on the levers of government, but the reality is that they do not want to do the hard yards it takes to become a serious party of government. The mining and resources sectors generate huge benefits for our community and have done for the entire history of our great state. That does not mean though that the industry does not create challenges and problems. This is true of any area of economic activity. As a government, you have to be prepared to rise to those challenges and to meet those challenges. Our party can proudly point to significant improvements in wages for miners and massive improvements in safety, particularly more recently in the area of black lung disease. I was very privileged to be part of the select committee that worked on the investigation of the black lung disease and made recommendations about how to make things safer. We have opened up whole new areas of mining and whole new areas of industry. I think our party can be rightly proud of the contribution we have made to the resources and mining industry. This legislation continues that work of improving conditions for mining. Our party is definitely a supporter.

If you want to see an example of a party that does not support the resources and mining industry, look no further than the Greens political party. At the last election they told people in my electorate that they were going to give everything to everyone for free and pay for it by quadrupling the taxes on an industry they were going to shut down. It takes some gall to take such an illogical economic argument and proposal to the people of Queensland, but that is what they did. If that were not bad enough—

Opposition members interjected.


Mr KELLY: I know they are upset because they single-handedly delivered a Greens in South Brisbane. They have not got over it. If it were not bad enough that the Greens took that illogical proposal to the election, they also delivered it in a way that alienated people and divided our community. I recall many people at polling booths being told, and in some cases being yelled at, that they were going to kill the planet. One lady was trying to have a conversation with me and she had a Greens volunteer screaming in her face that she did not care about her own children and that she was colluding with Labor to kill the planet and her own children. This is the sort of wacky behaviour that will ensure the Greens party remains on the fringe. It is certainly completely incapable and unwilling to be a party of government. I do not have much respect for the LNP—everyone knows that—but I do respect that it is a party of government.

I do not know which way that lady voted, but I do know that when a political party carries on like that in Greenslopes there is a fair chance you are probably attacking someone who derives their income from the mining industry. There is also a very strong chance that you are attacking a fair-minded person who would be prepared to have a sensible and logical conversation about the mining and resource industry.

The people I speak to understand the economic benefits that accrue to our state from resources and mining. They know we pay for our hospitals, schools, roads, community safety and our environmental initiatives by having a thriving economy of which mining is a part and a significant part. Yes, mining companies do make a profit, and Labor supports people who take a risk to invest getting a return. We also support taxing people who make a profit. We do not engage in the politics of envy and division practised by the Greens political party.

I also know that the majority of people in mining in my community are deeply concerned about sustainability and environmental issues. I know from the many conversations that I have had with those people in our community that they would have a much deeper understanding of those issues than any Greens political party volunteer hurling abuse at a polling booth.

Mining and resources are integral to our state. We stand in a chamber, in a House, that was literally built with Gympie gold. This week a private investor was confident enough about Labor's support for resources that they were prepared to invest a billion dollars in the next resources boom—hydrogen. I support this bill because it is part of Labor's long, ongoing commitment to mining and the resources industry.

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (4.38 pm): Who would have thought there would be so many 'greens' in Greenslopes! I rise to give my contribution on the Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. Queensland is riding on the back of the mining industry and the agricultural industry right now. Without the mining sector, the resources sector, the agricultural industry and the transport industry, Queensland would be at a standstill right now. It is great to see we are appreciative that those industries are up and running because without them Queensland would be an economic disaster. Isn't it funny to see things turn around in this state? Four or five years ago people were vilifying mining companies and the idea of opening up new mining tenures across Queensland. Now those groups seem to have dissipated and are quiet. We have not even seen them in the House this afternoon.

It is great to see that this legislation is put forward to tidy up some of the problems we have across the state. That is what this bill seeks to do. This is an omnibus bill. The first part of the bill seeks to retrospectively validate more than 800 mining tenures across Queensland, allowing them to operate with their instrument of lease and basically rectifying some of the issues they have had in those leasing documents dating back from the 1980s until now. It is good to see the leases will be sorted out. This legislation will ensure that those 900 mining leases or tenures are able to continue to operate in Queensland and support the mining industry.

The last part of the bill amends the water restriction, compliance and enforcement framework to ensure water restrictions can be equitably investigated and enforced across the south-east part of Queensland. This does not have a lot to do with water allocations and that sort of thing in North Queensland, but while I have an opportunity to speak on water I will. We need to make sure that our agricultural businesses have an opportunity to expand into the future. The way you do that is to make sure that good legislation and good planning is done across the state when it comes to putting in new infrastructure. Projects like the North Johnson Transfer in the Hill electorate need to go ahead. Weirs along the Stone and Herbert rivers need to continue. The Hinchinbrook Shire Council is putting documents together at the moment which will hopefully help unlock opportunities in the future.

While I am on my feet, the largest water infrastructure project that will ever be built in Queensland is the Hells Gates Dam project, and at the moment we have some problems with that. The KAP has some issues with the planning and engineering parameters that have been put around this dam from

the federal government. Unfortunately, we have had Townsville Enterprise lumped with the baby. They have to go through the process now of working with the engineering consultants to make sure this project is delivered within those parameters. Unfortunately, they have not talked to good people like Sir Leo Hielscher, the architect of Queensland's economy, who served up to 10 premiers.

If they build this dam wall at the height they plan to at the moment, they will never send the water west. The water will never be intended to go west, and all of a sudden you will kill off that project and the opportunity to irrigate the black soil country in the midwest which it was always intended to do. We will continue to work with the people at Townsville Enterprise and lobby the federal government to ensure some of the engineering parameters can be changed.

We will also be talking to the state government. We have the Minister for Water across the chamber from us. We want to continue to work to try to rectify this, because you only get to build these types of projects once in a lifetime and we want to do them right. There is nothing worse than just building something for the sake of building something. We have seen how that can play out. Like I said, there is legislation before the House today to rectify problems that have come about by not listening to everybody before going ahead with some of the legislation or, in this case, the planning that has to be done.

I want to make a point about the repeal of the Personalised Transport Ombudsman Act 2019. That is the second part of the bill, and that is the part I would really like to drill down on. This component of the bill entirely repeals the establishment of the Personalised Transport Ombudsman in Queensland. This is an ombudsman set up in legislation that was not thought out in the first place. It may have been thought out, but it could have done a lot more. In actual fact, it did nothing. It cost the state \$428,000—nearly half a million dollars—that could have been spent on roads, schools and all sorts of things, but it went to setting up this office that never eventuated in an ombudsman who was actually able to do much.

My understanding is that this ombudsman was set up in the first place to take complaints about rideshare companies having dirty vehicles or the conditions of rideshare drivers and the things they have to deal with in their workplace. Once again, it was never set up. The intention was that, if there were other ombudsmen out there that could take on the work to ensure it could be sorted out before getting to the Personalised Transport Ombudsman, it would be sorted out that way. So, once again, it was not only a toothless tiger but also a lost opportunity.

This ombudsman could have been set up to protect those who purchased taxi licences in good faith across Queensland. Mum-and-dad investors who invested in taxi licences across Queensland could have been protected by the Personalised Transport Ombudsman if it was set up correctly from the start. These people bought licences in good faith, and with the introduction of ridesharing in Queensland—and across the whole country, for that matter—the reality is that those people's licences and the money they invested was eroded almost overnight. These people complied with state government legislation and regulation. They purchased licences and made sure they were compliant, and all of a sudden rideshare companies like—I will not mention them for fear of being sued today—but rideshare companies have come in and undercut them and done the wrong thing by those people who invested in good faith. If set up correctly, the ombudsman could have dealt with that.

While I am on my feet I will mention one taxidriver who bought into the state government's scheme by buying a taxi licence in the first place. Seventy-year-old Noel Beitzel from Cairns should be retiring right now, but he bought a taxi licence through a government tenure for \$200,000 plus \$50,000 for the vehicle. That licence had a requirement for wheelchair access and a hoist. Unfortunately, he has applied to have that requirement taken off his taxi licence so he can get rid of that vehicle, because at 70 years of age he has arthritis and he cannot operate the equipment to help people in and out of his taxi anymore. But he is stuck with this licence, he is stuck with the \$200,000 that he would have paid for this licence, and unfortunately he has no opportunity to sell it.

He should right now have the opportunity to sell that licence and retire. That should be his superannuation. That is what most small business owners do. They build their business up, and at some stage in their life they pass it on to someone else. They do it by selling it, and that becomes their retirement fund.

The Personalised Transport Ombudsman has been a toothless tiger. It was never set up correctly from the start. The KAP will support that part of the bill through the House because it should never have been set up that way in the first place. It was a missed opportunity.



Mr LAST (Burdekin—LNP) (4.46 pm): I rise to contribute to the Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This is a bill that the LNP will support because it is about surety for business, and that means surety for jobs, especially in regional Queensland. There is now an additional reason for the

LNP to support this bill: it is effectively a first for Queensland that a government, through legislation introduced to this House, admits they were wrong. This bill in fact will record for the history books the incompetence and ignorance of this Palaszczuk Labor government.

I remember the Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill very well because when it was debated in this House I was the shadow minister for natural resources and mines. It was a bill that was shrouded in mistruths from the get-go. The then minister, Anthony Lynham, accused the LNP of not supporting the bill because LNP members of the committee who reviewed the bill found shortcomings and, as they should, they brought those shortcomings to the attention of this House. As this bill proves, the biggest mistruth was the belief of this government that somehow senior figures in the mining industry would become employees with the stroke of the minister's pen. That might be well and good in communist China or Russia, but it does not work in Queensland where people have rights that cannot be wiped away due to the misguided beliefs of this government.

I met with statutory officers. I met with several SSEs and mine managers when that bill was first brought before this House. They expressed to me their dismay with what that bill implied and how it would work in reality out there in the minefields, particularly in my patch in the Isaac. They could not believe that this government proceeded with that bill in this parliament and that it was subsequently passed. Yet we here we are today, *deja vu*, having to come back to this place and move an extension of 12 months to try to get it right.

The errors that this bill addressed, and the fact that this minister has left it to the last minute to introduce amendments, illustrate the shortcomings of this particular bill. Despite the warnings from the people directly affected, this government pushed ahead with what is now confirmed as bad legislation. This is nothing new for this government. In recent years, we have seen plenty of examples of this government failing the natural resources sector and the communities that support them. If the minister were serious about actually fixing the current government's appalling track record in this space, this omnibus bill would be two or even three times its current size.

Take, for example, the Resources Community Infrastructure Fund—who could forget that?—which was introduced by the former member for South Brisbane. More than a year after it was announced, nothing concrete has been delivered. Couldn't we do with that money out in my neck of the woods in the Isaac? Couldn't we do with that money to fix some of the roads and some of the issues in our schools and hospitals in the Isaac region? It is the same thing we see in this bill. Instead of listening to the people on the ground in those communities, we have a committee headed up by a former Labor mayor. We have seen the fiasco of the unannounced inspections that are actually announced and findings from incidents like the Goonyella mine fire that are still sitting on the minister's desk.

While the new Minister for Resources should be congratulated for finally admitting his government's failures, this failure did not happen without warning. As the QRC CEO, Ian Macfarlane, said—

Too frequently there has been no proper regulatory assessment of policy proposals that impose a regulatory burden on industry.

As I said earlier, the LNP will be supporting this bill. We support a bill that actually provides certainty for the resources sector, but we note the continued Labor themes of a lack of consultation and errors like including the abolition of an ombudsman who no longer existed. We note that again Labor has been forced into amending legislation, this time by the Land Court.

There is a lot at stake when it comes to industrial manslaughter. We have seen a number of fatalities in the resource sector in recent years. A number of those fatalities are still under investigation that may very well result in criminal charges being preferred against people employed by the mining companies or employed by the labour hire companies. This is serious for the families and friends of the deceased persons, and it is serious for the future of the industry going forward.

We note that this bill cements in legislation the failures of this government. For the sake of all Queenslanders, we hope that this is the first step of many that need to be taken to fix the flawed legislation that they have pushed through this parliament in the past six years.



Mr POWER (Logan—ALP) (4.52 pm): I rise to speak to support the mining and resources industries in our state by supporting the Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. Labor have always—and the minister and Premier especially—supported the mining industry by ensuring we have strong, stable regulation that has wide community support and provides a strong platform for investment in our mining and resources sector. The bill will ensure the continued effectiveness of key regulatory frameworks by amending the Mineral Resources Act 1989 and the Petroleum Act 1923 to

provide certainty to industry and community stakeholders by ensuring the validity of specified historically granted tenures and the standing of existing applications. As has been said by both sides, this is about providing certainty for the resources sector. It certainly shows the government's commitment to the mining industry.

The bill is an omnibus bill that makes minor changes to a number of bills. I noticed that a number of LNP speakers, especially the member for Gregory, criticised this fairly standard process. He, however, did not note that the process of putting forward an omnibus bill was used over 70 times during the Newman government. The hypocrisy there is writ large, and it is really disappointing to see such silly time wasting of this House in putting such arguments.

