



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Hansard Home Page: <http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-assembly/hansard>

Email: hansard@parliament.qld.gov.au

Phone (07) 3553 6344

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 14 October 2021

Subject	Page
PRIVILEGE	3065
Comments by Member for South Brisbane	3065
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Extract, undated, from the Twitter account of the member for South Brisbane, Dr Amy MacMahon MP, in relation to property investors	3065
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Extract from the Register of Members' Interests for the member for Capalaba, Mr Don Brown MP	3065
SPEAKER'S RULING	3065
Housing Legislation Amendment Bill, Member for South Brisbane's Amendment	3065
SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS	3066
International Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day	3066
School Group Tour	3066
MOTIONS OF CONDOLENCE	3066
Bertoni, Mr APD	3066
Gately, Mr LF	3068
TABLED PAPERS	3070
MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS	3071
Coronavirus, Update	3071
Weather Events, Preparedness	3071
Path to Treaty	3072
Great Queensland Getaway Campaign	3072
Renewable Energy, Jobs	3073
Beenleigh Steel Fabrications	3073
Schools, Infrastructure	3074
Mental Health Week	3074
Great Queensland Getaway Campaign	3075
South-East Queensland; Weather Event; SES Week	3076

Table of Contents – Thursday, 14 October 2021

Domestic and Family Violence, Programs; International Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day	3076
Path to Treaty	3077
Coronavirus, Small Business	3077
Egg Industry	3078
Foster Carers, Recruitment	3079
Australian Mines Rescue Competition; Mine Safety	3079
SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT	3080
PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMITTEE	3080
Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner, Report	3080
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner: Report on the results of the inspection of the records of the Crime and Corruption Commission pursuant to section 362 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, September 2021	3080
QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE	3080
Minister for Public Works and Procurement	3080
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Document by the Queensland Building and Construction Commission titled 'Hot Issues Brief: Queensland Building and Construction Commission-City of Gold Coast issues show cause to Kirra Vista B.C.'	3080
Minister for Public Works and Procurement	3081
Coronavirus, Vaccination	3081
Minister for Public Works and Procurement	3081
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Extract of the Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport, Hon. Mick de Brenni, Ministerial Diary from 1 September 2019 to 30 September 2019	3081
Coronavirus, Quarantine Facility	3082
Minister for Public Works and Procurement	3082
Coronavirus, Economy	3082
Coronavirus, Tourism Industry	3083
Turn to Teaching Internship Program	3084
Comments by Treasurer and Comments by Minister for Health	3084
Coronavirus, Response	3085
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Supreme Court of Queensland: Application for a Statutory Order of Review, Reference BS11730/21	3085
Australian Workers' Union, Nuclear Energy	3085
Training and Skills	3086
Gairloch Washaway	3087
Cairns, Police Infrastructure	3088
Keswick Island	3088
Youth Co-Responder Teams	3088
Paralympic Games, Ministerial Appointment	3089
Agriculture Industry; Seasonal Workers	3089
Minister for Public Works and Procurement	3090
Resources Industries, Exploration	3091
Caboolture Hospital	3092
REPORT	3092
Office of the Integrity Commissioner, Strategic Review	3092
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Report by Mr Kevin Yearbury PSM, dated 30 September 2021, titled 'Strategic Review of the Integrity Commissioner's Functions'	3092
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT	3092
Queensland Ambulance Service, Road Incident	3092
HOUSING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL	3093
Second Reading	3093
PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS	3105
Minister for Public Works and Procurement; Queensland Building and Construction Commission	3105
Caloundra State High School, EDGE Group	3106
Allery, Mr R and Brooks, Mr B	3106
Bundaberg Electorate, Renewable Energy	3107
Farming in Reef Catchments Rebate Scheme	3107
Morayfield Electorate, Investment	3108
Coronavirus, Border Restrictions	3109
Townsville, Hydrogen Industry	3109
Coronavirus, Border Restrictions; Coronavirus, Testing Centres	3110
Climate Change	3110
Bowen Basin, Roads	3111
Hydrogen Industry	3112
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Response from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (Hon. Furner), to an ePetition (3590-21), sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 685 petitioners, requesting the House to subsidise essential media access in a printed format to rural and regional Queensland, the same way that other essential services are subsidised in regional areas to support equity and access. ..	3112
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Response from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (Hon. Furner), to an ePetition (3529-21), sponsored by the member for Bundamba, Mr McCallum, from 723 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the RSPCA is properly funded	3112

Table of Contents – Thursday, 14 October 2021

Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service	3113
Coronavirus, Cook Electorate	3113
Health System, Funding.....	3114
Mackay Electorate, Events; Youth Programs	3114
Social Media	3115
South Eastern Region State Emergency Service, Awards	3116
Watts, Mr B; 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.....	3116
Stretton Electorate, Badminton.....	3117
TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE	3117
Report, Motion to Take Note.....	3117
STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE.....	3124
Report, Motion to Take Note.....	3124
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Speeches dated 21 May 2020 and 16 June 2020, by the member for Glass House, Mr Andrew Powell MP, and dated 21 May 2020, by the member for Thuringowa, Mr Aaron Harper MP, regarding coronavirus	3125
HOUSING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL.....	3128
Second Reading	3128
SPEAKER'S RULING	3129
Same Question Rule	3129
HOUSING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL.....	3130
Consideration in Detail	3130
Clauses 1 to 15, as read, agreed to.	3130
Insertion of new clause—	3130
Division: Question put—That the amendment be agreed to.	3131
Resolved in the negative in accordance with special sessional orders.	3131
Non-government amendment (Dr MacMahon) negatived	3131
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Housing Legislation Amendment Bill 2021, explanatory notes to Hon. Leeanne Enoch's amendments	3131
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Housing Legislation Amendment Bill 2021, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Leeanne Enoch's amendments	3131
Question put—That the minister's amendments Nos 1 to 12, as circulated, be agreed to.	3131
Amendments agreed to.	3131
Question put—That clauses 16 to 107 and the schedule, as amended, stand part of the bill.	3133
Clauses 16 to 107 and schedule 1, as amended, agreed to.	3133
Third Reading.....	3133
Long Title.....	3133
COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.....	3133
Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date	3133
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT	3133
Comments by Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water, Clarification	3133
MOTIONS.....	3134
Order of Business	3134
Revocation and Dedication of Protected Areas	3134
QUEENSLAND VETERANS' COUNCIL BILL.....	3142
Second Reading.....	3142
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Community Support and Services Committee: Report No. 6, 57th Parliament— Queensland Veterans' Council Bill 2021, government response	3142
PRIVILEGE	3151
Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House.....	3151
ADJOURNMENT.....	3152
Inland Rail Freight Route.....	3152
Pine Rivers Electorate, Investment.....	3152
Coronavirus, Small Business	3153
Coronavirus, Vaccination	3153
Australian South Sea Islanders.....	3154
Coronavirus, Vaccination	3155
Dairy Industry.....	3155
Williams, Mr RB	3156
Dyslexia Awareness Month; Mental Health Week	3156
National Rugby League, Redcliffe Dolphins.....	3157
ATTENDANCE	3158

THURSDAY, 14 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.

PRIVILEGE

Comments by Member for South Brisbane

Mr SPEAKER: Are there any matters of privilege?



Mr BROWN (Capalaba—ALP) (9.31 am): Oops, sorry! I have many jobs in the morning, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Capalaba, that could be seen as an afterthought.

Mr BROWN: I rise on a matter of privilege. Yesterday the member for South Brisbane made a series of tweets relating to her amendment put forward in the housing bill. One tweet states—

If anyone who wants to check whether their MP is a property investor or not, here's a list from the Register of Members' Interests data.

I table the tweet.

Tabled paper: Extract, undated, from the Twitter account of the member for South Brisbane, Dr Amy MacMahon MP, in relation to property investors [1745].

An infographic states—

Does your MP own an investment property?

It refers to me in this list. It then goes on to state—

Property investor MPs should excuse themselves from the rental reform debate.

It is authorised by A. MacMahon. I table my register of interests, which does not include investment property.

Tabled paper: Extract from the Register of Members' Interests for the member for Capalaba, Mr Don Brown MP [1746].

Mr SPEAKER: What action would you like me to take?

Mr BROWN: I ask that the tweet be deleted and that an apology be given to the House.

Mr SPEAKER: The matter will be given consideration, member for Capalaba.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Housing Legislation Amendment Bill, Member for South Brisbane's Amendment



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, yesterday in the second reading debate on the Housing Legislation Amendment Bill, the member for South Brisbane moved a reasoned amendment to the question. The amendment sought to forestall the consideration of the bill until all members of parliament who are landlords excused themselves from voting on the bill due to a conflict of interest.

The amendment was disposed of by a vote of the Assembly immediately after the member's speech. In any event, I rule that the amendment was out of order and I think it important that the ruling be made and the reasons provided for the benefit of the House.

The procedure of the Legislative Assembly comes from many sources, including: the Constitution; ordinary statutes; standing orders; sessional orders; and Speakers' rulings. Procedures derived from the Constitution and statute cannot be set aside by the Assembly. Procedures derived from standing orders and sessional orders can be set aside by a substantive motion expressing that intention.


Section 13 of the Parliament of Queensland Act provides that a question in the Assembly is decided by a majority of the members present and voting and that the Speaker has no deliberative vote; but if the votes are equal, has the casting vote. Section 11 of the act provides that the Assembly may adopt standing rules and orders that deal with, amongst other things, the declaration and registration of interests of members. Chapter 40 of the standing orders deals with declarations of interest. That chapter regulates when declarations must be made and when a member cannot vote on a matter in which they are interested.

There is no difficulty in members moving reasoned amendments to the second reading question and this is contemplated by standing order 141. There are precedents for amendments to refer bills to committees, refer bills back to committee, forestall the second reading until a matter occurs and the list goes on.


However, the member for South Brisbane's amendment went much further. The amendment sought to remove the voting rights of some members granted by section 13 of the act and in a way not contemplated by the rules of conflict of interest set out in chapter 40 of the standing orders. For the benefit of the House, only a substantive motion can set aside standing orders.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

International Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day


 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, tomorrow, Friday 15 October, is International Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day. To mark this occasion, Parliament House will be lit up blue and pink tomorrow night. International Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day is a day for those parents who have suffered through pregnancy and baby loss to break their silence and share their story. Members may be aware that my wife Kerry and I lost our first daughter, Isabel, who was stillborn at 41 weeks in 2008. It was the most terrible moment of our lives, but we know that we are not alone. It is a deep pain that is felt by thousands of families every year. I know that there are other members in this House who have experienced the same enormous grief. That is why we have to talk about it, because parents who lose a child should not suffer alone. I thank the Attorney-General for supporting this important awareness day. I also thank SANDS and Red Nose Australia for their advocacy for this important awareness event. I commend tomorrow's International Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day to the House.

School Group Tour

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from—this is always going to be good—Citipointe Christian College in the electorate of Mansfield. Welcome to the Queensland parliament—when they finally arrive—and do not savage me for maligning the name of their school!

MOTIONS OF CONDOLENCE

Bertoni, Mr APD

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.36 am): I move—

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

Angelo Bertoni was born in Ingham on 7 November 1933 and was educated at the Ingham Roman Catholic School, Mount Carmel College in Charters Towers, and at the University of Queensland where he attained a Diploma of Pharmacy and qualified as a Pharmaceutical Chemist.

After leaving university, Mr Bertoni worked as a chemist in Brisbane. In 1961 he moved to Mount Isa to start his own pharmacy business. By all accounts he was an innovative business owner, gaining a reputation in the 1960s for clever marketing to cosmetics customers in the tough Mount Isa climate. Eventually his business expanded to three pharmacies.

In March 1973, Mr Bertoni was elected as the mayor of Mount Isa, and he served in that role for over two years until September 1975. In 1974, Mr Bertoni was selected by the National Party to contest the seat of Mount Isa at the next state election. At that time, the seat of Mount Isa—and before that


Burke, as the seat was known before 1972—had been held for 14 years—since 1960—by Alex Inch of the ALP. Mr Inch decided to retire at the state election held in December 1974, and Mr Bertoni was able to win the seat for the National Party.

Mr Bertoni won further elections in 1977 and again in 1980, despite a very close challenge by Labor's candidate in that election, Tony McGrady. Mount Isa has always been a great political battleground! He went on to serve as a member of this House until the state election of October 1983, when he was defeated by Labor's Bill Price.

During his parliamentary career, Mr Bertoni served on various committees, including local government, main roads, industrial law, mines, energy, police and health. He was a delegate to the Australian Constitutional Convention in Perth in 1978; and in 1979 was a member of the Subordinate Legislation Committee. In August 1983, the coalition between the National Party and Liberal Party ended. At that point the then premier, Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen, elevated Mr Bertoni to his cabinet as Minister for Health for the remaining months until the October election.

After his time in parliament, Mr Bertoni enjoyed a successful business career operating pharmacies in Mount Isa and also in Brisbane. He was a pharmacist, a mayor, a member of parliament, a minister and a successful businessman. Mr Bertoni was dedicated to the advancement of his community.

Angelo Bertoni died on 31 March, aged 87. A funeral mass to celebrate his life was held at the Twelve Apostles Catholic Church in Jindalee on 9 April. I place on record the government's thanks for the years of service Mr Bertoni gave to the institution of our democracy and to the Queensland community. I welcome his wife, Yvonne; son, Robin; and daughter-in-law, Cathy, in the gallery today. On behalf of the government I extend my sympathy and that of this House to you and to all of Mr Bertoni's family and friends.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.39 am): When we come to reflect on the contributions of former members, we are required to do this against the backdrop of our own experiences. Events and personalities of today loom so large in our deliberations that we do not always pause to remember what those who have gone before us have done and what they have achieved. The passing of Angelo Bertoni, the member for Mount Isa from 1974 to 1983, is one such case.

Angelo Bertoni was a true son of regional Queensland. Born in Ingham, he was educated in the north and at the University of Queensland; however, it was in Mount Isa that he forged his professional and political life. A qualified pharmacist, Mr Bertoni established several pharmacies in Mount Isa—a tribute to his capacity for hard work and evidence of his commitment to his local community. He involved himself in all aspects of life in his adopted town and is particularly remembered for his involvement in his local Lions Club and his enthusiastic participation in sport. His prowess as an A-grade squash player was especially notable.

The natural extension of his community involvement was his election as mayor of Mount Isa, a position he held from 1973 until 1975, after he had been elected to this parliament in fact. 1974 saw Angelo Bertoni embark on his state parliamentary career. As a member of the National Party he won the seat of Mount Isa in a closely contested election with both the Labor Party and the Liberal Party. His victory, which saw the government win 69 of the state's 82 seats, was even more remarkable because it marked the end of the Labor Party's dominance in Mount Isa and its predecessor seat Burke, which had been held by the Labor Party since 1918.

Mr Bertoni came to parliament committed to the needs of his electorate. In his maiden speech in 1975 he gave a clear statement of his aims as a parliamentarian when he said—


I am here in this Parliament to represent the people of the North West, embracing the major centres of Cloncurry, Mary Kathleen, Mt. Isa, Gunpowder, Burketown and Camooweal. ... I have come here to fight for the continued growth and improved living conditions of the people of my electorate, which represents some 43 different nationalities.

This speech detailed the issues that he saw as most important for his constituents: the need to receive treatment equal to that applying to people in more densely populated areas; the importance of a reliable water supply; the need for all-weather roads in the north-west; a fair share of tax revenue, considering the wealth generated by the mining industry in Mount Isa; the needs of the beef industry; the importance of retaining police in the region; housing needs; and the importance of air conditioning in homes, schools and workplaces. It was these needs that Angelo Bertoni sought to service during his time as Mount Isa's representative.

In his final year in this House he served as minister for health after the collapse of the coalition government in 1983. In October that year Mr Bertoni was defeated in Mount Isa in a closely contested election with the ALP. Defeat throws up all sorts of challenges, and there is no doubt that his defeat in

that year allowed him to renew his professional career. Initially in the Isa and then in the south-western suburbs of Brisbane, he expanded his pharmacies and built on the entrepreneurial skills he had developed since his graduation and move to the west. He remained active in the community and sold his pharmacies in 2000.

Angelo Bertoni led a full life—a pharmacist, a mayor, a member of parliament, a minister and an active community volunteer. He represented Mount Isa with vigour, with determination. He was never afraid to speak out for those in his electorate, whom he valued. We are pleased to acknowledge his wife, Yvonne, whom I met this morning and who is in the gallery today. The opposition extends our condolences to the entire Bertoni family and trusts Angelo's contribution will be remembered for many years.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (9.44 am): I rise to make a contribution to the condolence motion. Mr Angelo Bertoni, I understand, was a contemporary of my father and grandfather in the seat of Mount Isa. Angelo arrived in Mount Isa and opened his first pharmacy in 1961 and a second pharmacy in the medical centre in Camooweal Street. His slogan at the time, I am told, was 'the chemist who really cares'. Being an innovative marketer of cosmetics, dispensary items and photography allowed him to expand to three pharmacies in Mount Isa. He was always conscious of people's health and it was known at the time that, in view of the harsh sunlight out there, he was big on people using sunscreen and hats around the place. In the days of colognes and perfumes, Angelo was purported to always be giving away samples to entice people and was a great salesman in this respect, I am told. Angelo stood for city mayor and later ran a successful campaign for the state seat of Mount Isa on a platform of no corruption. It was a smart marketing ploy, they said, for the day. He was known as a smart man. I was speaking to a local earlier today who said that Angelo had a polite and kind manner and was not loud or always grandstanding. I did not take any offence at that!


In 1973 he defended Mount Isa and its annual rodeo against media attacks and a lot of pressure. He was a strong advocate for the establishment of the show as early as 1973 and took it through another nine years. We saw the rise and fall of several like-minded shows—they appeared and quickly disappeared—but that was taken right through to 1982. He was a big pillar of that. He worked with my grandfather in getting funding for the Lake Julius water storage—a beautiful, great big water storage dam on the Leichhardt River that we enjoy the benefit of today.

He held the position of mayor for one term, until he stood at the state election as the Country Party candidate and served two terms. He was a strong advocate for the migrant influx of workers during his time as mayor and at one point had up to 53 nationalities. Being of Italian decent himself, he was living proof that everyone, regardless of ethnicity, had the opportunity to hold office.

I was also told anecdotally about his generosity as an operator in the city at the time. One story is that he offered Mother's Day gifts to every mother in town. I wanted to make sure I had that right: 'Are we talking about every mother?' He said, 'He sent Mother's Day gifts to every mother in town.' That demonstrates the generosity of the man. His is a well-respected name in Mount Isa. I can strongly attest to that. His name is associated with integrity. He did wonderful things for the community he lived in for the time he was there. Vale, Angelo Bertoni.

Whereupon honourable members stood in silence.

Gately, Mr LF

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.49 am): I move—

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

Leo Francis Gately was born in West Wyalong, New South Wales on 15 June 1937 and was educated at the St Mary's primary and secondary schools. Later in life he undertook further studies at colleges in Sydney and Newcastle. Mr Gately served in the New South Wales Police Force, before suffering injuries in a motorcycle accident in Newcastle in July 1963.

Throughout his life, Mr Gately had a wide variety of employment experience, to say the least: as a grazier; in wholesale grocery sales and clerical duties; in banking; administration in the aluminium industry; administration of a deaf and blind children's centre; racecourse management; administration of a nursing home; and as the owner/manager of a confectionary retailer. If broad life experience is helpful for a politician, Leo Gately certainly had that.


An involvement in community projects in the Newcastle area led to Mr Gately joining the Australian Labor Party in 1967. In 1971 he was elected as an alderman on the Newcastle City Council and he served on the council until December 1973. In 1972 Mr Gately ended his ties with the ALP and unsuccessfully contested the federal seat of Shortland, just south of Newcastle, as an independent candidate at the December 1972 federal election. Eight years later Mr Gately joined the National Party in New South Wales. Five years after that, in 1985, he joined the party in Queensland.

In 1986 an electoral redistribution created a new electorate of Currumbin based in the Currumbin and Tallebudgera valleys. Mr Gately was selected by the National Party to contest the seat, which he won at the state election held in November 1986. He took his place in this House as the inaugural member for Currumbin. He served a three-year term, losing the seat to Trevor Coomber of the Liberal Party at the state election of December 1989.

In his first speech in this House, Mr Gately said that during the election campaign the media played up his New South Wales heritage, but he made no apology for having moved to the greatest state of our nation. I am sure that 35 years later we all say 'Hear, hear!'

During his term Mr Gately served on various committees, including public works, main roads, police and Expo, which reminds us that his service coincided with the build-up to that great event in 1988. He was also a member of the House's select committee of privileges. While Mr Gately's time as a member of this House was relatively short, he certainly served during a tumultuous time in Queensland's political history. He was an active participant in the debates and political events of those memorable times.

Leo Francis Gately passed away on 25 August aged 83 and a private celebration of his life was held in Rockhampton. I place on record the government's thanks for the service he gave to the institutions of our democracy and to the Queensland community. I welcome Leo's daughter Michelle in the gallery today. On behalf of the government I extend my sympathy and that of this House to Michelle and to all of Mr Gately's family and friends.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.52 am): Leo Francis Gately lived what can only be described as a full life. His daughter Michelle, who is here and I met this morning, described it accordingly—

Leo lived life to the fullest in a true sense. We don't even have a count of how many jobs and professions he had over the years.

Leo endeavoured to relate this employment in his first speech in the parliament. I will not go through the list—the Premier has already outlined that—but I think there were some omissions in there. It is a lengthy and distinguished career in different areas that few in this House could match.

As a young man in West Wyalong Leo Gately was introduced to swimming and was taught by his aunt, Fanny Durack, the first Australian woman to win an Olympic gold medal in a swimming event. He had success in regional and state swimming championships and was coached by well-known Australian coaches Terry Gathercole and Forbes Carlile. He represented New South Wales in the 4 x 100 metre breaststroke relay and came within a fraction of a second of being selected for the 1958 Cardiff Commonwealth Games.

Leo Gately joined the New South Wales Police Service and worked in both Sydney and Newcastle before a traffic accident forced his ultimate retirement. He involved himself in a wide range of community activities. It was this experience that resulted in his election to the Newcastle City Council, a position he held for two years from 1971. Mr Gately was elected as the National Party member for the newly created seat of Currumbin in 1986, having moved from Northern New South Wales. He was proud of his New South Wales origins. This is a quote from his maiden speech in 1987—


... I make no apologies for having become a border-hopper because I believe—and I am sure all in this great and noble place would agree—that I have come to the greatest ... State of our nation.

That speech set out the issues that Leo Gately regarded as critical to the people of Currumbin and that is the need for balanced redevelopment, the need to preserve recreational areas and the Tallebudgera and Currumbin estuaries, the needs of the developing tourism industry, the requirements of better transport infrastructure and the need for a new high school in the electorate. Leo Gately even highlighted the need to extend the railway from Robina to the border and then to Murwillumbah. He was a champion for his constituents. He went in to bat for homeowners suffering from land subsidence and the need for beach replenishment following significant erosion. His experience as a police officer even

led him to advocating for a victim of a stabbing when the legal system appeared to have left that person with nowhere else to turn. The arrest, trial and conviction of the offender owed much to Leo Gately's determination. Indeed, the *Daily News* in 1989 reported—

Mr Gately virtually conducted his own investigation to the extent of interviewing witness as he gathered information to take into the parliament, where his allegations caused a revival of interest in the murder attempt.

Despite his efforts, Leo Gately's membership of this House ended in 1989 when he was defeated by Trevor Coomber. His enthusiasm for whatever task he undertook is undeniable. Though his time in here was short, he was an outspoken and vigorous advocate for his constituents. We extend our sympathies to the Gately family and mark his passing with our deepest regret.

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (9.56 am): As the fifth member for Currumbin since its creation in 1986 I am honoured to pay tribute to the first member for Currumbin, the late Leo Francis Gately. I join with this parliament in extending my condolences to his daughter Michelle who is in the gallery here today and the whole Gately family. The inaugural member for Currumbin Leo Gately's seat was formed in the 1986 redistribution and included the southern portion of the former electorate of South Coast and it centred around the Currumbin and Tallebudgera valleys, the boundaries of which are largely unchanged to this day, with only the suburb of Palm Beach being removed in subsequent redistributions.

I did not know Mr Gately personally, but what I do know is that he was someone who overcame great odds, suffering spinal and other injuries in a head-on collision in Newcastle in July in 1963 which forced his subsequent retirement from the police force. As has been noted, Mr Gately was a man of many careers, including serving as an alderman in the Newcastle City Council from 1971 to 1973. He was also a man of great conviction, proud to champion the little guy and a fierce advocate for his community. His maiden speech highlighted several issues that are still pertinent to locals in the Currumbin electorate today. He believed—

Any redevelopment should be of a balanced type, taking into account the need to create employment opportunities, whilst still ensuring environmental aspects and that buildings of an aesthetically acceptable appearance and standard are constructed.

He also said—


Tourism is a keystone for development on the Gold Coast and is vital to the Currumbin electorate.

He also noted—

Road traffic congestion is ever present on the Gold Coast and will continue to create problems until an overall study is completed, covering vehicles, buses, trains and/or a monorail.

As the Leader of the Opposition and member for Broadwater has pointed out, Mr Gately even highlighted the need to extend the railway from Robina to the border and then on to Murwillumbah. In addition to being a man that overcame great odds and a man that went into bat for his community, he was also clearly a man of great foresight because these issues still ring true for the Currumbin electorate today. While he was ultimately defeated at the following election in December 1989, Mr Gately's contribution to this House will not be forgotten. I join others in this House in offering my deepest sympathies to the Gately family at this difficult time. Vale, Leo Francis Gately.

Whereupon honourable members stood in silence.

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, it is always a sad occasion to have to do a condolence motion in the House, but the fact that we have conducted two today makes it a sad day indeed for the Queensland parliament.

TABLED PAPERS

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. D'Ath)—

[1747](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. D'Ath), to an ePetition (3579-21), sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 2,712 petitioners, requesting the House to provide the people of Queensland irrefutable evidence within 30 days of the presentation of this petition that lockdowns and the wearing of masks will save lives and protect the community

[1748](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. D'Ath), to an ePetition (3589-21), sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 11,133 petitioners, requesting the House to provide the people of Queensland within 30 days of the presentation of this petition the cycle threshold of the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test in Queensland; the irrefutable evidence used to justify the use of PCR test and its threshold; and the future of the PCR test in Queensland

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

[1749](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (3615-21), presented by the member for Buderim, Mr Mickelberg, Mr Mickelberg, and an ePetition (3595-21), sponsored by the member for Buderim, Mr Mickelberg, Mr Mickelberg, from 123 and 510 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to install noise abatement barriers along the Sunshine Motorway from Abelia Place to Glenfields Boulevard, in Mountain Creek

MEMBER'S PAPER


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

Member for Maiwar (Mr Berkman)—

[1750](#) Nonconforming petition seeking to restrict beach 4WD on Bribie Island

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Coronavirus, Update

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (10.00 am): I have good news for Queensland. We have no new cases of COVID-19 and today is a double donut day. We have had 10,537 tests, and 17,187 vaccines were delivered by Queensland Health. Now, 70.99 per cent of eligible Queenslanders have had one dose and 54.10 per cent have had two doses of vaccine.

Our pathway through the pandemic has seen Queenslanders live with relatively minor restrictions. Our strong health response has enabled a strong economic response. Our children are in school. Their parents are at work. Key sectors of our economy, such as construction, mining and agriculture, have never stopped. That has not been true for our neighbours.


Today Victoria has recorded another 2,297 cases and, sadly, 11 people have lost their lives in a single day. New South Wales was locked down for 106 days. They struggle to regain simple freedoms like having a haircut. New South Wales will not be as open as Queensland until at least December. Our southern neighbours fight to regain their freedoms and we fight to retain ours.

As I have always said, the credit for Queensland's world-leading defeat of COVID's spread belongs to the people of this state. It belongs to the double vaxed marine pilot who, unknown to him, passed the virus on to a Cairns cabbie. The fact that he was vaccinated meant the amount of virus was less than it would otherwise have been and Cairns was spared a much bigger outbreak. It belongs to the Brisbane mother who had her daughter tested when her symptoms were no more serious than a headache. It is people such as those who have saved Queensland from the virus time and time again.

Queensland is filled with heroes. We wrap our arms around each other in times of trouble, but we need those arms now more than ever. This week I received a letter from a Gold Coast mother. Her 18-month-old boy got sick—extremely sick—and now he is immunocompromised. He cannot have the vaccine. His life depends on how many of us get it for him.

I know this state. I know that when bad things happen good people come running. Today is a taste of the wet season ahead. In the coming days and months, roads will be cut and communities may be isolated. By then it will be too late. That is why I say again: get vaccinated now. That sound you hear is coming from the millions of Queenslanders already in this fight. Do not walk past the tent at Bunnings. Roll up and give us a hand.

Weather Events, Preparedness

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (10.03 am): As members know, when it comes to extreme weather events, in Queensland it is not a matter of if but when. The south-east experienced some wild weather overnight and this morning. The Bureau of Meteorology has now cancelled its severe thunderstorm warning but will continue to monitor the situation. There is a lot of rain and water around so, remember: if it's flooded forget it.


Regardless of the danger, our emergency services are prepared and it is time Queenslanders were too. This is a timely reminder—in Get Ready Queensland Week—to get prepared for this year's storm season. Last season Queensland experienced 11 separate natural disaster events, including three bushfires and two cyclones. As for this season's outlook, on Monday cabinet was briefed by the Bureau of Meteorology. They are forecasting an increased chance of cyclones, rain and widespread flooding, including coastal flooding and erosion for the upcoming severe weather season.

On average, the Coral Sea would see four tropical cyclones in a season and during 2021-22 we are expecting an average to slightly above average number. There is a 70 per cent chance of La Niña forming, which increases the chance of above average spring and summer rainfall in northern and eastern Australia. There is also the potential for increased bushfire activity for parts of South-East Queensland.

It is time for Queenslanders to get ready. Make a household emergency plan. Pack an emergency kit. Know the risks in your area.

Time and time again Queenslanders have proven how resilient we are. We regularly see the strength of our communities on display after a disaster, with neighbours and sometimes complete strangers lending a hand to help those affected get back on their feet.

Path to Treaty


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (10.05 am): This week there has been major progress on our Path to Treaty. This is Queensland's journey towards acknowledgement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander injustices and towards truth telling and self-determination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders. This week I was honoured to receive the report of the Treaty Advancement Committee, which is co-chaired by Dr Jackie Huggins and Mick Gooda, with Sallyanne Atkinson, Michael Lavarch and Josephine Bourne.

The committee held community briefings this year to build support for the Path to Treaty. Their job was to advise government on the best way to implement recommendations by the Eminent Panel that began the Path to Treaty. The Treaty Advancement Committee's report has done just that. The report broadly supports the earlier part of this careful and important process. It takes the journey further, with more recommendations that we will now carefully consider.

Path to Treaty is about promoting reconciliation and a new and just relationship with First Nations Queenslanders. I am proud of what we have done so far in the treaty-making process, including the \$300 million Path to Treaty Fund in the budget. I thank the Treaty Advancement Committee for their advice, including how to use the returns from the fund. Their report will be instrumental in guiding Queensland down the Path to Treaty over the next 10 years.

My government is focused on the health and wellbeing of all Queenslanders during COVID. However, we are also committed to future progress on issues that will lead to more respect, more harmony and more justice. Path to Treaty is one of them and this week has been another milestone in that historic journey.

Great Queensland Getaway Campaign

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (10.07 am): Queensland is definitely the place to be. I want to help more Queenslanders to get out and explore their state. That is why today I am proud to officially launch the Great Queensland Getaway campaign. From Monday we will offer Queenslanders big discounts on flights, accommodation and tourism experiences across the state, from snorkelling on the Great Barrier Reef to sailing around Magnetic Island, visiting a theme park on the Gold Coast, whale watching on the Sunshine Coast or Fraser Coast or going on an Outback adventure tour.