We hear lots of distracting noise from the opposition about resources and mining, but we do not hear them say much about the facts about the resources industry and mining. I am proud that I and my children are descended from miners on both sides. We know that mining jobs helped our families. We back miners, mining families and mining communities. We back new projects and safe work. We back miners by backing their mining unions that work to create well-paid jobs with good conditions. We are proud of the strong families and communities that our mining and resources sector generates.

Labor recognises that our minerals and resources sector is really diverse. From anthracite to zinc, we mine a diverse range across our great state. We are mining the energy of today and the minerals of the future. Let us not forget that resources provide a vital source of revenue for government, funding important public services and infrastructure such as our hospitals, roads and schools. When it comes to resources projects, we back projects as long as they stack up financially, environmentally and socially. Our position has not changed and it applies to all of Queensland's resources. As the minister has said, this standard is not new and it is the same standard we apply to every resources project in this state. This provides certainty and consistency for miners and the communities impacted by mining operations.

We heard in this House this morning the great work that is in place for further exploration, new exploration and new projects for the jobs of the future. This includes the New Economy Minerals Initiative that is driving exploration for minerals that are vital for the transition to renewable energy backed by energy storage and of course the further expansion into the hydrogen economy. The latest data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics indicates that the private sector invested \$705 million in exploration in Queensland over the 12 months to March 2021. That was an increase of 22 per cent over the same period a year earlier. It comes at a time when most states and territories are experiencing significant falls in exploration expenditure.

The member for Toowoomba North misled the House I think when he talked down our mining industry when he completely wrongly described it as a sovereign risk. He joined the Greens party in attacking our mining industry and mining investment. Fortunately, the real investment figures show that the member for Toowoomba North is completely wrong. We know that the LNP and the Greens joined together to elect the member for South Brisbane. It was their preferences that elected that member because they are willing to play politics by undermining our mining industry. Politics comes first, while the jobs of miners, the projects and the investment comes second for the LNP. It is always politics that comes first.


We should also not forget that, unlike so many mining regions throughout the world, in this state we have kept Queenslanders safe from COVID-19. This has meant workers have kept working, mines have kept producing and revenues for schools, hospitals and roads have kept flowing for Queenslanders. Unfortunately, the LNP had a different policy. If they had been in power, they would have opened the borders and that would have shut down the mines. They have played politics first with the pandemic, and they have put workers' livelihoods at risk. In fact they put workers last.

I want to commend the minister, the department, mining companies, their unions and especially the workers for keeping their industry, their fellow workers and their families safe with COVID-safe plans. This is what has kept this industry so strong through this period. It can often be forgotten—as the LNP plays politics with these issues, suggesting 64 times that we open the borders and expose us to New South Wales—that regulation—

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr POWER: This is what we are debating here. Regulation to do with our mining sector is vital and important. Consistency—in terms of investment purposes and how we keep our mining workforce healthy—is so important to this very important industry.

This government backs our mining and resources industry. It keeps workers safe. This bill ensures that we continue to have that consistency of investment with the knowledge that the industry know they are backed by this government. I endorse the bill to continue to keep our Queensland resources and mining sector strong. I urge all to support the bill.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (4.59 pm): I will speak briefly about different elements of the bill until I turn to the part that deals with the Personalised Transport Ombudsman. I support those comments made by the member for Hinchinbrook when he made the observation that people have fallen back in love with coalmining after it was the enemy throughout a period of ideological fervour. Now after the COVID experience people seem to have softened their dislike of the industry knowing the role it plays in the economy, which many of us from regional areas knew intuitively all along. In conversations I have had with mines that have made it through the process of new leases, the nature of their comments has been, 'We don't want to make much noise because we've got it through now. But crikey, I pity anyone who wants to go through the process we just went through.' It is very, very difficult.

To be fair to this government, the layers and layers probably came about when previous governments had their two bob's worth about the processes of getting mines up and going. A significant part of that is certainly needed, but I would say that a lot more is needed than what is being done in this bill to make the process fair and equitable at the front end so that we can ensure there is a mining industry in the future.

In the North West Minerals Province there is over \$600 billion worth of minerals still left in the ground. That does not mean it will be mined because continuity of the operations there now is needed as well as the new ones coming on board. We do not have a great deal coming on board at the moment unless the process can be amended so it is not too onerous. I issue that word of warning to this House that we need measures to unlock that. CopperString is one of the things that is needed to ensure there is continuity in the leases into the future.

On the subject of water, again as was quite rightly pointed out by the member for Hinchinbrook, restrictions and compliance are interesting words to apply to someone who lives in North Queensland where we have the biggest volumes of water but hardly any storage at all. Even in Mount Isa we can talk about restrictions and compliance, but the cost of water has priced us out of being able to use it. People there live in a town that can be a dust bowl but has two massive dams that will still be at 80 per cent capacity in dry periods. However, they do not touch that water because it costs too much. That comes back to providing an artificial scarcity and manipulation of the prices. It is an interesting point to make.

On a bigger scale at a higher level we see big projects like Hells Gates Dam being downsized. We see that dam has been hijacked and derailed to turn it into a smaller version of what it should be. What is now going to be built is something that no-one pushing the project ever intended it to be, which is a small-scale, localised dam for that region, not an enabler to push water west of the Great Divide into the midwest plains and other areas. A lot more needs to be done in that space.

In the remainder of my speech I want to concentrate on the Personalised Transport Ombudsman, which has been a complete waste of taxpayers' money—\$429,000. I assume this was done in part to appease people and all that tension when rideshare was allowed. In fact, rideshare operators were already operating. They treated the government with absolute contempt, saying—and it is in *Hansard*—'Yes, we understand we're operating illegally in Queensland, but you just need to catch up with the times.' As a person who spends a lot of time down here to legislate for the state, I was completely insulted by that. However, that was a big enough corporation that was not scared of taking the government to court if it had to. He said, 'We're too big and ugly for you as a government. We don't really care what you say and we don't really care about your laws. You had better move with the times and work with us.' The government rolled over for them.

Now there are deficiencies in the provision of disabled transport. Previously there was a mandate on the taxi industry that about 20 per cent of their fleet had to be disabled compliant. Obviously the unregulated rideshare operators do not need to comply with that, so it is not there now. We have heard firsthand accounts from people who have come to us and said that service times are longer or the service does not even exist now when it comes to wheelchair or disabled appropriate transport. It is a real shame that that has happened. There is no real accountability for that other than this bill coming before the parliament now and giving us an opportunity to highlight that, the cost of that legislation and the negligence involved.

When the government presented this to parliament the first time they would have said, 'Don't worry, we will have an ombudsman in place. We know there will be disruption in the industry.' It is the understatement of the decade to say there would be disruption in the industry; the government threw a nuclear bomb into the industry and then put an ombudsman in place. Now it says that the ombudsman did not receive any complaints or it was ineffectual. Doesn't that tell the story? Logic would have it that, if the government is going to throw a nuclear bomb into an industry and the ombudsman proves ineffective, that proves it was a waste of time in the first place. Perhaps it was just a charade or a smokescreen to try to show that it cared. The cost has been very big and very personal.

In the process of that original debate, they would have said, 'Taxidriviers are all rich people who own these things. Why should they have it all their way?' This is the sort of person who would need the use of the ombudsman, and I will talk now about Jeanette and Alex Black from Cairns. This letter states—

Jeanette (64yo) and her husband Alex (73yo) own a taxi licence in Cairns. Alex bought the licence 45 years ago ...

Six years ago Alex had a stroke and was in hospital for three months. After rehabilitation he was able to work again and returned to work as a pilot escort ... he then had three ... mini-strokes ...

At this same time, ridesharing entered the Queensland market.

Two years ago Alex had a significant stroke ... rendered him paralysed ... cannot swallow or feed himself. After two months in hospital the direction was given that Alex needed to move to an aged care home.

Jeanette—

who was still left with the taxi—

secured a bed at the Edmonton Gardens Aged Care Home, at a cost of \$3,000 per month. The pension goes nowhere near to covering that cost.

When Covid-19 hit ... Jeanette received a message from the lessee ... to say they could no longer pay anything for the lease. Then in May 2020, Jeanette lost her job of 17 years due to the COVID-19 lockdowns.

... Jeanette had no income and for the first time in her life had to apply for social security.

This is the face of the people affected by these changes who would normally access something like an ombudsman. Jeanette has since secured some casual work in the aged-care home to try to support the family. These are the sorts of people who had good faith in the government when they said they would have their back and, if they were then displaced of the wealth they had created over their lifetime, there would be compensation.

I understand that last month the Supreme Court directed the Queensland government to mediate in good faith with these taxidriviers to try to resolve this compensation issue because \$20,000 that they were eligible for per licence up to a maximum of not much beyond that falls hopelessly short of what these licences are worth. It astonishes me that there is such a high level of neglect of all these battlers who have invested in this industry and have complied with government regulation for so many years in good faith. We had an ombudsman in place, which was like the scraps that were thrown to them when the legislation was passed, and now the government is pulling it out. It should be pulled out; it was useless; it was a waste of money—\$429,000. Isn't it a shame that it was not used effectively?

It does fall back on the government and the minister to make sure that person or whoever was in that role functioned effectively, looked after people like Jeanette and Alex Black and guided them through that difficult period. What a dreadful waste of people's time and money that was. Perhaps it was deliberate in order to mislead people into thinking they cared about these taxidriviers who were displaced of their income and, in many cases, their lifelong savings.



Mr MICKELBERG (Buderim—LNP) (5.08 pm): I rise to address the Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. Specifically, I would like to address the minister's comments concerning the extension of transitional arrangements for statutory position holders and the requirement that they would be employed directly by mining entities rather than as individual contractors.

The original provisions contained in the bill we debated in May last year would have come into effect on 25 November, hence the hastily moved amendment to this bill. To be frank, it seems a bit like Groundhog Day. In May last year we were debating provisions which required statutory position holders, like SSEs, to be direct employees of mines as opposed to contractors. It was a move driven by the government's union masters in the AWU and the CFMMEU. It was a move that contained no industry consultation—it was hastily drafted—and it was a move that was always destined to fail. It was a move that was an attack on small and family businesses. It was a move that was an attack on SSEs—

contractors who were happily making a living in a safe and consistent way. It was a move that the then minister, Anthony Lynham, decided to progress to appease his union masters. At that time, in May last year, I said in relation to the approach of the former minister—

What we should have seen from the man who supposedly cares about mineworkers is genuine engagement with all stakeholders, not just his CFMMEU masters. Perhaps if Minister Lynham did his job properly, he would not have had to come in here today to bring in hastily drafted amendments which apply a sunset clause to the requirement for statutory position holders, specifically SSEs, to be direct employees of mine operators.

It turns out that sunset clause did not work anyway. At that time I also observed that, in relation to the issue of statutory position holders and SSEs being direct employees of mine operators, the chair of the QRC, Ian Macfarlane, said—

We cannot support the bill its entirety with the current provisions on SSEs.

The QRC also said that those specific provisions ‘run the risk of diminishing safety by undermining the culture necessary to prioritise safety’. All we saw at that time were amendments that applied a sunset clause to the issue. They did not address the substantive issue and they were driven by a desire by the AWU and the CFMMEU to boost their membership. At the time, I observed that the QRC and the CFMMEU were silent on the fact that that amendment would not achieve the issues that the QRC had identified were of considerable concern such that they would not support the bill, yet we heard nothing when those amendments were brought in here from the QRC or from the union masters. Now here we are, 18 months down the road, dealing with the issue again. I contend that the amendment before the House today will also not resolve the issue, but at least we have a new minister for mines who has come in here to try to at least buy some time so the issue can be resolved better than it is now.

Why did the government try to slide through these provisions when there was no evidence to support the fact that they would improve mine safety? They were provisions which flew in the face of industrial relations law and unnecessarily restricted the rights and freedoms of small business owners, of contractors just trying to earn a living to provide for their families. They should be the people that those opposite are fighting for, not trying to shut down. Unfortunately, we often hear hollow rhetoric that is not backed up with actions. This is just the latest tangible example. I clarify that my comments are directed at the former minister, not the current minister who is trying to rectify the former minister’s failings.

This is just the latest tangible example of how Labor’s love affair with the unions hurts ordinary Queenslanders. I call on the minister to have a serious look at this issue. I contend—as do submissions from stakeholders when the previous committee looked at the previous bill, which this bill seeks to amend—that this issue would not help mine safety or resolve the issue. It would only result in unnecessary disadvantage to small businesses, family businesses and independent contractors. It is a move designed to appease the unions. It is move that I encourage the new minister to have a look. He should consider that there is no benefit to mine safety from the proposed amendment and it should be struck away in a future amendment, when we return to the House in the future.

Were this to come into effect on 25 November without this amendment, all we would see would be unemployed SSEs, unemployed statutory office bearers, because they are not prepared to move across and be employed by certain entities. The consequence is that those same mining entities cannot get qualified people to fill those positions. It actually puts in jeopardy Queensland’s mining industry; it does not enhance it. It certainly does not enhance mine safety.

I ask the minister to look at this with a fresh set of eyes. The previous minister was not prepared to. He demonstrated that he was arrogant on this issue and was more prepared to listen to his union masters than those who had worked in the industry for the better part of 40 or 50 years. I know that the new minister is better than that, so I ask him to look at it with a fresh set of eyes so that we can come to a better outcome.