We are offering 50 per cent off tourism experiences up to \$100 in the south-east, central and western Queensland and 50 per cent of tourism experiences up to \$200 in North Queensland. We will have budget airfares up for grabs from Brisbane to Townsville, Brisbane to Cairns, Brisbane to Proserpine and Brisbane to Hamilton Island. In more good news, Greyhound Australia will launch a new Queensland bus pass, including a five-day pass for \$75 that can be used for unlimited travel in Queensland across 50 destinations.

A government member: Get on a bus!

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right.

A government member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is enough! You will get a ministerial statement someday. This \$8 million campaign is one of the largest in Queensland's history. It will generate \$80 million for local tourism businesses at a time when they need it most. Rebuilding our tourism industry is an important part of our COVID economic recovery plan.


Today's announcement is the latest in a number of highly successful initiatives that we have introduced to support struggling tourism operators. I commend the Minister for Tourism for all of his hard work and for his willingness to talk to all tourism operators. He is always out and about, visiting

them, listening to them and delivering for them. Some of the campaign initiatives have included our \$10 million Tourism and Hospitality Sector Hardship Program, the \$47.75 million COVID-19 lockdown support package for the tourism and hospitality sector and the hugely popular Holiday Dollars program that has generated more than \$11 million in bookings for tourism operators and \$9 million in publicity.

In total, we have invested about \$1 billion to support the tourism industry to rebuild and recover from COVID-19. We will continue to support tourism businesses through these challenging times. I urge all Queenslanders, if you can, please book a holiday at home this year to support local businesses and, more importantly, local jobs. I encourage anyone keen to book a great Queensland getaway to head to queensland.com on Monday.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, can I ask that the levels of conversation decrease—there is a general level which is too high—please, while we have ministerial statements.

Renewable Energy, Jobs

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (10.10 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to creating more jobs in more industries across more regions for Queensland. In fact, supporting investment in renewables is part of Queensland's plan for economic recovery from COVID-19. Three years ago the Premier met with businesses and academics in Japan to talk about the potential to export Queensland's sunshine as hydrogen. The following year we released our hydrogen strategy. Then the Premier appointed a minister for hydrogen—a world first. This year we launched the Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund, a \$2 billion commitment to grabbing the opportunities that are coming from clean energy.


In Townsville, we are working with Sun Metals Group as they move to operate their refinery on 100 per cent renewable energy by 2040 and use hydrogen in their trucking fleets with longer-term ambitions to export renewable hydrogen to South Korea.

The Port of Townsville has also now signed memoranda of understanding with multiple companies to investigate the export of hydrogen and there will be more developments coming very soon. By backing Queensland to become a renewable energy superpower, we will create and sustain jobs long into the future. If approved, the project will help the state reach its target of 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030. A precinct like this would encourage more investors in renewable manufacturing to come to Townsville. Our ambitious targets and investments are creating huge opportunities with more jobs in more industries right along the renewable energy supply chain.

We are also working with Townsville City Council and Townsville Enterprise Limited to build the Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct. The week before last, we declared the Townsville Energy Chemicals Hub at Lansdown a prescribed project, bringing them a step closer to building an advanced manufacturing facility that will refine ore to produce materials for new-technology batteries. The project will create around 800 construction jobs and its operational phase will create an estimated 1,700 jobs, including 300 highly skilled advanced manufacturing jobs at the facility and 1,400 jobs in support industries.

Each of these partnerships, as they come to life, means more jobs in more industries, powered by Queensland clean energy, and they happened because we got on with seizing the opportunity.

Beenleigh Steel Fabrications

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (10.12 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government is committed to encouraging investment in new and traditional industries right across Queensland. We want to see more investment in new industries for our state, like defence, biofuels, biomedical devices and, of course, renewables.

We also want to see investment in traditional industries. That is why I was so pleased to have the opportunity to turn the sod on a new \$4.2 million facility for Beenleigh Steel Fabrications in Berrinba in the City of Logan. Through our \$175 million Jobs and Regional Growth Fund, we are supporting this major renewal for a Logan company that started operations 40 years ago in 1980.

Beenleigh Steel specialises in architectural steel. On top of its existing 100-strong workforce, this new facility will supercharge its fabrication capability, creating nearly 60 new jobs in the next five years. This includes apprentices and trainees each year in trades like boilermaking, rigging, dogging and machine operation.


Every week we can see Beenleigh Steel beams being off-loaded on George Street to become part of the \$5.6 billion Queen's Wharf Brisbane development. Then there is Beenleigh Steel in Cross River Rail, in the expanding Cairns Convention Centre and in the Sun Metals Zinc Refinery in Townsville. This is on top of the Beenleigh Steel in Suncorp Stadium, the Gabba, Queensland Country Bank Stadium in Townsville, the Home of the Arts on the Gold Coast, Rheinmetall's Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence at Redbank, the Legacy Way tunnel and the 400-tonne steel frame that is Qantas Founders Museum's Airpark Roof in Longreach.

When BESIX Watpac needed a supplier for the complex diagrid structure on its Jubilee Place project in Fortitude Valley, they chose Beenleigh Steel.

Much of the face of modern Queensland contains a piece of Beenleigh Steel. On the back of projects like these, Beenleigh Steel expects its growth to double into the foreseeable future and this new facility will allow them to capitalise on every well-earned opportunity, including the opportunity of the 2032 Olympics.

As a long-term employer of skilled, secure manufacturing jobs, Beenleigh Steel Fabrications is exactly the kind of business that the Palaszczuk government wants to flourish in Queensland.

Schools, Infrastructure

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (10.15 am): I am pleased to report that construction is well underway on the new automotive training facility at Mabel Park State High, the first cab off the rank in our \$445 million Local Schools Local Jobs program. It was wonderful to visit the school with member for Waterford, Minister Fentiman, to recently check our progress on what will be an almost \$25 million cutting-edge STEM precinct and automotive training facility, finishing in March next year. The \$4 million automotive facility will allow students to explore the latest in solar powered vehicles and robotic technologies. In fact, principal Mick Hornby advised us that students will be able to build their own electronic scooters to ride to school, which is just amazing.


I also had the pleasure of visiting Rockhampton State High School with the members for Rockhampton and Keppel where we heard about the Local Schools Local Jobs project. The school's existing aquaculture program will receive a \$2.5 million boost to allow for 10,000 barramundi fingerlings to be released into the Fitzroy River catchment per year. It will give Rockhampton High students the opportunity to learn all about one of Australia's fastest growing food industries, giving students the skills they need to secure well-paid jobs in their region, setting them up for the future.

In light of our government's big hydrogen manufacturing facility announcement on Sunday, I am pleased to say Gladstone State High School, in the member for Gladstone, Minister Butcher's electorate, will receive \$2 million through Local Schools Local Jobs to prepare students for the local hydrogen jobs. It means Gladstone High School students will be at the forefront of this emerging green industry which will make Queensland a renewable energy superpower.

As one infrastructure project kicks off, another is ticked off. Our \$235 million Renewing our Schools program, a 2017 election commitment to renew some of our oldest high schools is now completed—delivered. During construction, this program has supported more than 680 jobs across the state, ensuring a consistent pipeline of work for tradies. What a program and facilities it delivered. I was very proud to be with the member for Cairns at the beautiful multipurpose sports court that we opened at the Cairns State High School, and similar courts in Indooroopilly State High in Maiwar and Smithfield State High in Barron River, where I hope to be very soon to open it with the member for Barron River. The performing arts centre at Everton Park State High School is complete. It was great to be there with the member for Everton, opening that absolutely unbelievable facility in a school that those opposite had earmarked for sale. We also have centres at Toowoomba State High School and I look forward to going to Toowoomba to see those magnificent centres as well. I know the local members are very much welcoming them.

These programs continue to deliver on our proud record on investing in world-class education facilities and, I can honestly say to the House, the likes of which this state has never seen before.

Mental Health Week

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (10.18 am): We are reminded daily how COVID-19 continues to inflict its impact on our health systems, on economies and on families and individuals. The economic and social changes that have occurred across the globe

over the past 20 months have been challenging and, for many, distressing. People are worried about their jobs, their loved ones and the uncertainty that has come with the pandemic. The disruption to our social lives has been difficult, especially for young Queenslanders. In every jurisdiction in Australia we are seeing more people accessing state funded health services and increased presentations for mental health conditions including anxiety, depression and eating disorders.

The Palaszczuk government is ensuring all Queenslanders have access to the mental health services they need. Our post-pandemic response includes a \$74.5 million mental health and wellbeing community package. This is part of the Queensland government's \$2 billion economic recovery package announced last year. This package includes \$28 million for non-government community based providers to rapidly respond to community needs and \$46.5 million to supplement Public Service provider supports to address longer term impacts of the pandemic through targeted evidence based initiatives.

This includes additional community mental health, drugs and alcohol treatment and support responses, additional capacity within existing alcohol and other drugs residential rehabilitation services and localised and youth mental health initiatives. This is on top of the Palaszczuk government's continued investment in mental health services through initiatives delivered via Queensland Health's \$350 million Connecting Care to Recovery 2016-2021 mental health, alcohol and other drugs plan; suicide prevention crisis responses and enhanced services funded with \$61.9 million over four years under the 2018-19 state budget; and \$205.8 million in capital projects to establish 89 new mental health beds and upgrade existing inpatient and subacute treatment beds across Queensland.

October is National Mental Health Month and this week is Queensland Mental Health Week. I would like to personally thank the frontline mental health workers and community service providers who continue to work tirelessly to improve the mental health of Queenslanders. The theme of Queensland Mental Health Week is 'Take time for mental health'. Now is the time for us all to consider what we can do personally to improve our wellbeing. Whether it is taking time out to appreciate simple pleasures, time with loved ones, family and friends or seeking—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, you will cease your interjections.

Mrs D'ATH:—professional support, there is always something we can do. I ask all members to manage not only their physical wellbeing but also their mental wellbeing and to look at those around them—friends, family, loved ones and work colleagues. If members think they are struggling to reach out, ask R U OK? Let us not leave it to one single day to ask R U OK? It is our responsibility to do that each and every day where we believe someone needs our support. I encourage all Queenslanders to take the time for their mental health and participate in one of the many communities events around the state.

Great Queensland Getaway Campaign


 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement) (10.22 am): From Coolangatta to the cape, we know Queensland tourism operators would rather be doing what they do best—delivering world-class tourism experiences to visitors. I implore Queenslanders to start packing their bags for the next phase of our economic recovery plan for the tourism industry.

Launched by the Premier this morning, the Great Queensland Getaway is set to become one of our biggest campaigns ever. Our Virgin Australia partnership and alliance with Greyhound and accommodation providers are examples of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to the Queensland tourism industry's recovery. More than \$1 billion in direct support has been invested by the Palaszczuk government to keep tourism operators afloat in response to the pandemic. The Great Queensland Getaway is our next instalment in assistance to encourage Queenslanders to holiday in their own state. Rounded up for the getaway are more than 400 world-class tourism experiences. Included are cut-price Virgin Australia flights, low-cost Greyhound bus travel plus a stunning line-up of great value-for-money accommodation and holiday packages.

We have also created a new statewide version of the successful Holiday Dollars program. Electronic promo codes will deliver half-price discounts of up to \$100 in most of the state and \$200 in the north. We know Queenslanders are enthusiastic about exploring more of our state and expect that they will contribute \$1.6 billion in overnight visitor spending between now and the end of January.

The Great Queensland Getaway comes hot on the heels of the 20 Days of Holidays Like This campaign. Deals like whale watching for \$1 and a competition draw for a seven-night reef and rainforest escape were enough to inspire Queenslanders to a 40 per cent increase in holiday bookings. These initiatives show that we are doing everything we can to encourage the visitor markets currently available to us to see more of Queensland and enjoy world-class tourist experiences while supporting our tourism industry.

South-East Queensland; Weather Event; SES Week


 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.24 am): As the Premier said earlier, South-East Queensland has experienced some wet and wild weather this morning. We have seen warnings for heavy rainfall for areas in the south-east coast region and parts of Wide Bay, Burnett, Darling Downs and the Granite Belt. In addition, there have been forecasts for severe thunderstorms for the south-east. This includes the areas of Ipswich, Scenic Rim, Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley. Already we have seen some big rainfall figures: 65 millimetres at Upper Springbrook; 51 millimetres at Little Nerang Dam; 49 millimetres at Tallebudgera Creek Road; and 48 millimetres at Currumbin Creek.

I assure Queenslanders and the House that our frontline responders are prepared. There are three swiftwater rescue crews ready to respond in the Ipswich, Beenleigh and Gold Coast regions. There are further swiftwater rescue teams ready to go in Brisbane. There are swiftwater rescue teams on standby on the Sunshine Coast and in Toowoomba. All regions have additional capacity to stand up additional swiftwater rescue resources should conditions worsen.

In addition, our valued SES volunteers are on standby across all regions. As last night and this morning have proven yet again, Queensland is prone to severe wet weather events. On the upside, we have the very best frontline responders in the nation. Today reminds us that when bad weather strikes it is the SES and their partnerships that come to the rescue. In fact, SES volunteers provide critical support during all sorts of emergency situations—storms, cyclones, rescues and more.

In this SES Week we shine the spotlight on the spirit of our SES volunteers. It is a week to celebrate them but also to join with others in community education and engagement. We highlight the outstanding contribution of the SES. It is an excellent opportunity to raise public awareness of the dedication and commitment of SES members and the invaluable services they provide to their communities. SES volunteers perform with dedication and professionalism and spend many hours in service to Queenslanders. This is an opportunity to recognise their professionalism. In the last financial year, SES volunteers devoted hundreds of thousands of hours of their time to helping Queenslanders. To each and every one of these volunteers, on behalf of all Queenslanders, we thank you.

Domestic and Family Violence, Programs; International Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.27 am): Domestic and family violence can impact anyone, but we know that women from culturally and linguistically diverse communities can experience unique forms of abuse and additional barriers to reporting violence, seeking support and escaping a domestic and family violence situation. Too often women from these backgrounds can feel isolated, often through language barriers and not knowing where to seek help when experiencing violence or abuse at home.


That is why the Palaszczuk government has committed \$1 million in extra support for community organisations to respond to sexual, domestic and family violence in our culturally and linguistically diverse communities. I am pleased to advise that a new safe and diverse communities grants program will open today. The grants will be available over four years to 2024, with \$250,000 available each year to provide grants of between \$10,000 and \$25,000 to successful applicants. The grants will strengthen the capacity of Queensland's culturally and linguistically diverse communities to address family violence and all forms of violence against women through innovative, culturally appropriate, tailored primary prevention projects and initiatives.

We have worked closely with culturally and linguistically diverse representatives and organisations to make sure this grants program will remove barriers for our multicultural women and families to access support and escape violence. I encourage any community group or organisation that wants to take action to end violence against women in their communities to put forward an application.

Mr Speaker, I would also like to acknowledge Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day, which is tomorrow. I acknowledge your words earlier this morning and acknowledge the loss that you and your wife suffered. Around one in four pregnancies ends in miscarriage. However, even now it is still a topic that is rarely discussed and acknowledged.

Every year around 3,000 babies are lost through stillbirth or newborn death. This is a day to acknowledge the loss and to end the stigma associated with pregnancy loss and infant death. Still now it remains a topic that we rarely discuss and so many often still feel shame. We know that experiencing a miscarriage or stillbirth can be an extremely difficult time. That is why we have made sure that our Queensland government employees have access to two days bereavement leave if they or their spouse suffer a miscarriage and 14 weeks full-paid leave if an employee experiences a stillbirth. We all have a responsibility to help end this stigma and ensure that families that are impacted are supported.

Path to Treaty

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (10.30 am): On 29 September this year the Palaszczuk government took a historic step forward in our state's reconciliation journey by returning over 160,000 hectares of land back to the Eastern Kuku Yalanji people. I had the privilege of joining Minister Scanlon at a ceremony held in Bloomfield, north of Wujal Wujal, where the historic land hand back documents were officially signed. I also acknowledge the Minister for Resources who did a large degree of work behind the scenes. I was humbled to witness the emotions of elders who had fought for three decades for their rights. This is reconciliation at work. This was a visible and tangible part of healing and in consideration of this year's NAIDOC theme of 'healing country'.

During my visit, I also had the pleasure of visiting the Wujal Wujal community and the Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council and took part in what I believe is the most beautiful and personal welcome to country that I have ever received. During my visits to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Queensland, I experience firsthand the resilience of communities, the rich culture there is to offer and the stories waiting to be told.


I recently visited Mithaka Country, land situated in the red sands and gibber plains of far west Queensland's unique Channel Country. Mithaka Country features vast sandstone quarries, cultural stone tool manufacturing sites and ancient ceremonial stone arrangements shaped like constellations in the night sky. For the first time, researchers are unearthing archaeological clues about transcontinental trading routes and, seemingly, the civilisation of pre-contact Aboriginal societies.

Using the latest in scientific breakthroughs, the rock-strewn desert plains of Mithaka Country are only now surrendering their secrets—hidden for thousands of years—that may yet change the historic narrative of our First Nations people. The Mithaka Aboriginal Corporation is establishing partnership agreements with various research institutions, including the University of Queensland and Griffith University, to investigate and better understand this spectacular cultural landscape.

There are many sites and stories in Queensland, just like this one, still undiscovered and untold. That is why this government is committed to reconciliation and truth telling. As truth telling forms a key part of Path to Treaty, I am pleased to report that it is steadily progressing. This month, the Treaty Advancement Committee held a community session in Brisbane, reporting on truth telling and healing, and the establishment of a future Treaty Institute.

After many months of hard work, as the Premier reported, the Treaty Advancement Committee officially handed over the report to the Premier this week. Queenslanders can expect the Palaszczuk government's response to the report in the coming months. When it comes to reconciliation in Queensland, we know there is still a lot to be done, but we are committed to paving the way forward for generational change.

Coronavirus, Small Business

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.33 am): It is clear that the Palaszczuk government's strong COVID-19 health response has kept Queensland out of long lockdowns and allowed our economic recovery to continue. When it comes to small businesses, the very best thing we can do is ensure our economy is growing, do everything we can to ensure any lockdowns are short and sharp, and keep businesses open and trading—but we know the impact of COVID-19 is being felt. That is why we put backing small business at the heart of our \$14.5 billion COVID-19 economic recovery plan, providing direct financial support to businesses.

The latest is the jointly funded COVID-19 Business Support Grants, offering payments of up to \$30,000 for eligible businesses and not-for-profits impacted by Queensland lockdowns, as well as \$1,000 for non-employing sole traders. I am very excited to advise the House that today we have hit the milestone of sending \$250 million to the pockets of over 27,000 Queensland small businesses through this program. That is over 95 per cent of the applications. Small businesses still have until 16 November to apply.

I have been lucky enough to meet some of the business owners we have supported right across the state including Jimmy, who runs Jimmys Burger & Co in Cairns; Andrew, who runs Hervey Bay Fly and Sportfishing; Bec, who runs Solace Hair in Brisbane and who was one of the very first businesses to receive a grant; and many others. I want to take this opportunity to praise the staff who have worked so hard on this program. We doubled the size of the team to get the money into businesses' bank accounts as soon as possible. I want to acknowledge the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries for his team. The fact that we have now hit \$250 million is a testament to their incredible hard work.

The impacts of the pandemic have been felt differently throughout the state. For those businesses in very close proximity to the New South Wales border there have been unique challenges. For a long period of time, their businesses were not in lockdown but most of their customers were. I have spent a lot of time speaking with border businesses to hear firsthand how challenging things have been. I thank the Premier for making the time to go and visit Coolangatta too.

Our brilliant department and representatives from the Queensland Small Business Commissioner's office down there have spoken to hundreds of businesses—and we know it is tough. So I was delighted that we could announce a multimillion dollar border business support package last time this House met. As part of that package, we extended the eligibility of our COVID-19 Business Support Grants and we committed that, if the border remained closed for two months, we would provide an additional \$5,000 Border Business Zone Hardship Grant to border businesses. We have now hit that date, so I am putting out a call to all those border businesses: keep an eye on your inbox for details on how to access this extra support.

Our package also committed a million dollars for the Play Money vouchers scheme for border businesses. On the advice of Destination Gold Coast we have left a period of time between the generic Gold Coast Play Money program closing and the border program opening. Border businesses can submit their EOIs before 26 October. The Palaszczuk government is getting on with the job: keeping Queenslanders safe, keeping our economy open and backing small business all the way.

Egg Industry



Hon. ML FURNER (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (10.36 am): One of life's unanswered questions is: what came first—the chicken or the egg? I can answer that because last Friday was World Egg Day and today is World Chicken Day. Queensland is known for leading the nation in all kinds of agricultural production. I want to highlight one particular sector and that is egg production.


Last year's Australian Eggs annual report shows that Queensland did indeed lead all other states, with 31.36 per cent of the national flock of almost 29 million birds. When you consider that equates to a farm gate value of \$268 million in Queensland alone—a cracking performance in anybody's language—clearly Queenslanders do not mind shelling out for a quality product.

As is the case with the rest of our farming sector, the Palaszczuk government is a strong supporter of our egg industry, including important industry collaboration in the initial phases of the COVID-19 pandemic to keep important supply chains in motion. Total national egg production in 2019-20 was more than 507 million dozen—and that is nothing to 'yolk' about! We know Queenslanders were shell-shocked in the initial phases of the pandemic, but I am proud that the Palaszczuk government was able to hatch a plan and work tirelessly with industry on a way forward.

Of course, we know Queensland farmers are never beaten, and that is certainly true of the Queensland egg industry. This record of achievement cannot be 'egg-nored'. It is so full of delicious achievement that even I struggle to 'egg-spress' how good our egg farmers are. It is especially important to pay tribute to our chicken and egg farmers who have made an important contribution to Queensland's 'egg-conomy'.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, it started out so well!

Foster Carers, Recruitment


 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.38 am): As we all know, Queenslanders have big hearts, but there are none with bigger hearts than Queensland's foster carers. We have been encouraging people to sign up and become foster carers in our latest recruitment campaign. Queensland is always looking for foster and kinship carers who can help make a difference to a child's life and potentially transform their own.

Our foster carer recruitment campaigns are about getting Queenslanders from all walks of life to consider providing a safe, stable home for children in need by sharing real foster carer stories. We are looking for carers to help with short-term care, long-term care, and the care of young children and teenagers, including siblings. The children we are seeking carers for are unable to live safely at home and need a safe place to call home where they can get comfort, support and sanctuary. The recruitment campaign features real foster carer stories promoted on TV, digital platforms and social media, and you can also find these online. Each video story presents a unique perspective of the foster carer experience of couples, singles and Queenslanders with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds stepping up and helping children in need.

I would like to make special mention of Toowoomba based foster carers Karen and Ron, who shared their journey with ABC journalist Belinda Sanders yesterday. Thank you, Karen and Ron, for the work that you do supporting children. I thank journalist Belinda Sanders for the opportunity to go on radio yesterday and put out the call to that region. I urge people to look at these and other amazing foster carer stories and get a feel for what the role entails and what a difference it can make to the lives of these vulnerable children.

The number of children in care in Queensland is continuing to rise and has increased to 10,900 since last year. Our cohort of foster and kinship carer families is just over 5,700, and with demand rising we need more carers. Extra time at home during COVID-19 has given many of us the chance to reflect on what matters most, and there are few things more important than a child who needs your help. For those who have never been foster carers before, my department supplies training and support through specialist agencies and a fortnightly allowance to help meet the needs of those children they open their homes to. To learn more about becoming a foster carer I encourage Queenslanders to visit our website at www.Queensland.gov.au.fostercare or call Queensland Foster and Kinship Care and open their homes to these children.

Australian Mines Rescue Competition; Mine Safety

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (10.41 am): Today the Aquila underground coalmine near Middlemount in the Bowen Basin is hosting this year's Australian Mines Rescue Competition. This competition is an important event in maintaining strong safety standards in our mining industry. I look to the teams of women and men participating in this event with admiration for the work that they do and I wish them every success, not just in the competition but their commitment to mine safety. Annual competitions like the Australian Mines Rescue Competition, the Queensland based EK Healy Cup and Queensland Mines Rescue Service Memorial Cup are also vital to testing, improving and maintaining emergency response capability in the industry. They also help build relationships and comradery between workers across sites.

Just like most competitions we participate in, Queenslanders have a proud record of success in the Australian Mines Rescue Competition. The last time it was held in 2019 all three teams in the top three were from Queensland mines, as were four of the top five. The member for Waterford will be pleased to hear that the 2019 winning team from the Grosvenor mine workforce was the first team in 57 years to win the competition with a female team member. Sensational!


While friendly competition is important, what is more important is the ability this competition gives our mine rescue teams to test out their capabilities. Mine rescue response capability is a critical part of ensuring the safety of our mine workers each and every day. When accidents happen in Queensland mines, as happened in the Crinum mine near Emerald last month, it was our brave Queensland mines rescue personnel who were first on scene. All of us in this place are aware of this incident and the tragedy it brings. As first responders, mine rescue was ready.

The safety of our workers is the Palaszczuk government's No. 1 priority in the resource sector. That is why our Queensland resource operations have been taking part in an industry-wide safety reset that I initiated as part of our commitment to all of our workers to protect their right to go home safely at the end of their shift with all of their fingers, toes and eyes working as they started. This safety reset exercise was last undertaken in 2019. This time it involves not just the mining and quarrying industries

but extends to explosives, petroleum and gas workers. The safety reset is focused on the principal findings from Dr Sean Brady's review of fatalities in Queensland's mining and quarrying industry between 2000 and 2019. Any loss of life on a Queensland mine site is absolutely unacceptable. Even when operations look to be running safely, we must constantly be on the lookout for those hazards. It is described in Dr Brady's review as 'developing a culture of chronic unease'.

I am pleased to report that, as of Friday, a total of 862 safety resets have been held across Queensland's resource industry sites. It is also important that workers, site management and industry leaders take this opportunity to focus on what is clearly the most important thing in this industry: the safety of its people. The Palaszczuk government remains committed to a safe and healthy work environment for everyone in Queensland's resource industry.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.45 am), by leave, without notice: I move—


That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 26 October 2021.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMITTEE

Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner, Report

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (10.45 am): I lay upon the table of the House the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner's report titled *Report on the results of the inspection of the records of the Crime and Corruption Commission pursuant to section 362 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000*, the PPRA, received in September 2021.


Tabled paper: Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner: Report on the results of the inspection of the records of the Crime and Corruption Commission pursuant to section 362 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, September 2021 [[1751](#)].

Chapter 13 of the PPRA is a code regulating surveillance device warrants, retrieval warrants, emergency authorisations and tracking device authorisations. Section 361 of the PPRA requires the CCC chairperson to keep a register of such warrants and authorisations. This report under section 363 of the PPRA covers the period 15 December 2020 to 31 August 2021 and concludes that in this period the CCC and law enforcement officers of the CCC complied with the provisions of chapter 13 of the PPRA in all respects. The committee received the report on 9 September 2021 and is tabling within 14 sitting days of receipt as required.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will conclude today at 11.46 am.

Minister for Public Works and Procurement

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (10.46 am): My question is to the Minister for Public Works. The minister has repeatedly told this House he never instructed the QBCC on Kirra Vista, yet senior executive Greg Matthews says in this briefing paper, which I table, that the QBCC only got involved after ministerial intervention. Can the minister explain why his statement contradicts Mr Matthews?

Tabled paper: Document by the Queensland Building and Construction Commission titled 'Hot Issues Brief: Queensland Building and Construction Commission—City of Gold Coast issues show cause to Kirra Vista B.C.' [[1752](#)].

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the member for the question. Let me reiterate my statement from yesterday. Of course when building matters are brought to my attention they are always reported to the regulator. It is no different from when members of this House—whether it be the member for Kawana, the member for Everton or the member for Currumbin—bring matters to me they are always referred to the regulator. I can assure Queenslanders, as I said yesterday, that their safety is our priority. When matters of safety are brought to our attention in respect of the built environment they too are forwarded to the regulator. Operational decisions are always a matter—

Mr SPEAKER: Sorry, Minister. Can I please have two minutes on the clock.

Mr de BRENNI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. At no point did I or my office instruct the regulator. I refer the member to my comprehensive statement on these matters from yesterday.

Mr SPEAKER: It was not needed.

Minister for Public Works and Procurement

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Minister for Public Works. Linda Hartman's disability-friendly house had to be demolished because it suffered from rising damp. Despite repeated requests the minister declined to meet her on the issue. Why did the minister act within hours for Toni Bowler but refused to meet Linda?

Mr de BRENNI: With respect to the homeowner, that matter was before the courts. As I understand it, it is a continuing matter so it is not appropriate for a minister to meet with people in those circumstances. In respect of the other matter, it was brought to my attention. I forwarded it to the regulator, as Queenslanders would expect me to do.

Coronavirus, Vaccination

Mr MARTIN: My question is to the Premier and Minister for the Olympics. Will the Premier update the House on vaccination rates across Queensland and any developments in the plan to vaccinate children?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Stretton for that question because we know how important it is to vaccinate. The fact that we have had a strong health response has meant that our economy has been able to recover. In breaking news, I can confirm that Queensland today has its lowest unemployment rate since March 2009, where our unemployment rate is 4.9 per cent in September 2021. A strong health response leads to a strong economic response.

I make it very clear to members in this House that we have to vaccinate the state. It is absolutely critical. At the moment we have our 12- to 15-year-olds getting vaccinated. I note we have some students in the gallery today coming through, and it is great to see they are out getting vaccinated. I can say that 35.4 per cent now have their first dose, but we need those rates to come up dramatically. It is absolutely imperative.

It was in this House some time ago that I raised the very important issue that we need to have a plan for the children, because when this virus comes here, it is the pandemic of the unvaccinated. Before members come back in here at the end of October, I want to see everybody in this House promoting vaccination in their regions. The higher the vaccination rate, the safer Queensland and Queensland families will be.

I was advised last night by the health minister that the TGA has told Pfizer it can apply for vaccine approval for five- to 11-year-olds. The Leader of the Opposition said I was scaremongering. That was absolutely shameful of those opposite. There needs to be a plan for the children. Even Greg Hunt now acknowledges they need a plan for the children. When you talk about leadership, there is no leadership over there—absolutely zero leadership. There was no leadership for the zero net emissions for 2050, and there is no leadership on COVID. They would have opened the borders 64 times—

(Time expired)

Minister for Public Works and Procurement

Ms SIMPSON: My question is to the Minister for Public Works. The minister says the meeting with Toni Bowler was a constituent meeting, yet his diary, which I table, discloses the meeting as a ministerial meeting with departmental and ministerial staff present. Can the minister explain the discrepancy?

Tabled paper: Extract of the Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport, Hon. Mick de Brenni, Ministerial Diary from 1 September 2019 to 30 September 2019 [[1753](#)].

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the member for the question. The ministerial diary reflects that because at the time I was minister for sport and she came to talk to me about a sports facility in her community.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I will wait for silence, members. The House was called to order.

Coronavirus, Quarantine Facility

Mr MADDEN: My question is to the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure. Can the Deputy Premier advise the House how Queenslanders are already benefiting from the Palaszczuk government's decision to construct a dedicated regional quarantine facility? Is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Ipswich West for his question. It is a very good one. The Palaszczuk government's COVID response, our health response, has kept Queenslanders—

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

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

Dr MILES: Our health response has kept Queenslanders safe, our kids at school and our people at work. That is borne out by the labour force statistics the Premier just referred to—with a record number of people in work. A 4.9 per cent unemployment rate is just stunning in the context. That is despite population and participation increases. It is a great result. As I said, it is thanks to our health response and our economic recovery plan. Our border controls and our quarantine measures have allowed us to keep delta at bay to give us time to vaccinate our state. We are doing that as quickly as we can, despite the efforts of the member for Mudgeeraba's fake union.

We are bringing on board more tools to help us deal with the outbreak, including our dedicated, safe quarantine facility in Toowoomba. I was pleased to be out there last week to see the concrete being poured at Wellcamp. The build is coming together quickly, as you would expect from the Wagners, our partners in that project. When I was there, there were 35 local tradies on site. The modular cabins are being built in Toowoomba by local tradies at the Hutchinson's facility there. At its peak, there will be 400 people employed in constructing the 1,000 beds that we will build there. We are in the process of appointing a facility manager who will work across both the Wellcamp facility and the Morrison government's Pinkenba facility, whenever that gets built sometime next year. We are working with the Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce and Surat Basin Enterprise to ensure that we can procure as much locally, whether that is food and catering, cleaning, linen, waste, all of the supports for the facility. It is coming together quickly.

I was very pleased to see today that the Morrison government has announced it will allow international repatriation flights to land at Wellcamp, including large 747 aircraft like those that land there now. That will allow us to bring Australians home—to land them at Wellcamp and transfer them safely into that purpose-built facility with infection control.

Minister for Public Works and Procurement

Mr MANDER: My question is to the Minister for Public Works. Can the minister confirm that his father set up the meeting between Toni Bowler and himself on 6 September 2019?

Mr de BRENNI: No, my father did not have any engagement with me in relation to any of my constituents. What an absurd assertion.

Coronavirus, Economy

Mr BROWN: My question is to the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment. Will the Treasurer please update the House on how Queensland's strong health response has protected our economy through the pandemic? Is the Treasurer aware of any challenges to our continued recovery?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Capalaba for his question. Can I begin by saying this: Queensland is in a jobs boom. Labour force data for September released just this morning demonstrates how strong our economy is recovering from COVID-19. Queensland added 30,800 jobs in the month of September, more than any other state and territory. That is 1,000 jobs each and every day. There are now almost 98,000 more Queenslanders in work than in work in March 2020. In New South Wales and Victoria, there are still 267,000 people who are working zero hours. They are not working at all, but they are still counted as officially employed. Since March last year, Queensland has created more jobs than every other state and territory combined. Queensland's unemployment fell to the lowest it has been since March 2009. It has fallen below the five per cent barrier.

Queensland's continued success, of course, depends on the vaccine rollout. We know the obstacles we have faced in getting sufficient supply from Scott Morrison. Queensland's economic, social and health success depends on the vaccine rollout.

Queensland needs to ensure that every Queenslanders gets the vaccine. You can make a choice about this. You can choose what to do, but if you choose to join an organisation that expresses anti-vax sentiment you are undermining the health response and the economic response for Queensland. That is exactly what happens when people choose to join the Nurses Professional Association of Queensland. Who is choosing to join the NPAQ? We know the member for Mudgeeraba is a member of NPAQ, an organisation that has publicly expressed anti-vax sentiment.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Sorry, Treasurer. Member for Bundaberg, you will cease pointing and gesticulating across the chamber. You are warned under the standing orders. Apologies, Treasurer.

Mr DICK: Who else is choosing to associate with the NPAQ? The member for Moggill. Last year the member for Moggill thanked the secretary of NPAQ for his work on the LNP's electorate council—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Treasurer will resume his seat. What is the point of order?

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise on two points of order. The first is as a matter of privilege. I have already indicated in this House that the member for Woodridge's comments are defamatory, untrue and are subject to legal proceedings. I have written to you about those matters. The second is that I find his comments personally offensive and I ask him to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: On the first matter, there is a process on foot and I do not believe that is a matter of privilege suddenly arising. On the second matter, Treasurer, the member has found those comments personally offensive; will you withdraw?

Mr DICK: I will, Mr Speaker. I withdraw. This is a test of leadership for the Leader of the Opposition. Everyone in this House knows of those members opposite who are members or associated with NPAQ. We all know it, they know it and Queenslanders know it. This is a test for the leader. Will he stand up for vaccination? Will he stand up for safety and economic recovery, or will he stand up for those people who aid, abet and shelter with organisations that promote anti-vax sentiment? This is a test for the leader. He needs either to support vaccination or to sack the shadow minister for health.

Coronavirus, Tourism Industry

Mr JANETZKI: My question is to the Premier. In the past 24 hours Accor Hotels said the government is turning its back on tourism through the crippling uncertainty that it has created. Why is the Premier not releasing a timeline to let Queenslanders re-join the world?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. We are currently in phase A of the national plan. That plan is to get Queenslanders vaccinated; it is not to promote anti-vaxxers like some of the members opposite joining particular organisations. The time is to get as many people as possible vaccinated.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Sorry, Premier. Premier, I ask you to resume your seat, please. The fact that the Premier could not hear me calling the House to order is very demonstrative of the interjections being made by the member for Buderim and the Leader of the Opposition. You both are warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Today Victoria recorded more cases in one single day than Queensland recorded during the entire pandemic. Just over a year ago those opposite called for the borders to be opened 64 times—

Dr Miles: And they are still calling.

Ms PALASZCZUK: And they are still calling. This state is not yet vaccinated. The best thing that every single member in this House can do is to go out to their communities—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: The member for Nanango led the charge to open the borders last year when it was unsafe to do so.

Ms Grace interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. My job is to keep Queenslanders safe. That is why we are getting as many Queenslanders vaccinated as possible, because this is the pandemic of the unvaccinated.

An honourable member: AstraZeneca is packing up.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is a decision of the federal government. The federal government had two jobs—to guarantee the supply of the vaccine, and to ensure that people were able to quarantine.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: That did not happen. Now we are seeing our vaccination rates increase in Queensland. There are parts of Queensland in regional communities, in Central Queensland, in the north-west, up in the northern parts of our state in Indigenous communities that we need to make sure are protected. Now we need a huge drive. I have said that the next six weeks are critical for Queenslanders to get that first dose.

Mr Stevens: What about the First Nations people?

Mr SPEAKER: Order, member for Mermaid Beach!

Mr Dick: It was their job.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. I take the Treasurer's interjection. The federal government said it was going to focus on First Nations.

Mr Dick: They failed them.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right.

(Time expired)

Turn to Teaching Internship Program

Mr SMITH: My question is of the Minister for Education. Can the minister update the House on the Turn to Teaching Internship Program and how it will enhance the teaching workforce? Is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for the question, because as a teacher he knows how important it is that we get teachers in our classrooms with the qualities and the qualifications that they need to teach our fine young students in schools. Our Turn to Teaching Internship Program is doing exactly that. We have a \$20 million program—300 internship teachers. We have linked with the University of Southern Queensland and with Griffith University. We have 50 teachers that we have earmarked in the STEM category. It is happening this year. We have 90 applications spread right across, I am proud to say, all parts of Queensland—from Kingaroy to Moranbah and right throughout Central Queensland. I know that the member for Bundaberg has applications in his own electorate at well.

The member for Bundaberg also knows that we want to keep these teachers safe. Vaccination is the key for us to open our economy completely. I commend the member for Bundaberg because he is a member of a real union, the Queensland Teachers' Union, as opposed to members opposite who back NPAQ and TPAQ. We need our teachers and students vaccinated so that we can do what those opposite want in terms of opening the borders. Isn't it amazing to state a fact that a member opposite is a member of NPAQ? It is on the members' register of interests. When another member supports that umbrella group—the red union rush group or whatever it is called—they get up here on a statement of fact and claim they have been defamed. How embarrassing is that? They get up in this House and say that, because we are stating a fact, somehow they are being defamed in relation to their political connections to these fake unions. I would feel like I was being defamed, too, if I admitted to being a member of these fake unions!

They are nothing more than a front for an LNP sponsored anti-vaccination campaign. The seriousness of this cannot be underestimated. They have been attending rallies. They have been peddling propaganda that is anti-vaccination. The shadow minister for health is a member of NPAQ. It is on her register of interests. Show some leadership, member for Broadwater. If you want vaccination rates to go up and you want to bring Queenslanders home, make sure they get vaccinated and stop your political affiliations to an anti-vaccination sponsored organisation hiding its political connections.

Mr SPEAKER: The minister's time has expired. Again, a message to all ministers—comments will be directed through the chair, or I will start issuing warnings.

Comments by Treasurer and Comments by Minister for Health

Mr LAST: My question is to the Premier. I refer to comments by the Treasurer and the Minister for Health condemning and seeking resignations from LNP frontbenchers over comments by workers organisations, and I ask: does the Premier stand by her ministers' statements on this matter?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. What I say very clearly is that the member for Mudgeeraba has on her register that she belongs to NPAQ. I think it is concerning that there are members of the LNP who are on that organisation's committee. I think everyone should be concerned about that. I am further concerned that this body has been supporting anti-vaxxers. They are legitimate concerns that the parliament should be raising. It is up to the Leader of the Opposition to explain why his right-hand person, the shadow minister for health, belongs to an organisation that purports to be anti-vax in this state. It is up to the member for Mudgeeraba to stand in this House and explain. We are more than happy to give the member for Mudgeeraba five minutes to do that.

Coronavirus, Response

Mr SULLIVAN: My question is of the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Can the minister please update the House on the Palaszczuk government's COVID response and any challenges it may face?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for Stafford for his question. He understands that the management of COVID-19 is absolutely critical to this state and to this country. We are facing the most serious crisis we have seen in a generation—in this country and across the globe—and we all have a responsibility and a part to play in how we manage that. I am very proud to be part of the Palaszczuk government, which has managed this virus so successfully that we have seen only 2,067 cases across the state since the start of the pandemic when Victoria has had 2,297 cases and 11 deaths in one day. We have seen 585 deaths from one outbreak that started on 16 June. For evidence of why our strategy has worked better we can look at the UK and what their inquiry is now showing. It is clearly showing that the slow and gradualist approach they took in the UK significantly worsened the outcome. Thousands and thousands of people have died.

My call to every member of parliament is to reach out to their communities to encourage them to get vaccinated—not simply post a picture saying 'I'm vaccinated' but proactively go out and get vaccinated. They should also condemn anti-vaxxers and any sentiment that goes against that message. NPAQ has just lodged a matter in the courts, seeking to have the mandatory vaccination of health workers deemed unlawful and overturned. I happily table a document in relation to that.

Tabled paper: Supreme Court of Queensland: Application for a Statutory Order of Review, Reference BS11730/21 [1754].

What is even worse is that NPAQ has actually questioned the efficacy of pregnant women getting the vaccine, saying we should not be experimenting on pregnant women. The reality is that one in six of the most critically ill COVID patients in the UK are unvaccinated pregnant women. The consequences for unvaccinated pregnant women are extremely serious—for the mother and the baby. That is showing up right around the world.

My question to the Leader of the Opposition is: will you require your shadow health minister to resign from an organisation that is peddling this sort of rhetoric that is dangerous and irresponsible? If you will not—

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, direct your comments through the chair.

Mrs D'ATH: If the Leader of the Opposition will not, he should answer to the people of Queensland why this is acceptable behaviour to condone.

Australian Workers' Union, Nuclear Energy

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My question is to the Premier. I refer to comments from the Premier's own union, the AWU, backing nuclear power, and I ask: does the Premier support her union's calls? If not, when will the Premier and her ministers resign from the AWU and the front bench?

Ms PALASZCZUK: First of all, the AWU is a real union—they have members, they represent workers, they are registered and they are accountable—unlike NPAQ, which has Liberal National Party members on the association. According to her pecuniary interests register the member for Mudgeeraba is a member.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 118(b) on relevance. The question was clearly about the AWU, and the Premier in her previous answer set a very clear example of who should resign based on union membership. I ask the Premier to go back to the question.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, the House has been called to order. If you will not comply with standing orders, you will be removed from the chamber. It is that simple.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The member for Kawana is no friend of the workers in this state. He completely dismantled the industrial relations laws in this state when he was a minister.

Mr Lister interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: Let me say very clearly: we are part of a global pandemic.

Mr Powell: What's this got to do with nuclear energy?

Ms PALASZCZUK: It has everything to do with it, because there is no greater challenge facing us than this global pandemic and people getting vaccinated.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 118(b), relevance. The question was about the AWU and nuclear power, nothing about the pandemic.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Kawana. You have raised that as a point of order. I have taken it under consideration and I am listening to the Premier's answer. I do not need to be reminded yet again. I also do not appreciate that the member on their feet is being interrupted by points of order which I do not believe are necessary.

Ms PALASZCZUK: As I was saying, the member for Kawana is well known as not being a friend of the worker—nor will he ever be. As I said in relation to the vaccines, we need every single member of this House out there getting vaccinated.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Premier, I refer to the member for Kawana's point regarding standing order 118(b), relevance. It is a question, as I heard it, that relates to nuclear power and a policy of a particular union. I believe that you need to come back to the point of the question as it was asked.

Ms PALASZCZUK: As I said very clearly, the question that I was asked was about a comparison, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I have just given you some guidance in terms of how the question needs to be responded to. If you have anything further to add, please do so. I do not wish to have a debate about the merits of the question or its interpretation.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, I do not need your assistance, either. You are warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Let me say in relation to energy in this state: we have it all in Queensland. We have coal, we have gas and we have renewables. The only side of this House that does not understand climate change and that does not understand net zero emissions by 2050 is the other side.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I am going to ask you to resume your seat. This is not relevant to the question as asked. It is a long bow. We have a direct question and I have tried to give guidance on that.

Training and Skills

Mr POWER: My question is to the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development. Can the minister please update the House on how the government's training initiatives are supporting employment outcomes and is the minister aware of any alternatives?

Ms FARMER: I thank the member for his question and for his passion for skills and training and particularly for our free TAFE and apprenticeships for under 25s initiatives which have supported nearly 42,000 young Queenslanders, including 346 from the member's electorate. As a result of our \$1 billion investment in skills and training this year we have seen a 56.6 per cent increase in apprenticeship commencements and 82.6 per cent of VET graduates are in employment or further studies. How good is all of that?

We all love TAFE. They are running and have run some fantastic promotional campaigns. I thought the Leader of the Opposition might be interested in some of them because they are about some of the fantastic courses TAFE run and, to be honest, it seems like he probably could do with a bit of leadership training.

We are all aware of the \$100 million contribution we are making to the federal government's JobTrainer campaign. JobTrainer gives people a second chance. TAFE have a great slogan: 'Stage your comeback'. The opposition leader knows a little bit about staging comebacks because after he ditched Townsville he came down to Broadwater and got rid Verity—a woman—and then he got rid of the member for Nanango from the leadership—a woman. In terms of staging a comeback, he knows a

bit about it so he probably does not really need any of our foundation courses. The overarching TAFE branding is 'Make great happen'. I thought the opposition leader would actually like that because he is really keen on making great happen for himself.

I want to suggest some courses for the Leader of the Opposition. There is the Team Leader Skill Set. The course description says, 'This course is perfect if you have recently been promoted to a team leader role or want to gain a leadership position in your business.' Or there is the certificate IV in leadership and management. The units include leading and managing team effectiveness—and I think that would be a good one; communicating with influence—yes; developing and using emotional intelligence—I would recommend that because I think he needs a bit of work in that space.

Mr Hinchliffe: No prior learning.

Ms FARMER: I take that interjection. We know, for instance, that he cannot decide on what to do about whether climate change is real. He cannot decide whether he will support a target of zero net emissions by 2050. He cannot decide whether Scomo should go to Glasgow. He cannot decide what he should do about borders—remember the *Sky News* interview? Oh dear! And he cannot decide whether he should come out and condemn the member for Mudgeeraba and NPAQ for being blatant anti-vaxxers. There are so many decisions to make when you are a leader. Who knew it was going to be so hard. We are here to say that TAFE is here to help. We know investing in skills and training is absolutely critical for economic recovery in Queensland and that is why we are investing for the long haul.

Mr Mander interjected.

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

Gairloch Washaway

Mr DAMETTO: My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. The Gairloch Washaway located between Ingham and the Cardwell Range is a flood prone section of the Bruce Highway that is in desperate need of flood mitigation works. Federal funding of \$40 million was allocated for this project over 10 years ago. Will the minister update the House as to what plans DTMR has to unlock this funding for this vitally necessary upgrade to the Bruce Highway?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the honourable member for the question. We have a very strong commitment to upgrading the Bruce Highway: a \$13 billion program over 15 years of joint funding. The Gairloch Washaway to the north of Ingham is a very complex stretch of the Bruce Highway. One might say the hydrology there is quite challenging. The member no doubt travels it regularly in terms of his duties. During the summer months it is vulnerable to flooding, being extremely flat terrain. It is that section that normally closes first when there is an extreme weather event and it can stay shut for days. That is why we are about to start planning for a long-term solution.

Today I can announce that Transport and Main Roads will be delivering a \$40 million planning project to set this up. This project is supported by funding from the Commonwealth and will explore all options to find a long-term solution to improve this stretch of road. We want to make sure that when this upgrade happens it is done properly and it lasts for many years to come. I know the community of Ingham, along with the freight industry, is keen to see a long-term solution to make sure that when we do see heavy rain in the region, particularly in summer, we can keep the Gairloch stretch of the Bruce Highway open. I note that we have recently improved the flood immunity of the Bruce Highway in the area south of Townsville around the Haughton River floodplain. We are also doing the Gympie bypass which takes out another vulnerable section of the Bruce Highway. This will be additional to that.

A \$48 million planning project is about to get underway on the Bruce Highway in relation to the Ingham to Cardwell Range deviation. It will update the findings of a previous study in 2011. The previous study identified possibly relocating the Bruce Highway out of the Lower Herbert River floodplain to the west of Ingham. This is all on top of that broader program. I think anybody who has been on the Bruce Highway recently would see how many upgrade projects we have underway.

Mr Harper interjected.

Mr BAILEY: There are a lot of lower speed zones because there are people out doing a lot of work, including on the Townsville Ring Road stage 5—I will take that interjection from the member for Thuringowa, 'Mr Riverway Drive'. Riverway Drive is very close to the Townsville Ring Road stage 5. We are seeing investments for a better Bruce Highway, as well as our commitment to the second Bruce—the inland freight route. We want to see more federal funding for that because that will take some of the long-haul heavy vehicles off the Bruce Highway and make it safer and increase productivity

in terms of the freight industry. We would like to see more federal commitment in relation to that. We are getting a lot done on the Bruce Highway program. This is in addition to that. I welcome the member's question and I look forward to keeping the House updated.

Cairns, Police Infrastructure

Mr HEALY: My question is to the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services. Will the minister update the House on progress being made in relation to the construction of major police infrastructure in Cairns and whether there are any alternative approaches to this matter?

Mr RYAN: I thank the member for Cairns for the question. He is a very wise man, so it is a very good question. I look forward to sharing with the House how the Palaszczuk government is supporting jobs and the economy right throughout Queensland but particularly in Cairns and the Far North. It is because of our strong health response that we have been able to get the economy running again. We have been boosting the economy. We have a construction industry delivering great infrastructure projects in Cairns and the Far North. The member for Cairns knows these projects very well because he has been a strong advocate for them, as well as you, of course, Mr Speaker, and other people in the House.

We are seeing the Cairns city station rebuild happening. That is a \$17 million project supporting 60 jobs in the Cairns economy. It is a tremendous project. We are out to tender on the Woree facility, worth \$11 million. We are out to tender on the Cairns West facility, member for Cairns. We also have the tender awarded in Aurukun. We have just finished the facility in Pormpuraaw. Earlier this year we finished the facility in Saibai. We are planning for a new facility in Laura. All up it is about \$60 million worth of infrastructure that we are delivering for Cairns and the Far North.

Our unemployment rate is so low now—4.9 per cent—because we are pumping money into these infrastructure projects and delivering construction projects. There are a lot of numbers there. Sometimes I need a calculator to work things out and I have got my LNP calculator here!

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member.

Mr RYAN: I will not hold it up as a prop. There is a lot of division on the LNP calculator, as well as a lot of negative numbers—negative, negative, negative!

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock.

Mr RYAN: I will put it down here, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: I think that is very wise, speaking of wise men.

Mr RYAN: I will not be tabling it. It is mine. I want to keep it because I want to keep using the negative button all the time. When it came to commitments around investing in Cairns and the Far North it was all negative from those opposite—all minus. They were going to take things away. They were not committing to our projects.

On the LNP calculator there is also a big 'off' button. That is usually what you get from those opposite. They are all off. I heard—and you might have done this as a child, Mr Speaker; you know how you spell words on your calculator?—the LNP's favourite number is 7735 because when you turn it upside down it says 'sell'. That is what those opposite are good at doing. Cut, sack and sell is the answer to every equation on the LNP calculator. While we are investing in Cairns and the Far North and all over Queensland our calculator has big plus signs—plus, plus, plus, plus, plus! That is what we do. On the calculator of those opposite it is negative, negative, negative, negative and off, because that is what they do. We are investing; those opposite cut, sack and sell.

Keswick Island

Mr ANDREW: My question is to the Premier. With reference to the government's approval of the \$20 million sale of the headlease on Keswick Island, why did the Queensland government never once consult or even include in its discussions the traditional owners and native title holders of the land on Keswick Island, the Yuwibara people?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am happy to take that question on notice.

Youth Co-Responder Teams

Mr HARPER: My question is to the Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs. Can the minister update the House on the co-responder model underway in Townsville?

Ms LINARD: I thank the member for the question and acknowledge what a strong advocate the member for Thuringowa is for his community, working hand in hand with the members for Townsville and Mundingburra. Community safety is one of our government's highest priorities. All Queenslanders have a right to feel safe and be safe. On one side we have the LNP who, when last in government, implemented failed policies in the youth justice space. Let us not get started on boot camps and a bizarre proposed curfew so that we could lock up young people on their way to their McDonald's shift. They did not do one thing that worked. Then we have the Greens, who want to keep more children in detention and give the courts fewer options when deciding bail applications. In contrast, since being elected our government has invested more than half a billion dollars in youth justice programs, services and infrastructure and implemented policies based on evidence.

As part of our commitment to community safety, the government's recent state budget allocated \$11.9 million this financial year to our state's youth co-responder teams. Those dedicated teams are made up of youth justice workers and police officers who ride together in uniquely wrapped vehicles targeting known problem areas. Starting in five sites in May 2020, the initiative is now operating in Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Logan, Moreton, Brisbane North and the Gold Coast. From the stories that co-responders tell me, there is no doubt they are making a very real difference in turning young lives around.

While I am on my feet I pay tribute to the police and youth justice workers who are part of this initiative, working hard around the clock for community. Enrolling teens back in school and linking them to domestic violence assistance and drug rehabilitation services are just a few examples of the great work that is happening. Other examples include transporting young people home from a place of risk and connecting them to vocational training and First Nations mentors. Through their great work, so far the teams have engaged with young people over 19,000 times.

It is those kinds of results that prompted our government to provide a second co-responder team and another dedicated vehicle for Townsville. That is something that Minister Ryan and I are very proud of and launched together with the co-responder team in Townsville recently. That happened on the basis of the strong advocacy of our three members on this side of the House. We know that it is often trauma and complex situations that lead young people to the point of offending and, by working together, youth justice staff and police are helping to address those underlying problems to stop crime before it occurs.

This is another example of our government's evidence based initiatives and absolute commitment to keeping the community safe. We will hold offenders to account but also give young people the chance to stay out of trouble and out of the youth justice system.

Paralympic Games, Ministerial Appointment

Mr LANGBROEK: My question is for the Premier. I refer to the announcement of ministerial responsibilities appointing the Premier as the Minister for the Olympics, and I ask: who is the minister for the Paralympics?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. It is a good question. I contacted John Coates, the President of the AOC, and asked him about the terms of the title 'minister for the Olympics' and whether it should include 'and the Paralympics'. He said no as it is recognised to be the minister for the Olympics. When we appointed the two assistant ministers, I deliberately put 'Paralympic sports' in the title of the Minister for Sport. Of course, I will be looking after both and I will be assisted by the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Sport.

I want to make sure that the House knows that I did seek that advice from Mr Coates, the head of the AOC, before confirming the titles. It is a very good question and I thank the member for raising it.

Agriculture Industry; Seasonal Workers

Ms HOWARD: My question is of the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities. Can the minister advise how the Palaszczuk government is addressing seasonal workforce issues in the agricultural sector—

Mr SPEAKER: I am sorry, member. Members, we have a protocol convention that questions are heard in silence. Member, please start your question again.

Ms HOWARD: My question is of the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities. Can the minister advise how the Palaszczuk government is addressing seasonal workforce issues in the agricultural sector and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr FURNER: I thank the member for her question on this important subject. I want to commend the work of the Palaszczuk government and particularly acknowledge the Deputy Premier's recent visit to Wellcamp to study the work being undertaken there, as I have done in the past. That is a prime example of what the Palaszczuk Labor government does in terms of dealing with this pandemic. We are working hand in hand with businesses to make sure we build a world-class quarantine facility. The Wellcamp facility will be essential in bringing in not only workers but also students and returning Australians. We have been crying out for this for a very long time.

However, I find it strange that there is little support from the LNP when it comes to the facility. The facility will house quarantining agricultural workers—I understand 500 beds by the end of the year and a further 500 beds by next year. I ask LNP members: does this lack of support or interest from the LNP really mean that they will not support quarantine facilities for agricultural workers? Today Queensland leads the nation with more than 4,000 workers in the state. With the support of the government, 4,143 Pacific islanders are currently working in the state. That is more than any other state or territory. We are leading the nation.

Through our response to this pandemic we will support our economic recovery and we will set up the sector for the future. Across the state 26 sites have assisted with on-farm quarantining and yet there seems to be deafening silence from those opposite. There is deafening silence when it comes to this concrete example of how we are leading the nation.

In the last few weeks, we have heard from the federal LNP's David Littleproud that they now approve the agriculture visa. That announcement was made in 2018. We waited throughout 2019 and 2020. Here we are in 2021 and we have a visa that has had more announcements than arrivals and more press releases than passports. On 1 October, David Littleproud tweeted—

The #AgVisa is now in place.

Should congratulations be in order? Let us hold the champagne on ice as we look at the immigration website, which states—

As further details about the visa are finalised, including details on how to participate as an employer or a worker, this page will be updated with additional information.

Like so much federal government information, this is all about spin. There is no substance and there are no details. That is typical of what we expect from the LNP. During the last sitting the member for Gympie said in this place—

The ag visa is welcomed with open arms. It will go a long way to ensuring Pacific labourers can enter Australia and work on farms across our state.

I have news for the member for Gympie: Pacific labourers are here already and we are leading the nation. We are well in advance of any other state or territory—

Honourable members interjected.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gympie and member for Gregory, you are both warned under the standing orders.

Minister for Public Works and Procurement

Mr HART: My question without notice is to the Minister for Public Works. Will the minister advise if there were any departmental officers from Public Works or the QBCC at the meeting with Toni Bowler which the minister says was about sport?

Mr de BRENNI: If I was having a meeting about sport, I would not invite members of the QBCC to come along. I have comprehensively traversed this matter over the course of the last two days. I made it very clear that the expectation of Queenslanders is that if a member of the public comes to me and says, 'I have a safety concern,' then my duty is to report that to the appropriate regulator. It is clear that those opposite do not meet that expectation and do not share that view of Queenslanders, and that is their prerogative. But if a member of the public comes to me and says, 'I have a safety concern'—

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 118(b) with respect to the minister's answer to the QBCC question. The question was about Public Works departmental officials and I ask that the minister be directed to answer that part of the question.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order. The minister is responding to the question as asked. I will hear the answer.

Mr de BRENNI: It is clear that the LNP cannot stand the fact that the construction industry in this state is incredibly successful. Under our administration, there are more building companies in Queensland than ever. There are more tradies earning more money in this state. They are building our schools and our police stations, as we have heard. There is more economic activity than we have ever seen. There is less insolvency in the construction industry than there has been in a decade. There is less late payment, there is less underpayment, and what they really cannot stand is that there is more cooperation and consensus across the industry between builders and subcontractors than there ever has been in this state's history.

In stark contrast to other places in this country, we saw in Queensland that industry leaders, construction companies, unions, tradies and government were working together to get the construction industry through the COVID pandemic. We kept construction sites open and Queensland tradies on tools. In fact, we worked with the commission and with construction companies to ensure that tradies masked up, they staggered their start and finish times, they social distanced in larger crib rooms, and that kept Queensland tradies at work; it kept them building homes for Queenslanders.

The alternative, though, if the LNP had been administering this state through the pandemic, would have been devastating on the construction industry. The New South Wales COVID lockdown cost the construction industry in New South Wales a billion dollars a week.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Minister, I ask you to come back to the question as it pertained to a particular meeting and attendees.

Mr de BRENNI: I made it very clear that I did not invite representatives of departments that were not pertaining to that meeting to the meeting. When other matters were raised, I forwarded them onto the regulator, as is my duty, and I will continue to do that because that is the expectation of Queenslanders.

Resources Industries, Exploration

Mr O'ROURKE: My question is of the Minister for Resources. Will the minister outline how the exploration sector is performing and what support is available for it?

Mr STEWART: I thank the member for Rockhampton for the question. We know in this House that he is a great member for Rocky and also a very strong advocate for the resources sector and the benefit it brings to his community. Growing exploration is a key part of ensuring the resource sector can continue to be successful, supporting and creating thousands of jobs like those in Rockhampton. In fact, there has been a huge surge in exploration in the past 12 months. Investment in Queensland exploration has increased to \$706 million in the 12 months to June 2021, up 10 per cent on the previous financial year. That is great news for the people of Queensland. This has come from a strong growth in minerals exploration, up nearly 28 per cent, and oil and gas exploration up 25 per cent, compared to the previous 12 months.

The Palaszczuk government staunchly backs exploration and the resource industry. Our collaborative exploration initiative provides companies grants to invest in underexplored parts of Queensland and support innovative exploration techniques. We know that exploration fell off a cliff when those opposite were in government and the resource industry suffered immensely. Exploration is essential to creating new projects and new jobs and supports those in Rocky, which is part of delivering the Palaszczuk government's COVID-19 economic recovery plan.

Our exploration program is giving companies like Multicom the confidence to start exciting new projects like Queensland's first vanadium mine near Julia Creek. This government granted Multicom its mining lease for the project which will support around 400 jobs, and a lot of those jobs will be in the North West Minerals Province. They will be in Julia Creek, Cloncurry, McKinlay. This is about supporting regional Queensland, and this project and the jobs are a milestone in the journey that began seven years ago with the Queensland government's North West Minerals Province Taskforce. This project lays the foundation for new industry in Queensland, manufacturing vanadium redox flow batteries.

While those opposite are having an existential crisis over net zero by 2050, the Palaszczuk government is backing our future because we know minerals like cobalt, vanadium, copper and rare earths will increase in demand in the future, and Labor will make sure it creates more jobs for Queenslanders. We only heard that exactly this week with the International Monetary Fund saying those rare earths that I just talked about—copper, vanadium, nickel and cobalt—are in huge demand and will be in huge demand particularly into the very near future.

Caboolture Hospital

Ms BATES: My question is to the Minister for Health. The minister revealed a doctor had been stood down from Mackay Hospital. Given the multiple claims of botched surgeries coming out of Caboolture Hospital, why has similar action not been taken?


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

Mrs D'ATH: As the member knows, those are decisions of the board and the chief executive. That is how our hospital and health services were established across this state and those are decisions that are made there and not by ministers.

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

REPORT


Office of the Integrity Commissioner, Strategic Review

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (11.46 am): As required under section 88 of the Integrity Act 2009, I table the report of the strategic review of the Integrity Commissioner's functions. The report will now be referred to the Economics and Governance Committee for consideration, and my government will thoroughly consider any recommendations made by the committee in response to the report.

Tabled paper: Report by Mr Kevin Yearbury PSM, dated 30 September 2021, titled 'Strategic Review of the Integrity Commissioner's Functions' [[1755](#)].

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Queensland Ambulance Service, Road Incident

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (11.46 am): I rise to make a brief ministerial statement to update the House on the tragic incident that I advised of on Tuesday morning. On Tuesday, my director-general, the Acting Commissioner for the Queensland Ambulance Service and the Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer visited Rockhampton and Biloela to meet with family members and staff grieving the loss of a staff member and patient.

An 87-year-old male patient and a 65-year-old male nurse were tragically killed when a truck ran into an ambulance at roadworks near Rockhampton. Three other people in the ambulance miraculously survived, including another patient, a paramedic and an operational services officer. This loss will be felt by so many. I know this House will join me in expressing our sincere condolences to the family, loved ones and community for this tragic loss in the course of everyday patient care.

I also want to acknowledge Biloela paramedic, Ash O'Connor, who in spite of being involved in this accident, immediately turned to providing first responder care to all of the victims. To Ash, his colleagues and family, we are so proud of you and your professionalism and selfless care of others.