Mr BERKMAN (Maiwar—Grn) (5.14 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. Earlier today, the resources minister began his ministerial statement by saying that exploration is a lot like being a member of parliament. As much as members on both sides of this House love to don a high-vis vest and pose for a photo in front of a coalmine, at first I thought it was a stretch—but maybe it is not. After all, if you work in exploration, you go to work to make more money for the mining industry. If you are an MP in this place—at least one from the major parties—apparently you also go to work to make more money for the mining industry. That is what this bill is about: ensuring the financial future for some of Labor’s biggest donors after they did a bit of an ‘oopsie’ and forgot to issue their mining tenure properly.

First we have the mining amendments. The bill will retrospectively validate mining leases granted between 1989 and 2010 with potential 'administrative deficiencies' relating to the requirement for a hard copy lease to be issued. It turns out there have been 993 mining leases issued improperly, including 86 coalmining leases. Whoops! Surely in this context, the calls made by a number of submitters on this bill to make tenure instruments for resource activities publicly available in Queensland seem pretty reasonable.

As the Queensland Conservation Society said in its submission, this bill really exposes the systemic issues with this government's administration of mining and petroleum leases and the special, lax treatment they get. I hope the department's promise to discuss this with stakeholders such as the Environmental Defenders Office, Lock the Gate and the Wilderness Society is more than placation and they will not just be brushed off in the future.

One of the leases covered by this bill is the New Acland thermal coal mine. Many members will know that before I was elected I represented the farmers fighting the expansion of this mine for Acland stage 3. That expansion would trash some of Queensland's best agricultural land and ruin precious groundwater resources in that region.

Mr Millar: Rubbish.

Mr BERKMAN: Rubbish? Extraordinary! So they are going to continue with open-cut coalmining and it will have no impact on the agricultural land they are digging into or on the groundwater? Unbelievable! We have to see this technology!

Anyway, it would trash the agricultural land and groundwater resources in that region. As always, the fossil fuel lobby has been working overtime to keep dirty coal on life support, ramping up political pressure to the point that the government admits, in effect, that it wrote this bill after noticing it threatened the legal operation of Acland under that mining lease.

Even without expansion, this mine was already investigated for potential environmental breaches, and the coal it has produced has helped drive us closer to the precipice of runaway climate change. The major parties say that they finally accept the science that the climate crisis is happening now and it is caused by humans, but still they cannot bring themselves to admit that fossil fuels, coal and gas are the drivers. The International Energy Agency can. They say that if we want to reach net zero by 2050—Labor's pretty weak, put-it-off-for-now target—there can be no new coal or gas, yet Labor continues to brag about approving 18 new coalmines last term and opening up Queensland for yet more fracking.

This bill lets them keep those mines open and continue approving new gas projects, including in highly sensitive areas like the flood plains of the Cooper Creek and Lake Eyre Basin Channel Country. It provides for gas production leases made under the 1923 Petroleum Act to continue beyond their expiry if a renewal application was already made but not yet decided. Apparently, the department has already been doing this unlawfully for years. Apparently, it is time to formalise the special deals for organisations such as Blue Energy and Origin that have already failed to comply with their works plan but will be given free rein to keep expanding their fracking projects.

This bill also allows gas authorities to prospect to continue in force if their applications for production leases remain undecided on 1 November 2021. This is relevant because under current laws at least six authorities to prospect and their 16 production lease applications under the old Petroleum Act would expire on 1 November this year—and so they should.

The Greens will be voting against the amendments to the Petroleum Act 1923 in part 3 because we do not believe there should be any new gas leases granted or renewed. Despite the greenwashing attempts by both major parties and their big donors like Santos, gas is not clean. When we take into account the fugitive methane emissions that are even more potent greenhouse gases than carbon dioxide, it is potentially just as, if not more, dangerous for our climate than thermal coal. Fundamentally, gas is a fossil fuel and it has no place in our future energy mix or economy. In a state with an abundance of renewable resources, as the government readily admits and trumpets almost daily in here, we do not need it.

We will be supporting the amendments in the bill to give Urban Utilities and Unitywater investigation, monitoring and enforcement powers to implement water restrictions in their service areas. We will also be supporting the changes to ensure water service providers do not have to publish highly sensitive cybersecurity information and reporting metrics. Because there is no distinction between coal and other mining in the bill's retrospective amendments to the Mineral Resources Act, we will support that fix-up of the government's historical mistakes.


As we have said many times before, there is great potential in Queensland to continue and even expand mining of the minerals we need for a clean economy like cobalt, copper and lithium, but we do not need new thermal coal. With green steel already a reality, it is likely we will not need metallurgical coal soon either. This government should rule out any new thermal coalmine approvals and immediately get to work on a jobs and retraining plan to transition away from coal and gas in exports as well as energy. I think Lock the Gate put it well in its submission when it said—

... the Queensland Government frequently says it cannot make any environmental laws retrospective under any circumstances, and weakened the mine rehabilitation laws in 2018 on that basis, however it appears to have no such qualms providing retrospective law changes that favour mining and gas companies. This double standard is very stark in relation to this Bill.

The Queensland Resources Council and the gas lobby even wanted to strengthen their guarantee to keep exploiting our resources for a pittance while Labor continues to refuse to raise royalties and make them pay Queenslanders a fair share. They wanted the bill amended to say that the minister is required to grant the petroleum lease applications on extended authorities to prospect rather than just that they may. You almost have to laugh at the arrogance of that organisation and the request it is making, but that is what you get when an industry is effectively given free rein in Queensland in exchange for the millions in political donations it gives. The secret deals, special legislation and public bailouts for greedy coal and gas companies continues, and this bill is no exception.

Despite the fact that it has already been dealt with, I will touch briefly on the Personalised Transport Ombudsman repeal. I met recently with a couple of constituents of mine, Salvatore Vizzi and John Callus. Salvatore is a 95-year-old licence holder. He laid bare for me just how damaging the change to the gig economy has been for him. I want to take the opportunity to expressly ask the transport minister to show up—to front up—for the court ordered mediation that is taking place, I believe, at the beginning of next month. It is so important that someone with authority to really negotiate on behalf of the department is there for that mediation and I am calling explicitly on the minister to do that and to be there.

I cannot sit down without taking the opportunity to respond to the member for Greenslopes and his contribution. It had nothing to do with the bill. It was a fantastic little window into the fantasy land that is the member for Greenslopes's recollection of election day. Although the government does not seem willing to do the right thing by renters in Queensland—and we will see that later this week—at least the Queensland Greens know that we are living rent free in his head.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (5.23 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to the Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. It is interesting when the Greens and the Labor Party have a little squabble across the chamber—a little lovers tiff, you could say—because the vast majority on the other side certainly do rely on Greens preferences to survive in this place. No matter how often they say that they do not, they do.

Mr Nicholls: They always go back to them.

Mr BOOTHMAN: They always go back to them. Around election time they always kiss and make up and they are all best friends again. This bill is an omnibus bill which amends five separate acts across three portfolios—resources, transport and water—fixing multiple issues. Over the years I have seen plenty of these types of bills come through the House which fix mistakes that should never have been made in the first place. I am sure that every member here, apart from certain individuals, believe that the mining industry should be a strong and powerful industry in this state because it creates so much employment.

The other day I was talking to Terry, who stopped at one of my roadsides. We were having a bit of a chat about his job in the mining industry. He was very concerned about the recent attendance at a mine in his region—I believe it was Collinsville—where the federal opposition leader turned up and there was no media. It was like it was a very secret meeting and they did not want to upset the Greens because we have a federal election coming up. As Terry said, it is very appropriate for Anthony Albanese to be called 'Each-Way Albo': when he is in Melbourne in Victoria he says one thing, yet when he comes to Queensland he says something completely different.

This legislation shows the importance of mining in this state. Fixing minor issues relating to the administrative deficiencies of about 900 mines is certainly welcomed because, as I said, the industry is very important. People like Terry and the many others in my electorate need certainty. He is a fly-in fly-out worker while his family lives on the Gold Coast and he needs certainty going forward.

I turn now to rideshare and the Personalised Transport Ombudsman. On the weekend John Crane, who is an Uber driver, stopped to have a chat to me about the current situation facing Uber drivers. Given that the Gold Coast is the tourism capital of Australia, it is certainly a worrying time for

them. I refer to page 25 of the committee report which highlights the significant impact this has had on the industry and how bookings have declined during this time. He would be horrified if he knew that half a million dollars was wasted on the Personalised Transport Ombudsman—a completely toothless tiger. He would be absolutely shocked, as would Raj, a taxidriver who also stopped on Sunday for a chat. That half a million dollars would have been better served as compensation for the industry.

Jo Hubner, a taxi owner and a good CWA lady, and her company have been struggling ever since the deregulation of the taxi industry. They bought their taxi licence for a small fortune and these days that taxi licence is, as she said, almost worthless and is not worth the paper it is printed on. As she said, her family is struggling. That half a million dollars would have gone some way to help this struggling industry. They are asking for the government to be a lot more prudent with the ways it is spending money. This is taxpayers' money. This is money coming through vehicle registration and payroll tax. That money could have been spent more wisely to help and assist those individuals, especially during the time of COVID.

Debate, on motion of Mr Boothman, adjourned.

LEAVE TO MOVE MOTION



Mr KATTER (Traeger—KAP) (5.29 pm): I seek leave to move a motion without notice.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

AYES, 37:

LNP, 32—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Camm, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, 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, 49—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, Linard, Lui, Madden, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

Pairs: S. King, McDonald; Lauga, Crandon.

Resolved in the negative.

YOUTH JUSTICE (MONITORING DEVICE CONDITIONS) AMENDMENT REGULATION

Disallowance of Statutory Instrument



Mr BERKMAN (Maiwar—Grn) (5.35 pm): I move—

That the Youth Justice (Monitoring Device Conditions) Amendment Regulation 2021, Subordinate Legislation No. 43 of 2021, tabled in the House on 25 May 2021, be disallowed.

This regulation prescribes the geographical areas where a court can order the use of a GPS tracker as a condition of bail and other conditions to facilitate the tracker on some 16- and 17-year-old kids. This was only made possible with the passage of the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. Not only was this trial of GPS trackers for 16- and 17-year-old kids always a baseless, politically motivated attack on some of the most vulnerable kids in Queensland, but it has been an absolute failure even by the government's own measures.

I am moving this motion to give the Labor government an opportunity to scrap its failed experiment while we have the chance. Like the rest of the youth justice reforms that accompanied this regulation-making power, these trackers were an ill-considered thought bubble from a cowardly and cornered government desperate for a favourable *Courier-Mail* headline about their cracking down on a confected youth crime epidemic. It was a bone they threw to the LNP hoping to stall their demands to lock up more children for as long as possible. Surely the fever dream has now subsided and the government can see how ridiculous and inhumane it was to suggest we slap an ankle bracelet on children still young enough to be in school. If not, perhaps a trip down memory lane will help.

Just a couple of years ago the former minister for youth justice explained why it would not be appropriate to impose electronic monitoring as a bail condition on children. The former minister said—

There are a number of practical and human rights concerns relating to imposing conditions of this type on children. For example, a child that wears a tracking device may be stigmatised and isolated by their peers or community, reducing their prospects of rehabilitation.

Indeed, the government's explanatory notes to its own bill that year said that monitors were—

... likely to be counterproductive to attempts to reintegrate a child into activities such as school, sport or employment.

...

The use of electronic tracking devices on young people is unlikely to be particularly effective at deterring them from breaching their bail conditions.

There is a risk that the use of electronic tracking would result in more breaches of bail conditions coming to the attention of police, including minor breaches, with the consequence that more young people are returned to or placed in custody.

For those who have forgotten former police commissioner Bob Atkinson's report on youth justice or the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child or the government's own youth justice strategy, I will give a quick reminder on their common theme: we are meant to avoid locking children in prison as far as we possibly can. That is why the Atkinson report suggested the government could consider electronic monitoring as an alternative to or the equivalent of detention, not as a bail condition. We are still waiting for the minister to correct the record from when he stood up in this place to introduce the youth justice reforms this year and said that these trackers were recommended by Bob Atkinson.

In fact, there is absolutely zero credible evidence to support the use of these devices on kids. There never was. The government cited one study from New Zealand, but it was kind of like the uni student who throws together their assignment off the top of their head and then combs through Google for corroborating sources to put on the reference list. They did not really seem to care what the study actually said. If they did they would know that it actually compared reoffending rates for offenders detained at home with electronic monitoring versus those who were in prison and surprise, surprise, those who were locked up were more likely to reoffend, consistent with all the rest of the evidence.

Although the impact of incarceration on reoffending is an important point, and one I would love honourable members to acknowledge directly, it is not relevant to an argument about whether or not you should slap a GPS tracker on a 16-year-old kid. No, there was never any evidence that these GPS monitors would reduce reoffending, but there was clear evidence they would contravene our human rights obligations to children, that they would increase stigma, prompt racial violence and vigilantism and reduce young people's ability to engage with education, employment and support services.