I would also like to pay respect to Ray Wyeth, a much loved nurse, husband, father and grandfather who tragically lost his life while caring for a patient in the ambulance. Our heart goes out to his wife, Jennie, son, Tim, and the extended family. In their grief, Jennie and Tim took the time to tell my director-general and other staff their stories which gave them a precious insight into Ray's life and his dedication to patient care across rural and remote Australia. Jennie also shared a short tribute to her husband, Ray, which she has agreed for me to share with this chamber in his honour—

Ray Wyeth.

Just like a soldier in battle, he died in the line of duty, duty and care for others.

His were the hands that alleviated the pain, that touched and encouraged the fearful and those facing death.

Even in the time of his own death he was looking after the person in his care, assuring this elderly patient he would be with him. This person had Ray right by his side.

Together they died.

Hundreds of patients have experienced his helping hands, his wealth of experience and his ability.

Even as he lost his own life, Ray's hands were extended to help and support someone else.

We take great comfort from this and learn from his example of service.

Ray lived this scripture: "I am among you as one who serves." Luke 22:37.


Vale, Ray Wyeth.

HOUSING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 13 October (see p. 3058), on motion of Ms Enoch—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement) (11.49 am), continuing: I recommence my contribution to this debate by saying this: these reforms will save lives. They will provide Queensland renters with a safe and secure place to call home. That brings me to the second part of these reforms I wish to cover—the minimum housing standards.

In October 2018 the member for Keppel introduced me to her constituents Lyn and Ken Diefenbach. Lyn and Ken tragically lost their one-year-old granddaughter Bella in 2010. When their son was holding Bella at their rental property, a rotten floorboard gave way on their deck and she tragically fell from his arms. It is a terrible and preventable tragedy, and our government committed to ensuring that it does not happen again.


Queenslanders deserve to know that basic living standards and safety standards are met in their homes whether or not they rent them or they own them. The Palaszczuk government is determined to deliver outcomes and a legacy for baby Bella. No parent should have to lose their child. Regardless of where one lives, every Queenslanders deserves a safe and secure place to call home. We promised to Lyn and Ken that we would get this done. Today we are here doing just that.

Finally, a rental property is more than just a place where you store your belongings. For working Queenslanders it is their home. For mums and dads, retirees, frontline workers, young people starting out and investors it is their home. For many, a pet is an important part of that home—a member of their family. Some see pets as just a privilege, but the reality is that pets provide an important mental and social benefit. That is undeniable. As the former housing minister, I met with people who choose homelessness rather than being separated from their pet. Pets are a companion. They provide security, both physically and mentally.

For too long, the legislation has been silent on pets and renters and owners have had to navigate this area without any guidance. What our reforms do and what this bill does is support renters and owners reach an agreement about keeping pets and support more tenants to have a pet and enjoy the benefits that come with that. It is the issue that received the most feedback in what I described and what was at the time the most wide scale consultation that this state had embarked on. During that process a lot of strong views came forward. I believe this bill has found a good middle ground—one that will ensure that tenants and owners are supported to see more families able to keep a pet. Critically, investors and property owners will be supported with sensible protections for their investment.

That is what makes this such a smart and fair reform. As the number of renters grows every year, these changes will ensure that the homes they live in are safe and secure. I encourage all members of this House to support the government's reforms because these reforms will save lives and they will make for better lives. I commend this bill to the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Before I call the member for Noosa, I will remind members in the House that the following members are under a warning until 1 pm. They are the members for Bundaberg, Buderim, Broadwater, Nanango, Southern Downs, Kawana, Everton, Gympie and Gregory.

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (11.53 am): Housing instability, affordability and resulting homelessness, as we have been experiencing in my community and as is now being experienced in other electorates across Queensland, is more than a headline. It has become a human crisis—one that has been identified by many MPs, including myself, for four years. For the record, neither I nor my partner have any investment properties.

For those who are renting privately, 20 per cent are leaving their rental homes involuntarily, with the median tenancy lasting only 13.1 months for units and 17.9 months for houses. This does not equate to stable households or communities. Just think how you would feel if you had to move every year. Of renting households, 43 per cent include children for whom housing stability, connection to community and access to schools is essential for their physical and mental wellbeing. Disruptions through constant housing moves risk more than their education. It undermines everything we as a society are trying to achieve in stability, livability and sustainability.

The Housing and the Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 endeavours to address a number of factors including safety. However, it does little in terms of what is a much larger issue. The submissions to the committee by tenants indicate a market that is unfair, unstable and exploitative. Since the pandemic, in Noosa we have had hundreds of examples of this through a 49 per cent increase in people from other states in the last year alone purchasing through offering above the asking price, rent bidding and moving into their own investment properties. We have also had end of lease scenarios where owners have utilised legal frameworks to re-let at more than 50 per cent of the previous rent.

None of what has happened is illegal and nor in a free market of supply and demand can this be addressed by this bill. Whilst the bill is trying to balance property owner rights and the social responsibility with respect to tenants' rights, it should be remembered that without tenants there can be no rental income for the investor. Importantly, if there are no investors there may not be available properties to rent unless a whole different realm of homeownership is instigated by our governments and the private sector around schemes such as rent to buy.

Establishing minimum housing standards for rental accommodation to ensure risks to occupant health and safety are minimised may strengthen existing obligations around repairs and maintenance and achieve the greater safety sought. However, we need to remember what that will do to some of the rental prices. Within my community, for some 30 years our sheds and little old cottages have provided our workers with affordable accommodation. These minimum standards may see these become unaffordable as many may need substantial renovation.

Pets are one of the greatest gifts to our lives, as well as the source of conflicts between landlords and tenants. This bill supports parties to reach agreement on renting with pets. On paper it looks like a positive. However, as someone who is a pet owner and has borne both the good and bad from tenants with pets in an investment property, this is not a panacea. I hope though that it will encourage a better discussion around expectations and responsibilities.

This bill also amends the Retirement Villages Act 1999 to provide certainty, security and peace of mind to residents of freehold resident operated retirement villages and creates a framework to exempt freehold resident operated retirement villages from the 18-month mandatory buyback requirements. This is a definite positive and very welcomed. The Property Council of Australia, the Queensland Law Society, the Council on the Ageing and others are in broad support. The department has undertaken to contact individual eligible villages after the bill is passed to ensure they navigate the exemption process effectively and to do further education within the broader community about retirement living options.

The large number of submitters—almost 900 written and 1,400 proforma submissions—detailed, understandably, opposing experiences from both the renter and owner viewpoints, reiterating why this bill, even with its good intentions, will not resolve all of the issues. The Queensland Human Rights Commission in its 2020 RIS submission stated that Queensland renters must have access to a healthy, safe and secure environment in which to call home. Lessors, equally, must be able to build a healthy investment and a long-term capital gain to incentivise investing. The REIQ was supportive of the key objectives of the bill, though had concerns that it could erode the fundamental rights of lessors that are taking the financial risks with an investment rental property which could ultimately lead to a reduced housing supply.

Equally, Tenants Queensland believe that the provisions around 'just cause' evictions which include the end of a fixed term as a reason to end a tenancy means that any good that comes out of this bill will be undermined by taking away the stability of housing for those renters who are doing the right thing.


The amendments that intend to strengthen rental laws to better protect those experiencing and attempting to escape domestic and family violence are very welcome, though again do little when there are no houses available for them. In addition, support must be given to Tenants Queensland's recommendation to allow DFV victims to install security measures without prior lessor agreement, which was a previous government recommendation, as the time leading up to and immediately after leaving a violent relationship is the most dangerous.

The greatest assistance government could give during this housing crisis is for those who are under AVO orders to be provided accommodation in order for their families to remain in their current homes if possible. We have families who cannot, or do not, wish to remove their children from their schools and leave secure networks and stability. Currently in my community this is the crisis and we need community housing options urgently.

The committee recommended that the bill be passed. However, it made additional recommendations to ensure that the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy develop a framework for data collection on the management and ending of residential tenancies; work with community housing providers to ensure headleasing contractual practices align with the bill; and oversee work with relevant stakeholders on the minimum housing standard reforms.

In closing, this bill before us falls short of what is needed. Given the humanitarian crisis we have been living through in my community and elsewhere, I will support it, as we need the improvements. However, I ask again that we address the ongoing failures of our systems over many years at all levels of government that have led to this and on which I have spoken previously.

Thank you to the minister and departmental staff, the committee and secretariat, and all submitters and hearing attendees for your hard work. May we all work that much harder to create the housing security desperately needed across Queensland.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (12.01 pm): I rise in support of the Housing Legislation Amendment Bill. Although the Clerk has made it very clear that we do not need to disclose our status as landlords or otherwise, I will state for the House that I do not own a rental property. I make that statement not wanting to buy into this quite bizarre paradigm that the Greens have set up about whether people are landlords or not. I want to touch on that a little bit later. First and foremost, I wish to thank the current Minister for Housing, the member for Algester, and also the former minister for housing, the member for Springwood, for their tireless work on this incredibly important piece of work.

We know that the need for shelter is one of the five most basic human needs. Making sure that every single Queenslanders has a roof over their head—that they will be confident that they can continue to have a roof over their head, that they will be safe and secure under that roof and that their needs will be respected—is a right and a dignity that we have the power and responsibility in this place to ensure is afforded to every single Queenslanders. That is what this bill is about.

It is what our \$1.9 billion Queensland Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2021-2025 is about, of which this bill is a key element, reaffirming our commitment to deliver rental law reform including minimum housing standards that better protects renters and property owners and improves stability in Queensland's rental market. It is what the \$1 billion Housing Investment Fund to boost supply and increase housing and homelessness support across Queensland is all about as well—the most significant investment in this state on these issues since World War II. Again I acknowledge the minister, the member for Algester, for her work on this issue. I am very pleased to see that this is just stage 1 of our reforms around Queensland's residential tenancy laws. I look forward to seeing the further reforms laid out.

To summarise, the rental laws proposed in this bill include ending without-grounds evictions. Last night I was listening to the member for Maiwar, who insisted a number of times in his speech that we needed to end without-grounds evictions and what was wrong with this bill was that we were not ending without-grounds evictions. I do not know what planet he was on. It is very clear that that is what this bill is about. For anyone who was worried because of what the member for Maiwar was saying, clearly this bill is about ending without-grounds evictions.

It is also about establishing a set of prescribed minimum standards to ensure all Queensland rental properties meet minimum safety, security and functionality standards. As a former renter myself when I was on a low income at the beginning of my professional career, and as we hear from many people coming through our offices who have had similar experiences particularly when they are on low incomes but on any income, we simply cannot get things addressed in our rental properties, threatening our safety and security.

The bill makes it easy to keep a pet. It also establishes a power to require parties to disclose information about the lease and rental property to ensure both parties have access to the information they need to make informed decisions about their tenancy arrangements.

The bill will ensure stronger protections for people experiencing domestic and family violence to end their interest in a residential lease quickly with limited liability for end-of-lease costs. I am sure that every member in this House would support those reforms. The most critical and most dangerous time for a victim of domestic and family violence is when they leave or are preparing to leave their violent partner. Once they have made that decision they need to go and they need to go quickly. We know that victims are often left with the damage that has been incurred by violent partners—holes in walls, broken doors, you name it. It is so critical that they are not burdened with the cost of these matters in addition to the other significant life challenges they face.

The issues addressed in this bill are issues for every single member of this House. They are certainly raised by our constituents every week but often every day. As a member of parliament for an electorate with rapidly increasing density and increasing numbers of rental properties, it is particularly important that I am able to speak in support of this bill, that we are going to pass this legislation and that this bill will give us the tools to help those constituents. It is an issue that has attracted polarised views. The Palaszczuk Labor government has shown it is never afraid of tackling important issues even when views are polarised. We look for solutions and we find them.

I go back to the issue that has been raised by the Greens that somehow demonises people who are landlords: landlords bad, not landlords good. That quite simplistic and bizarre positioning of landlords as bad people and the demonising on social media is like a witch-hunt—'Go out and find someone who is a landlord and get them.'

Mr Kelly: Politics of division and envy.

Ms FARMER: I take that interjection. It is the politics of division and envy. That is exactly right. How to encourage the darkness in the way people treat people! I do not even understand how they think any reasonable human being would take the information that they have put out and think that it was anything other than quite abhorrent. I condemn that.

This matter of where you live has two sides to it. A house is not just a piece of infrastructure; a house is a place where people live. It is their home. It is their sanctuary. It is where the most important things in their life often happen. For people who own a rental property it is also their investment. It is really important that we treat everybody with respect. We need to avoid framing landlords as the bad people in this equation. What we want to do is call out bad behaviour. We cannot characterise people in one category as bad people. This bill is about giving everybody the ability to exist in a fair and respectful environment. It is about respect.


I also want to acknowledge the important work that was done to support the residential rental sector during COVID-19 and the impacts of the pandemic on tenancy arrangements, especially protections for renters experiencing domestic and family violence. I was the minister for the prevention of domestic and family violence at that stage.

I know it brought a huge sigh of relief to service providers at the time. That was obviously through the implementation of the temporary regulatory measures contained in the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Regulation 2020. The transition back to normal tenancy arrangements obviously started from September 2020 but some important measures continue, including domestic and family violence protections.

I acknowledge the many individuals—many, many individuals—and stakeholders who responded to the various forms of consultation on these issues, both before and since it has come to the House. One of my many objections to the private member's bill the Greens put up is that we would be asked to consider legislation that simply has not had the breadth of consultation this bill has had. It is such a complex issue, and we simply cannot be asked to consider such a complex issue without having the opportunity to socialise those issues and understand them properly. I want to acknowledge the members of the Community Support and Services Committee for their diligent consideration of the bill.

While we are talking about housing, even though this is not about social housing, I acknowledge the staff of the Buranda Housing Service Centre who assist me in my office every single day to address issues involving public housing. They are diligent, patient and empathetic, and their efforts are much appreciated by me and my office and my constituents.

I stand proud that we are not just talking about what we need to do: we are delivering. We are not polarising. We are acknowledging the many people who have a stake in this issue, and we are making the system work so we have a housing system in place that is fair and responsive and enhances the safety and dignity of all Queenslanders. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (12.11 pm): Never before have I seen so much distress caused by people not being able to access rental accommodation due to a lack of supply. This law will not fix that. Laws can help or hurt in addressing housing supply, but ultimately more housing is required to give people access to a greater choice of housing and more affordable housing. We do need fair laws for tenants and landlords. I have declared on the parliamentary register that I have an interest in a rental property which is professionally managed on my behalf.

I would like see a policy that encourages more build-to-rent projects, but not just for big institutional investors with the conditions or assistance that government puts into those agreements which are hidden under commercial in confidence. I would like to see these policies publicly released

and applied not only to big institutional investors but broadly to a range of smaller investors. This is important to not only provide more affordable and greater housing choice but also recognise that something is currently failing with regard to the housing market.

There is huge demand and, yes, there has been an upsurge in people coming from interstate, but in Queensland in the last 10 years we have also seen a decrease in the amount of housing stock being released to market at the same time there has been a population increase. This huge surge, which is also putting greater pressure on the market, has built on top of what was already an imperfect storm. There is a lack of housing released into our market. With a tightening of availability and very low vacancy rates—under one per cent in my area on the Sunshine Coast, and I am sure that is repeated in many other parts of Queensland—it is now becoming not only a humanitarian crisis but also an economic crisis. There are people who want to work in some of the regions who have jobs lined up—if they are across the border—but who cannot get a house in those areas to raise their families and appropriately be part of the community because they cannot access rental housing, so there is a failure.

It is a relevant conversation to have as part of the discussion in relation to the Housing Legislation Amendment Bill because there has been a lot of debate about where the line is in ensuring that we have tenants protected from abuse, recognising that these are people's homes, but also recognising that it is predominantly mum-and-dad investors. It is not big institutional investors with sophisticated systems; mum-and-dad investors who either manage their own property or go through rental agencies are the ones putting their own capital into the market to provide housing. We need to acknowledge that we are not like other parts of the world where there are predominantly big institutional investors. I do think there is more that needs to be done in relation to build-to-rent programs that are more broadly based than just the prize won by a few to build institutionally funded build-to-rent programs.

These very low vacancy rates have also seen the conversion of some people to buy who were in fact renting. I know that is part of the issue in my area of South-East Queensland. There are people saying, 'I want the security of tenure. I'm in a position to buy a house and the rates are low,' and they chose to buy a house. That has been a factor, but generally speaking there is not enough product coming to market. It has been on a trajectory for the last 10 years, and now it has hit that perfect storm and it is causing a great deal of distress. We have to look at where the barriers are and address them in an open way, to have good planning, but also look at housing choice. It is not only about saying, 'All density is going in the one area,' or we will in fact have outcomes that are perverse and do not achieve the outcome of good planning. We need to not only bring the community with us but also bring the infrastructure at the same time.

Infrastructure certainly includes transport infrastructure, but water infrastructure is also vital. With all of these people coming into Queensland we have to start building and delivering water infrastructure that is able to support these growing communities. This longer-term decline in the release of housing stock is certainly hitting the fan and causing a great deal of impact. There has also been a lack of coordination across government departments to help in the release of housing stock. SARA is a good initiative, but the word I am getting back from people in the industry is that there has been a lack of coordination and decision-making. They can go into a process and find that new issues are put on the table quite late in the process. There is frustration in not being able to get government departments to the table to make a decision in a timely way. That is adding to uncertainty and cost, because everything that delays adds to the cost. The ones who ultimately pay the price are those who are currently desperate to get access to housing. There has been a failure in that regard.

I talked about fragmentation of ownership. I think we should embrace and realise that it is a good thing aspirationally and in reality for people to own their own home. Many doctors, nurses and teachers, whatever their background, also have an aspiration to have a rental property. That is their capital, so we need to work with people to ensure that they are able to invest that capital into the rental market. I would like to see that investment in more build-to-rent projects rather than just for great big institutional investors. Make it a transparent program and policy that people can see rather than being cloaked in commercial confidence. I think that is unfortunate because it does not deal with the issue. A lot of the ownership of land is fragmented in many of the growth areas and even some of the PDAs, and there has to be programs and policies to help bring it to market.


I want to talk about the periodic agreement issue in this legislation and give a very real example of why I think this is not a good amendment. It effectively eliminates periodic agreements where there is, no doubt, going to be a perverse outcome. Rather than giving greater security to people by removing a lessor's right to issue a without-grounds notice to tenants in a period, it will end up with more lessors opting to refuse requests for short-term rentals under a periodic agreement. Fixed-term agreements and period agreements are different in this legislation.

I know this for a fact from what people have told me. An owner of a property had a fixed-term agreement with their tenant. In this case the tenant wanted to buy their own house. They were not exactly sure how many months after the end of their fixed term they would be moving into their own home, so they were seeking a short-term periodic agreement to allow them to do that. Under this legislation there will be more and more landlords who will say, 'That's too risky.' The tenant may want this, but if they were to agree to what the tenant wanted, a short-term periodic lease, they could find themselves in a situation where they would never see that tenancy end.

It might be that the owner of that property might want to do a range of things with the property—for example, live in it or renovate it themselves. Whatever their decision in regard to the property, it will see a perverse outcome where there will be landlords who will not want to enter into a periodic agreement even if the tenants want it. I think that is removing choice and will have a perverse impact.

There has also been mention about pets. We love pets; they are great. Bonds do not cover substantial pet damage, and I think that is where there is a concern. Questions about insurance have been mentioned and whether it will cover some of the issues to do with pets. The reality is that a lot of insurance policies for landlords in this city have gone up by about 26 per cent just in the last 12 or 18 months. Insurance is a lot higher than that in some parts of Queensland, particularly North Queensland which have other issues around natural disasters that put tremendous pressure on insurance policies.

I would like to talk about the retirement village changes, but that is also seeking to address the perverse outcome of previous legislation that was badly drafted. That is why it is important we have these conversations and get the laws right so they are fair for tenants and all those mum-and-dad investors. We need more people to invest their capital into the rental market to unlock more housing. This profile of the delays in bringing product to market is hurting people. I have never seen so many people in so much distress. They need more product brought to market with fair laws to encourage that to occur.

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (12.21 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Housing Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. A third of Queenslanders rent, and Labor fundamentally believes that those Queenslanders deserve a safe, secure and healthy place to call home. That is why our Palaszczuk Labor government is bringing landmark reforms to tenancy laws in Queensland following a robust consultation process involving many thousands of pieces of feedback. These changes will help bring dignity and security to the lives and homes of Queenslanders who rent.

Labor is making sure Queenslanders who rent can have a safe, secure and functional roof over their heads by prescribing minimum housing standards. This is so important. Anyone who has rented has experienced housing that has had problems—whether that is mould, a vermin outbreak, issues with cooktops or issues with hot water. Looking back at my years in shared housing, I can say that all of those things were a factor at one time or another. Labor is also ending without-grounds evictions. Many renters have said that the risk of without-grounds lease termination put them off enforcing their rights—for example, by asking for repairs. Retaliatory evictions are a real problem that renters need to be protected from, and this bill supports them in that.

Labor recognises that renting is a long-term housing option for many Queenslanders, and that is why we are creating a clear pathway for renters and property owners to agree about allowing pets in rental properties. As the member for Mansfield said, every Queenslanders deserves the chance to enjoy the health and happiness benefits of having a pet. Importantly, we are creating real protections for people who rent and may find themselves facing domestic and family violence. Nobody should have to remain in a rental property for fear of adverse outcomes if they left that violent domestic relationship.

In good news for the Pebble Beach Retirement Community in my electorate of Pumicestone, this bill also establishes a framework for exempting resident operated retirement villages from provisions of the Retirement Villages Act 1999 that require village operators to buy back unsold freehold units after 18 months. For the Pebble Beach community, that means that once this bill passes the department will provide them with help to make the process of getting an exemption as simple, accessible and supported as possible. I know this will be very welcome news for that community.

Now is not an easy time for renters. Our Palaszczuk government is making these reforms in the context of unprecedented rental demand. This is something that every single member of this House across both sides of the chamber will have experienced in our communities and electorate offices. While I understand that people want to move north to enjoy the endless freedom days and the glorious climate that Queensland offers, Australia's embrace of the Sunshine State has absolutely created

issues for renters but those issues are not exclusive to Queensland. I note the comments of the member for Mansfield in her foreword to the Community Support and Services Committee report that record price growth and yield is also occurring in parts of the US, New Zealand and Europe.

I will take a moment to respond to LNP members who have spoken about what I am sure are genuine concerns about the housing crisis they are seeing in their electorates. In my electorate of Pumicestone, we have around 150 properties coming off the NRAS scheme right now. That is 150 families or singles—and many of them are older women—who will no longer be able to afford their rental properties because the Morrison government has withdrawn support for that key scheme that has been available over the last 10 years. These are people whose rent is about to go up between 20 and 25 per cent. They are living in the most vulnerable and disadvantaged areas of many of our electorates. I urge LNP members to reach out to their federal colleagues and ask for support for the continuation of NRAS or an equivalent scheme. While our Palaszczuk government is doing so much heavy lifting in the housing space, we cannot do this alone. It is incumbent on the Morrison government to not withdraw this support in this sudden and, I would say, remarkably heartless way from vulnerable communities right across Queensland.

It is a very complex environment, and it is in this complex environment that our Palaszczuk government has stepped up to make renting fairer, safer and more secure. It is only a Labor government that can do this. What a contrast with the contributions that we have seen from the Greens political party. They have been nothing short of a bin fire, I would say. One of our first responsibilities is always to make sure that the ideas we put forward in this place do not have adverse consequences for the people who most need our support. We heard from the member for South Brisbane at length about the squeeze on the housing market, but she fails to recognise that if her cheap shot housing policies were ever implemented under some remarkable twist of fate they would only serve to make the housing shortage we all face worse. This is not about big business. It is not about the real estate lobby. This is because, with more Queenslanders renting and renting for longer, the proposals by the Greens party would make it more likely that owners would decide not to rent their properties or to stop renting them.

I note the member for Maiwar's comment that it is okay if properties are withdrawn from the market because it all comes to one because they will just be sold and they will become the homes of somebody else. I wonder if the member for Maiwar has stopped for one moment to consider the situation we have seen in Tasmania and specifically Hobart. So many rental properties there have been withdrawn from the rental market and the permanent housing market and handed over to short-term holiday accommodation. In my electorate of Pumicestone this is a very real risk. If property owners, mum-and-dad investors, decide not to continue to offer their one or two houses that they have put aside as their superannuation into the permanent rental market, they are likely to put them into the short-term holiday accommodation market. That provides no support for the families and people in my community, some of whom have viewed up to 50 rental properties without being able to achieve a rental home of their own.

If Greens party members want to talk about people doing it tough, they should head to places like Pumicestone and explain to people in Caboolture how their thought-bubble politics will lead to thousands of rental properties being taken off the market. This includes people like Helen who, as I said, has viewed 50 properties and still cannot find a rental. The last thing Helen needs is fewer rentals in the market, but that is what the member for South Brisbane would do with her undercooked proposals. These are not people who own multiple properties; they are retired couples or young families who work hard to pay off the mortgage of a single investment property. This is why the Greens will never, ever be a party of government.


We have heard endless grizzling from the Greens political party about these reforms and you have to wonder why. My only conclusion is that they just cannot stand Labor delivering strong rental reforms. They are truly the party for double standards. The member for South Brisbane is unique because she manages to demand more social and affordable housing while simultaneously campaigning against social and affordable housing. She says she wants more affordable housing but then she calls for protesters to show up and block the driveway of a new housing development that she does not like because it offers too much density. If you are a Greens party politician, nothing says standing up for marginalised Queenslanders like stopping them getting to work to earn a fair day's pay.

The member says she wants more affordable housing then complains about affordable housing that was planned for the Roma Street precinct. It sounded perfect—close to services, close to public transport, set amidst new green space—but it is not good enough for the member for South Brisbane. Does the Greens party think that only Tesla-driving hipster architects should live in the inner city amidst

beautiful parklands? Greens party politicians cannot help themselves. They want affordable housing in theory but, time and again, they attack it in practice, just like they do our robust renting reforms in this bill.

Finally, the member for South Brisbane likes to say ad nauseam that Queensland is a wealthy state. We have seen self-indulgent 'greenstanding' from the members for South Brisbane and Maiwar about their status as wealthy lifestyle renters. With so many people in Pumicestone and right across Queensland genuinely suffering rental stress, this poverty cosplay is deeply offensive to people in my community and other marginalised communities across Queensland. I call on those members to apologise for this offensive behaviour.

Labor's reforms will make a real difference to marginalised vulnerable and everyday people right across Queensland who rent. I am enormously proud that these reforms are being delivered hand in hand with our \$2.9 billion social and affordable housing reform package. Housing is a complex space. We will continue to back rental laws that maximise dignity and support for the 1.8 million Queenslanders who rent. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (12.31 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the Housing Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. Isn't it interesting that at the start of this debate the Greens called for this bill to be debated cognately with their bill? In hindsight, that would have been great because then we would not have had to listen to the debate on that bill, whenever it comes up on the *Notice Paper*. Plenty of members from both sides of the House would have been able to put down their existing, loony Greens ideas when it comes to legislation. In hindsight, I would have loved to see it debated cognately.

Ms McMillan: We won't be debating it.

Mr DAMETTO: I take that interjection, even though I cannot hear it! It gives the member a chance to be heard. Isn't that interesting? Like I said, that would have stopped the wasting of some time in the House.

If we get into the nitty-gritty of this and take a more serious note, housing across Queensland is in crisis. There are people in regional Queensland and in the cities—I have been open to debate from both sides of the House—who cannot afford to get into housing. There are people out there right now who inspect 50 houses and apply every time, only to be knocked back in the rental market.

Fundamentally, I am concerned that with this bill we are moving to a place in Queensland where we rely on people always being in the rental market. We are giving way to the fact that people will always rent. I know that 30.9 per cent of Hinchinbrook electorate residents are in the rental market right now. I do not want to see them on the rental merry-go-round forever. I want to see them in their own house. I want to see them living the Australian dream. I want to see them being able to save up, purchase or have government support to get into their first home.

This legislation does some nice and good things for renters and landlords. It tightens up what happens at the end of a lease, when usually a landlord did not have to give a reason for requiring tenants to leave the premises. Now there is a nice list. For example, at the end of a fixed-term lease arrangements can expire such that a property needs to be vacated for redevelopment, demolition, a property undertaking major works, the property needing to be vacated for other renovations, the property being subject to change of use—for example holiday rental or letting—a family member moving into the house—that is a reason to terminate a lease at the end of a rental term—or the rental property being sold or needing to be made vacant for sale. There are still plenty of options in this space. Who will police these provisions? It will be very interesting when someone says, 'Oh, you know, I'm asking you to vacate the property because my daughter is going to move into it for uni,' but suddenly situations change. It will be very difficult to police.

There are some good things in the bill for renters—I am happy to see that—to make sure that people, be they males or females—we in this place need to remember that—in domestic violence situations sometimes have to up and leave quite quickly and terminate a lease for their own safety. It is important to have that option for domestic violence victims.

There is a provision in the bill to make sure that the standard of housing is kept up. I have had a number of people contact me in my electorate office, especially in low socio-economic areas or places where rental prices are quite low, to say that the standard of housing is quite low. Renters ask landlords to fix safety issues around broken steps, leaking pipes or rising mould and damp et cetera. It is good to see that this legislation will give those tenants a legislative lever to pull on to ensure the premises in which they live are up to a standard. Everyone deserves the right kind of living conditions.

One issue that I am a little concerned about involves a landlord having to give a valid reason a tenant cannot keep a pet. Today I have heard members on different sides of the chamber say that it should be a right that a person can own a pet because of the therapeutic benefits et cetera. Pet ownership is great. I have the nicest little fluffy dog in Marquise Circuit. He is my favourite animal in the world. He leaves hair everywhere. He does things in the house you probably would not want happening if you were the landlord. I feel comfortable with that, because it is my home.

As a previous landlord, I sold the property not because it was not doing well but because I was not happy with the way people were treating the place I was paying off. People talk about landlords and the way they invest in the housing and property market as if they are investing in shares. That home I had on the rental market was my first home that I bought with the first home owners grant in 2006. I raised my child there for a number of years, to the point where I decided that I was going to buy a new property. I went through the process. The first tenant was really good. The second tenant was great. Then the property market in Townsville really dropped. I would not say that we had to scrape the bottom of the barrel, but we did not get the best of the best putting up their hand to rent our house. There were a lot on the market doing it tough. I got to a point where I said that it was not worth the drama.

In talking to people such as QPS officers, for example, they spoke about undertaking raids in these types of houses. The state of some of these properties is quite alarming in terms of animal faeces et cetera. As a person wanting to invest in the property market, I could not think about someone having the right to keep an animal in the house if I did not want them to. They leave smells in the house and so on that you just cannot remove. It costs quite a lot of money, especially before trying to rent out the property to someone who is hypersensitive, with allergies.


A core value of the KAP charter is home ownership. It should be the Australian dream that people have the opportunity to get off the rental merry-go-round and actually own their own house. In places such as Ingham, for example, there is very little property available for rent. It is almost impossible. This morning the lady who owns the Subway in Ingham was screaming out for staff. She cannot find staff. If we can find staff who want to move to Ingham, they cannot get a rental property. There are 90 properties in the Hinchinbrook shire district for sale. People may be in different situations. They may say, 'Hang on a sec, this house does not owe me anything.' It might have been left to them in a will. 'Instead of going through the drama of having someone rent this property, I will just put it on the market.' Those properties sit vacant right now while young people want to buy houses in regional Queensland. They need a hand up. That is why KAP will continue to push for the extension of the home owners grant to existing properties in regional Queensland.

Like I said earlier in my speech, I had access to that back in 2006 when I bought my first property and it did not drive up the property market then. It gave me a helping hand to buy my first home and gave me the opportunity to raise my family in a house that I could not afford to build. It was cheap to buy an existing home but very expensive to buy a brand new home. Most people just cannot afford to do that.

There are 90 houses on the property market in Ingham. If we provided a first home owners grant in regional Queensland, people would get off the renting merry-go-round. They would have an opportunity to move to Ingham and buy a property. People might argue that applying the first home owners grant to existing houses drives up the housing market. I would assert that the first home owners grant has done exactly that within the construction industry. We cannot get building supplies at the moment. We cannot get a plumber or a chippie. Prices in the new home market have gone up because of the stimulus from both the federal and state governments. Why not share a bit of that love with regional Queensland, where it is completely different from what people are asking for?

Earlier the member for Maroochydore talked about build-to-rent projects. I understand where she is coming from: we want more property on the market for people to rent. How about turning that on its head with build-to-own projects? Right now we have a public housing shortage. The state government could change its ideas around public housing. There are up to 2,000 people in Townsville waiting to get into public housing. What about creating opportunities whereby the money government spends on rent for public housing goes towards people owning the house at some stage? That would be a great hand up for people in low socio-economic areas. We want to see people get off the renting merry-go-round. This legislation holds people in that, I think.

(Time expired)


 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (12.41 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Housing Legislation Amendment Bill 2021, introduced by the Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts.

This is a very important bill for Queensland, particularly for my community. We have listened to Queenslanders—from property owners and managers to renters—and are proposing legislation that reflects the feedback we have received. I would like to discuss a specific part of the bill relating to the amendments to the Retirement Villages Act 1999 and provide insight into how these amendments are important for people in my community.

Amendments made to the Retirement Villages Act 1999 in 2017 and 2019 sought to provide security and confidence to retirement village residents in cases of delayed resale of their retirement village unit by requiring operators to pay residents their exit entitlements 18 months after the resident leaves. The legislation in this area covered villages with complex legal arrangements and unique corporate structures; however, it has become clear that the differences between resident operated and other retirement villages means that the existing buyback model should not apply in some circumstances.

In my electorate I have heard from many residents of freehold resident operated retirement villages who have raised their concerns regarding the existing buyback model. Residents have been concerned that these provisions would mean that they would be required to buy back unsold units within their village, costing them and other residents a substantial amount of their money. I have also heard stories in my community where the residents of freehold units within their retirement village have attempted to sell their unit, however faced difficulty when the sellers were advised not to purchase the unit because of the buyback provisions. These amendments will exempt resident operated retirement villages from the mandatory buyback laws in cases where residents have freehold title to their unit and where an exemption is appropriate due to the extent that the residents control the scheme operator, and the assets and income of the village are insufficient to buy back a resident's property.

In October 2020 I wrote to retirement village residents in my electorate of Redcliffe outlining these proposed amendments and the commitment of the Palaszczuk government. Since the announcement of this bill I am pleased to have been advised that units are beginning to resell again. This bill will provide security and confidence to many retirement village residents in my community and is proof that the Palaszczuk government listens and acts. The passing of this legislation today will deliver another commitment made by the Palaszczuk government to constituents in the wonderful electorate of Redcliffe.


 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (12.43 pm): Don't you just love it when members of this House seek to rewrite history? The amendments in respect of the Retirement Villages Act 1999 are sensible, but it was a Labor policy and a Labor initiative back in 2017 that brought in the provision that created that impost on retirement villages and mobile home parks. Now they want to say, 'We're listening.' They were not listening in 2017. Thank goodness they finally decided to listen. We tried to tell them in 2017 that this was a bad decision, that this was not the right policy, that it was going to create incredible hardship and loss of money and force operators into intolerable positions, but they would not listen. That is a sad thing, but I am pleased to rise in the House today and speak in support of this amendment, because this is how it should have been. They should have left it alone in 2017 when they had the opportunity.

We will be supporting the broad intent of this bill. I certainly commend the government and the committee for the work they have done in considering the needs of people who are subject to the intolerable circumstance of domestic and family violence. I think this bill contains some sensible and meaningful provisions in respect of families in that circumstance. It is difficult. I can recall on many occasions my wife and I helping families who were in that circumstance to relocate—sometimes two or three times because of the difficulties of hostile partners and partners who could oftentimes be very divisive in seeking to track them down and find them. While it is a less than satisfactory outcome to a large degree for property owners and it will cause some inconvenience, I think this is one area of the legislation that we should support because it is the right thing to do.

I also support the recommendations around minimum housing standards. I absolutely agree that no tenant should be expected to live somewhere that is not safe or that is not functional, as it should be. We have heard some fairly extreme examples of balconies collapsing, resulting in death and injury. It is appropriate that we have standards.

I think we need to look more broadly in terms of housing options. One of the interesting statistics I like to quote is around average dwelling size. Please do not hold me to the figures, because they are a few years old. In Australia, the average dwelling size is purported to be 280 square metres. In the US and Canada it is 220 square metres. In Great Britain it is 180 square metres. Across most of Europe it is 90 square metres. Of course, in most Third World countries people live in less than 50 square metres.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Gerber): Member for Southport, I am sorry for interrupting you, but under the provisions of the business program motion agreed to by the House, the time limit for debate of this bill has expired.

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (12.47 pm), in reply: I would like to thank all members for their participation in the debate of the Housing Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. It is heartening that members expressed support for most measures provided for in the bill, particularly protections for renters experiencing domestic and family violence and minimum housing standards which ensure rental properties are safe and fit for renters to live in. Members also indicated broad support for the amendments to the Retirement Villages Act 1999 to exempt resident operated retirement villages from mandatory buyback requirements.

After hearing the contributions from both the LNP and the Greens this week, it is obvious that Labor is the only party that can bring into the parliament responsible policies like this which achieve a balance between competing priorities. Opposition members say that they support most of the reforms provided for in the bill; however, when it comes to the LNP and the member for Everton there is also a 'but'. Those opposite always claim to support vulnerable Queenslanders. Many members noted the tight rental market conditions being experienced across the state and shared stories from their constituents who are finding it challenging to find suitable and affordable rental properties to make their home, but with the LNP there is always someone else who is more deserving of consideration. To be honest, I am not surprised that the LNP opposes sensible reforms like requiring lessors to have a reason to refuse a renter's pet request or the ending of without-grounds evictions. After all, it was the member for Everton who cut the tenant advice and advocacy service when he was the housing minister.

I am also not particularly surprised by the behaviour of the Greens political party this week. The member for South Brisbane could have come in here and debated the merits of this important bill. The member could have backed up her claims to care for tenants in Queensland by engaging in constructive policy debate. However, the Greens decided that instead they would use their time to pull a political stunt. The member for South Brisbane moved a motion that members who own an investment property should not be allowed to vote on this bill. The advice from the Clerk's office was very clear that members were not required to declare a conflict of interest in this debate. In fact, the Deputy Clerk advised MPs that investors and renters are a broad class and thus there is no compulsion on members to declare in their speeches or when voting in line with previous Speakers' rulings. However, if members wish to declare in their speeches they can, but there is no requirement to do so.

A competent member would have taken the time to seek the Clerk's advice before moving such a motion. The member for Maiwar said at the outset of this debate how disappointed they were in this bill. Imagine how disappointed the people of South Brisbane must be in the performance of their member of parliament this week. While the motion was appropriately disposed of swiftly by this House and ultimately ruled out of order by the Speaker today, it reeks of the politics of division. The fact that the Greens national spokesperson for housing is herself a property investor does not stand in the way of the Greens trying to claim some moral high ground in this debate. We know the member for South Brisbane takes her cues from a certain Brisbane City councillor, but if the Greens want to be taken seriously I would suggest rethinking their hypocrisy and keeping in mind that this is the parliament of Queensland. Sadly, this behaviour is something we have come to expect from the Greens political party who are more interested in collecting email addresses, spreading conspiracy theories and pitting the community against itself because that division serves their own political interests.

I now turn to the specific policy issues raised during this debate. While allegedly recognising the important role pets play in Queensland families, members of the LNP expressed the view that property owners should retain their unilateral right to refuse a renter's request to keep a pet and that the list of prescribed reasonable grounds was too narrow. The member for Everton has indicated he will move amendments to the bill that will maintain the status quo on this issue: allowing owners the ultimate authority to refuse renters the right to keep a pet without having to give a reason.

Alternatively, the member for South Brisbane has proposed amendments that will allow a renter the right to keep a pet unless the owner successfully applies to the tribunal for an order that the renter cannot keep the pet. These amendments are at opposite ends of the reform continuum and the government's position strikes the right middle ground. Consultation feedback indicated that there were marked differences in the strongly held views expressed by property owners and renters on the topic of pets so the government has put significant effort into finding a balanced approach to this reform.

We have heard the difficulty renters face in getting agreement from their property owner or manager to keep a pet or to be offered a rental property if they have a pet. It is not feasible to maintain the status quo as suggested by the member for Everton and expect to see a change in this outcome for renters. We have also heard the concerns raised by property owners about the risks to their investment of damage caused by pets and their desire to retain some control and influence over the decision about whether a pet can be kept at their rental property. The Greens' proposed amendments will not work either. Through the pet reforms proposed in the bill the Queensland government has found a balanced approach that makes it easier for renters to keep pets while ensuring property owners continue to exercise appropriate decision-making and discretion about a renter's request to keep a pet.

Opposition members also expressed concerns that removing a property owner's ability to end periodic leases without grounds would create perpetual leases and discourage property owners from entering into periodic leases. These members asserted that removing without-grounds reasons to end periodic leases will result in property owners terminating existing periodic leases and create a preference for fixed-term leases. It is important to note that there is already a significant preference for fixed-term tenancies in Queensland with most tenancy arrangements being rolling fixed-term agreements.

The government has consulted extensively with the stakeholders to include in the bill a range of appropriate grounds to end a tenancy. All proposed and current with grounds reasons to end a tenancy, other than the end of a fixed-term agreement, will apply to periodic leases, but owners must have an appropriate reason to end a tenancy agreement. This has been the government's clear and consistent policy intent in progressing rental law reform to improve transparency, accountability and certainty between parties to tenancy agreements.

Again while the member for Everton is proposing an amendment to maintain the status quo, the member for South Brisbane is proposing reforms that would not even allow a tenancy to end when a property is sold. The government has proposed sensible reforms that prevent retaliatory evictions by removing the unlimited discretion of the property owner to choose to end a tenancy for no reason. These balanced reforms require property owners to have an appropriate reason to end a tenancy and protects renters from property owner initiated no grounds terminations.

All members are aware of the extraordinary pressures on Queensland's housing market. Housing affordability has been a major issue for low to moderate income earners for decades, but by all measures the current conditions across the state are exceptional. The member for South Brisbane has proposed amendments to the bill that she claims will address affordability issues, such as capping rent increases to once every two years and by no more than CPI per year.

The Community Support and Services Committee's report on the private member's bill notes that there is a significant body of economic evidence that suggests rent control measures may have adverse impacts on housing markets, at least in the absence of significant supply-side incentives and investment. The 2019 Productivity Commission Research Paper, *Vulnerable private renters: evidence and options*, concludes that rent controls are an ineffective lever to improve affordability of rental properties. While rent controlled properties benefit those who occupy them, these policies have other negative effects, including reducing quality and supply of rental housing, increasing transaction costs and reducing renter mobility.

The member for South Brisbane also proposes amendments that could create disincentives for investment that would further exacerbate housing supply and affordability issues, including allowing renters to make modifications without owner consent and restricting an owner's ability to ask prospective renters for particular information while requiring owners to disclose specified information to prospective renters.

The legislative reforms proposed in this bill complement the government's landmark Queensland Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2021-2025 investment of \$1.9 billion over four years to boost housing supply and increase homelessness support statewide. Over the next four years the Queensland government will deliver 7,400 new social and affordable homes across the state. Under the new action plan the Queensland government has also established a \$1 billion housing investment fund which will provide returns in perpetuity to further support housing supply. We know that while the Greens political party claim to want to see increased supply of housing, it is also the Greens that oppose building new homes. They consistently oppose development approvals that would allow for new housing developments, but then pretend like they are about housing supply and demand.

Members also spoke of their strong support for the protections for renters experiencing domestic and family violence. However, several raised concerns about their potential impacts and unintended consequences, including potential increased discrimination for women and children, concerns about

whether renters who experience sexual assault could rely on the protections and emphasised the importance of education and awareness in the sector to ensure their successful implementation. Again I think it important to highlight the hypocrisy of the Greens political party on this issue. They have downplayed the government's important reforms in this area and suggested that this bill does not go far enough. However, the member for South Brisbane's private member's bill introduced in this House originally contained no provisions to support tenants experiencing domestic and family violence. When we pointed this out, the member for South Brisbane put out hurried statements advising that she would amend her bill to account for this omission. Far from being the champion of victims of domestic and family violence, this is just another example of the Greens' strategy of using vulnerable Queenslanders to further their grubby politics.


The Queensland Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2021-2025 recognises that people experiencing domestic and family violence need immediate access to safe and secure housing with appropriate supports to help recover from crisis. The Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy's response is person centred and responsive to housing and support needs through coordinated referrals, assistance and services. The Queensland Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2021-2025 will deliver \$20 million over four years to provide additional flexible assistance packages of up to \$5,000 per household for goods and services needed immediately to maintain or access safe housing, deliver additional headleased housing and provide specialist frontline housing services launched under action plan 2017-2020. \$160.9 million is being invested to provide housing and support to vulnerable people, including those experiencing domestic and family violence, including through specialist homelessness services across Queensland. Women and their children experiencing domestic and family violence receive immediate assistance from the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy.

Debate, on motion of Ms Enoch, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Minister for Public Works and Procurement; Queensland Building and Construction Commission

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (2.00 pm): In the past few months a series of stories have exposed the total dysfunction of the Queensland Building and Construction Commission. This is not the fault of the majority of QBCC staff who are hardworking and honest. This dysfunction falls directly at the feet of Minister de Brenni and the board he appointed. Under the leadership of Minister de Brenni, the commission has lost its independence, it is riddled with conflicts of interest and it has lost the confidence of builders and home owners alike.


Let us look at recent events that show that this minister is not fit for office. Minister de Brenni has single-handedly destroyed the livelihoods of hundreds of small businesspeople in the fire protection industry. By imposing unnecessary and unfair extra regulation, hundreds of people who have competently carried out fire protection services for decades will no longer be qualified to do those tasks at the end of this month. The changes have been introduced by the minister, a CFMMEU acolyte, solely to benefit unionised labour companies at the expense of small businesspeople.

Last sitting it was revealed that a convicted sex predator had been allowed to work as a builder and continue to enter people's houses because the minister did not cancel his licence. In a sheer act of revenge, the minister threw under the bus two former employees of the QBCC, the honest people who recommended the licence be cancelled at the time of their departure, which the minister's new regime ignored. Surprise, surprise! When the media and the LNP highlighted the issue the licence was cancelled within 24 hours.

This week we have seen the minister caught out once again. Despite repeatedly and categorically stating that neither he nor his office or the QBCC board interfere in operational matters, evidence has been provided that raises serious questions about that assertion. Why did Toni Bowler get an audience with the minister when hundreds of other home builders who have claims of unsafe buildings cannot? What is Toni Bowler's relationship with the family of the minister? Were department of public works officials at a meeting with Toni Bowler when the minister stated that the meeting was about sporting issues? Why did the QBCC continue to prosecute a case in the courts when on two occasions they ruled that the QBCC had worked outside of its jurisdiction?

It would seem that the minister has misled the House. Time and time again he has proven that he is unfit for office. He needs to apologise and then he needs to resign.

Caloundra State High School, EDGE Group

 **Mr HUNT** (Caloundra—ALP) (2.03 pm): Today I rise to highlight the work of my old high school, Caloundra State High School, which simply reinforces to me the privilege of representing the town that you grew up in. I have always maintained that our youth are highly impressive and that the future is in very good hands. I will expand on that now.

Friday just gone, I received an invitation to attend a performance by the EDGE dance group from Cooper Moller, a year 11 student at Caloundra High. What a magnificent performance it was. My wife and I were absolutely spellbound from the first dance to the final curtain. EDGE stands for Extension Dance Group. It is a program that has been operating at Caloundra High since 2005. Students with aspirations in the field of dance can audition for the program from year 7 through to year 12. The evidence of its excellence was there for all to see on Saturday evening.


At the Australian TST Championships, Caloundra high blitzed it. Their breathtaking routine, *Ashes*, which they recently performed for the minister and myself, not only earned them a first place but also was performed at this most recent performance. It is a perfect showcase not only of Caloundra High's extension program but also of the incredible talent that the program fosters.

The solo dance routines were emotive, powerful and a credit to every member of EDGE. I witnessed one group performance that was so well done and so professional that I was stunned to later learn that the group was from year 7. Then out came a heavily sequined solo performer by the name of Rojan Mardens. If you want to gauge his performance, you can quickly jump onto YouTube and look at any dance by the famous Gene Kelly. That young year 9 dancer performed a tap routine that could easily have been on stage at QPAC.

I am almost reluctant to single out individuals but the solo performances by Cooper Moller, Meiling Wyre, Zerah Wildman, Paige Carter, Lilee Raabe, Sophie Wharton, Ruby Jordan, Nikara Newbery and Shea Prescott had to be seen to be believed. The emotion, the athleticism, the grace and the beauty of their performances almost defies description—yet I did just describe them. There was also an element of sadness as the year 12 dancers—Sami Tebbit, Lilly Raabe, Shannon Holding and Bridie Kreiger-Redden—performed for the last time before graduating later this year. However, I have seen the amazing depth of talent that EDGE provides and the future looks incredibly bright.

To the EDGE group I say: I cannot thank you enough. You are an inspiration. To the teachers directly responsible—Anita Hounslow, Amber Williams and Lisa Royter—congratulations; your program is a triumph. To the mighty Caloundra State High School, thank you for providing the quality education that our young students deserve.

Allery, Mr R and Brooks, Mr B


 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (2.06 pm): I doubt that there is one person in this House who has not had a close association with or family member touched by cancer. This is a speech that I do not wish to give but I will because there are so many people battling some form of this insidious disease.

Today I want to talk about two young men from the Kingaroy area, my nephew Ryley Allery and Ben Brooks. Both men are 22 and in May of this year both were diagnosed with different forms of leukaemia. Those two young men are in the prime of their lives. They are now down here in Brisbane, in their respective hospitals, battling the disease. I wish to highlight this because we need to ensure that not just young men but all young people go to the doctor and get checked if they are not feeling well. And if you have an ability to give blood, please, give blood.

I want to give a shout-out to the incredible community that I represent. Those two young boys were struck down by leukaemia within two weeks of each other, first Ryley and then Ben. Their local footy team, the mighty Red Ants, and a couple of other young blokes got together to put on a fundraiser. The local business community got behind that fundraiser, which was run by the 20-year-olds; it was not run by the older people. I give a big shout-out to those young blokes: Mitchell Case, Ben Irwin, Jack Doggett, Connor Sullivan, Martyn McCracken and Andy Champney. On the night there were at least 1,000 people—which sounds too many—at the Kingaroy Pub. Over 60 young blokes and a few older ones had their heads and/or their beards shaved. Those young kids raised over \$40,000 for both Ryley's and Ben's struggle with leukaemia.

There are so many people I wish to thank but, in particular, I want to give a shout-out to Leukaemia House. Both the Brooks and the Allery families have an opportunity to spend time with their young sons by being provided access to a unit at Leukaemia House. Obviously, country people cannot travel backwards and forward. In Ryley's case, his mum and dad—Jackie, my sister and John, my brother-in-law—travel to Brisbane every Thursday and go back home every Monday. They are also trying run a business and their lives. Ryley's girlfriend, Chloe, spends the other week nights in Brisbane so someone is always with Ryley. The same goes for Ben. I want to give a shout-out to Teagan Krosch, Ben's fiancée, who is expecting their first child. God be with all of you.

Bundaberg Electorate, Renewable Energy

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (2.09 pm): I am very glad to report to the House that Bundaberg is a key player in the new green industrial revolution that is delivering for Queenslanders. No more was it on show than at the Hydrogen Cluster held in August by the Bundaberg Regional Council where we saw over 50 local businesses come along, listen to industry experts, share industry ideas, but also listen to the Palaszczuk government's plan outlined by the new assistant minister, the member for Bundamba, and how apt it was because when you talk about new energy, he is indeed new energy personified—absolutely!

It was wonderful because we had so many businesses there—Gladstone Ports Corporation, Bundaberg Sugar, Wessel Petroleum, Superior Pak, Utilitas and so many more—wanting to come along and know how they can invest in hydrogen because it is a Palaszczuk Labor government that is leading the way and investing into that future.

It was wonderful to hear the CEO of Utilitas, Fiona Waterhouse, speak these words: 'Bundaberg is a bioeconomy powerhouse.' Absolutely it is because we are seeing businesses around the Bundaberg region invest into new technologies and into innovation, so much so that Mayor Jack Dempsey who I know many in this House are aware of, especially those opposite, and he may go by the name of 'Red Jack' for a few ministers now and then, said—

The bio-hydrogen industry is the way of the future, bringing a cleaner, greener form of energy to our region and generating additional jobs and sustainable economic growth.


All members of this House who have met Mr Dempsey would know that that quote was probably a lot longer, but that just goes to show how passionate he is about hydrogen and jobs in the Bundaberg region being outlined by the fantastic Palaszczuk Labor government.

We are seeing more investment in the Bundaberg region. We are seeing the battery installation at the Bargara substation that will see the excess electricity generated through solar power go into the battery for high-peak times, where we can get that energy that would otherwise be lost to the grid back into the grid, ensuring we are making energy costs more affordable for mums and dads and household owners throughout the Bundaberg region, which is fantastic.

The Port of Bundaberg is also playing an active role. A fantastic project coming through the Port of Bundaberg is the Forest Wind project. We will see 226 turbines being assembled at the Port of Bundaberg that will then go towards creating 1,200 megawatts of clean electricity between the Gympie and Maryborough areas. What a fantastic thing that is.

It is wonderful to see that it is the Palaszczuk Labor government which is leading the way in innovation, leading the way in industry and creating more regional jobs for regional Queenslanders.

Farming in Reef Catchments Rebate Scheme

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (2.12 pm): Climate change is the greatest threat to the Great Barrier Reef, but there is no doubt land based run-offs are also having an impact on the water quality of Queensland's most precious natural asset. What is in doubt is how serious the government is about genuinely working with the agricultural sector to help make their practices more sustainable to improve this.

Recently I made my way down from Cairns to Mackay to see some of these farms for myself. Every single grower I met felt a connection to the reef. They care deeply about it because it is their backyard. The last thing they all wanted to see was their soil or nutrients running into it because, regardless of anything else, it is just a waste of money.


It is a separate issue but the other matter that every single one of them raised with me was how poorly our national parks are being maintained. They are completely under-resourced which means feral animals are impacting their farms. One farmer in particular told me he has to hire someone for 40 grand a year to work 30 hours a week solely hunting pigs from the national park next door.

The point I wanted to raise today is the extraordinary failure of both the environment department and the agriculture department. When the reef regulations were brought in, the main amount of money provided to help farmers meet these new standards was the Farming in Reef Catchments Rebate Scheme. It involved \$10.1 million for sugarcane producers, graziers and banana growers by way of grants up to \$1,000 to help get professional agronomic advice on how to reduce sediment and nutrient run-off. Of that \$10.1 million in two years just \$3,849.50 has been spent; that is 0.04 per cent. From the thousands eligible, just four farmers have been given this support. Farmers I have spoken to say this would cover at least a third to half of the cost of getting an agronomist, so clearly there has been an issue with how these grants were promoted. How did neither the environment minister nor the agriculture minister pick up on this in two years? Did no-one in either of their departments think it was strange that just four growers were given support from such a large amount of funding?

Ministers, these are the sort of questions you have to be asking. It is not good enough to just announce a program and think, 'That is a big amount of money—job done.' The government actually has to make sure these programs are rolled out so they achieve their goals. Who would have thought?

It shows the government is not serious about safeguarding the reef and they are not interested in working with farmers to make their practices more sustainable and environmentally friendly. Farmers need to be our genuine partners in protecting the Great Barrier Reef. We need to work with them, especially on programs like this which encourage best practice.

Morayfield Electorate, Investment

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (2.15 pm): Because of our strong health response and also the hard work of Queenslanders, our economy is open which means we can continue to invest in our economy, continue to deliver improved infrastructure and support more jobs. It is great to see that the unemployment rate in Queensland has now come down to almost record lows, down to 4.9 per cent, the lowest since 2009. We will not stop there, of course. We will continue to invest in the economy, invest in infrastructure and deliver the facilities and the services that the people of Queensland need and deserve from their state government.

I was very pleased to attend the official opening of the new Morayfield bus station only two weeks ago. It is a tremendous investment in public transport. It was great to see that project delivered. It was a \$6 million project which supported a number of construction jobs during its delivery. It is right next to the Morayfield Shopping Centre. People are frequent users of that bus station, so it is already delivering better public transport outcomes and in a more comfortable way. It is a great demonstration of our government's commitment to ensuring that the people of Morayfield and surrounds have really good facilities.

Ms Grace: We love Morayfield.

Mr RYAN: Minister Grace is a big fan of Morayfield and she continues to deliver for the region.

Mr Nicholls: Catches the bus up there, does she?

Mr RYAN: I know that you have seen buses up there, Minister Grace.

Ms Grace: Absolutely!

Mr RYAN: And you have also seen the Morayfield State High School. Minister Grace was a great champion for that school. We are about to celebrate, Minister Grace, the completion of construction of the brand new hall at Morayfield State High School. They are very excited.

Ms Grace: Hear, hear! Cannot wait!

Mr RYAN: Thank you, Minister Grace, for your support. I want to talk about other infrastructure like sporting facilities which our government is working in partnership with other levels of government to deliver. We are talking about the Caboolture rugby and Caboolture touch football facilities on Petersen Road, a joint project with the federal government.


An opposition member: The mighty Snakes.

Mr RYAN: Yes, the mighty Snakes. Go, the Snakies! The mighty Snakes are looking forward to their new facilities, a joint project with the federal government, the state government, the council, as well as the club itself. All up, it is over \$3 million and we are all contributing to that.

There is one project where I am a bit disappointed with the federal government on. They have been calling for investment and the state government and the council have stepped up with their investment, but the federal government has not yet made its contribution. This is the new PCYC facility

for Caboolture. The local federal MP, Terry Young, made an announcement two years ago to say, 'Come on, state government, come on federal government'—called on his own government to do it—'and come on council, make a contribution.' The state government has contributed \$4 million. The council has contributed \$2.5 million. So far, Terry has contributed zero. So, as it goes in the movie, 'Show me the money, Jerry'—show me the money, Terry!

Coronavirus, Border Restrictions

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (2.18 pm): I rise to speak about the vexed issue of class exemption border passes and the difficulties they create for my constituents and agribusiness in regional Queensland in general. The Z pass is a fake class exemption for agricultural essential work and is not fit for purpose. It does not consider Queensland agribusinesses that need to go to New South Wales or Victoria for essential work and return home when the work is completed. They cannot leave the border bubble and return if they are using a Z pass.


My constituents who are contract harvesters have lost the first good income in several seasons for this sole reason. They cannot use the Z pass if they need to go and harvest at Narrabri, Moree or Walgett. They cannot return by air because they need to bring the machinery back home with them to harvest at home. They are being sent to the wall as we speak, despite the first big harvest in years.

Then there are constituents like the Chandlers of Barcaldine. Their sheep property has been drought declared since 2014. Like many, they battle to save their breeding stock for the value of their blood lines and so they will have the core of the flock from which to breed back up when the drought breaks. Their breeders have been on agistment in New South Wales. It is spring and lambs are dropping. They need to go down and check on the flock and do essential husbandry such as lamb marking. They cannot get a pass. Yesterday they were told by the department of agriculture to try reapplying for the S pass because the Z pass will not let them return. The Chandlers are sceptical that this will help in any way. Never mind that the Chandlers have had no income for seven years to pay unnecessary wages. Ms Chandler says they will simply be told to hire New South Wales labourers to do the work. She is no doubt right.

The Dingo sawmill provides timber to the underground mines in my electorate. They have critical, special parts that have been uniquely engineered for their saw line and are critical to its continued safe operation. Three workers from the Melbourne engineering works need to bring these parts up to Dingo, install them and calibrate them. Surely this is the definition of an S pass—essential or specialist worker. They are on their fourth application and counting. The last one expired on the Chief Health Officer's desk. It times out every two weeks under the Labor government's system.

We have to get this right. We are in the middle of one of the biggest harvests we have seen for a very long time not only in Queensland but also in New South Wales. I have harvesting contractors who need to get down to Narrabri and Moree to harvest and bring those machines back. This is essential work that they need to do. I call on the minister to work on these exemptions now and allow these people to complete their jobs and get on with working.

Townsville, Hydrogen Industry

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (2.21 pm): Townsville and my electorate of Thuringowa are perfectly placed to take advantage of the growing renewables and hydrogen industry. We have more than 320 days of sunshine a year in Townsville and plenty of open space—something that makes it not just the greatest place to live, but also positions North Queensland as the perfect place to grow this industry.

In Townsville major industry players are already invested in the green hydrogen revolution. The Port of Townsville has signed a memorandum of understanding with two separate companies—Origin and Ark Energy—to export our hydrogen to the world. Recently, the member for Bundamba, the assistant minister, and the member for Mundingburra were at the signing of the MOU, but the federal member for Herbert was not. We found out in the *Townsville Bulletin* a couple of days later the disappointing news that we had been snubbed of federal funding. He needs to lift his game.


Ark Energy is part of Sun Metals which the Palaszczuk government has supported through the \$5 million Hydrogen Industry Development Fund, which is designed to kickstart hydrogen production in the north. Sun Metals has already built a massive solar farm to help power its refinery as this major global player can see the benefits of this industry. Like the Palaszczuk government, Sun Metals knows the benefits of investing in the growing renewables and hydrogen energy space.

It does not stop there. Edify Energy is also ready to progress its plans for a green hydrogen facility at the Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct. This is something this government is supporting, unlike the Morrison government and the federal member for Herbert, Phillip Thompson. Last month Townsville City Council approved a development application for Edify for its proposed one gigawatt green hydrogen production plant as well as battery storage at Lansdown. This presents an exciting opportunity for more jobs in our city.

In Townsville the Palaszczuk government is investing in battery storage. An eight megawatt an hour battery in Black River will soak up all the excess rooftop solar generated by North Queenslanders, feeding it back into the grid when we hit the evening high-use peak period. More energy capacity in Townsville means more local jobs, which is why we are investing in this industry.

Queensland has listened to the expert health advice and that means our community is safe and our economy is open. It allows us to continue delivering Queensland's plan for economic recovery from COVID-19. Part of that plan means investing in renewables. I want Townsville and Queensland to make the most of more jobs in more industries in green hydrogen and manufacturing. Despite what Scott Morrison's man says in North Queensland, Townsville is ready and willing to take advantage of the opportunities before us. The member for Herbert says Townsville is not ready. All he is doing is talking down jobs, talking down the opportunities and talking down the city. He is wrong. We are ready. We are invested. Our track record speaks for itself. Townsville is ready and willing and well placed to be front and centre of the industrial green revolution that is coming.

Coronavirus, Border Restrictions; Coronavirus, Testing Centres

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (2.24 pm): A farmer has the faith through his daily efforts the harvest will come. Then one day, almost out of nowhere, it does. That day is upon Southern Queensland. The current harvest is forecast to produce 2.4 million tonnes of grain—wheat, barley, chickpeas and other crops. This 2.4 million tonnes equates to a billion dollars of income for the region. Not only are these farmers on the cusp of providing a significant boost to the domestic and export income for Queensland, they have also sequestered a significant quantity of carbon in that grain.


To harvest this grain many harvesters and equipment are needed from interstate. They cross the border, backwards and forwards, depending on the properties they are working on and when the grain is ripe and the conditions are right. Unfortunately, the delays from Queensland Health in processing specialist and essential worker applications are threatening this billion dollar harvest.

Bill, a farmer from Condamine, has an application that he put in five weeks ago for his contract harvester. Despite letters to the health minister and the Chief Health Officer and follow-up from other departments, we still have no answer on this harvester application. He is not the only one being held up by this incompetent state Labor government.

With such a significant volume of grain in this crop, there is a need for additional grain storage. I am advised that Queensland Health is refusing applications from specialist engineers who work in the agricultural supply chain on the fabrication of grain silos. Why this government would refuse entry to the only two people in Australia who can commission the supply chain equipment is just extraordinary. The grain industry and the supply chain urgently need a workable class exemption for the current harvest and summer crops.