Countless experts and service providers told us that GPS devices for children could just be another pathway into the criminal justice system instead of an avenue out. They also warned us that children would be less able to comply with conditions due to their lower levels of maturity and cognitive development. The prefrontal cortex which allows us to consider the consequences of our actions is still gradually developing from the ages of 10 to 17 and is not fully developed until children reach the age of 25. At 16 and 17 these kids' amygdala, which thrives on risky and thrillseeking behaviour, is operating at full speed. It is like having a fully functional accelerator but no brakes. Without labouring the metaphor, that is why teenagers tend to commit offences that are often episodic, unplanned and opportunistic, just like jumping in a stolen car.

The Youth Advocacy Centre said that if kids decide to brave school with one of those trackers they could face an increased likelihood of being suspended, which we know from the Atkinson report contributes to aggravated antisocial behaviour and an increased likelihood of involvement with juvenile justice systems. Similarly, the Queensland Family and Children Commission's recent report on youth justice identified disengagement from school as a huge problem, exacerbated by unusually high numbers of exclusions in Queensland.

The Bar Association pointed out that provisions of the Youth Justice Act designed to prevent the public identification of child offenders are potentially undermined by these very visible ankle bracelets. These trackers isolate the wearer by identifying them as someone who does not belong in the classroom with their peers but with other so-called criminals or in prison. It is no wonder that evidence from the UK shows some kids trying to get a monitor on their ankle as a badge of honour or a rite of passage when we are telling them that that is the only world where they truly belong.

I have no doubt that the kids being targeted by this regulation have been sent that message many times before. In Queensland's youth justice system, almost 20 per cent of kids do not have suitable housing, 52 per cent are totally disengaged from education and 58 per cent have a diagnosed or suspected mental health or behavioural disorder. The CREATE Foundation notes that young people

in out-of-home care are 16 times more likely to have contact with the youth justice system. That includes kids like the former young offender who spoke at the hearing on the bill introducing these trackers. She said—

The electronic ankle monitoring device would have further criminalised me as a child. I would have had nowhere to charge it and no way to cover it and avoid the stereotyping and judgement from the general community but, most importantly, nowhere for my bail to be set to.

...

If I had some form of stability in my life, a stable place to live or even a constant person, that would have made a huge difference. If someone just cared about me—and not only between the hours of nine and five Monday to Friday—I think a lot of things that happened would not have and my criminal history would be non-existent.


Many of these kids, especially the ones eligible for GPS monitoring under this regulation, have experienced abuse, disadvantage, poverty and alienation their whole lives. Now they face it from their own government—the people who are meant to be protecting them. As PeakCare executive director and former youth justice worker Lindsay Wegener said about this punitive and dehumanising approach to some of the most vulnerable young offenders—

Kids who have experienced significant trauma or racism are suddenly transformed from people worthy of our compassion and understanding to kid criminals worthy only of our derision.

From the commencement of this regulation to 22 September, there were five attempted and one successful applications to use the new provisions for GPS trackers on 16- and 17-year-olds. We do not have details for the one successful application but all of the attempts up until that point were in relation to Indigenous children, reflecting the shocking overrepresentation of First Nations people in our so-called justice system. The government thought they could wordsmith away the racist nature of these laws by removing the word ‘tracking’ but they cannot sanitise the facts. As my federal Greens colleague Senator Lidia Thorpe predicted about these trackers—and I am using her words—‘the colonial neck braces have now given way to ankle monitors’.

We do know that the first child to receive one of these trackers was just 16 and that their mother was also in contact with the justice system on unrelated charges. It is a familiar story of intergenerational disadvantage, fed by this government’s racist punitive laws. We cannot wait for a two-year trial of these ill-considered and damaging laws. They have already failed. They have failed by the standards of the government who said that they would likely apply to around 100 kids but so far they have been able to convince the court only once. Most importantly, we have failed on the measure of countless human rights experts, criminologists, social workers, medical professionals, Indigenous advocates and more.

The kids in these areas do not deserve to be the government’s guinea pigs. They are not an experiment to hold up for a *Courier-Mail* story. They are children who deserve to be treated with respect and given care, services and support, not an ankle bracelet and a media release.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (5.46 pm): I oppose the disallowance motion. I remind all members, as was mentioned in the second reading speech, about the use of terminology and how certain terminology may be offensive. We have just heard the member for Maiwar using offensive language. First Nations people find the words ‘tracking’ and ‘trackers’ offensive. I will repeat for the House: the member for Maiwar would have heard that during the second reading debate yet he has used those offensive words in this debate right now. But what else would we expect from the Greens? They always go hunting the headline but give no thought at all to the consequences. Let us interrogate what this disallowance motion means.

What does this disallowance motion mean for young people currently fitted and potentially to be fitted with an electronic monitoring device? Without that device those young people may actually end up in custody. In moving this disallowance motion the Greens seek the headline but they do not think through the consequences. The position of the Greens is that they would prefer those young people to be in custody rather than out with strict supervision, with parents and carers and other supports, and engaging in services. That is the position—

Mr Berkman interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Member for Maiwar, cease all interjections, please.

Mr RYAN: The member for Maiwar has moved a disallowance motion that, if successful, would potentially lead to more young people in custody. By moving this disallowance motion they show that the position of the Greens party is more kids in jail. Look at what they do, not what they say. Again, the Greens party is chasing the headline without thinking of the consequences. This is a complex issue.

You cannot chase the simple loud headline without thinking through the consequences. I can give the Greens a headline. If this disallowance motion were successful the headline would be 'The Greens party wants more kids in jail'. That would be the headline.

It is almost like the twilight zone here because we hear LNP members opposite say that they want more kids on electronic monitoring devices. Let us think through the consequence there as well. The consequence would be more kids on electronic monitoring devices and fewer youth offenders in custody.

This is a complex issue and it requires a variety of responses and an integrated system. That is what the government has done in putting in a suite of options which not only support community safety but also support efforts to rehabilitate young offenders. As part of the suite of reforms that was introduced earlier this year, there was a toughening up of bail laws. Those bail laws, we are told by both the department of youth justice and the Queensland Police Service, are having their desired effect. More serious recidivist offenders are being held more accountable for their actions, and that is leading to less offending in the community as a result.


We also saw, as a result of our reforms, the introduction of a trial of electronic monitoring devices—a limited trial, because we want to see how effective it is. We want to make sure that we get it right. We want to do it in a measured way. We want to do it in a way which supports the rehabilitation of young people. We have been very sensible about how we have brought in this trial. We have been very measured. We have ensured that there are significant wraparound services and conditional bail programs and have boosted resources in the department of youth justice and the Queensland Police Service to ensure we have a responsible supervision regime around those young people. In addition, we have had suitability reports to ensure that only in the most appropriate circumstances are those young people subjected to electronic monitoring devices.

It is early days. The trial will be subject to a review by former police commissioner Bob Atkinson, as well as a further review, to make sure it is effective and is delivering the desired outcome, which is enhancing community safety and supporting the rehabilitation of young people. At the end of the day, this government will always take strong action when it comes to protecting the community, to keep the community safe. Young people and adult offenders will be accountable for their actions. This government will always take those steps.

As I said, part of the reforms that we introduced were around tightening bail laws for youth offenders and a reverse presumption. The police have told us that that is having its desired effect. In fact, the police have recently said that there are about 100 extra young people who are in custody today compared to last year as a result of the stricter laws.

We will continue to ensure that our laws are appropriate. We will continue to ensure that there is a strict supervision regime for young people who are released on bail which may, in some instances, include electronic monitoring, and we will also ensure that our youth justice services and our Police Service are adequately resourced to promote community safety and hold young offenders to account.

I will come back to where I started—that is, people need to think through the consequences of what they are proposing. The Greens have proposed something which is irresponsible and will have adverse consequences. They need to look at the consequences rather than shoot for the headline. In this instance, what they are proposing would have an adverse impact on community safety. More importantly for the Greens, it will have the very opposite effect of what they have been saying they are seeking to achieve. I encourage all members to oppose this disallowance motion. It is irresponsible, it does not think through the consequences and it quite clearly puts the headline ahead of community safety and young offenders.

 **Dr MacMAHON** (South Brisbane—Grn) (5.53 pm): I rise this evening to speak in support of the motion to disallow a regulation for 16- and 17-year-old children to be fitted with GPS monitoring bracelets. This evening the government has an opportunity to repeal one of the more egregious elements of our youth justice reforms. In particular, this measure does nothing to support young people or their families and instead creates stigma and isolation. These measures completely overlook the root causes of youth criminalisation.

As we flagged in April, these measures are most likely to target those children who are already marginalised—from families who are living in poverty, who are experiencing violence, who do not have secure housing, who are struggling with food insecurity and who are struggling with mental health issues and substance and alcohol misuse. It is these children who have become scapegoats of the failure of successive Labor and LNP governments to provide the support that these young people need. As Queensland's former public guardian Natalie Siegel-Brown has said—

Nobody in the world has ever imprisoned their way out of crime or GPS-tracked their way out of crime.

We know the majority of kids who have been assessed to be fitted with ankle bracelets have been Indigenous children. Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak, Sisters Inside along with other First Nations advocacy bodies warned that the youth justice reforms passed in April were 'unjustifiably authoritarian, punitive and racist' and would 'exacerbate the existing over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in custody'.

Change the Record said—

The proposed laws will disproportionately impact Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who are already grossly overrepresented in the Queensland criminal legal system—being incarcerated at 28 times the rate of their non-Indigenous peers.

We were warned about this back in April and now we are seeing the results.

The Queensland Human Rights Commission raised significant concerns, indicating that electronic monitoring of children on bail is a serious incursion into the rights of children and families, creating stigma, and would be setting up kids to fail. As we have already heard, in 2019, in introducing the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, the member for Bulimba at that time flagged the human rights implications and said—


The bill ensures that a tracking device cannot be used on a child.

That was just two years ago, and over this time youth crime in Queensland has decreased. So what has changed other than Labor's unrelenting march to the right?

Along with not being effective, GPS trackers run the risk of creating further negative impacts for children already suffering marginalisation. Youth Advocacy Centre has pointed out that ankle bracelets could lead to kids being excluded from school. Surely we should be doing everything we can to keep Queensland kids in school. Keeping kids in school is crucial to reducing their involvement in the youth justice system. That is why the Atkinson report on youth justice specifically recommended reducing exclusions from school and focusing on schools as a site of key early intervention. The report recommended focusing on education and employment for at-risk youth, targeted resources for schools, alternative and flexible school options, and supporting kids coming out of detention to transition back to school. Putting bulky GPS monitors on kids only further paints them as criminals and risks their exclusion from their school, their friends and their broader community, putting them at risk of further criminalisation.

The minister, the member for Morayfield, has said that as a result of repealing GPS trackers more kids would end up in custody. This is absolutely ridiculous and ignores the fact that it is Labor that has introduced reversing the presumption of bail for children. It is Labor that is building more youth detention beds. If the member for Morayfield is so keen on reducing the number of kids in prison, which is well within the capacity of the government to do, I would refer them to the private member's bill introduced by the member for Maiwar to raise the age of criminal responsibility and get more kids out of detention.

In disallowing ankle bracelets, the government now has an opportunity to reassess how we approach youth justice and how we are supporting young people. I have a few other suggestions for how we could be reducing the number of kids in detention. We could be meaningfully investing in social housing to house the 17½ thousand children who are waiting for social housing, ignored by this government. We could be creating real protections for Queensland renting families, ensuring that every Queenslanders and every child has a safe place to call home. We could be funding programs like free school meals which we know improve school attendance, behaviour and engagement. We could be fully funding our state schools rather than leaving them underfunded and struggling. I urge the government to take this opportunity this evening to scrap the regulation putting GPS monitors on children.

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (5.59 pm): I rise to speak against the motion. As the member for Thuringowa, I will never apologise for advocating vigorously for my community. I will never apologise for advocating for community safety. I will never apologise for advocating for strong laws to target those few—that small cohort—who choose to do harm to the community. Yes, I advocated strongly for the suite of youth justice reforms introduced by the government, backed by the LNP, because we needed them. They are the strongest laws in the nation. The presumption against bail is at the heart of those reforms. It is aimed fairly and squarely at recidivist youth offenders. It is aimed at that small group of hardcore offenders who wish to and choose to do harm to the community.

I have regular interactions with Assistant Commissioner Mark Wheeler in Townsville. He tells me that these laws are working. More young people are being held to account. There are more reports in the *Townsville Bulletin* of hardcore recidivist offenders being denied bail because community safety is paramount. There are more serious youth offenders in custody than there were a year ago. I do not

apologise for that. Those people would not be in custody if they had not done harm to the community. Their rights do not rise above the rights of innocent, law-abiding members of the community. The rights of people who choose to break into homes and choose to steal cars are not above the rights of victims. It is victims who come through our office doors and tell us of the terrifying incidents that have happened to them. Community safety is and must remain paramount.

We do not live in a perfect world. In a utopian world no-one would want to see people locked up. I wish all young people grew up in supportive families and went on to live productive, satisfying lives, but unfortunately a small cohort of young people choose to go down the path of recidivist offending. They go down that path and cause great harm to our community. Townsville has been no stranger to that.