We hear a lot this week from members opposite about vaccination. I have been calling for weeks for pop-up clinics for Tara, Meandarra, Condamine and Moonie. It was only after my persistent calls that we see additional clinics in Dalby, Miles and Chinchilla. Added to the delays in permits for harvesters and the lack of vaccination clinics is the closure of the Dalby Hospital COVID-testing facility. Why would the Palaszczuk Labor government close a 24/7 COVID-testing facility during a pandemic? This seriously impacts the grain harvesters, the holders of freight and logistics passes and locals who are ordered to get tested immediately. Dalby has 24/7 industries but we have no 24/7 public testing. Obviously the people of Dalby and the billion dollar grain harvest is not a priority for the Palaszczuk Labor government.

Climate Change

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (2.27 pm): Few federal governments in the developed world in the last 10 years have done more to stifle efforts to combat climate change globally than this Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison government. Ever since Tony Abbott thought that campaigning against

climate change was a vote winner, this federal government has been parroting every wacky line on the environment and giving airtime to every crank and windbag, so much so that refusing to take action on climate change is now fused into their DNA. We are probably one of the only countries in the world to undo emissions reduction measures, to the perverse enjoyment of the LNP.


Let us not forget that if it were not for the Greens siding with the Liberals and Nationals to vote down the earlier emissions trading scheme legislation, we might have averted the last 10 almost years of inaction. Ahead of COP26 in Glasgow, the Prime Minister is umming and aching about whether he will even bother to show up. He is happy to holiday in Hawaii. He is happy to go to visit a few pubs in England, but he does not want to do the quarantine to go to what has been described as the most important climate meeting in a decade—what Prince Charles described as the last chance saloon for the planet.

We have a Prime Minister too scared of what Barnaby Joyce will say if he leaves the country. The Deputy Prime Minister has flagged that this Sunday is D-day for the National Party in considering a net zero commitment by 2050. He even bizarrely claimed this week that prior to the Kyoto Protocol being signed, 'People played a sneaky little game, and we ended up with the divestment of our private property.' Let us not forget that the current LNP president, Lawrence Springborg, thinks climate change is caused by volcanoes. It is clear from media reports that most of the opposition federally to net zero is coming from their Queensland LNP members and the Deputy Prime Minister. This is the level of misinformation and paranoia being debated within the LNP as Australia experiences increasing drought, record temperatures and catastrophic bushfires.

Australia is vulnerable to climate change, as we all know, and we will see increasing severe impacts unless action is taken, and crucially, unless we encourage other countries to also take action. This is still being debated within the LNP, while the National Farmers' Federation, the Cattle Council, BHP, Rio Tinto and many others have agreed to net zero by 2050. Just today, the Reserve Bank of Australia said that Australia cannot hide from net zero by 2050. Deputy Governor Guy Debelle told an investor conference this morning that no matter the opinion of Australians towards the move to net zero, it was going to happen.

We have always known the LNP are environmental vandals. Now we know they are economic vandals too. We even gave them a clear and concise chance in this House this week to say whether or not they back it. Of course they squibbed it and ended up not voting either way. It is pretty weak to not take a view either way on such an important matter. They are ignoring that having a target of net zero emissions is actually an opportunity to invest in a green energy industry right here in Australia and in Queensland and see the economy grow. This is very clearly seen by the multitude of fantastic, job-creating hydrogen announcements just this last week. Today we saw labour force figures come out, and unemployment in Queensland has a four in front of it. Embracing these opportunities is the only way forward, so those opposite and their bosses in Canberra need to get on the right side of history and stop sitting on the fence.

Bowen Basin, Roads

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (2.30 pm): Many times I have spoken in this House about the goat tracks that are meant to pass as roads in the Bowen Basin. I have spoken about people's vehicles being destroyed by the roads, the suspension of the school bus service due to the condition of the roads and the damage to emergency service vehicles, not to mention delays in medical attention and the threat to the safety of QAS staff. Yet we have seen nothing from this government. Despite the billions in royalties and the charges levied against companies that are developing the area and creating jobs, nothing has changed.

I have spoken of the Kilcummin Diamond Downs Road, but there is also the Peak Downs Highway, which is frequently reduced to a crawl or closed due to accidents. We have the Suttor Development Road and the Mount Coolon Road where vehicles are forced to travel at speeds as low as 10 kilometres an hour to avoid destroying their vehicles. We also have the May Downs Road that shreds tyres on a daily basis. Still there is nothing from this government.


This government is all talk and no action when it comes to improving roads in the Bowen Basin. That hypocrisy is not just costing the residents today but also hindering the future of the entire state. In order to capitalise on the potential for growth in areas like agriculture and mining, our roads need to keep pace. On the Kilcummin Diamond Downs Road, for example, we are seeing patch-up jobs at best where less than 12 months after the work is completed the road is once again destroying truck tyres

and smashing windscreens. We are talking about hundreds of heavy vehicle movements a day, particularly now when the grain crops are coming off. These roads are well past their use-by date. What is needed is a complete re-evaluation and a complete upgrade of these roads from the ground up.

At the heart of mining and agriculture—the industries that have kept Queensland afloat during the pandemic—is people. Those people deserve safe roads for their families—roads that are built to carry the equipment and produce into and out of the area that is feeding Queensland's economy. Those people deserve roads that mean their children can get to school and roads that mean an ambulance can reach them in their time of need. Those people deserve roads that will help them thrive, help them grow and, in turn, help Queensland grow.

I will continue to speak about these roads until people throughout the Bowen Basin are treated fairly and equally. I receive calls on a daily basis from property owners, residents and workers in that area complaining about the roads. I am going to continue standing up in this place and highlighting these issues until those roads are fixed and until the services that we take for granted down in the south-east corner of this state are of a similar standard in the rural areas of Queensland.

Hydrogen Industry

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (2.33 pm): Before I commence, I table two petition responses.

Tabled paper: Response from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (Hon. Furner), to an ePetition (3590-21), sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 685 petitioners, requesting the House to subsidise essential media access in a printed format to rural and regional Queensland, the same way that other essential services are subsidised in regional areas to support equity and access [\[1756\]](#).

Tabled paper: Response from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (Hon. Furner), to an ePetition (3529-21), sponsored by the member for Bundamba, Mr McCallum, from 723 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the RSPCA is properly funded [\[1757\]](#).

This week we have heard about the great investments being made in hydrogen in this state by the Palaszczuk government. These investments will mean more jobs in more industries. Recent announcements by the Palaszczuk government highlight how developing the hydrogen industry will assist our primary industries. This includes delivering a globally competitive energy solution that is centred around firm, low-carbon electricity for industry. Industry will benefit but so too will the environment. The environment that has low clouds hanging over it is in the National Party room. 'Coal Dust Canavan', rather than supporting the industrialised investments in hydrogen in Central Queensland, is still talking about coal-fired power stations—a 'Coal-Magnon man' solution for 21st century needs.


What the National Party forgets is that we have an environment that needs to be protected for agricultural purposes as well. We need to support efforts to keep emissions down and temperatures down. While I support the coal sector in this state, there needs to be a transition not because of Glasgow but because it is the right thing to do for the planet.

I am not going to be a 'proclaimer' here, but Scott Morrison should go those 500 miles and 500 miles more to be at Prince Charles's door. It is too bad that Scott has taken the low road when we need to take the high road when it comes to the climate. We need to ensure the industry has a story to tell to world markets on the production of clean, green produce, which our reputation has been built on thanks to our hardworking men and women on farms in Queensland. That means taking action on climate change, looking to innovation like hydrogen and ensuring renewables are supported.

The National Party is slowly being brought into the 21st century kicking and screaming. The disinformation and dissent is not working. Agricultural industries already have targets—targets that even the LNP cannot commit to, targets that have been set by stakeholders in the agricultural sector. It is time for the LNP to be more brave of heart. The LNP may have it in their minds that they are William Wallace in *Braveheart* shouting about 'freeee-dom' but, like so many in the LNP, it is mere acting and not good acting at that.

The only party in Queensland that will look after the worker, look after farmers and the people of Queensland when it comes to supporting jobs and supporting action on climate change is the Labor Party. I hear it so often—conversations around kitchen tables and in the paddocks on farms throughout Queensland: the tide is shifting. The mood is changing. Farmers believe in what needs to happen to make sure their produce maintains its good reputation of being clean and green. They know the reputation they have built on the back of their hard work to get their produce out to the world.

Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (2.36 pm): What has changed since I spoke about the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service last sitting? We have had countless staff continuing to come to our office calling for action. The Together union members have also voted unanimously on a vote of no confidence in the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service Board. It is time we seriously look at this. What does the minister need to do to sack this group and put in some governance that we can all work with?

Ambulance ramping is at 24 per cent in Bundaberg and 30 per cent in Hervey Bay. One in four patients are not seen within the recommended time. The worst part about it that I am hearing from staff is that they are terrified to raise issues because of the bullying culture that exists within the Wide Bay health service. I hear that staff are leaving.

Back in 2019 I called for a full external investigation into the board chair's actions in the so-called sacking of the former chief of staff. I said back then, 'This is going to get a lot worse before it gets better.' We have seen that in the Auditor-General's financial reports last year and in the service delivery standards I just mentioned. I think that full external investigation into the board chair's actions needs to happen. I also said in 2019—

I know that when the performance of this high-performing health service starts to slide in my region—and it will—it will be the minister's fault for not acting sooner. It is easier to find a new board chair than to find another high-performing chief executive. Why would any health professionals or executives now come to Bundaberg to work ...

Two years on my prediction is 100 per cent correct. The Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service Board is failing our hospitals across the region at a time when we need them the most. The hospital staff are calling for the board to be sacked. I am giving them a voice here this afternoon.

Additionally, we cannot forget the 2018-2022 strategic plan that I mentioned last sitting week, because it is important that we understand just how out of touch it has become. At the beginning, the plan outlines seven goals it will achieve—not one has been completed. Again, the plan outlines what the community will see by 2022. It includes: substantial progress towards a refurbished hospital, including increased access to level 5 services; an integrated health campus providing training; increased subspecialists; and on it goes. None of this has happened. Clearly, these are complete and utter failures.


Again, I call on the minister to step up and take our Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service Board to the cleaners. We need governance and to put people in there we can trust and, more importantly, people the hardworking doctors and nurses and allied health professionals can work with. The culture is rotten in Queensland Health and our frontline staff need more help. Healthcare workers are giving it their all, but the system is letting them down.

I think it is important that we recognise that, after two years since the Wide Bay health service chair sacked the CEO, there is still continuing legal action going on. It is costing taxpayers a fortune to try to stick up for this board chair, while they continue to put the CEO through the ringer. There are no charges and no findings, but we are still victimising a CEO who had the hospital performing at a really high level.

I stand up on behalf of the Together union members and on behalf of the people who continue to come to our office. I thank the member for Hervey Bay for standing up for his community and asking questions as well. The CEO has to go.

(Time expired)

Coronavirus, Cook Electorate

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (2.39 pm): It is two years on and we are still talking about COVID. In comparing where we have been and how far we have come, there is no doubt we are in a much better position moving forward with the global pandemic. I want to speak specifically to my communities in Cape York and Torres Strait.

I acknowledge that the global pandemic has not been easy on anyone. The initial onset of COVID-19 brought about a lot of uncertainty. Everyone I spoke with expressed the need for community safety. Everyone, including myself, wanted some sort of guarantee and reassurance that in the midst of the unknown the safety and wellbeing of individuals, family and community would be upheld to the highest regard.

My electorate is one of the three largest electorates in Queensland. All of my communities are scattered throughout the vast regions of FNQ. Cape York and the Torres Strait fall into the category of being the most vulnerable in the Cook electorate. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people suffer


the poorest health outcomes, and a potential outbreak in any one of those communities would be devastating. Since the initial onset of COVID-19 in March 2020, the Palaszczuk government has implemented a suite of different measures to keep communities safe.

I want to remind everyone that in March 2020 we had no solution to help us move forward with this pandemic. You will remember the lockdowns. It was not easy, but communities pulled together and we made it work. Taking kids out of schools again was not easy on our kids and families, but we pulled together as a community and we made it work. Quarantining and COVID tests, yes, they were inconveniences, but we pulled together and we made it work. All of these measures kept communities safe, as we have not had one positive COVID case in Cape York or the Torres Strait.

We are at the next phase in this COVID pandemic: the vaccination phase. I have every belief that we can pull together again and make this work. Our local community is lagging behind the state average when it comes to vaccination rates, but it does not have to be that way. The Palaszczuk government is making the vaccine available to ensure we protect ourselves, our family and our community. Next week there will be pop-up clinics operating in Cooktown, Mapoon, Wujal Wujal, Napranum and Laura, amongst the many other vaccination clinics we have held throughout the Cook electorate.

I am calling on all of my communities. If you do not have your jab, now is the time to do so. We need to be ready when the virus comes to Queensland. Getting the COVID vaccination is the most important thing you can do for yourself, your family and your community.

Health System, Funding

 **Dr MacMAHON** (South Brisbane—Grn) (2.42 pm): For months healthcare workers have been warning of a crisis in Queensland's hospitals. Our hospitals are already operating at 100 per cent capacity, and that is before the likely spike in COVID cases when Queensland opens. We urgently need to get vaccination rates up, especially in First Nations communities and for people living with disability. Crucially, we need to properly fund our hospital system to do its work. As we get closer to the state opening up, over the past month my office has been hearing from nurses and healthcare workers on the front line of our public hospitals who are raising the alarm. One said—

For God's sake find a way to increase the bed and staff numbers at the RBWH and don't put it all back on staff by saying we need to be more productive. No-one says that to politicians!

Another said—

Staff are leaving, some roles aren't being replaced. Nurses and doctors are doing the job of 2 people. Service delivery doesn't change despite the reduced workforce numbers. The highest level of burnout I've seen in 30 years.


Another said—

Ambulance ramping every day—speaks for itself. There are no beds to offload patients into, patients that require monitoring are being offloaded early which is unsafe.

In a state as wealthy as Queensland, it is criminal that we have a shortage of beds and staff in our public hospitals. I am in no way opposed to having both the federal and state governments invest more in our public hospitals, but our hospitals cannot wait while the political blame game between the feds and the state plays out. The state government can, and should, act now. We need to urgently commit to a massive funding boost to our public hospitals to cope with the looming surge of COVID patients. Our hospitals desperately need more beds, nurses, doctors and other frontline staff.

If our government is concerned about how they could pay for this, it is time to make the wealthiest companies pay just a little bit more. The Commonwealth Bank reported a profit of \$8.8 billion over the last financial year, with the other four banks not far behind. The banks are riding on a wave of profit as property investors rush to Queensland in the wake of COVID. There is nothing stopping the state government from implementing a levy on the big banks. Queensland's Mid Year Fiscal and Economic Review is coming up in the next few months. We should update the budget to include this new revenue and expenditure to give Queenslanders the public health system we need to be prepared for the coming influx from COVID-19.

Mackay Electorate, Events; Youth Programs

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.44 pm): Because of the Palaszczuk government's quick and decisive action regarding COVID-19, under the leadership of Premier Palaszczuk and the hard work of Queenslanders we have been able to live a fairly free life without too many restrictions. In my region we have enjoyed five NRL games at BB Print Stadium: three fixtures and two finals. This is something


we have only dared to dream about previously. It was fantastic to have the likes of Nathan Cleary score tries in our patch and then see the team in the grand final. It was fantastic for our community. Just when we were getting over the excitement of the elite Rugby League teams, the Australian international women's cricket team played two day-and-night matches against the Indian international women's team at Harrup Park. These are fantastic role models for our young people. They got to see the likes of Beth Mooney and Alyssa Healey, who were in our city and meeting our locals.

The adrenaline rush did not end there. For the fourth year in a row Mackay was home to Rumble on the Reef, Australia's national skateboarding championship, which was held at our famous skate park, the Sugar Bowl. The Rumble on the Reef festival is so popular with interstate and intrastate visitors. It has grown into a music festival and a hydrofoil kite surfing and wakeboarding championship. Rumble on the Reef is supported through Tourism and Events Queensland's It's Live! in Queensland program. The dynamic Donny Frazer and his team are growing Mackay into an adventure sports destination. Every time there is an event held in my region it means that the accommodation venues are full, restaurants and cafes are booked out, retail sales keep the tills ticking over, there are people in jobs, the economy is growing, families are getting out together and kids are getting to see their sports heroes. It is great to be in the Sunshine State.

While we celebrate having the best of the best athletes in our region, with families enjoying precious moments together, we know this is not the experience for all of our young people. We know that for a range of different reasons there are a number of young people making poor choices, living rough, dropping out of education and training, and turning to crime. That is why, working with Minister Linard and Minister Ryan, we are delivering support programs that reach the most at-risk youth—projects such as the co-responder project and Project Booyah, which is run by the Police Service—and partnering with Transition 2 Success with Child Safety. These young people are making the—

(Time expired)

Social Media

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (2.47 pm): In 2020 over 3.6 billion people were tapping away connecting, sharing, shopping and banking via the internet. With the joy has come heartache from the dark side of social media and its impacts on all that we love, including family and friends. Recent public hearings for the inquiry into vilification and hate crimes revealed that platforms and pages have emboldened users with anonymity, accommodating the victimisation and brutalisation of fellow Australians with vile and slanderous posts and comments which would never be said in person. This, combined with incessant bullying, harassment and misinformation in abundance, is failing our communities and impacting our young, whom we are supposed to protect.


Physical ailments from being hunched over phones and screens, anxiety, self-harm and heartbreaking suicides—this devastation is not relegated to our children alone. All ages, sectors and genders are targeted as well as businesses and charities through reputational damage. No-one is safe from these perpetrators and keyboard warriors.

Freedom of speech has spiralled into freedom to humiliate and bully. What is the answer? The High Courts have determined that organisations and individuals may be liable for any defamation made by them and comments by third parties on their posts. For those of us who have internet platforms, we now can either monitor 24/7 and delete harmful comments or turn comments off, which negates why we are online.

As adults, we must provide 100 points of identification to get a licence, passport, bank account or Medicare card, to enrol for courses or to open a phone or betting account. We even need it to pay road tolls. However, for a social media account, you need nothing. You can use a false name, or actually many of them. We can continue requesting, online and offline, for residents to converse and debate respectfully and responsibly. Thankfully, within my community the vast majority do this. However, we do have repeat offenders. Some of these avoid defamation through inference, as I experienced through a post awarding me with a sisterhood with a satanic organisation, complete with an old, unrelated photo as part of an ongoing campaign of harassment to get me to resign as an MP.

Freedom of speech comes with responsibility, which includes being held accountable for what you say and do online. Is it time to license users of social media, which has become a weapon just as a car is when driven with intent to harm? Or do we continue to just be bystanders to the devastation and do nothing? Fellow MPs, I do not believe this is a choice we have. For the wellbeing of all in Queensland, we must now act upon this.

South Eastern Region State Emergency Service, Awards


 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (2.50 pm): On Sunday, 10 October I was honoured to represent the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, Mark Ryan, at the South Eastern Region State Emergency Service Awards ceremony held at the Fernvale community centre. As a former Somerset regional councillor and having lived for many years nearby at Lowood, I was honoured to represent the minister at the ceremony. As well, I knew many of the attendees and many of the recipients of awards.

Other dignitaries at the ceremony included: Mark Roche AFSM, deputy commissioner, QFES; Mark Stuart, acting assistant commissioner, south eastern region, QFES; Mark Kelly, acting regional manager, SES; Councillor Teresa Harding, mayor, Ipswich City Council; Councillor Graeme Lehmann, mayor, Somerset Regional Council; Councillor Greg Christensen, mayor, Scenic Rim Regional Council; Councillor Jeff McConnell, Scenic Rim Regional Council; Councillor Kate Kunzelmann, Ipswich City Council; Councillor Russell Milligan, Ipswich City Council; Councillor Jacob Heremaia, Logan City Council; Councillor Tony Hall, Logan City Council; Anthony Somerfield, from Suncorp; and Peta Scott, Patrick Scott and Ron Scott, family of the late Noel Scott, an SES volunteer.

There are about 6,000 SES members in Queensland and they come from all walks of life, bringing a diverse set of skills and backgrounds. They not only assist in times of floods and bushfires and help communities recover from storms and cyclones; they are also currently assisting with COVID-19 operations on our borders. There were about 100 recipients of awards, and I would like to mention the recipients from the Marburg and Rosewood SES units, as they are located in my electorate.

From the Marburg group: Andrew Guy received the National Emergency Medal for his service in relation to Cyclone Debbie; John Holcroft was awarded a Meritorious Service Medal recognising 45 years of service to the SES; and Yvonne Laegal was awarded the National Medal recognising 15 years of service. From the Rosewood SES unit: Robert Probst was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal recognising 25 years of service to the SES, and Peter Dawkins was recognised as the Rosewood Member of the Year. It would be remiss of me if I did not mention my cousin, Vincent McGuire, of the Ipswich SES unit, who was recognised as Regional Trainer of the Year. I would also like to mention the Ipswich SES unit that was recognised for its response to the 2020 Halloween day hail storm that saw massive damage to properties in Rosewood and Springfield. For their efforts, the Ipswich SES unit was awarded the Regional Operational Response of the Year. I was honoured to represent the minister at this ceremony and I was honoured to be in the presence of these wonderful SES volunteers.

Watts, Mr B; 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games


 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (2.53 pm): News today that Sian Kingi's murderer has been denied parole is welcome. This was a horrific murder which devastated a family and scarred a community in 1987 on the Sunshine Coast. Barrie Watts, the accused murderer, should never be released. Every time this comes up, it must re-traumatise the Kingi family and others close to them. I was a young cadet reporter working out of the Noosa office of the *Sunshine Coast Daily* and *Noosa News* when Sian's abduction occurred less than a kilometre from our office and only a few hundred metres from the main street of Noosa Junction. I remember how the community rallied in the hunt for Sian at first when it was not known what had happened and then in the hunt for clues after her body was found to try to capture the abductors and murderers. Watts and his de facto wife, Valmae Faye Beck, were a particular type of evil that is hard to ever imagine.

The community has also rallied in support of the petition that my colleague the member for Ninderry led on behalf of the family to seek that Watts stay behind bars and the laws are toughened up. There are people who cannot be rehabilitated. We like to believe the best in people, but there is a type of evil person who lose their right to walk free among the community and they must be kept behind bars. Watts should never be released. We must do all that we can to ensure the laws are strong enough to help keep psychopaths like Watts behind bars.

I want to talk about another issue. I had the pleasure of being announced as the state opposition spokesperson for the Olympics and Paralympics infrastructure and jobs this week. We are thrilled about the opportunities the Olympics and Paralympics can bring to Queensland and the opportunity to ensure that we get the legacy infrastructure throughout this state right. This is not only the biggest show in the world; it is an opportunity to see who we can be, what we can build and how we can ensure that our community's infrastructure, services and business opportunities are unlocked so we can produce the jobs of today and the future.

This is a tremendous opportunity, and 11 years is not far away. That is why we support the move towards ensuring that the right infrastructure is there. We talked earlier in this House about housing and the need to ensure there is timely release of housing. There is also a need to ensure that the private sector is engaged along with the government to build the infrastructure and the businesses that will provide the jobs of the future.

Stretton Electorate, Badminton

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (2.56 pm): I rise to speak about the fastest racquet sport in the world—faster than tennis or squash—and one of the most popular sports in the electorate of Stretton. I am talking about badminton. Whilst it has not enjoyed massive popularity in Australia in the past, the game is very popular in China, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Taiwan and India. As Stretton is the most multicultural electorate in Queensland, it is no surprise that badminton is going from strength to strength in Stretton. I am sure the suburbs in my electorate must have the most badminton players of any electorate in Queensland. In fact I would go as far as saying that Stretton is the beating heart of badminton in Queensland.

One of the biggest badminton champions in my area is Eric Yap, the president of the Malaysian Club of Queensland, who met with me a few weeks ago about supporting this great sport. Eric has definitely won me over. After meeting with Eric, I went along with William Wu, who is a constituent of Stretton but also the long-serving electorate officer of the member for Toohey. He invited me along to play my first game of badminton. He loves the game and he attributes his 11-kilo weight loss solely to it.

Mr Power: I need to do it.


Mr MARTIN: I take that interjection. He introduced me to Ricky Yu, who is also a constituent of Stretton and runs the Sky Badminton Centre. Ricky is a former Australian national badminton team coach and Malaysian national team coach. He originally started Sky Badminton in an old furniture warehouse in 2017. It is now so popular that they have had to take over the other half of the warehouse. I had a great time playing doubles and learning some of the basic skills, so thanks to Ricky and William.

Groups like the Sunnybank Hills Badminton Club and the Brisbane Taiwanese Sports Club also run social badminton in my local area. I recently joined my good mate Eddie Lei, a former electorate officer for the Stretton electorate office who is also a constituent of Stretton, out at the Calamvale college with the team from the Brisbane Taiwanese Sports Club. It was great to see the Calamvale hall filled with players of all ages. They have a volunteer coach on hand to help with novice badminton players like me. The shuttlecocks are free but you must bring your own racquet.

They play on Saturdays from 9.30 to 11.30 at the Calamvale College thanks to Kevin, the president. The badminton options are endless in Stretton. I look forward in the future to joining the Distinguished Citizens Society of Queensland which also runs a social badminton league in Calamvale but on Sunday afternoons. Thanks to Wayne Ko and president Gary Shih who have invited me along to their big badminton tournament later this month.

TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (3.00 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the Transport and Resources Committee Report No. 6, 57th Parliament, *Examination of Auditor-General Report 11: 2020-21: Energy 2020*, tabled on 21 June 2021.

I rise today to speak to the aforementioned report. As a measure of transparency and an important check and balance, we in Queensland have legislation that requires the Auditor-General to audit these financial reports of public sector entities such as our energy companies. They are responsible for providing parliament with independent assurance of the financial management of these public sector entities. The Auditor-General report we examined earlier this year and the subject of this committee report tabled in June summarises the financial audit results of Queensland's six state owned energy entities—CleanCo, CS Energy, Stanwell, Powerlink, Energy Queensland and Ergon Energy.

By way of overview from a former supply industry employee—for anyone who does not know how the network is structured—starting at the beginning of our chain are our generators: CleanCo, CS Energy and Stanwell. Then we have Powerlink in transmission. Energex and Ergon are distributors,

now merged as Energy Queensland. We also have the national electricity market encompassing something like 40,000 kilometres of transmission lines which we call our poles and wires. This is where retailers and generators trade electricity. Ergon Energy Queensland is a retailer as well as a distributor. CS Energy and Stanwell also participate in the retail market.

Some interesting topics that came up in the examination of this report included: the need to stay one step ahead when it comes to security of online payments and information systems; the challenges of integrating renewable energy with existing coal-fired power, including its impact on pricing and demand as well as the rules of the energy market; and the impact of COVID-19 on last year's profits. They went down partly due to decreased demand.

I know that some people might find the audit of energy financials a little bit boring. The Transport and Resources Committee find it anything but boring. Our committee finds it sexy and very exciting. Luckily, the future of energy in Queensland is exciting. I take this opportunity to quickly congratulate the Premier, the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and the rest of our leadership team on the announcement over the weekend that we will partner with leading renewable energy and hydrogen company Fortescue Future Industries to build the world's largest hydrogen equipment manufacturing facility just outside of Gladstone.


As an electrician by trade—who did not know I was an electrician?—I am excited by the conversations that projects such as this and the pumped hydroelectric project at Borumba Dam are generating—no pun intended—amongst tradespeople in the sector, especially the growing recognition that moving to more clean energy options will bring jobs—not cost them—if we get it right.

It is also good that the Auditor-General can report on our state owned electricity network. The reason we can report on this is because we own the network. When the LNP were briefly in power it not only drove up the cost of electricity to consumers by over 40 per cent but, in my opinion, they could not manage running the network. They thought they would flog it off to the highest bidder.

In the days before I came to work at this place while working for Powerlink Queensland—which might surprise people like my colleague the member for Burleigh who thought I worked for a union—I would have been honoured to be a full-time union official, but I was a volunteer delegate in the workplace elected by my peers and a proud ETU member. I could not join the nurses' union or any fake unions. I am an electrician. I could only join the Electrical Trades Union. I am a proud member.

Anyway, back to Powerlink. In those days before the 2015 election, there was a procession of foreign business owners visiting, no doubt getting a feel of what they intended to buy from the then government. It was a terribly uncomfortable time for employees. Thank goodness we won the election and we still own those assets that are returning dividends into the accounts of electricity users.

This Auditor-General report shows that our electricity providers are doing the right thing when it comes to finances, with the finding that the financial statements of all the entities in the energy sector are reliable and comply with relevant laws and standards. Their entities prepared their financial statements in a timely manner. In reaching our recommendation as a committee that 'the Legislative Assembly note the contents of this report' we satisfied ourselves that the energy agencies have taken the appropriate action to address the Auditor-General's recommendations. I thank the committee and our hardworking secretariat—Deb, Zac and Amanda—for all the work they do. It is great to see that our system of checks and balances is working. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (3.05 pm): I also want to thank the committee for all the work that they do, led by the chair Shane King who does a good job, and Deborah Jeffrey and Zac who do a wonderful job in the committee. I am glad that I get an opportunity to speak on this. This is not boring; this is important information. I suggest that every member of this parliament read this Auditor-General's report into energy. It shows what we have been talking about for a long time. I know that the shadow minister for natural resources and energy has been talking about and banging on about this—where is the plan for the transition to renewables? Where is the plan?

If we look at this and go through some of the issues highlighted by the Queensland Audit Office, it is sober reading and it is disturbing. I am glad that the minister is here. I was hoping that the other stakeholder minister, the Treasurer, would be here as well as he should be reading this plan. As highlighted by the Auditor-General, in 2019-20 the energy entities recorded a combined profit of \$204 million. This was a decrease of \$1.5 billion, or 88 per cent, from the previous year. This profit reduction was largely due to the generators—CleanCo, CS Energy and Stanwell—because of lower electricity prices.

The increase in solar generation during the middle of the day has meant that, on occasions, supply for electricity is so much greater than the demand that power generators have to pay the market to take the electricity they generate. This is referred to as a 'negative price event'. That is very concerning. The lower energy prices in the middle of the day will result in increased losses for the energy generators if they cannot adapt to changes in energy demand.


This report also states that the Australian Energy Regulator decided what the maximum allowed revenues for Energy Queensland's distribution businesses, Energex and Ergon, would be for the next five years. This will reduce the revenues for Energex and Ergon by 15.8 per cent and 13 per cent respectively. We are seeing these assets, their revenue capabilities, decrease remarkably. This will have an impact on the dividends that we get from these energy companies, on the life of these energy companies and, more importantly, on the jobs and employment supplied by these energy companies—Ergon, Energex and all those generators—in regional Queensland, especially in western Queensland that has depots which need to be maintained. Over the past 20 years when the old electricity boards became Ergon in terms of regional Queensland, we saw more and more staff leave these companies which has had an impact on these regional towns.

We need a very good look at what we are doing when it comes to renewables and we need that transition plan. If we look in this Auditor-General's report, it is quite remarkable that the Auditor-General's office says—

We also plan to issue a report to parliament on how the state government is managing the transition to renewable energy.

One would think that the minister would commission a report, a transition plan, in terms of how they are going about it, but now we rely on the Auditor-General to do it? The minister has departmental staff, a whole department. Why is the minister relying on the Auditor-General, who has so many other things to do, to do his job? Surely the minister should be doing the job of showing us where this transition plan is going.

I am calling for a transition plan to renewable energy. Let's look at that plan and how it works. This report highlights that there are some issues we are dealing with that are putting pressure on these energy generators. Let's see that plan and debate it. That is what we are looking for. The loss of that amount of income—an 88 per cent reduction in profits in 12 months—is having an impact on how these businesses are operating. I call on the minister to do the right thing and give us a transition plan to renewables.

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (3.10 pm): I rise to speak on the Transport and Resources Committee's report titled *Examination of Auditor-General Report No. 11: 2020-21—Energy 2020*. I am fairly new to the committee, but I have thoroughly enjoyed the role so far. There are so many exciting things happening in that space and we have a wonderful chair. I thank the committee secretariat and the Queensland Audit Office for their assistance with the committee's examination.