I make no apology for the government's targeting of these serious recidivist offenders with the strongest laws in the nation because it is about our community being safe. Let us be very clear about this. The presumption against bail is a key element of the government's reforms. It means more recidivist offenders are being held accountable and placed in custody for longer. One element of the reforms is a trial recommended by former police commissioner Bob Atkinson. That trial is currently underway. The courts may consider fitting a GPS monitoring device to an offender who is 16 or 17 years of age. The court will only make that order if it is satisfied that the offender resides with a responsible adult who will ensure the conditions of the GPS monitoring order are complied with. If the court is not so satisfied, the offender remains in custody because community safety is paramount. That is what is happening.

The guiding principle of the government's reforms is community safety. It overrides other considerations. It must come first. It is important to note that these reforms target that small cohort of serious recidivist offenders. Police say that 80 to 90 per cent of young offenders will have only one or two interactions with police and never reoffend. The offenders the government is targeting are the 10 per cent of offenders who are serious recidivist offenders. This small cohort is responsible for nearly half of all the crime committed by youth offenders.

The government is not forgetting about the vast majority of young people whose lives can be turned around. We have co-responder teams and police and youth justice workers actively going out in the community and engaging with young people in a bid to connect with these young people and give them the support they need to live a productive life. I give a shout-out to the co-responder team in Townsville and acknowledge the work they are doing.

That is not all we are doing. Transition 2 Success is a terrific program turning young people's lives around and getting them back into education, skills or training. It has an over 80 per cent success rate. The kids that go into that program do not reoffend. Eighty per cent is a pretty high mark. The same applies for Project Booyah. It is stopping kids, that small cohort, from getting into the horrible lane where they choose to—

Mr Healy: Great outcomes.

Mr HARPER: I agree with the member for Cairns. Project Booyah is something that should be celebrated. Over 88 per cent of those kids are not reoffending and are getting back into education, skills or training.

In Townsville we have the On Country program, as does Cairns and Mount Isa. Representatives from Gr8motive came before the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee last year and articulated the very good work happening in that space. I commend the minister for the work that is done. We need to provide those supports. We also have Pathways State College. We have the Clontarf Foundation in our schools in Kirwan, Thuringowa and Heatley. We also have the Stars Foundation. The work they are doing is fundamental in making sure those kids get an education. I went to every single one of their graduations last year. Not one media person was there. Forty-eight of those kids picked up employment skills and training. These are the outcomes we want to see.

There is nothing better than hearing these stories. I will tell the story of Cloudy, a young man who was in the wrong group and reoffending. He went through Transition 2 Success. He has absolutely turned his life around. I saw him proudly working on the Townsville stadium. He is now a mentor for the Transition 2 Success pathways program. He is inspiring others to do the right thing, to stay out of the wrong lane and to get back into education, skills or training. They are the supports that are important, but we must hold those serious youth offenders to account. We cannot forget about community safety.

Those serious offenders are being put before the courts. Many do remain in custody. I hope they turn their lives around. I hope they get into the Transition 2 Success program and turn their lives around, but we must make no apologies for holding people to account. Community safety must always come first.



Mr LAST (Burdekin—LNP) (6.07 pm): I rise to speak against the disallowance motion moved by the member for Maiwar. Quite simply, now is not the time to let up on the fight against youth crime. If anything, now is the time to make a difference and ramp it up because, using this government's own figures and responses, we are losing the battle to make our community safe.

According to the Queensland Police Service annual report for 2020-21, youth reoffending has increased to 75 per cent, a 10 per cent increase since 2018 and the highest rate since 2014. Interestingly enough, the Minister for Children and Youth Justice advised that the figures were only available until 2019. That is despite the QPS annual report stating that the measure is currently used by the QPS and the minister's own department. To reduce the options available to police to monitor juvenile offenders when youth reoffending is increasing would be a major step backwards.

Is it any wonder that youth reoffending is on the increase when this government is unwilling or unable to tell our communities the truth when it comes to youth crime. For years now, this government has referred to the role played in tackling youth crime by projects. We just heard from the member for Thuringowa about Project Booyah, but again he is being less than truthful—

Mr HARPER: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the member's statement and I ask him to withdraw.

Mr LAST: I withdraw. Communities like Townsville have been told that this program results in a 50 per cent reduction in offending by Project Booyah participants. Up to half of the participants in that project do not even have a record of offending. To then say that 76 per cent—if you listen to the member for Thuringowa, he is now claiming 88 per cent—of participants have either not reoffended or have dramatically reduced offending patterns defies the test of logic and is another example of the misinformation being peddled by this government. Again, to remove a tool that police use to monitor and reduce crime in these circumstances is something that I cannot support.

It is essential that Queenslanders remember that the use of GPS monitoring devices is a trial—a trial that to date no doubt leaves a lot to be desired. To my knowledge, only one offender has been fitted with a GPS monitoring device in Townsville. To put it bluntly, this Labor government has failed on youth crime again. Again, we have seen media conferences and big words from the police minister and, of course, the three Townsville Labor MPs. Again, it is just words. Let me be very clear that the problems with the GPS monitoring trial do not sit at the feet of the Queensland Police Service; they sit firmly at the feet of this Labor government.

Despite the fact that the biggest cohort of recidivist young offenders are aged 15, they are not eligible for the trial. Despite the fact that several Townsville postcodes are mentioned in the regulation, we find that there are coverage issues in many of those suburbs, so GPS monitoring devices cannot be put on juvenile offenders in some of those areas.

Based on this motion and other legislation he has introduced in this House, it is obvious that the member for Maiwar and I both agree that this government's approach to youth crime is destined for failure. However, our recommendations to this government are very different. I would like to explain why. Every single day my office and I receive calls from victims of crime and, concerningly, those crimes are no longer an opportunistic thief stealing a few dollars or a few small items from an unlocked home.

Mr Harper interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Member for Thuringowa, please cease all interjections.

Mr LAST: It is vital for members of this House to understand the truth when it comes to youth crime before casting their vote on removing a tool, and GPS monitoring device technology is a tool that is available to police—police who are out there day in, day out doing their absolute best to keep our communities safe. In recent weeks we have seen victims threatened with knives. We have seen victims having their own cars driven at them. They have been dragged out of cars and bashed. They have had their cars stolen at knifepoint. They are not petty crimes. These offenders are a danger to the community as a whole.

We have seen police vehicles rammed and pelted with bricks resulting in injuries to police. It is nothing but sheer good luck that none of our police have been seriously injured or even killed. I have even had seasoned police officers expressing to me their fears of driving around the streets of Townsville late at night.

This is a crisis that has become Townsville's worst nightmare. The member for Thuringowa might like to put a positive spin on it and tell this place that it is reducing and that it is under control, but I can assure the House that it is far from that in that community. What concerns me is that this level of crime is becoming the norm. I had a gentleman talk to me on Saturday. He said, 'We only had a dozen cars

stolen on the weekend—only a dozen.’ That is a pretty good result, he thought. That is a concern. It should concern every single member in this place that that level of complacency is now creeping into our community and we are now accepting that as the norm.

People of all backgrounds are victims of crime every day in places like Townsville due to juvenile offenders. The member for Maiwar stands up in this place and talks about human rights, but what about the rights of the victims? What about those people who had their car stolen and are now on foot and left to pick up the pieces because their car has been burnt or driven into the Ross River? What about those people? What about kids being terrorised in their own homes because these young offenders have broken in and stolen the keys to their vehicles and threatened their parents?


The people of Townsville are sick and tired of broken promises when it comes to crime. The promise to trial GPS monitoring technology is one promise that must be kept. Unfortunately for the people of Townsville, Mackay, Cairns and many other centres in Queensland, this government has form when it comes to breaking promises on crime and, once again, has shown its complete contempt for those victims, for parents concerned about the welfare of their children and for small business owners who are constantly dealing with theft and damage to their premises.

Stolen cars travelling in convoy through the streets have led to people stopping at green lights now to make sure there is not a stolen vehicle headed their way. Crime is that common now that it barely makes the front page of the local paper. To add insult to injury, we have those Townsville members standing up in this place trying to tell us that it is under control.

As I have said before, and as a former police officer, I cannot vote in favour of removing one of the few tools available to our police because our police officers are already stretched beyond breaking point. Anecdotal information shows that on 7 October at 9 pm police were tasked to seven code 2 jobs. What does that mean? They are jobs that require an urgent response—lights and sirens. However, there was, according to my information, only enough police to handle the first four incidents. I can tell members of this House that police put on that blue uniform every day in an effort to keep people safe. To have three code 2 jobs outstanding is something that would cut at the very soul of every single police officer, but that failure is not theirs. The failure sits at the feet of this government.

Members would be aware that, when this government introduced the legislation to allow our courts to mandate the fitting of a GPS monitoring device, the LNP supported that legislation. As we have said all along, it was a small step forward following deaths in Brisbane and in Townsville. While we supported the legislation, the implementation of that legislation leaves a lot to be desired. At that time I questioned—and I continue to ask—why this government failed to take decisive action despite the crowds of victims who attended multiple crime forums in Townsville alone. It is a sad fact that, in the year ending 30 June this year, more vehicles were stolen in Queensland than in either New South Wales or Victoria and it was more than five times the other states combined. That is a disgraceful statistic. It is a sad fact that people in Townsville and other centres use the phrase ‘how many more people need to die before the government does something?’

The need for GPS monitoring of juvenile offenders is the direct result of this Labor government’s failures. It is only recently that this government realised the importance of early intervention—something that we have been calling for on this side of the House for years. The fact that I must speak against this disallowance motion is proof that Labor has failed when it comes to keeping Queenslanders safe from crime. It is those failures that have led to the current situation on the streets of Townsville and other centres. It is those failures that mean that people are living in fear. It is those failures that are stretching our police beyond breaking point. It is those failures that mean I cannot support this motion. I call on all members of this House to oppose this motion tonight.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (6.17 pm): I rise to oppose the member for Maiwar’s disallowance motion. This government is committed to protecting our community and holding repeat youth offenders accountable for their actions. That is why the government amended the Youth Justice Act earlier this year to give courts the ability to require the fitting of electronic monitoring devices as a condition of bail for recidivist, high-risk offenders aged 16 years and over.

This 12-month trial of electronic monitoring devices as a bail condition is a key measure to target young and repeat offenders. We know that there is a small number of young offenders who are responsible for the majority of crime, and that is who we are aiming to target in this trial—a particular cohort of youth offenders.

Under the requirements outlined in the act, to be considered suitable, a young person is required to be at least 16 years of age, have committed a serious offence or a prescribed offence, have previously been found guilty of at least one indictable offence, live in a geographical area prescribed by

regulation and appear in a court prescribed by regulation. A young person is required to have the capacity to understand the requirements of being subject to electronic monitoring. They also must have been assessed as being able to comply with the requirements of being subject to electronic monitoring to be deemed suitable for the trial. These requirements are subject to the young person agreeing to comply with the bail conditions and a willingness to follow the lawful instructions of a youth justice officer.

Youth justice officers are responsible for providing advice to the courts about the suitability of fitting an electronic monitoring device and providing support to the young person. Determining the suitability of a young person to be fitted with a device as part of their bail conditions can, and does, take some time. The youth justice officer works with the young person to understand what is involved in the process and goes through the relevant assessment criteria. Youth justice officers also spend a considerable amount of time working with the parents or carers of the young person to ensure they are also aware of any requirements.

I will just come back to this disallowance motion and the purpose of these devices. I am a little bit confused, because the member for Maiwar attended some of the public hearings that I attended as part of the committee process. During the briefings we heard from police that the purpose of these devices is to give courts additional assurances for young people who ordinarily would not receive bail. This is about getting young people who ordinarily would not receive bail out into the community, supervised in a safe way where they can be protected, so that the rights and interests of the community can also be protected.

Mr Berkman interjected.

Ms BUSH: Thank you, member for Maiwar; I do not need your mansplaining about how the criminal justice system works. I have worked long enough in it myself. The Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs has developed tools for speech and language specialists to ensure that each young person and their parents or carers has a clear understanding of the requirements and supports available to them. Further support is also provided by youth justice officers to ensure that a young person is fitted with a device on their mobile phone to enable them to receive phone support and field questions from Queensland Corrective Services officers relating to their monitoring device.

The Youth Justice (Monitoring Device Conditions) Amendment Regulation prescribes the geographical locations of a young person and the geographical locations of the courts that are included in the trial of electronic trialling devices. Beenleigh, Brisbane city, Caboolture, Coolangatta, Pine Rivers, Redcliffe, Southport and Townsville are the geographical locations included in this trial. Having a diverse range of locations is necessary to ensure the effectiveness of these measures can be tested in different parts of Queensland. The trial allows us to build the evidence base around the use of electronic monitoring technology for young people on bail and make informed decisions about whether these measures should be continued. It is critical that the regulation remains in force for this reason.