The committee was tasked with considering the findings in the Auditor-General's report. The committee is satisfied that Queensland's six state owned energy agencies have taken appropriate action to address the Auditor-General's recommendations as per the financial audit. The committee is also satisfied that Queensland's energy sector remains viable at this point in time, despite a number of challenges facing the sector including the growth of renewables entering the network over the next decade.

The Queensland government energy entities are supplying affordable, reliable and efficient energy to households, businesses and industry right across the state. Just last month more than two million Queensland households received another \$50 off their power bills—the fifth dividend we have delivered in four years. We are able to deliver these dividends because we kept our power assets in public hands.

Renewable energy sources are also driving down the price of electricity for households and delivering cheap, clean power to the state. Our government is heavily investing in renewable energy and technology. We are partnering with industry to transition our state into a green energy superpower. Our recent \$2 billion investment in the Queensland Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund will create jobs, boost manufacturing and deliver cleaner, cheaper energy to Queenslanders. Our announcement on Sunday of our partnership with Fortescue Future Industries will see Queensland become a dominant player in green hydrogen energy and manufacturing.


Our publicly owned power assets can play an important role in our transition to 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030. Our coal-fired power plants are scheduled to be retired over the next 26 years, and during this time they will need to adapt and shift to a changing energy mix. In response to this transition, our generators are entering agreements to purchase green energy. For instance,

CleanCo is purchasing 400 megawatts from MacIntyre Wind Farm on the Darling Downs and 320 megawatts of solar energy from Neoen's Western Downs Green Power Hub. Stanwell is purchasing 343 megawatts from Clarke Creek wind farm, and CS Energy is purchasing 162 megawatts from the Columboola Solar Farm. CleanCo also has plans to build its own 18-turbine wind farm at the MacIntyre Wind Farm, and CS Energy and Stanwell are investing in hydrogen projects.

I am also pleased to hear that the Queensland Audit Office will be undertaking an audit to look at how the state government is managing the transition to renewable energy. I understand that this audit will be tabled later this year.

I also note that the Auditor-General included a recommendation for the energy agencies to strengthen security to their information systems. It is a welcome recommendation. In a time of increasing ransomware and cyber attacks on our public utilities, we have to do all we can to secure our state's electricity generation and distribution. On this point, the Transport and Resources Committee has noted that the minister has indicated that aspects of this matter required immediate action and that they were resolved in a timely manner by the energy agencies.

The Transport and Resources Committee is satisfied that the energy sector remains viable at this point in time, while noting that there are some challenges facing the sector—challenges like the increasing number of renewable energy sources, replacing coal-fired power, the integration of renewables into our electricity network and the change to rules for wholesale energy prices. Otherwise, Queensland's publicly owned agencies are doing a good job in continuing to deliver cheap, reliable energy to Queensland's households, businesses and industry. This is vital to our post-COVID economic recovery and for powering jobs growth in emerging industries and those industries that rely on cheap and clean electricity. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr BOYCE** (Callide—LNP) (3.14 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Transport and Resources Committee report titled *Examination of Auditor-General Report No. 11: 2020-21—Energy 2020*. In my mind, energy and all it encapsulates is the greatest subject of our governments—Queensland, Australia and the world. Providing cheap, reliable energy to consumers, heavy industry and manufacturing has become a complicated and widely contested debate in which to date answers have not been articulated clearly or with any certainty. It has left many wondering, 'What will happen to my job?' and, 'Will I be able to afford it?'

The advent of the renewable energy sector, rooftop solar, large-scale solar farms and wind turbines, driven by the environmental arguments of the global warming and climate change debate, has changed the direction of the provision of energy in Australia. It has become complicated, subsidised and unreliable. Australia once relied for the bulk of its energy on coal-fired power generation. This was a cheap—and still is—and reliable generation source, Australia having an abundance of coal.

When Australia signed up to the Kyoto agreement to reduce its carbon emissions by 26 per cent, this put pressure on business and industry to comply. Seeking to achieve this by sourcing energy from the renewable energy sector, a mechanism was needed by the industrial companies and business to prove to the government that they were indeed making every effort to reduce carbon emissions. This brought about the adoption of RECs, renewable energy credits. The way these work is that the renewable energy company is issued one credit for every megawatt hour of energy it produces. If a company or business wants to prove to the government that it is using renewable energy, it has to purchase the energy-generating credits. These credits have become a tradable commodity for the renewable energy companies, buying for the energy needs of business. Because of the Kyoto agreement and the mandate to reduce carbon emissions, they act as a subsidy for the renewable energy sector.

The problem is that the renewables sector is extremely unreliable in terms of producing frequent, reliable power 24/7. Traditional coal-fired power generation cannot be turned off, and it is now being asked to ramp up and down production depending on how much energy is supplied by the renewable energy sector. When the sun does not shine or the wind does not blow, we become reliant on coal-fired power generation for grid stability. This has led to a situation where coal-fired generators make 80 per cent of their profits 20 per cent of their generating time. These small operating windows mean they have to make up the economic shortfall of operating on low production with no demand, and that at times has become unprofitable.


To quote from the report, Stanwell and CS Energy's coal-fired power stations generated 68 per cent of the state's electricity, while CleanCo generated two per cent. The shift to renewable energy sources, along with the planned retirement of existing coal-fired power stations over the next 26 years, will see a change in the generation mix in Queensland. We also plan to issue a report to the parliament on how the state government is managing the transition to renewable energy.

The government has a problem: it does not matter how many solar farms and wind farms come online in the future, the fact remains that the renewable energy sector cannot provide 24/7 power. The question is: how do we stabilise the generation of power to the grid if we go down the road of closing traditional coal-fired power generation? If the Greens have their way and close gas-fired generation and all fossil fuel generation, which is an absurdity, it leaves us in a quandary.

I want to know: what exactly is the government's plan to transition to renewable energy? Hydrogen, they will say. These technologies are very much in the development and prototype stage. There are many questions that remain unanswered—among them the availability of fresh water, the ability and reliability of the renewable energy sector to supply power to the electrolyzers, and the economics of such plans when you consider it relies heavily on government subsidies. Can the government guarantee that jobs will not be lost in traditional industries?

I would like to quote Peta Credlin in the *Australian*, who said—

... Australia is being asked to jeopardise affordable and reliable fossil-fuel-based power now in the hope something will be developed to replace it sometime in the future, demanding a leap into the dark. This is economically irresponsible but politically it's also almost bewilderingly stupid.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (3.19 pm): As the member for Callide has just said, this rush to renewable energy by an ideologically driven Labor government is putting our GOCs at risk. We all know that we are going to transition to renewable energy. None of us have an issue with that. We do, however, have an issue with the timing. When renewable energy is forced into the marketplace we end up with the results that we see in the Auditor-General's report.

It is interesting that the Auditor-General's report was about the income of the GOCs in 2019-20 and it was reported by the Auditor-General in February 2021. It was not about COVID at all. The government likes to blame COVID and use it as an excuse, but it has nothing at all to do with facts. The facts are that the generators have had to write down the value of their assets because they have not been able to compete with cheap renewable energy that is available during the day.


As the member for Callide said, there is none of that when the wind is not blowing and the sun is not shining. In fact, Stanwell has written down its assets by \$720 million, or 19 per cent; CS Energy by \$353 million, or 15 per cent; and CleanCo by \$35 million, which is eight per cent of their assets. In fact, CleanCo has gone a step further and written off the value of their Swanbank E gas station. If the government has its way and starts closing coal-fired power stations, what will we have to keep the lights on in this state? We are going to rely on gas plants.

The Queensland Audit Office has raised real concerns about the ongoing viability of CleanCo because it is buying its power off somebody else and then onselling it. That does not prove to be viable all of the time. Each of the generators have responded to this challenge—and this is in the Auditor-General's report—mostly through entering into agreements with the private sector to purchase renewable energy. They are not building their own, they are buying it off the private sector. In fact, what we are seeing is the government moving from government owned enterprise to the private sector in a stealthy way. They are closing down the government owned enterprises that earn a lot of money for the people of Queensland—in fact, keeping electricity prices down—and shifting that to the private sector.

The private sector has spent, as the Premier keeps telling us, \$8 billion on renewable energy in the last couple of years. Do members think the private sector want to see a return on that \$8 billion? Of course it does. Where does the return come from? It has to come from the people of Queensland. It has to come in the form of higher electricity prices, and that is what we are seeing. If the minister would like to go out there and talk to the people in the real world, the people who are paying their electricity bills, they are not saying their electricity bill has gone down over the last couple of years; they are saying their electricity bill has gone up.

Government members interjected.

Mr HART: They have gone up and they have come down a little bit through some of the government's subsidies. The government's big plan is to come up with some storage facility for the amount of renewable energy that they are putting into the marketplace. They are going down the hydrogen road. We all know what has happened with this government before when it has had these high and mighty ideas. CS Energy had the Solar Boost scheme out at Kogan Creek and Stanwell had ZeroGen. What happened to both of those? Hundreds of millions of dollars went down the drain because the government went down this airy-fairy imaginary road. For the education of members across the chamber, the biggest hydrogen electrolyser in the world is 10 megawatts. It takes up 180,000 square metres of land. Can members imagine what we are going to need to build to contain the gigawatts of electricity that we have? Fair dinkum, this is pie-in-the-sky stuff and it will go the way of Solar Boost and ZeroGen—down the gurgler.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (3.24 pm): I rise to speak on the Transport and Resources Committee's report titled *Examination of Auditor-General Report No. 11: 2020-21—Energy 2020*, in my role as shadow minister for natural resources, mines and energy. The first comment I would make regarding this report is the fact that it was tabled on 4 February 2021. The committee report has sat on the *Notice Paper* since 21 June. It is only now, some eight months later, that we have a chance to debate this report. After reading this report I can understand why it has lain on the *Notice Paper* for so long. The audit report covers the financial performance, profitability and future challenges of the Queensland government owned energy assets, these being the generators CleanCo, CS Energy, Stanwell, the transmitter Powerlink and the distributor Energy Queensland, which is Ergon and Energex.

In 2019-20 the energy entities recorded a combined profit of \$204 million. This was a decrease of \$1.5 billion, which is 88 per cent from the previous year. As a result of these substantial losses, each of the generators have written down the value of their power stations. Stanwell was written down by \$720 million, which was 19 per cent of total assets; CS Energy was written down by \$353 million, which is 15 per cent; and CleanCo was written down by \$35 million, which is eight per cent. Members might remember there was a bit of fancy Treasury work done a few years ago where government debt was shifted onto those entities. I wonder how that is balancing up right now.

CleanCo reduced the value of its Swanbank E gas power station to zero. Due to declining electricity prices, forecasted revenues will not be sufficient to cover the increasing cost to operate the power station. CleanCo expects to earn net losses from running this power station until its expected retirement in 2036.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr WEIR: Member for Miller, you can take that up with Brendan Worrell. He did the audit.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Please direct all your comments through the chair.

Mr WEIR: Increased solar generation during the middle of the day has meant that on occasion supply for electricity is so much greater than demand that power generators have to pay the market to take the electricity that they generate. Reduced electricity demand in the middle of the day is primarily due to increased rooftop solar generation and the increase in negative price events. Lower energy prices in the middle of the day will result in increased losses for the energy generators if they cannot adapt to changes in energy demand. This has all been complicated by unregulated rooftop solar which is washing through the market in the middle of the day.


In June 2020 the AER decided that the maximum allowed revenues for Energy Queensland's distribution businesses, Ergon and Energex, would be for the next five years. This will reduce the revenues of Ergon and Energex by 15.8 per cent and 13 per cent respectively. The reduction in distribution revenue will place further pressure on Energy Queensland to manage its operational and network costs. A reduction in revenue will likely result in decreased shareholder returns to the state government. Returns to the state government are made up of dividends, which is a share of the profits paid to the shareholders, and income tax equivalents. Total returns to the state government amounted to \$1 billion, a decrease of \$1.2 billion, which is 54 per cent, from the previous year.

In 2019-20 Energy Queensland paid customers \$277 million for the power they contributed to the energy grid through rooftop solar. This included eligible customers under the state government's Solar Bonus Scheme who receive 44 cents per kilowatt hour. The state government has funded the scheme in the last three years but has not extended the funding beyond 30 June 2020. From next financial year electricity customers will pay for this in their bills as part of network charges.

Stanwell and CS Energy's coal-fired power stations generated 68 per cent of the state's electricity while CleanCo generated two per cent. The Audit Office remarkably said—

We also plan to issue a report to parliament on how the state government is managing the transition to renewable energy.

We know that the reason for that is that the government does not have a plan. There is no stakeholder in the energy industry that has seen the plan or knows of the plan. Nobody has seen it because it does not exist.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (3.29 pm): Each year I rather enjoy getting up to talk about the Auditor-General's report into the power sector. In past years we have been able to highlight the super profits taken by government owned corporations and spent as part of consolidated revenue. It is a tax on power and a tax that every Queenslanders has been paying through their electricity bill. Last year I think \$1.5 billion worth of profits were taken out of those GOCs through generation and the network. This year it is a bit of a different story with an 88 per cent decline in profits reported.


Mr Hart: Next year will be worse.

Mr KRAUSE: I take the interjection from the member for Burleigh; next year it will be worse. It means that the assets owned by Queenslanders are generating less returns for Queenslanders. However, I strongly suspect that the expenses paid in those companies have not decreased by 88 per cent in the past year; they would have stayed at roughly the same amount, although I do not have the figure in front of me. Queenslanders are receiving far less revenue from the assets but the costs would have remained rather high.

We see a number of issues raised by the Auditor-General in this report. The government has made a great deal of hay out of creating a market for renewable energy and creating the conditions for renewable energy to be generated in Queensland. That is a policy decision for them. However, when the Auditor-General notes that increased solar generation during the middle of the day has led to negative price effects, meaning in some cases that government owned generators are having to pay into the market for that power to be taken from them, we have a very unique market situation created. It is that taxpayers are paying for the market to take power that taxpayers have actually paid to generate. It is a terrifically horrific outcome for Queensland taxpayers that that market condition has been created by the policies of this government. Taxpayers pay to generate and taxpayers pay for that power to go out into the market. That is simply uneconomical in the long run and it also means that the long-term profitability of those assets is seriously in question.

That leads us to this question: if we have a plan from the government for renewables and renewable generation, and maybe we have a plan for affordability—maybe, although I am not so sure about that—where is the plan for reliability when it comes to the supply of energy in Queensland? We have heard from other speakers that 68 per cent of energy is created by coal-fired sources. That is an awful lot of energy to move to both renewable energy generation and, even more importantly, renewable energy storage. At the moment, we do not have the technology to store that amount of energy in our network, even if there was the capability for that amount of energy to be generated from renewable sources. Where is the plan for storage? Does the technology exist? If it does, the government should be telling Queenslanders about it. They should be telling us how much it is going to cost and where it is going to be placed. Which parts of Queensland will have to house the enormous batteries that will be needed to store 68 per cent of Queensland's power source, which is presently taken up by the coal-fired generators?

The Auditor-General also pointed out the increased costs as a result of the widespread uptake of solar panels. I have seen that in the Scenic Rim region where a lot of people have solar panels, and good on them for that. However, the wires were not made for power going back up; they were made for power going out to consumers. That has led to a situation where it costs Energex and Ergon more. Ultimately, the government will need to pay for those assets to be upgraded if they want to take more solar out of rooftop solar generation and other sources. That again leads to a situation where the government owned corporations get less revenue because there is less power coming out of the power sources owned by the government owned corporations. The situation is very tough. The government needs to come clean on the plan for storage and affordability.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (3.34 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Auditor-General's report No. 11. It is interesting that the Auditor-General found that the energy entities recorded a combined profit of \$240 million. Profits have declined by 26 per cent. There was a lot of discussion about whether those assets should be sold. Some clever accounting was done and they were not sold but were mortgaged off to banks rather than private investors. Now they are not returning the same profits. We have a situation where the state owns the title of those things, but the profits are going down and the value is decreasing. In fact, Stanwell was written down by 19 per cent to \$720 million. You would not want to do that five years in a row because then it would be worth nothing. CS Energy was written down by 15 per cent to \$353 million. CleanCo was written down by eight per cent to \$35 million.

To the people of Queensland that means that, given the money that was borrowed a few years ago against those assets to fund current expenditure, potentially we start to enter a phase where they may be overmortgaged and we may need consolidated funds to pull us out of that. Whilst it might have been an interesting opportunity and a clever way to finance things to get out of a budget black hole, the difficulty is that those assets are now reducing in value but the debt is still against them and the people of Queensland will have to foot that bill eventually. A bit of intergenerational theft has gone on in the financing of those assets.

Interestingly enough, CleanCo reduced the value of its Swanbank E gas power station to zero. That asset will be difficult to sell even if someone had that inclination in the future. With a value of zero, not a lot of people would be interested in investing in that asset, including, I suggest, the government going forward.

I want to raise a couple of other issues. We have heard about the reduction in income of 88 per cent. That is significant because that income has been going into consolidated revenue. It is a bit of a strange thing because it goes into consolidated revenue but it comes out of Queensland taxpayers' pockets. Realistically, we want a really efficient energy network. We need an integrated plan to be able to come up with a way to manage this going forward. This is a critical resource for industry, for households and for everybody's life in Queensland. It has been a bit of a political hot potato. It has become the plaything of several people and cheap political shots are being made and taken. However, this is a critical resource that is fundamentally important to our manufacturing future and fundamentally important to our lifestyle. It should be an absolute priority for the minister to have a detailed transition plan for how we can achieve certain goals and outcomes without having to keep putting a hand into the taxpayers' pockets.

Another issue that I want to briefly talk about relates to my area. Toowoomba is on the Ergon Energy grid, even though Toowoomba itself has an urban footprint. There is a subsidy for the community service obligation to make sure that people who live in the far west can get power at a reasonable price, and I agree with that. However, the people of Toowoomba are being unfairly charged for electricity in comparison to our cousins in the city because we do not have access to the same level of competition, even though most of the power that flows through the poles and wires in Brisbane has come straight through our footprint. I call on the minister to look seriously at that. It is disadvantaging industry and small businesses in Toowoomba from a competitive point of view because they have to pay more for electricity. If we really want to see the manufacturing hubs at Wellcamp and the Atlas project go ahead, we will need cheaper power. That situation with Ergon Energy should definitely be looked at.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note



Mr WHITING (Bancroft—ALP) (3.40 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee Report No. 10, 57th Parliament, *Examination of Auditor-General Report 14: 2019-20: Evaluating major infrastructure projects*, tabled on 21 June 2021.

It is a great time to be standing here and talking about infrastructure. From what we have seen in recent times, the Palaszczuk government has a draft 20-year infrastructure strategy laid out. Consultation for that closed last week and, from what I understand, they held 13 regional workshops and met with 270 stakeholders. That is going to be a very important document for this state's future and we all look forward to seeing that when it does come out.

We also have the Queensland government infrastructure pipeline which includes over 1,000 projects that are in either delivery or planning. That gives context, when we look at this report, of how many infrastructure projects we are handling.

That pipeline also includes our four-year infrastructure forward program as well. That is worth, as we have heard, \$52 billion. That also includes the current financial year's allocation of \$14.7 billion. We are rolling out critical infrastructure funding programs as well that integrate with this pipeline. One of the things I am talking about specifically is our hugely important \$3.34 billion Queensland Jobs Fund. Part of that includes \$2 billion for the Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund. I make note that the minister has done a great job on that. Let us also not forget the \$1 billion for the incredibly successful Works for Queensland program. All of these are very important programs.

There is an incredible amount of infrastructure being rolled out in Queensland, with a massive pipeline of projects on the way as well.

Mr Saunders: It is what Labor governments do.

Mr WHITING: I will take the interjection from the member. This is what Labor governments do. No other government, no other party would go down this line.

One of the things we are looking at today is what has changed since this Audit Office report. There are three things: South-East Queensland cities including Brisbane are now Olympic cities. That is an incredible honour and that will be a massive catalyst in terms of timing for a lot of these infrastructure projects. Secondly, our population is booming. We know that; we keep hearing it all the time. More people are moving to Queensland. Tens of thousands of families throughout Australia are

moving to Queensland. Thirdly, we are also becoming, as we have talked about before, a renewable and hydrogen superpower. We have seen the game-changing announcements in Gladstone this week, and clearly there will be more as we move down this very necessary path. Those are the things that have changed when we consider this report.


In some ways, this report has been overtaken because Building Queensland has been folded into the department of state development, as we can see throughout this report. This report from the Audit Office is in some ways quite a technical report. For example, it talks about recommending improvements in options analysis to better address issues identified through assurance activities. When you are doing infrastructure analysis, building business cases, it is a particular skill and there are different ways you can do that.

The report makes some good points which are being adopted, as we have seen in this report. For example, the Building Queensland expertise has been transferred to the department of state development, it is being delivered by the same staff, and it is recognition that we can always improve our business case development and better integrate our business case development with clients such as Transport and Main Roads.

It is very clear that the department is reviewing and adopting the learnings from Building Queensland. For example, it has been acknowledged that the department will use the report to help evaluate their business plans and Building Queensland has improved overall the quality of infrastructure proposals going to the government.

Before I end my contribution, I wish to correct the record in my contribution to the private member's motion last night. Last night I stated the member for Glass House said last March that the worst is over and that the border needed to be opened. It was not in March 2020; it was on 21 May 2020 when the member said, 'The worst has passed,' and it was on 16 June 2020 when the member said, 'Open the borders.' I should clarify that the member did not state this on social media; these statements were made in the House. I table abstracts from the parliamentary record regarding his speeches from those two dates.

Tabled paper: Speeches dated 21 May 2020 and 16 June 2020, by the member for Glass House, Mr Andrew Powell MP, and dated 21 May 2020, by the member for Thuringowa, Mr Aaron Harper MP, regarding coronavirus [\[1758\]](#).

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (3.45 pm): I rise to speak on the report titled *Examination of Auditor-General Report No. 14: 2019-20—Evaluating major infrastructure projects*. I listened with interest as my colleague the member for Bancroft and chair of our committee mentioned that this was a very technical report, and a technical report it is. In fact, so technical is it that the director-general recognised that we take note of the recommendations of this report, but Building Queensland no longer exists, so we take on board what was said and make sure we apply it and do the best we can in the future.

The reality is that Building Queensland was established as an independent statutory authority dealing with up to \$50 billion worth of infrastructure programs. When the Auditor-General wanted to have a look at Building Queensland, I got a lot of hope out of that process because the Auditor-General has been doing a great job for Queenslanders in uncovering such underperforming things as infrastructure maintenance and infrastructure capital spend as well as some problems in the health system, as we have heard in the last couple of weeks.


When the Auditor-General was looking into Building Queensland, I thought, 'Oh, there must be something to see here.' Unfortunately, or fortunately, depending on which side of the House you sit, Building Queensland has now been rolled back and is to be incorporated not into Treasury as was originally planned but into state development and planning which is where it started in the first place.

In any case, I am quite concerned that of the efficiencies that may have been delivered—and the Auditor-General did identify that there were some business cases that were very mature and were robust—70 per cent of the operating costs of Building Queensland in the year 2018-19 were operating costs for external consultants and contractors to deliver business cases, which is essentially what Building Queensland was designed to do. Whilst I say I welcome Building Queensland and what it was doing, I think the government was funding external consultants to get that work done, so perhaps it is better placed to be back inside the department. The amount of \$15 million is not a drop in the ocean, especially given government debt at that time was heading towards \$80 billion; now we have rocketed towards \$120 billion.

In any case, Building Queensland in the technical report is being rolled back into the government department, and I am sure that the director-general will take into consideration each of the suggestions that have been made.

I also note the member for Bancroft's contribution about the important 20-year strategy on infrastructure. I welcome and look forward to seeing that 20-year strategy being delivered. Like any strategy or annual budget, it is alright to say and plan for spending an amount of money. However if you are not actually spending that amount of money then it is underspent and it is a false economy, so the government is promoting things that are not being delivered. That is why I was welcoming the Auditor-General's report into Building Queensland, because I believe that he would have uncovered such things as he has done in the infrastructure area of underfunding of maintenance programs.

In any case, Building Queensland is being rolled back into the department. I look forward to the 20-year annual strategy and the next few budgets and seeing capital figures delivered for the people of Queensland. That is what the people of Queensland deserve. That is what will see jobs growth across the regions. Unfortunately, Building Queensland as it existed will no longer exist. I am sure that the department will, with the best of intentions, try to see the robust business cases developed that the independent statutory was set up to develop. Let us watch this space and see what the next chapter of Building Queensland or the department holds.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (3.50 pm): I rise to speak in support of the committee report titled *Examination of Auditor-General Report No. 14: 2019-20—Evaluating major infrastructure projects*, tabled in June 2021. With billions of dollars spent each year on state infrastructure projects, it is vital the government has access to rigorous and comprehensive infrastructure advice. It is therefore important that the lessons learnt from the Auditor-General's report be taken into consideration with the transfer of Building Queensland to the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning.

The State Development and Regional Industries Committee made two recommendations in its report: firstly, that the Legislative Assembly note the contents of its report; and, secondly, that the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Queensland Audit Office take steps to ensure that the relevant considerations contained in Auditor-General Report 14: 2019-20—*Evaluating major infrastructure projects*, are assigned to the department for implementation and reporting purposes.

Standing orders provide that the Committee of the Legislative Assembly shall refer a report of the Auditor-General to the relevant portfolio committee for consideration. The Auditor-General's report was referred to the former Economics and Governance Committee of the 56th Parliament on 21 May 2020. The former committee conducted a public hearing with the Queensland Audit Office on 17 July 2020. The former committee's examination of the report lapsed with the dissolution of the 56th Parliament on 6 October 2020. In April 2021 the State Development and Regional Industries Committee agreed to complete the examination of the Queensland Audit Office report. The committee wrote to the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning for an update as to the progress of the Queensland Audit Office recommendations, noting that the government had now outlined its intention to transfer Building Queensland into core government. On 7 September 2020, the Queensland government announced that Building Queensland would transfer to the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning.

In its report, the Queensland Audit Office made a number of recommendations. They included that Building Queensland: improve the design and application of its frameworks for developing business cases and providing assurance activities on business cases; review and refine its assurance framework to better reflect its current practices—that is, ensure that there is a clearer alignment between Building Queensland's assurance framework and its actual assurance activities; improve how it manages any risk to its independence when it both leads the development of a business case and performs project assurance activities; improve the process for quantifying and monetising benefits for social infrastructure projects that may have less developed databases available; improve timing and conduct of its assurance activities on business cases to enable comprehensive reviews and timely resolution of issues before finalising a business case; provide clear protocols for agencies to follow during the early stages of developing infrastructure proposals to ensure announcements occur once sufficient assessment has been undertaken to determine the project is suitable and sufficiently viable; and establish and apply internal guidelines for developing business cases for investment proposals where the government has already decided to deliver a project.

With over \$50 billion expected to be invested in infrastructure projects in Queensland over the next four years, the need for the Queensland government to have access to rigorous and comprehensive infrastructure advice is clear. By the parliament accepting all the recommendations of the committee report, Building Queensland will go some way to achieving this objective. The Palaszczuk government continues to exceed our \$50 billion infrastructure guarantee. We are investing \$52.2 billion in infrastructure over the next four years to create local jobs and deliver key infrastructure

projects right across the state of Queensland. Our budget includes \$14.68 billion worth of infrastructure investment in 2021-22, estimated to support 46,500 jobs. Over the next 10 years to 2024-25, the Palaszczuk Labor government will have supported over \$110 billion in infrastructure works. Over this period we are going to see the completion of a wide range of projects delivered by our government. I commend the report to the House.

Mr HART (Burleigh—LNP) (3.55 pm): I rise to speak to the committee report titled *Examination of Auditor-General Report No. 14: 2019-20—Evaluating major infrastructure projects*. The Auditor-General's report talks about Building Queensland. In 2020 the Treasurer put out a press release and stood in this House and said that Building Queensland would no longer be a statutory body and would move into Treasury. The press release stated—

To ensure the Government utilises its resources efficiently to reinforce and strengthen our infrastructure investment and planning capability, Building Queensland will be integrated into Queensland Treasury.

“Combining the skills of Building Queensland and the existing capabilities within Treasury, including the Infrastructure and Economic Resilience Division ...

Apparently things change. When the government was reconstituted, the ministerial positions changed and all of a sudden Building Queensland is about to be back in state development where it started but will no longer be a statutory body. It will no longer have the independence from the department that it really needs to do its business cases properly. The Auditor-General had some things to say about that.

I wrote to the Auditor-General and asked him to have a look at the renewable energy costs that were put onto GOCs. I am glad that he is going to do that. In recent times I have written to the Auditor-General to ask him to have a look at the effect the government's best practice industrial conditions are going to have on infrastructure projects.

Mr McDonald: Union promotion.

Mr HART: I take that interjection. It is union promotion. This is in fact a grubby deal that the government has made with the CFMMEU, the ETU and the plumbers union. It is causing an extreme blowout in the costs of infrastructure. We have seen in recent times that the cost of Gold Coast Light Rail stage 3 has blown out from \$700 million to over \$1 billion—a 50 per cent blowout. We saw the cost of the Townsville stadium blow out by \$43 million. That was directly related to BPICs. We do not know what the figure is for the Cairns Convention Centre because it is hidden in the contracts, but the cost of it has blown out too. With the Capricornia Correctional Centre it is the same story. Cross River Rail is going to blow out in big terms. We have seen recently that the Coomera Connector is blowing out in extreme terms. This is all due to best practice industry conditions. The government can say that this is about providing fair wages and conditions for their workers, but it is not about that. It is about padding the CFMMEU, the ETU and the plumbers union with unfair wages and conditions—in fact, extreme wages and conditions—and blowing out the cost of projects.

What effect does that have on infrastructure for the people of Queensland? It means that they get approximately 30 per cent less bang for their buck because infrastructure will cost 50 per cent more over time. That means that we will get fewer roads and less rail. I seriously doubt we will ever see light rail stage 4 on the Gold Coast. I think the minister is dodging and weaving all over the place now to find a reason to cancel it.

Mr Bailey: It won't go past your brewery, brother!

Mr HART: I do not take that interjection from the minister. I would not be termed his brother, I am sure!

An honourable member: Comrade?

Mr HART: Comrade might be better. I take that interjection. I was a union representative after all back in the real world.

An honourable member: Which one?

Mr HART: The ALAEA. I bet no-one knows what that is. The ALAEA is the Australian Licensed Aircraft Engineers' Association.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Member for Burleigh, I ask you to move that the debate be now adjourned.

Mr HART: Madam Deputy Speaker, I will wrap up my contribution now.


Debate, on motion of Mr Hart, adjourned.

HOUSING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 3105, on motion of Ms Enoch—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (4.00 pm), continuing in reply: This includes support to access crisis and alternative accommodation, including head leased housing solutions and rapid response to high-risk team referrals. This approach focuses on safety first and collaboration with specialist domestic and family violence services or mainstream services.

The Queensland government is committed to preventing and responding to sexual violence in Queensland including through our framework: Prevent. Support. Believe. Queensland's Framework to address Sexual Violence. We have a vision for a Queensland where everyone lives free of the fear, threat or experience of sexual violence. We recognise the importance of educating and raising awareness across relevant sectors of these reforms to ensure their success. The Queensland government will work with relevant government and sector partners to raise awareness and provide education about the stage 1 rental law reforms to ensure these stakeholders are supported to prepare for reform implementation and effect a smooth transition.

Members have indicated support for the amendments to the Retirement Villages Act 1999. Some members have noted concerns about the impact of the mandatory payments policy which ensures former retirement village residents receive their exit payments 18 months after permanently leaving a retirement village, unless the village operator gets an extension of time for hardship reasons. These include concerns about the impact of this policy on a small number of villages where elderly residents have freehold tenure over their unit.