This government is confident that these strong measures and our approach to youth justice strike an appropriate balance between keeping communities safe and recognising the youth justice principle of custody as a last resort. The number of children committing crime has gone down. Around 90 per cent of youth offenders do not repeatedly offend. As we know, and as we have heard throughout the hearing, the majority of young people have an initial interaction with the criminal justice system and, with the appropriate supports, move out of that. The majority of young people are supported to resume a pro-social life without further intervention from police. But that is not what we are talking about with this: we are talking about repeat offenders who need some additional structures.

The number of young people who commit offences has gone down 30 per cent in the past 10 years. While this is encouraging, the data also shows there is a small number of serious recidivist youth offenders who are causing harm to the community. We heard directly from people, and again the member for Maiwar was present. How we can selectively pick and choose the people that we spoke to in all of those hearings is beyond me. Throughout the committee's inquiry we heard from victims of crime that their lives have been forever impacted. A lot of people are now afraid to leave their homes because of what they have been through, so we know that anything we can do to stop serious recidivist youth offending ought to be done.

I know that many here know my history, but I have worked for a long time with victims of crime, particularly victims of violent crime. While we do not like to believe it is true, regrettably some murders and manslaughters are committed by young people. I have sat in those courtrooms with the families of those people, whose pain is very real and is not lessened any by the age of that young offender. I can

guarantee you one thing: upon sentencing, all of those youth offenders accused and found guilty of murder, manslaughter or grievous bodily harm have a record. They have a record, and we need to do everything and anything we can to make sure that we respond to young people so that they are protected from that future and that future victims are protected.

The recent youth justice reforms do more to target the top 10 per cent of serious repeat young offenders by making sure they do feel the consequences of these actions. The trial of electronic monitoring devices is a key component of the government's commitment to targeting serious repeat offenders and keeping the community safe. It provides the court with another option when determining applications for bail, and for these reasons I oppose this motion.

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (6.25 pm): I rise to contribute to this debate and likewise will not be supporting the member for Maiwar's disallowance motion. As my colleague has already outlined, there is a public expectation in our community around safety. While I note some of the concerns that have been expressed by the member for Maiwar, what is missing is a tangible contribution around ideas that would in fact balance the public good and public safety as well as ensuring that young people are held to a high standing in line with expectations.

It is easy for the Greens to sit in this House and come up with great ideas and big spin about investing in social housing, but in the debate on the previous bill we heard the same party also talk about how we should shut down the mining industry that contributes an enormous amount of revenue to this House. It is just really confusing when ideas are put forward to look at one social policy, yet other ideas are put forward that would take away the funding that supports those ideas. It is quite confusing that a disallowance motion has been presented on one element of a trial that the LNP did support. We did not feel it went far enough. That was on the back of not just community consultation but the individual stories that each of our electorate officers hears every day. Every day across this state, no matter whether you are on the Gold Coast, Townsville, Cairns or my seat in the Whitsundays, we hear of wasted police resources when it comes to this repeat offending cohort. This is where we do agree with the government. We do understand that there is a group of repeat offenders.

In my community, only about 300 metres from my house recently there was an allegation of a young person who stabbed an innocent young woman. I will not speak more about that particular case because it is a matter that is before the courts, but there have been other stabbings in my community. The deputy mayor of Mackay's husband was almost stabbed to death by a young person, and if it were not for doctors and paramedics he would be dead. In line with community expectations and on behalf of the constituents I meet, quite frankly I do not care what age they are. If there is premeditation and they try to take a life, there are consequences for those actions. There are consequences, and our society expects there to be consequences for those actions.

What we are talking about here are GPS monitoring devices that are not only in the interests of the victims of crime but also in the perpetrator's interests to ensure that they know where they are, the people who care for them know where they are and, more importantly, the public resources that the taxpayers of this state fund are not being wasted. We need the GPS devices to enable police to know where they are so they can be monitored. I know that the opposition looks forward to seeing the results of that trial over the course of the coming months. In estimates I raised with the minister the fact that only one single device has been fitted, why that is the case and that we will be strongly monitoring that over the course of the future up until May next year when we see the independent evaluation of the trial.

I want to mention the crime rally that was held in the community of Mackay on Saturday. I note that there are members in this House who are very empathetic to young people, and I am the first to stand up and say that we need to invest in early intervention, we need to invest in wraparound services, we need to support families, we need to support Indigenous communities and we need to provide opportunities, but we need to do that in a way that recognises that there is a proportion of young people where it does not matter how much wraparound support they are provided with. These are the repeat offenders of high-risk and dangerous crime.

People across the community of Mackay came to that crime forum on Saturday, and I would like to acknowledge and thank the 30 people who attended. There were five speakers who shared their stories of being victims of crime—whether it was having their car stolen, which had an enormous impact on their lives; whether it was having their trailer stolen, when it was their only source of income as a mowing contractor; or whether it was having their home broken into and now their children are too scared to sleep in their own rooms because they are victims of crime and somebody has broken and entered and stolen from their house.

People across North Queensland and more broadly are fed up and tired and they want action. We will continue to advocate on their behalf to ensure that the government is held to account. The government needs to hold these offenders to account. We have seen an increase in car thefts in Townsville and other parts of our state, as the member for Burdekin outlined earlier. There is talk in this House that apparently things are improving. Members should tell that to the people who are calling our offices and saying that things are not improving. They are seeing repeat offending. They are seeing young people receive nothing more than a slap on the wrist, getting released and having a great time on the weekend doing the same thing.

I would like to thank the Queensland Police Service for the incredible job they do. However, when I see an increase in crime across our state in my portfolio of domestic and family violence and I see wasted police resources in trying to track down young people, we have to question where the investment is, where the resources are and how the state is managing the priorities to ensure people's lives are not put at risk any further. The resources need to be adequately managed in a way that meets community expectation.

I note the comments by the member for Maiwar about the Human Rights Commissioner. I have also read his statements around that. He also noted that the family and friends of those affected are angry and that protecting the rights of victims must be paramount in any response. I also note his concerns around GPS monitoring and that there is a disproportionate number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people who are represented. That is not good enough across the child protection services, in particular the number of children in this state's care. There is an overrepresentation and both sides of the House recognise that, and there is far more work to be done.

There are opportunities for young people. There are opportunities being delivered right now across North Queensland and regional Queensland by the dirty, large mining companies, as the Greens would have you believe. There is increased participation in Indigenous communities that provides economic development opportunities and delivers great outcomes for young people. There is great work being done by the North Queensland Cowboys. There is great work being done by myriad stakeholders. I encourage the Greens to get out of their inner-city suburbs and go out to rural and regional Queensland to see the great work that is being done to ensure that young people do not choose a life of crime but instead grab the opportunities available to them.

In regional and rural Queensland, we have to do it ourselves because there is a lack of government funding in our part of the world. I would like to highlight to the House that the youth referral service in my community of Mackay has not seen an increase in its core funding in over a decade. In fact, their service agreement does not even let them cross the river. The member for Mackay has sat in this House for many years and has not done one thing to advocate for young people in our region. I have raised with the minister that young people in Northern Beaches do not have access to a youth referral service. That is a suburb where we have many child protection houses and residential care services. The member for Mackay has never delivered to increase that funding for youth referral services in our region. That is about early intervention.

Government members interjected.

Ms CAMM: I must have hit a nerve. I look forward to seeing greater commitments from the minister in that space.



Hon. LM LINARD (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (6.35 pm): I rise to respond to and oppose the member for Maiwar's disallowance motion in relation to the Youth Justice (Monitoring Device Conditions) Amendment Regulation 2021. The Palaszczuk government is committed to protecting our community and has acted decisively to crack down on repeat youth offenders. We have listened to the community and introduced additional measures that target youth offenders who repeatedly offend and put the community at risk.

As members in this House know, on 30 April 2021 the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2021 commenced. The act amended the Youth Justice Act 1992 to: provide for a presumption against bail for children charged with serious indictable offences while on bail for an indictable offence—this targets the top 10 per cent of serious repeat offenders who commit nearly half of all juvenile offences; introduce new measures to empower courts or police officers to consider whether a parent or guardian has a willingness to support the young offender on bail; and give courts the ability to require the fitting of electronic monitoring devices as a condition of bail for recidivist high-risk offenders aged over 16 years. These measures will be reviewed after six months, with a further review after 12 months.

Our government's Working Together Changing the Story: Youth Justice Strategy 2019-2023 provides a framework that is focused on strengthening prevention, intervention, restoration and rehabilitation and engaging families and communities in that vital work. I acknowledge the stewardship of Bob Atkinson, the former long-serving Queensland Police Commissioner, in the development of the strategy. The focus areas identified in the strategy which guide us today are: intervene early, keep children out of court, keep children out of custody and reduce reoffending. Let us not forget that the trial of electronic monitoring devices has come about because Bob Atkinson made a recommendation in his report on youth justice that the government consider the use of electronic monitoring devices as an alternative to detention. Although the member for Maiwar may claim otherwise, that recommendation is the genesis of this trial.

Disallowing this regulation will mean the courts have fewer options available to them when deciding an application for bail concerning a young person. It will also mean that relevant young people will have fewer options open to them other than to be remanded into custody. The trial and the regulation deliberately cover a broad and diverse range of geographical areas across Queensland, from Coolangatta to Townsville. This is necessary to ensure that the electronic monitoring measures can be tested in different parts of Queensland. The trial is crucial to building the evidence base around the use of electronic monitoring technology for young people on bail and an assessment of whether these measures should be continued post that trial time. It is critical for these reasons that the regulation remains in force.

Whether an electronic monitoring device is ordered as a condition of bail is entirely a matter for the independent judicial officer hearing the bail application. It is important to remember that electronic monitoring is only one part of the broader consideration about whether the young person should be released on bail. Contrary to the comments of the member for Maiwar, before deciding to impose an electronic monitoring device as a bail condition, a court must consider a suitability assessment report. The report must contain information to inform the court about matters such as technological requirements, the need for stable accommodation and the availability of support from a parent or caregiver or elsewhere to maintain the device. This suitability assessment assists the court to fully understand the young person's individual circumstances and the impact of fitting of an electronic monitoring device. This is to ensure that a condition will not be imposed on a young person who, through no fault of their own, may not be able to comply.

The Palaszczuk government is confident—we are confident—that these strong measures and our approach to youth justice is working to reduce offending, and this is the feedback we are hearing on the ground from police. Statistically, the number of young people who are committing offences has decreased significantly—by 30 per cent in the past 10 years. I appreciate this is not what we hear from those opposite, particularly the member for Burdekin, who twists and misrepresents statistics for his own purposes, and that is to create fear in our community and it is disgusting.

We know that most young people do not offend; only a very small percentage do—approximately two per cent. The data shows that around 90 per cent of youth offenders do not repeatedly offend, with many not reoffending after their first interaction with police. While this is encouraging, the data also shows that there is a small number of recidivist youth offenders who are causing harm to the community, and the government must respond. Community safety is paramount and community confidence essential.

Recent youth justice reforms do more to target this top 10 per cent of serious repeat young offenders by making sure they are held accountable for their actions. However, our investment equally focuses on meaningful interventions to support young people to change their story. While the member for South Brisbane presents an oversimplified solution to youth offending, free school lunches do not come close to addressing the complex interactions and social factors that my agency deals with to meaningfully intervene in youth offending each and every day. Of course, for confidentiality reasons under the act I cannot identify any specific young person subject to the act, but I can share a number of de-identified stories that speak to the complexity and the powerful way in which intervention programs are supporting young people in contact with the youth justice system every day to make positive changes and reduce or stop offending behaviour.

A 17-year-old young person from a regional community is currently subject to probation orders and a community service order. Their offending relates to public nuisance and obstructing police and stealing charges. Youth justice and regional community staff working with the young person had significant concerns for their health and wellbeing due to chronic volatile substance misuse which has impacted their cognitive functioning. Due to our interventions, the young person agreed to attend a local

rehabilitation facility to address the substance misuse and consented to a smart referral to a Queensland Health program. Recent cognitive testing has also been completed to determine other supports that can be put into place for the young person.

Youth justice staff are meeting with this young person weekly to conduct reporting sessions and complete community service order activities with them while in the rehabilitation facility. Staff at that facility have noted the positive progress and an improvement in the young person's relationship with family. Youth justice and the rehabilitation facility staff are now working with the young person around their exit planning and transition to independent living in the future.

A second case study: before intervention, this 16-year-old young person was subject to numerous child safety orders and first came into contact with police at 12 years of age. The young person became a recidivist offender, committing stealing, assault, burglary and motor vehicle offences. After intervention, the young person got involved with the Townsville Transition 2 Success foundation skills program in early 2020 and maintained engagement across the COVID-19 outbreak. When the program resumed in August, the young person maintained 100 per cent attendance and remained out of trouble while awaiting an outcome at court.

After seeing the young person's consistent engagement with the Transition 2 Success program in Townsville and lack of reoffending since commencing that program, the magistrate suspended the 12-month detention order to be served as a three-month conditional release order. The magistrate congratulated this young person on their commitment to participating in that program and highlighted that the engagement and leadership demonstrated by them on that program, as reported by staff, was highly commendable. They have gone on to successfully complete a Certificate I in Foundation Skills and transitioned across to a second block of the Transition 2 Success TAFE foundation skills program earlier this year.

These are just two stories of hard-won improvement—hard-won on the part of the young person and the youth justice workers included—to stop the cycle of offending and change their story. Importantly, an additional investment of \$38 million made by our government is delivering significantly increased levels of monitoring, supervision and support to serious repeat offenders and their families, including young people on bail, who may be subject to an electronic monitoring condition. This funding for an increase in the intensity of services and supports focused on repeat offenders and community safety go hand in hand with the announcement of this regulation. We are not doing one; we are doing both.

In conclusion, I oppose the disallowance motion moved by the member for Maiwar as the regulation is critical to supporting the recommended and ongoing trial of electronic monitoring devices in Queensland. Courts need options to appropriately manage the bail process for serious youth recidivists, and disallowing this regulation would take this option away from them and young people before we have had a chance to appropriately evaluate the measure.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! The question is—

That the motion be agreed to.

Mr Lister: Are there more members on the list? Why does the minister speak before they are able to get the call?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, if you want to make a point of order, you can rise to your feet.

Mr LISTER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I seek your clarification. There are two other people who wish to speak on the motion. I know I myself and the member for Hinchinbrook wish to speak. I would ask your indulgence to give consideration to that.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members! I will take some advice. Members, you did not jump to speak when you had the opportunity. As the minister was the closing speaker of the motion, the motion has now been put.

Mr DAMETTO: Mr Deputy Speaker—

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Resume your seat. The member for Hinchinbrook rose on a point of order first.

Mr DAMETTO: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Not only did we notify the opposition whip as to who wished to speak on this disallowance motion but we understand this was also presented to the Speaker for his consideration so he would know exactly who was speaking next.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not a point of order. Member for Southern Downs?

Mr LISTER: On the point of order, I did not consider it necessary to jump because I thought my name was on the list after the member for Nudgee. I seek the indulgence of the House to make our contribution in spite of the fact that the minister has provided hers already.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: No.

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

In division—

Mr SPEAKER: Before moving to the division, for completeness I wish to advise the members for Southern Downs and Hinchinbrook—and this is a message to all members—that speaking lists are simply a guide. To seek the call, members should rise to their feet, turn on their microphone and seek the call from the presiding officer. Relying on lists is simply not a practical way to work in the parliament. It is important for members to remember that.

We also have conventions in this place which dictate—and also through the sessional orders—how debates should be run. On that particular motion, once the minister has risen to her feet the debate would be closed. We have seen circumstances in the past where members have tried to close out a debate early. There are a range of things that happen, but speaking lists are simply a guide. It is up to the presiding officer or the Speaker to ensure that the call is given to the member who is appropriately seeking the call.

I just wish to make sure that is clear to members for the future in that there are no allowances to be made under the standing orders or the sessional orders to the effect of the question asked by the member for Southern Downs.

Resolved in the negative in accordance with special sessional orders.

ADJOURNMENT

Sunshine Coast Light Rail; Kawana Chamber of Commerce



Mr BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (6.54 pm): I want to talk about two issues that are of real importance to the Sunshine Coast community at the moment, one being the mass transit plan proposed by the Sunshine Coast Council. Council participated in consultation with the community. The community said very strongly that it does not want light rail on our beachside communities on the Sunshine Coast. Unfortunately, the Sunshine Coast Council has advised that it is still going to put forward light rail as an option to the state government. The Sunshine Coast Council is not listening to Sunshine Coast residents. In fact, it has been reported in the past 48 hours that council is saying that the community did not properly understand the questions in the consultation survey. I say to the Sunshine Coast Council that the community did understand the survey questions and does not want light rail.

I encourage Sunshine Coast community residents to turn up at 10 am on Sunday, 17 October at Alexandra Headland for the protest organised by the Mass Transit Action Group and the Beach Matters Group. I thank them for their passionate response to ensure the livability, sustainability and lifestyle of the Sunshine Coast community. I encourage residents to turn up on 17 October to protest against light rail on the Sunshine Coast. We do not want it. The Gold Coast has it; the Sunshine Coast does not want light rail. We want heavy passenger rail to link Caloundra, Kawana and Maroochydore linked with proper bus services, be it electric bus or normal bus—whatever. Link services to the new heavy passenger rail that we want on the Sunshine Coast. We certainly do not want the density and we do not want light rail, particularly down Nicklin Way in my electorate. Business communities and residents will be put out. I thank the Beach Matters Group and MTAG for all their work in holding the local council to account.

The Minister for Transport and Main Roads could stop this now. He could say to the Sunshine Coast Council, 'Do not put light rail forward because the state government would not accept it.' I say that my LNP colleagues do not accept it.

I give my apologies to the Kawana Chamber of Commerce. Because parliament is sitting, I will be unable to attend its AGM tomorrow night. I challenge them to beat my record of less than a minute chairing its AGM. I give a shout-out to president Hamish, vice-president Brendon, secretary Jenny, treasurer Louise, executive members Daniel, Cassy and Ian, and Carlos in marketing for their great work in supporting the Sunshine Coast-Kawana business community over the past 12 months. I wish the new executive all the very best.

Bancroft Electorate, Infrastructure



Mr WHITING (Bancroft—ALP) (6.57 pm): I rise to update my community and the House about the rollout of infrastructure in our local community thanks to the Palaszczuk Labor government. Before the last election we set out a comprehensive plan for the local infrastructure that we would start and roll out in the next four years. In the biggest piece of news, I am so glad to say that we now have a site for the forthcoming Moreton Bay Central Fire and Rescue Station. This is a huge win for our community. It will have a great impact.

The station will be on a 5,000-square-metre lot in Steel Street off Boundary Road in the Narangba Innovation Precinct. It will give fast access to Diamond Jubilee Way, Deception Bay Road and the Bruce Highway. This new station will overlap with the service areas of all the adjacent fire stations. It means a faster response time to local fires and accidents. Incidentally, these days accidents are the main callouts for our fire and rescue officers. This site was chosen after a careful assessment by our QFES officers, and I thank them for that. The next step is the construction of the station. I hope we will soon be in a position to outline a time frame.

As I said, this is a massive bit of local news in our community. I thank the Minister for Police and Minister for Emergency Services, the member for Morayfield, and his predecessor, the member for Barron River, who was a great advocate for this project as well.

In another great piece of local news, we are making good progress with the creation of a community hall at Deception Bay State School. This is the oldest school in my area. It is a wonderful small school that provides such a great level of care for its students and is very highly valued by those people whose children attend. We are investing \$5 million in this. Meetings to discuss early design are underway. We have started a process to make sure we have the appropriate zoning to build that hall at that site. I congratulate the principal, Trudy Ivins, and her team for being such powerful advocates for this project. I encourage her to continue being vocal about how we should build this.

Finally, I am so glad to see the Deception Bay Road widening project marching on. I first saw this project 10 years ago as a local councillor. When I became the state member I found that it had been axed under the Campbell Newman government. I am so glad to see this project coming back. It is still in its early days. We now have an engineering firm to help develop the business case for this missing link. It will go over some of the previous planning and investigations and do further site investigations. That way we can give early cost estimates and preliminary designs and move to the next stage.

Surfers Paradise Electorate, Homelessness and Hooning



Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (7.00 pm): I rise to speak about two issues affecting the glitter strip, especially over the last 18 months. Homelessness and hooning continue to affect the Gold Coast's reputation as a family-friendly, safe and beautiful place to live and holiday. One Surfers Paradise business operator voiced her concerns to me over 'aggressive and abusive' itinerants frequenting the Cavill Mall area. She referred to increasing theft and drug use and at the same time funding and personnel cuts at the Surfers Paradise Police Station. I table that correspondence.

Tabled paper: Email, dated 17 August 2021, from [redacted] to Surfers Paradise Electorate Office, titled 'Business suffering theft' [1717].

It is unfortunate that Surfers Paradise businesses continue not only to be faced with tourism related challenges but now too with the antisocial behaviour of homeless persons posing serious public safety concerns. There are concerns about the safety of the Gold Coast community from makeshift camps in the sand dunes set up by homeless people. We do not want any devastating beachside safety incidents in Surfers Paradise or Broadbeach. I call on the Labor government to heed my continuous calls for more police resources within my electorate. A Broadbeach constituent voiced his concerns over the Pratten Park dunal vegetation terrace which has become a haven for the homeless. He went on to say—

Over the past twelve months, I have seen permanent tents erected within the dunal vegetation terrace for weeks on end.

He goes on to say—

I have even seen whilst walking on the beach ... police remove a homeless person from the dunes only to see that another homeless person has moved into that same location the very next day.

There are three new apartment blocks fronting Pratten Park between the Kurrawa surf life-saving club and Hedges Avenue, accounting for a few hundred residences, and at least three further sites that have development approval. As this constituent rightly questions—

Surely, all these new residents deserve the opportunity to use the Pratten Park promenade daily ... and to be inspired by the lifestyle that they have chosen to live?

I table that correspondence.

Tabled paper: Email, dated 15 September 2021, from [redacted] to Surfers Paradise Electorate Office, titled 'Complaint: Pratten Park dunal vegetation terrace' [\[1718\]](#).

All of this is not to suggest that there is a quick fix to end homelessness—there is not—but this should not pardon the Labor government's dormant response.

Hooning, which generates undue engine and exhaust noise, continues to frustrate residents from Main Beach and the Spit through to Broadbeach. One constituent recounted to me that whilst outside his barber in Orchid Avenue in central Surfers a few weeks ago he counted 'five loud modified cars that drove past in just 10 minutes'. That is just outside the police station. I table that correspondence.

Tabled paper: Email, dated 19 September 2021, from [redacted] to Surfers Paradise Electorate Office, titled 'Re: Updated answer to question on notice' [\[1719\]](#).

Another constituent voiced concerns that exhaust noise from vehicles along Surf Parade in Broadbeach 'must somehow have a detrimental effect on where people choose to stay'. I table that correspondence.

Tabled paper: Email, dated 22 May 2021, from [redacted] to Surfers Paradise Electorate Office, titled 'Noise pollution/hooning' [\[1720\]](#).

There is no place in my electorate for this reckless and inconsiderate behaviour which is not only interfering with the quiet enjoyment of residents but also impacting upon the reputation of Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach as tourist meccas. The Labor government must do more for the safety of my constituents and visitors, for the welfare of homeless people and to revitalise our once beautiful tourism capital.

Hervey Bay, Community Cabinet




Mr TANTARI (Hervey Bay—ALP) (7.04 pm): A few weeks ago I had the honour as the local member to host the Queensland Premier and her cabinet when they met regionally in the electorate of Hervey Bay. As promised by the Premier, the regional cabinet meeting gave her and her ministers the opportunity to see on the ground the extraordinary level of activity being driven by the many projects and services currently underway and those that have been completed by the Palaszczuk government for the people of Hervey Bay. Whilst in Hervey Bay the Premier and ministers met and attended many meetings and functions, giving our community and business leaders the opportunity to discuss with the Premier and ministers the Hervey Bay community's hopes and aspirations for their future as we progress through the global pandemic being felt here and elsewhere.

At these meetings the Hervey Bay community was very clear in indicating to the Premier that, without her strong leadership and without her strong health response that has kept the Hervey Bay community safe, the freedoms and economic activity now being enjoyed by Hervey Bay businesses and residents would not have been possible. The Premier was told that, whilst Hervey Bay was not quite back to pre pandemic levels, the overall level of activity being experienced was exceptional. The Mayor of the Fraser Coast Regional Council, Councillor George Seymour, commented on how successful the COVID economic recovery plan had been in keeping up the stimulus needed to drive the completion of many state and local government projects and activities. Amongst these are the recently completed brand new \$5 million STEM building and the just completed \$10 million creative arts centre at Hervey Bay State High School—great new facilities readily utilised by our public school students and the community at large.

Further to this, the government announced it will be supporting the redevelopment of one of the busiest intersections in Hervey Bay—that is, the Boundary-Booral Road and Elizabeth Street intersection—with the release of the concept plan for the intersection now open for public consultation. This is great news for the people of the Hervey Bay electorate, particularly the residents of Urangan, Kawungan, Booral and River Heads who use this intersection every day, and will provide improved safety for road users as they pass through this intersection. I thank the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and his assistant minister for listening to my request to have this upgrade done as quickly as possible and for making this announcement during the cabinet visit.

These actions show the direct contrast to those opposite who, during their tenure in government, came to Hervey Bay to tell the community that the LNP government would continue to slash and burn local jobs and our local regional economy, all the while damaging the fabric of Hervey Bay and the Fraser Coast communities. This contrast and difference between the LNP's slash-and-burn approach and the Palaszczuk government's leadership and jobs growth could not have been any greater to see. By delivering on the Premier's election promise of a strong economic recovery plan, Hervey Bay has been able to weather the worst of the COVID pandemic at this time. It is the Palaszczuk government that is continuing to deliver on its strong economic recovery plan following on from its strong health response that is generating the positive community outcomes by creating the jobs and services that are keeping the Hervey Bay electorate safe and strong.

Kedron State High School

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (7.07 pm): I again raise the issue of the sad state of affairs at the Kedron State High School, and in particular its performing arts centre. Kedron State High School is a great school in my electorate and I have supported it for more than 20 years. I have spoken about the school and its students' needs for a new performing arts centre consistently since 2015, and this need was again highlighted last night when I attended the school's awards night—an awards night that had to be held in the sports centre and not the school hall because the school hall's floor had collapsed. Let me in passing also congratulate Sophie Lawrence, the 2021 Senior Sports Person of the Year. Sophie heads off to the United States to play softball on a college scholarship next year. Congratulations, Sophie.

Kedron State High School hall was built in the early 1960s when the school's student population was just 274. By 2017 the school's population was over 1,400 and this year the school's population is over 1,600 students, but they are still expected to cope with a school hall that was built in 1961 when the student population was 247. Recently, as I said, the school's grand piano fell through the thin timber floor and on 7 September—the night of the school's most important vocal showcase—part of the hall had to be barricaded off with safety mesh due to foundation subsidence. As the President of the P&C Association and the School Council Chair, Mr Tony Howell, points out, the irony of the Advancing Queensland bunting around a section of the hall that had to be closed off was not lost on anyone. I table a picture that Mr Howell sent through with respect to that.


Tabled paper: Photograph depicting Advancing Queensland signage at Kedron State High School [1721].

It is not as if the school community has been silent or done nothing on this issue. Since 2015 the school has brought the attention of the department to this problem and I have supported the school with election commitments and petitions and also in other correspondence. In 2016 the school appeared on a Channel 10 news spot, with Brisbane Broncos Sam Thaiday calling for work on the school hall.

In 2017, together with members of the school P&C, we launched a petition, as I mentioned. In 2018 the school undertook a media campaign which gained some traction and included some well-known sporting and media personalities. In 2020 the P&C, of its own volition, undertook professional consulting and created preliminary plans.

Since the beginning of this year the president of the P&C and the school council have sought a meeting with Minister Grace on three occasions and up until 1 October had received no response. I wrote to Minister Grace on 1 October and to my great delight, and I thank the minister for this, she has agreed to a meeting with the acting school principal, the school council and myself on 26 October. I look forward to meeting with the minister and hearing her plans for fixing Kedron State High School's performing arts centre.

Job Creation; Clean Energy; Coronavirus, Vaccination


 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (7.10 pm): Thanks to Queensland's safe and strong response to COVID our economy is booming, jobs are being created and our local community of Bundamba is on the fast track. We have a first-class ticket for an express trip to more local jobs with the awarding of a multimillion dollar maintenance contract to Redbank's very own Progress Rail for Queensland's *Spirit of the Outback* and *Westlander* tourist trains. This means 48 local jobs as we overhaul five of our most iconic locos. The upgrades will improve performance, reduce fuel by up to 20 per cent and decrease exhaust emissions. This means a better journey for passengers, better outcomes for the environment and more local jobs.

We are putting cleaner trains on track and we are taking our clean energy to the world. Two days ago we announced the world's biggest hydrogen electrolyser manufacturing plant in Gladstone supporting thousands of local jobs in Central Queensland. This \$114 million investment from Fortescue

Future Industries will create over 300 jobs initially, with the potential for thousands more. Yesterday we welcomed Fortescue and Incitec Pivot committing to a joint feasibility study for a renewable hydrogen and zero emissions ammonia production and export facility at Gibson Island right here in South-East Queensland, and today we announced renewable hydrogen will also be produced on the Darling Downs, with plans for a demonstration facility and even more local jobs near Chinchilla via our proudly publicly owned CS Energy. We are well on the way to making Queensland a world-leading clean energy superpower.

These investments and the ongoing confidence in our skilled workers and robust economy is all made possible by keeping Queenslanders safe as part of our safe and strong recovery. It is because we listen to the expert health advice and we continue to get vaccinated. Last week we welcomed the Premier, health minister and Chief Health Officer to our local Queensland vaccination clinic in the Ipswich Mall. The clinic has played a crucial role in helping over 43 per cent of eligible Ipswich residents get fully vaccinated. It is a great result and I thank and congratulate everyone who has already gotten their first or second doses, but we can and should do more. I am encouraging everyone to get vaccinated as soon as they possibly can. It has never been easier or more convenient. It not only protects the individual, it protects our families, our loved ones and our wider community. We have done a great job working together to stay safe in the middle of a global pandemic that has ravaged other countries and even other states and we have a golden window of opportunity to get vaccinated now.

Coronavirus, Quarantine Facility

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (7.13 pm): The sod has been turned on the Wellcamp quarantine facility and it is on its way to being constructed and apparently will be ready for 500 people to quarantine prior to Christmas this year, with 1,000 anticipated by March 2022. I am not sure how the hotel industry will like this loss of patronage given the border remains slammed shut to everybody. On 27 January I started asking for details on this facility and I am still asking for details in October, but they do not seem to be forthcoming.


I, along with the local members for Toowoomba North and Toowoomba South, received a briefing on 29 September from the Deputy Premier's department, which I thank them for. However, once again this was still very light on any detail. We asked questions and the answers received were limited to build and design details. We were told the day-to-day running will be at the direction of Queensland Health. I for one would like to know where the medical, security, cleaning, maintenance and catering staff will be coming from. Are they to be locally sourced or outsourced and, if so, where will they be housed? Will everyone on site be required to be fully vaccinated? What happens if one of the people housed in the facility has a medical episode such as a heart attack? Will they be transported to our local hospital? Once the 14 days quarantine has been completed how will the occupants be transported to their homes or their accommodation? What is the appropriate time line for the operation of the quarantine facility? Is it one year, two years, three years? What happens to the facility once it is no longer required? What will be owned by the Wagner family and what will be owned by the Queensland government?

There are many questions and too few answers. The Toowoomba community and surrounding district deserve some answers. When any questions are asked the Premier's response is that it is commercial-in-confidence. The government has forgotten that this is taxpayer money. A 2018 Audit Office report on confidentiality and disclosure of government contracts states—

In keeping with the policy of open information and the Right to Information Act 2009, parliament and members of the public should have access to government contract information unless there is a sound reason not to. This includes government contracts for the procurement of goods and services. The public has a right to know how much public money government is spending, on what, and with which vendors.

We are constantly told that this is an open and accountable government. Start by telling the people of Queensland how much of their public money is being spent on this project.

Nicklin Electorate

 **Mr SKELTON** (Nicklin—ALP) (7.16 pm): I rise to speak on some amazing people and organisations in the beautiful Sunshine Coast hinterland. Firstly, I would like to tell the story of a chance meeting on a train and a developing friendship. Brodie Taylor is a 25-year-old man who is wheelchair bound. His debilitating disease has made this his life. He does not complain and his lust for life and sense of fun and mischief is an inspiration to me and anyone he meets. I thank him, his carers, Lauren Bourke and Savannah Lubke, for coming to my office and arranging a play date for Brodie and I at the

Mapleton Tavern. Myself, Brodie, Savannah and my partner Aggie enjoyed a lovely meal with a splendid view. We have resolved that we will have a monthly catch-up for people of different needs and their carers. This is an opportunity to build knowledge and develop long-lasting friendships.


The team at Equity Works in Nambour and Kylie Moore organise the annual A Fair Day Out at the Eumundi Markets. This music for people of different needs and their carers has been going for nine years. It was amazing to see the many bands that performed. You are all absolute rock stars! I am so proud to represent such a vibrant and inclusive community. Thank you to all the carers on this Carers Week.

It is also SES Week. This is a chance for us all to pause and think about the wonderful volunteers that are our SES. I would like to personally thank those volunteers who are based in my home of Palmwoods. They do such a great job in keeping us all safe. With storm season approaching, I know that these men and women will be giving up their time, putting themselves at risk and answering many emergency calls.

I would also like to pay my respects to the brave firefighters of Queensland and around the world. 10 October is Firefighters' Remembrance Day. Fifty-five firefighters have lost their lives in the service of our great state. It was a solemn occasion at St Peters in Coolumb and I thank QFES, the RFS, community members, the church and other members of this parliament who attended.

While I am on my feet I take the chance to inform everyone of the Murri Carnival coming up on Friday at Nambour Crushers Rugby League Club. It kicks off at 6 pm with the mighty Sunshine Coast Bunyas taking on Cherbourg in a veterans game. This is a weekend of fun and free grassroots football. I thank Brad and the team at the Sunshine Coast Bunyas for hosting all these teams from across our great state. It does not cost anything to get in, so if you want to have a good weekend and see some great grassroots football, and possibly see an emerging Artie Beetson, Johnathan Thurston, Mal Meninga or Steve Renouf, get up to Nambour on the weekend.

Southern Downs Electorate, Border Business Zone Hardship Grants

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (7.19 pm): I rise to speak about the border closure and its impact on my electorate of Southern Downs. I note with thanks that the government has introduced the Border Business Zone Hardship Grants for businesses in border communities that are impacted directly by the border closure. I was surprised and delighted to receive a phone call from the minister for small business and training to ask my views on things around the border. That was the first time I have had any high-level contact from the government regarding the border closures. I thank the government for the program.

Alas, the grants apply in only two small locations, Goondiwindi and Wallangarra. I should not say 'small' because, when we look at the map, the support grants for Goondiwindi cover a vast area of tumbleweeds. However, the towns of Killarney, Warwick, Texas and Stanthorpe, which have very significant business dealings across the border, have been completely left out. Businesses in those towns, which are impacted equally to those in Goondiwindi, Mungindi or Coolangatta, have missed out entirely. I have written to the minister to highlight this omission. I ask the government to, as soon as may be, amend the map to include all of the communities in my electorate of Southern Downs that are located along the New South Wales border.


Ms Leahy interjected.

Mr LISTER: I take the interjection from the member for Warrego. Beyond Mungindi there are other towns. To give an example, Ray and Connie Taylor run Taylor Family Produce, which is a leafy green vegetable, tomato and capsicum producer. They had fields prepared just over the border from Stanthorpe in Liston. They had invested over \$300,000 in preparing those fields. The border was shut—bang! They had to abandon that work and rapidly find another field that had to be prepared to produce tomatoes and capsicums to fulfil the contracts that they are obliged to meet. \$300,000 is a very significant amount of money for any private individual or small business to wear while people like us—politicians—who are paid from the public purse suffer no financial disadvantage from having the border closed.

While this is a great initiative, we really need to make sure that the businesses that have been impacted are not constrained by a mere line on a map that means that they are not entitled to a \$5,000 grant. In Texas, the Spa supermarket, the FoodWorks supermarket, the bakery and the newsagent are affected by the fact that the border is shut as there is far less business coming from New South Wales.

Agronomists or contractors who have work on the other side of the border have been cut off from their markets. They are all suffering very badly. If the intent is that such businesses should be eligible for the \$5,000 grant, I ask the government and minister to amend the map to include the towns of Killarney, Warwick, Texas and Stanthorpe.

Greenslopes Electorate Community Organisations

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (7.22 pm): I rise to update the House on a range of community organisations in my electorate that are celebrating significant milestones. The Holland Park Sports & Community Club is celebrating 80 years this year. I congratulate President Bronwyne Stiegler and all of the volunteers there. It is not just a centre for bowls; it is a centre where the entire community comes together. They run a whole range of different programs.

I acknowledge Our Lady of Mt Carmel Catholic Primary School, which turns 80 this year. The school is a bedrock of the Catholic community. It would not always have been easy to run a Catholic school. We all know the challenges there. The school was built on the back of volunteers and is a centrepiece of our community. Many fine people started their education there. Congratulations to the current principal, Warren Field, and Kelly McLenna, the president of the P&F.

The C&K Coorparoo Community Kindergarten at Meridian Street is celebrating 70 years this year. Again, it is a place where many people started their educational journey. It is a fine institution. Sadly, Kristie Tully and the team had their celebrations interrupted by a lockdown. I know it is a strong community. They will get back up and they will make sure that they celebrate once again.

I acknowledge the celebrations of the Holland Park-Mount Gravatt RSL, which is celebrating 60 years this year. I acknowledge the hard work of volunteers Sonja and Alan Hellier, who are absolute institutions in our community. They do so much for the veteran community. They provide so much welfare that you could easily give a 30-minute speech on what they do. Thank you to Sonja and Alan.

Holland Park State High School, another fine educational institution, turns 50 this year. I thank Principal Jocelyn Roberts, P&C president Katrina Marschke and all of the volunteers there. It is a great school. I have many friends who went there and many of my friends' kids go there. It is a great school in our community.

Finally, I acknowledge the work of Kris Prasad and his wife, Uma. They run Kanada Sangha, which turns 25 this year. Their aim is to preserve the language and culture of the Kanada speaking people of India.

Those are all fine organisations in our community. They do so much to build our community. They support people to get educated. They support people to play sport. They preserve language. They support the veterans in our community. I have nothing but the deepest respect for all of those community organisations. I am so pleased that they are able to provide the services that they do. If you add it all up, collectively it comes to 365 years of service to the community of Greenslopes. That is quite a significant milestone in and of itself. I am pleased to have been able to help celebrate all of those milestones this year and I know there will be many more to come.

The House adjourned at 7.25 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly, King A, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, MacMahon, Madden, Mander, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Skelton, Smith, Stevens, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Watts, Weir, Whiting