The 2017 and 2019 mandatory payment amendments to the Retirement Villages Act have resulted in the timely return of millions of dollars to some of Queensland's oldest and most vulnerable consumers. Some had been waiting years and years for their money. Elderly former residents needed their funds to pay for aged care or other accommodation. Some families were waiting years for deceased estates to be finalised. Most village operators have responded admirably, with many now offering even shorter payment guarantees. These amendments are about balancing consumer fairness and ensuring retirement villages can continue to provide a great housing option for our seniors.

Some speakers have made the sensible observation that these are difficult and complicated matters. Meaningful reforms usually are. That is why the 2017 amendments had an independent review requirement built into the legislation. Amendments to the Retirement Villages Act in 2019 were designed to ensure all retirement village residents had equivalent protections to recoup their investment 18 months after permanently leaving a village. This was strongly supported by resident and consumer advocates.

The Retirement Villages Act was not designed to cover the situation where residents are also the village operator. However, all operators and residents are bound by the legislation. The government listened to the concerns of resident operated retirement villages impacted by the changes and established the Queensland Resident Operated Retirement Villages Support Service. This service provided resident operated retirement villages with free legal advice and support to help them manage the changes and decide whether the complicated retirement village model was most appropriate to their needs. We listened to the concerns of resident operated retirement villages and ensured their concerns were included in the independent review panel's terms of reference.

The amendments in the bill implement the findings of the independent review panel's interim report, which recommended an exemption from mandatory buybacks for resident operated villages. While there have been media reports, as the member for Burleigh mentioned, that a small number of villages have been experiencing financial difficulty, it is important to point out that the village the member for Burleigh mentioned in Tin Can Bay is not a resident operated village.

In relation to the small number of villages which have not been able to pay former residents their exit entitlements 18 months after departure, the legislation allows them to seek an extended time frame for payments if they can show hardship and the delay would not be unfair to the former resident. The terms of reference for the independent review involved consideration of how the security of residents and industry viability, including for small and local operators, can be appropriately balanced.

In relation to broader concerns about retirement villages and manufactured home parks expressed by some members, the Queensland Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2021-2025 includes measures to be progressed to improve outcomes in these important forms of housing. For example, actions include a review of dispute resolution processes. A survey to gather data on consumer and industry experiences with dispute resolution and pre-contractual advice in these industries is underway, closing at the end of October.

The action plan also includes commitments to finalise implementation of retirement village reforms to require more standardised village statements and budgets and more standardised contracts following consultation earlier this year. The government's response to the independent review panel's final report of the review of time frames for payment of resident exit entitlements and buyback requirements will also be progressed once considered by government. Following passage of the bill, the department will contact the small number of retirement villages likely to be resident operated to provide information and timely support throughout the exemption process.

I put on the record my thanks to staff from the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy for their work on this bill, particularly Kirstine Harvie, Ange Wright, Damian Sammon and Janet Arber, as well as my ministerial staff and the whole team who have done an incredible job over many years with regard to consultation, the drafting and the continued negotiations to ensure that we struck the right balance with this legislation. I would also like to thank the members of the parliamentary committee for their consideration of this reform. I would like to thank all those who have engaged in the considerable consultation leading up to this bill and all those who provided submissions. Your input has been invaluable and has ensured this bill is balanced, improves protections and clarity for renters and property owners, and improves stability in the private rental market.

The amendments in this bill will adjust and create new rights, protections and obligations for parties to tenancy agreements in Queensland. Renters, property owners and property managers will benefit from more certainty and clearer assignment of risks that will provide for a well-functioning and efficient private rental market. Renters and property owners will benefit from certainty about how and when their tenancy arrangements may end. This enables renters to plan their housing needs and property owners to plan how they want to use and manage their investment properties. Renters will have stronger protections against retaliatory actions and against misuse and misrepresentation of notices to leave to give them greater confidence to enforce their tenancy rights.

Once again, I thank all of those who have been involved in ensuring that we have been able to bring this very balanced legislation to the House. I once again acknowledge the work of the former minister, the member for Springwood, who has helped to shepherd this into the House. Again, I thank all of those staff in the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy who continue to do an incredible job to support the people of this state.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Debate, on motion of Ms Enoch, adjourned.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Same Question Rule



Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Honourable members, I have a ruling to deliver on behalf of Mr Speaker. It reads—

Honourable members, I draw members' attention to the ruling I made on 14 September 2021 regarding the application of the same question rule to the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation (Tenants' Rights) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Housing Legislation Amendment Bill.

Consistent with a general rule of Westminster parliamentary practice, standing order 87 provides that once the House has resolved a matter in the affirmative or negative the same question shall not again be proposed in the same session. Similarly, standing order 150 provides for the application of the same question rule in relation to inconsistent amendments, new clauses or schedules of a bill. As previous Speakers have noted, the matters do not have to be identical but merely the same in substance as the previous matter. In other words, it is a question of substance, not form.

The Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation (Tenants' Rights) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill seeks to achieve substantially the same objectives as those of the Housing Legislation Amendment Bill, which the House has resolved to read a second time. Therefore, under standing order 87 the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation (Tenants' Rights) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill cannot proceed. Accordingly, the bill is discharged from the *Notice Paper*.

HOUSING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from p. 3129

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 15, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—



Dr MacMAHON (4.11 pm): I move the following amendment—

1 After clause 15

Page 26, after line 17—

insert—

15A Amendment of s 207 (Attaching fixtures and making structural changes)

Section 207—

insert—

- (2) However, the tenant may also attach a fixture, or make a structural change, to the premises if the tenant believes the attaching of the fixture, or the making of the structural change, to the premises is necessary to protect the tenant or another occupant of the premises from domestic violence.

Example for subsection (2)—

A tenant may install safety equipment, including, for example, cameras or lights, by attaching fixtures, or making structural changes, to the premises if the tenant believes installing the safety equipment is necessary to protect the tenant or another occupant of the premises from domestic violence.

I am grateful for the opportunity to put forward these amendments today and hopeful that the government will take the opportunity to debate and implement real and urgently needed protections for renters in Queensland. In her speech the minister has already succinctly outlined many of the proposed amendments I have put forward, including: allowing minor modifications, banning invasive application questions, rent caps and a real end to no-grounds evictions. Like every single amendment that I will move today, amendment No. 1 draws on extensive consultation with the community, Queensland tenants and tenants' advocacy groups, as well as the 800 renters who made submissions on this bill calling for real transformative change. In particular, amendment No. 1 is based on evidence from the women's legal sector that was heard during the inquiry into this bill.

Amendment No. 1 expands the level of protections available to survivors of family violence. It ensures a tenant can install safety equipment like lights or cameras if they believe this necessary to protect themselves or another occupant from perpetrators of domestic violence. These measures were proposed in the 2019 CRIS which states, 'The current laws may create unnecessary barriers for people experiencing domestic and family violence to improve the security of their rental property by changing locks or installing security screens and cameras.' This also recommended a range of modification categories, including modifications to improve the security of a tenant, particularly where a tenant is at risk or escaping domestic and family violence; for example, deadlocks, security doors, cameras and alarms. People at risk of domestic violence should not be prevented from protecting their own safety simply because someone else owns their home. Similarly, people with disabilities should not be prevented from making minor modifications like installing grab rails in showers. Parents of young children should be able to install furniture anchors and baby gates. Elderly people should be able to install safety aids.

Importantly, measures such as I am putting forward in amendment No. 1 only work if implemented in conjunction with a real end to no-grounds evictions, without which tenants are still too scared to ask to make minor modifications like installing cameras and lights. The community gave clear feedback during the government's own consultation process and then on the inquiry into this bill for minor modifications, including cameras and safety devices. Despite this, the government has left this and other crucial reform measures out of the bill. I can only imagine how pleased the real estate lobby feels today with these exclusions. As mentioned, the amendment amends—

(Time expired)

Ms ENOCH: This is an afterthought by the member for South Brisbane. She failed to even mention domestic and family violence in her own bill. When that was pointed out to the member, the Greens rushed around to make amendments to their own bill, and now of course they want to come in here and somehow be some kind of champion for the cause.

Can I be very clear: these matters have been addressed in the government's bill. The protections in the bill for renters experiencing domestic and family violence ensure that renters can improve security at their rental property by changing locks without the owner's consent to prevent domestic and family violence. Additionally, renters can already request permission from the property owner or manager to take further security measures to improve their safety under the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008, and owners and their agents cannot act unreasonably in refusing such a request.

This yet again highlights the hypocrisy of the Greens on this issue. They downplayed the government's important reforms on this issue, and they come in here and try to make out they are some kind of champions of this cause. These issues have been addressed in the bill and we stand by those.

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

Resolved in the negative in accordance with special sessional orders.

Non-government amendment (Dr MacMahon) negated.

Mr SPEAKER: Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House and the time allocated for this stage of the bill having expired, I will now put all remaining questions. I call the minister to table the explanatory notes to her amendment and statement of compatibility with human rights.

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

Tabled paper: Housing Legislation Amendment Bill 2021, explanatory notes to Hon. Leeanne Enoch's amendments [1759].

Tabled paper: Housing Legislation Amendment Bill 2021, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Leeanne Enoch's amendments [1760].

Mr SPEAKER: In accordance with sessional order 4, the House must now consider all remaining clauses, schedules and any amendments circulated by the minister with carriage of the bill.

Question put—That the minister's amendments Nos 1 to 12, as circulated, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendments agreed to.

Amendments as circulated—

1 Clause 22 (Insertion of new ch 5, pt 1, div 3, sdiv 2A)

Page 34, after line 10—

insert—

- (6) To remove any doubt, it is declared that after the vacating tenant's interest in the residential tenancy agreement ends, the agreement continues on the same terms but with the parties to the agreement being the lessor and the remaining tenants.

2 Clause 26 (Insertion of new ch 5, pt 2, div 3, sdiv 2A)

Page 43, after line 34—

insert—

- (6) To remove any doubt, it is declared that after the vacating resident's interest in the rooming accommodation agreement ends, the agreement continues on the same terms but with the parties to the agreement being the provider and the remaining residents.

3 Clause 29 (Amendment of s 415 (Meaning of urgent application))

Page 48, lines 26 to 30 and page 49, line 1—

omit, insert—

- (3) Section 415(5)—

insert—

- (la) section 308H (Application to tribunal about notice ending tenancy interest);

4 Clause 29 (Amendment of s 415 (Meaning of urgent application))

Page 49, lines 5 to 11—

omit, insert—

- (6) Section 415(5)—

insert—

- (va) section 381H (Application to tribunal about notice ending residency interest);
(vb) section 387A(1)(d)(Death of sole resident);

- 5 Clause 53 (Amendment of s 253 (Resident's obligations generally))**
Page 76, line 26, '253(e)'—
omit, insert—
253(1)(e)
- 6 Clause 54 (Insertion of new ch 4, pt 1A)**
Page 78, line 32, '253(i)'—
omit, insert—
253(1)(i)
- 7 Clause 58 (Insertion of new ss 290B—290G)**
Page 89, lines 3 and 4, 'the lessor's immediate family'—
omit, insert—
a relative of the lessor
- 8 Clause 58 (Insertion of new ss 290B—290G)**
Page 89, lines 10 to 18—
omit.
- 9 Clause 75 (Insertion of new ch 5, pt 1, div 11)**
Page 104, line 33 and page 105, line 1, 'member of the lessor's immediate family'—
omit, insert—
the relative of the lessor
- 10 After clause 83**
Page 115, after line 27—
insert—
- 83A Insertion of new ch5, pt 2, div 7**
Chapter 5, part 2—
insert—
- Division 7 Offences**
- 396A False or misleading information in notice requiring resident to leave rental premises**
- (1) This section applies in relation to the following notices—
- (a) a notice to leave if rental premises being sold given under section 371A;
- (b) a notice to leave for planned demolition or redevelopment given under section 371B;
- (c) a notice to leave because of significant repair or renovations given under section 371C;
- (d) a notice to leave for change of use given under section 371D.
- (2) A provider or provider's agent must not give a resident a notice containing information the provider or agent knows is false or misleading in a material particular.
Maximum penalty—50 penalty units.
- (3) Subsection (2) does not apply if the provider or provider's agent, when giving information in a document—
- (a) tells the resident, to the best of the provider or agent's ability, how the document is false or misleading; and
- (b) if the provider or agent has, or can reasonably obtain, the correct information—
gives the resident the correct information.
- 396B Provider must not let rental premises for 6 months after ending rooming accommodation for premises being sold**
- (1) If a rooming accommodation agreement ends because the provider gives the resident a notice requiring the resident to leave the rental premises under section 371A, the provider must not offer rooming accommodation at the premises for 6 months after the day the agreement ends.
Maximum penalty—50 penalty units.
- (2) In a proceeding for an offence against subsection (1), it is a defence for the provider to prove that—
- (a) the provider genuinely made the rental premises available for sale but no offers, acceptable to the provider, were received; or
- Example—*
The only offers the provider received were below the provider's expected sale price.

- (b) the provider entered into a contract for the sale of the rental premises but the contract ended without the premises being sold.

Example—

The contract was terminated by the buyer under a term of the contract or a statutory right, including a cooling-off period.

396C Provider must not let rental premises for 6 months after ending rooming accommodation for change of use

- (1) If a rooming accommodation agreement ends because the provider gives the resident a notice requiring the resident to leave the rental premises under section 371D, the provider must not offer rooming accommodation at the premises for 6 months after the day the agreement ends.

Maximum penalty—50 penalty units.

- (2) In a proceeding for an offence against subsection (1), it is a defence for the provider to prove that the change of use did not happen for reasons beyond the provider's control.

11 Clause 84 (Amendment of s 415 (Meaning of urgent application))

Page 116, after line 10—

insert—

- (3A) Section 415(5)(l)—

omit.

12 Clause 84 (Amendment of s 415 (Meaning of urgent application))

Page 116, after line 13—

insert—

- (5) Section 415(5)(v)—

omit.

Question put—That clauses 16 to 107 and the schedule, as amended, stand part of the bill.

Motion agreed to.

Clauses 16 to 107 and schedule 1, as amended, agreed to.

Third Reading

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.


Long Title

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

Motion agreed to.


COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.24 pm): I seek to advise the House of the determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 136, that the Education, Employment and Training Committee report on the Small Business Commissioner Bill 2021 by 26 November 2021.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Comments by Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water, Clarification

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (4.24 pm): During an MPI on 31 August 2021, I made two statements in regards to the member for Callide that I wish to clarify. The first statement in question related specifically to a

Gladstone Area Water Board project upgrading the Awoonga Dam emergency muster shelter in the Callide electorate, saying that the member for Callide did not support building the flood shelters for his local constituents.

Correspondence I received from the member for Callide dated 9 December 2020 regarding the Awoonga Dam emergency muster shelter project sought to 'draw my attention' to the initiative, stating it is an 'extraordinary amount of money to be spent on a muster point'. I interpreted his correspondence questioning the value and worthiness of the expenditure on the project as a lack of support. I accept that this is only one interpretation and this may not have been the member for Callide's intent.

In relation to the second statement, in the context of the member for Callide having the opportunity to ask questions about his electorate at estimates committee hearings, I stated—

... we did not hear one word from him—not one.

I would like to clarify I was referring to my own estimates committee hearing held on 28 July 2021 with the word 'we' meaning myself, the director-general and various statutory body chief executives who were available for questioning, and confirm that the member for Callide did not ask any questions about his electorate. I understand this statement may have been interpreted differently and, as such, I am providing this clarification. I did not intend to mislead the House on either.

MOTIONS

Order of Business



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.26 pm): I move—

That government business orders of the day Nos 2 and 3 be postponed.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Revocation and Dedication of Protected Areas



Hon. MAJ SCANLON (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (4.26 pm): I move—

1. That this House requests the Governor in Council to:
 - (a) revoke by regulation under section 30 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 the setting apart and declaration of part of a State forest; and
 - (b) dedicate by regulation under section 29 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 the revoked area of the aforementioned state forest as a new conservation park and additions to an existing national park; as set out in the proposal tabled by me in the House today, viz

Description of areas to be revoked

Glen Rock State Forest	An area of about 6299.409 hectares described as lot 123 on plan CC390, lot 149 on plan CC496, lot 84 on plan CC935, lot 9 on plan CC2304, lot 97 on plan CC836182, lot 10 on plan CH31292, lot 23 on plan CH311139, lot 30 on plan CH311898, lot 96 on plan CH312503 and lot 105 on plan CH312522 (to be dedicated as the new Main Range Conservation Park and additions to Main Range National Park), as illustrated on the attached sketch.
------------------------	---

Description of areas to be dedicated

Main Range Conservation Park	An area of about 2891.226 hectares described as lot 123 on plan CC390, lot 149 on plan CC496, lot 9 on plan CC2304, lot 10 on plan CH31292, lot 23 on plan CH311139, lot 30 on plan CH311898 and lot 96 on plan CH312503, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Main Range National Park	An area of about 3408.183 hectares described as lot 84 on plan CC935, lot 97 on plan CC836182, and lot 105 on plan C11312522, as illustrated on the attached sketch.

2. That Mr Speaker and the Clerk of the Parliament forward a copy of this resolution to the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs for submission to the Governor in Council.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to protecting Queensland's unique natural and cultural values by expanding and better managing the protected area estate. Continuing to expand and invest in our protected areas will enable us to conserve these values into the future, preserving our rich culture

and securing the lifestyle that Queenslanders and our visitors value and enjoy. It will see the transfer of approximately 6,299 hectares from Glen Rock State Forest to the protected area estate, specifically, to dedicate the new Main Range Conservation Park and make additions to Main Range National Park.

When the Goss government acquired Glen Rock in 1995 for \$1.8 million, it was one of the largest cattle grazing properties in South-East Queensland. Glen Rock's pastoral history still features in heritage infrastructure, such as fences, gates and paddocks, that contribute to the character of the property. This adds to its popularity for outdoor recreational opportunities, including camping, day-use, bushwalking and horseriding. It is also crucial to acknowledge the history that precedes these uses and that First Nations peoples lived in, and passed through, the area for thousands of years before cattle grazing began.

In acknowledgment of the importance of this history and the ongoing aspirations of traditional owners, the Department of Environment and Science is currently working with the Yuggera Ugarapul people in a planning process. This process will identify key values of the Glen Rock and Main Range aggregation and determine future management requirements that best address the threats to those values.

Glen Rock State Forest contains significant environmental values that would contribute to our state's protected area estate. The area contains core habitat for a number of threatened species listed under the Nature Conservation Act 1992, including the endangered red goshawk and the vulnerable brush-tailed rock-wallaby, koala, glossy black-cockatoo and greater glider. The rivers and creeks on the property support key riparian habitat and are part of an important aquifer recharge area for the Lockyer Creek system, which is a tributary of the Brisbane River.

The vegetation on Glen Rock forms part of a state significant biodiversity corridor through to the Bunya Mountains and further north. When transferred, the area will combine with the existing Main Range National Park to host over 41,000 hectares of protected area ranging from the New South Wales border, adjacent to the incredible Mount Barney National Park, and extending north along the Great Dividing Range.

The transfer of most of Glen Rock State Forest requires that the area is revoked from its current declaration as state forest and subsequently dedicated as protected area. It is proposed that the majority of the area will be transferred to national park and that the remainder of the area will be transferred to conservation park, allowing for a wider variety of activities whilst leaving open the opportunity for further upgrade to national park in the future.


This split was welcomed by the Queensland Conservation Council, whose protected areas program manager Andrew Piccone said—

The split of national and conservation parks provides a balanced outcome ensuring park users can still enjoy the existing recreational opportunities including mountain biking and horse riding in appropriate areas.

The Palaszczuk government is investing a record \$1.4 billion to protect the environment and create jobs as part of Queensland's economic recovery plan. That includes a \$394 million annual investment in our parks and wildlife service. That funding is not only helping to increase our protected areas but, importantly, means we can hire more rangers and purchase more equipment to maintain our ever-expanding protected areas.

Since 2015 the Palaszczuk government has increased the extent of protected areas across Queensland by 1.2 million hectares and committed \$60 million to continue expanding such areas. It is currently more than twice the size of the whole of Tasmania.

I am very proud that the motion today will enable us to continue our work to expand and upgrade our protected area estate for the benefit of all Queenslanders. I urge all members of the House to support the motion to upgrade this area so that its environmental significances are protected into the future. I commend the motion to the House.

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (4.31 pm): Dedicating these lots as the new Main Range Conservation Park and adding to the existing Main Range National Park represents fairly minor administrative changes, so the opposition will be supporting the motion. The member for Lockyer will be making some comments as the local MP, but the area in question straddles Southern Downs and Scenic Rim as well. None of these members had any concerns about the changes but will rise to speak on the motion. Main Range National Park and Glen Rock State Forest as they currently stand are popular amongst locals and regional travellers around Queensland. I have no doubt that, like many of our parks in reasonable driving distance from Brisbane, that has only increased since COVID.

Glen Rock adjoins the world-heritage listed Main Range National Park. They offer Queenslanders a chance to enjoy the incredible lifestyle and landscapes we are so lucky to have in our state through bushwalking, camping, horse riding and mountain bike riding. Main Range itself covers over 30,000 hectares. Transferring much of Glen Rock under Main Range will add to the value of this conservation park, the biodiversity aspects of which the minister has just run through in great detail so I will not repeat them.


The LNP will support any action to protect and better manage our parks. Again, we have no issues with this motion. This does give me an opportunity to talk more broadly about our protected areas estate. As I have highlighted many times, we continue to be disappointed by this government's management of our parks, particularly its lacklustre record on expanding and better managing Queensland's protected areas estate. Not only are many of our parks crying out for better management and resourcing, particularly to combat things like invasive pests and bushfire risks, but we are also waiting to see some defined plans for how the government plans to get to its own protected areas target. That target is of course 17 per cent of Queensland's land area, set way back in 2015.

The last two budgets showed just a 0.01 per cent increase in protected areas each year. At the moment, Queensland's protected area is sitting at around 8.25 per cent, which is not even halfway towards the 17 per cent target. That is why I think members of the government talk in hectares and not percentages when talking about the increase to our protected area. When I asked at estimates this year, it was clear that there were no timeframes in place to reach their target. Even the director-general said that it is a long-term ambition. We would think they would come up with some five- or 10-year interim plans or a broader map to show how we will get there. No, there is no plan even to get to 10 per cent and certainly no plan to get to 17 per cent. We could not even get a hectare figure on their wish list of individual properties—just a total amount of what their wish list is for protected areas to acquire.

If the government keep increasing this at 0.01 per cent each year, they will reach their own target in over 800 years. I reckon they will still be blaming the Newman government even then! Again, there is no point in having these targets if you are never going to reach them. Queenslanders want genuine action to protect our environment. They want to see actual change made and not just more strategies that never get us anywhere.

This government postures and loves nothing more than to point to Canberra and say, 'Look at them' or to blame a government which left office in Queensland seven years ago, but it is all just to disguise the very little action that they are taking in this space.

The LNP wants to see our environment protected. Conservation is a fundamental value of ours. We need more than just brochures, more than announcements and more than targets which are only talked about and never delivered. We want to see actual outcomes for our environment.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (4.35 pm): The irony of following the member for Bonney talking about real change when, literally, the motion we are discussing now is about implementing real change! One reason I joined the Labor Party was to be part of a tribe of people who recognise the value in our environmental assets who also are in a position to make decisions that would safeguard them. Never could I have imagined when I first joined the party that I would be here in this House with an ability to put my voice towards such reform. I am continually in conversations with the locals in my electorate. Environmental concerns and protections are one of the greatest areas of interest to them. Who can blame them? Queensland boasts so many wonderful natural assets: from the Great Barrier Reef and K'gari on our coastline to the ancient Springbrook forests in our south-east hinterland.

The motion for revocation put by the minister today aims to boost the protection of another of our natural features, Glen Rock State Forest, which adjoins the World Heritage listed Main Range National Park, by combining part of the state forest with the existing Main Range National Park and dedicating most of the remainder of the state forest as the new Main Range Conservation Park. This proposal will provide more than 41,000 hectares of neighbouring protected area for our native flora and fauna and the many sites of great cultural significance in and around Glen Rock State Forest.

As opportunity would have it, I have visited Main Range National Park. For those unfamiliar with the area, the park offers some of the best bushwalking opportunities in southern Queensland for people of all fitness levels and experience. There are quite a few camping and day use areas throughout the park, so you can take a short walk or, for those a bit more intrepid, take a longer hike and take in some birdwatching and other cultural experiences.

Mr Tantari interjected.

Ms BUSH: I take that interjection. The ecology and landscape throughout Glen Rock State Forest is diverse. It stretches from the fertile flats of the Blackfellow, Shady and Black Duck creeks to the renowned high plateau of the Great Dividing Ranges and borders Main Range National Park to the south. The vegetation communities range from open woodlands and rocky escarpments to dry vine scrub and rainforest. It really is an ecological wonderland.

Like many of our wild places, Glen Rock State Forest is home to a number of vulnerable wildlife species including: the brush-tailed rock-wallaby, the powerful owl, the glossy black cockatoo and, importantly, koalas. This boost to protected areas will help to conserve those populations into the future.

Investing in our protected area estate makes sense from an environmental point of view, but environmental preservation also contributes enormously towards mental and physical resilience. It enhances our recreational opportunities and strengthens the foundation of our tourism industry. Yes, member for Hervey Bay, it is a great opportunity for some barefoot running for those who also like to partake in that, such as myself.


This upgrade would consolidate and protect over 41,000 hectares of connected natural protected area, stretching almost the length of the Scenic Rim local government area. The Department of Environment and Science's Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service has been working to resolve land impediments to allow the action to be progressed. The dedication of the area as conservation park and national park tenures will provide a high level of protection from forestry, mining and other activities that may impact upon the environmental value of this area.

The upgrade will bring the acquisition full circle and demonstrates the Palaszczuk government's commitment to balancing recreation, grazing, beekeeping and, most importantly, conservation of our natural and cultural heritage into the future. The upgrade of Glen Rock to protected area tenure was supported by other relevant state agencies. I commend the motion to the House.

Mr McDONALD: Mr Deputy Speaker—

Mr LISTER: Mr Deputy Speaker—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I call the member for Lockyer.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (4.39 pm): Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I appreciate the enthusiasm of my colleague the member for Southern Downs for this jewel in the crown of the Lockyer and now part of the Main Range National Park! With Glen Rock to become national park, I ask the minister sincerely: what does that mean? Glen Rock has been a jewel in the crown for 20-odd years since the commencement of the Regional Open Space System—I was actually part of the south-east regional landscape strategy advisory committee that saw that process occur—but we have been so disappointed with the underperformance of the management of that asset.

I go back to when the Casagrande family owned that wonderful property—15,000-odd acres of highly productive land that was grazed down on the flats and up on the ridge country. Essentially, the rest of the property was kept as the pristine natural environment it is today. Fast-forward to when it was acquired. There was still cattle grazing and management occurring on the facility under the stewardship of Ken Morris—a great family from the local area. Ken and his wife managed the Casuarina day use area there for about four years. There is a beautiful slab hut and a camping area there, right on the side of the Lockyer Creek. It truly is a beautiful place when we have enough water in the creek to see it running. Unfortunately, the Labor government has over successive years underfunded resourcing for the rangers there to be able to adequately manage it. I sincerely ask the minister to consider this wonderful asset that she and her colleague the member for Cooper have spoken about.

I have had the pleasure of travelling to Tasmania and New Zealand to see examples of some really wonderful ecotourism experiences. Glen Rock is no different. The Parks and Wildlife Service do a reasonable job with the resources they have in terms of managing the land, but they are very poor at managing the tourism and recreational opportunities that come with many of our national parks and conservation areas. I make a comparison between the Parks and Wildlife Service and Seqwater, which manages large bodies of water. Both of those entities engage with either land protection and management or water protection and management, but both have millions and millions of visitors every year in terms of tourism and recreational opportunities.

Both the Parks and Wildlife Service and Seqwater are fairly poor tourism and recreation managers. That really needs to change. There needs to be investment in that. If there is investment in that, not only are those facilities better cared for but also the people of South-East Queensland, particularly my electorate, will be able to make great use of those assets and see other business

opportunities come from regular visitation. We may then be able to further extend our world-class trails network, whether it be for bushwalking, mountain biking or horseriding. We have seen the wonderful Scenic Rim trail developed by the Spicers group. It is something that people from around the world come to enjoy. Glen Rock is right beside that and in fact will now be part of the Main Range, where that wonderful trail is providing a tourism opportunity. Glen Rock has that same opportunity.

I encourage the minister to think about what I have said regarding managing the recreation and tourism opportunities of Glen Rock. There has been talk over successive terms of government about delivering this, but it has never happened. There has never been enough money. There has always been some other distraction. Unfortunately, the asset of Glen Rock has been underfunded for many years.


I really want to understand what this new designation means. To me, it is just another reannouncement. We are going back to 1984, 1994, 2000—different designations given and proudly recognised by the governments of the day to say, 'We are doing something here,' but nothing actually happening in terms of better management of the facility. I am talking about better management not just in terms of recreation and tourism, as I have outlined, but also in terms of weeds and fire, just to be a good land manager.

Many times it is said in the pubs and clubs of the Lockyer—and I am sure in other communities across the state—that you do not want to have the state government as a neighbour, because they do not fund weed protection or fire protection because they can get away with it. It is irresponsible land management. A couple of years ago we saw a terrible bushfire get away from the Glen Rock National Park after a lightning strike there. It went thousands—not hundreds—of acres across to the east and ended up down in the south of the Thornton valley.

I ask the minister and her department to consider making Glen Rock a jewel in the crown of South-East Queensland's recreation and tourism assets, recognising the environmental asset it is. We recognise that this designation does not mean it will improve it, but a further investment in it certainly will.

As I have said, I have had the opportunity to travel to Tasmania and New Zealand. There you can see wonderful low-cost use—or high-cost use—of areas that the community actually then appreciates. I am sure that if you talk to people in the Queen Street Mall, in Toowoomba or in my local community you will hear that they want to explore our region—not just by car but also on foot—and be able to make use of some of these wonderful trails.

I make the plea once more for the minister to properly fund the management of land areas, to properly conduct weed management and fire management and to even consider slightly extending some of the wonderful grazing opportunities. This is a huge parcel of land that is a buffer to other higher biodiversity areas, and it is a really great way for it to be managed. Whilst I accept the changes the minister has proposed, I look forward to seeing additional resources invested in Glen Rock and our neighbouring national parks to see better use and better management.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (4.47 pm): I, too, rise to speak on the motion. I say at the outset that, on the balance of public interest in my view, I have fallen on the side of supporting this proposal—I am in favour of increasing the environmental assets that we have in our community—but I do so with reservations. I would like to compliment the member for Lockyer on his contribution, because he canvassed many of the things that I would like to talk about.

When the government is responsible for national parks or when it wants to add to them, it is incumbent upon it to manage them properly. I am exercising the authentic voice of a farmer or a grazier whose land adjoins something like the Main Range National Park. The Main Range National Park is partly in my electorate. I share it with the members for Lockyer and Scenic Rim.

Mr McDonald: We're the real greenies.

Mr LISTER: I do not know if I will take that interjection or not! I know that country, and it is a very onerous matter to maintain national parks in accordance with their spirit—that is, to be pristine, to be representative of natural floral and animal life—and we do not see that. It is my great fear that this addition to the Main Range National Park will be forgotten once it has been allocated, and I fear that the government measures its success and touts its success by the volume or area of national park, not by how well it is managed.

I would like to make a number of observations about what the member for Cooper said. I would like it to be rightly understood that in doing so I make no reflection on the chair, because I do like the chair, and I also like the member for Cooper, but I do disagree with what she said. I heard a torrent of

soaring talk about the Labor Party being the party that looks after our environmental assets and how 'my constituents in Cooper always tell me that they're really concerned about the environment. They want to see more national parks', and so forth. I invite the member for Cooper, and as many of her constituents as she can muster, to come and talk to one of the landowners who have to coexist next to a national park.

I ask members of this House if they know how hard it is to identify someone in the department of environment or in the department of resources, depending on if it is a state forest or a national park, who is responsible for a common dividing fence. One could exercise a lifetime with the bureaucracy of trying to find that person. If you have a neighbour who wants a fence you have to pay half the cost of a reasonable fence. Try putting that across to the department who I would have to say are the worst neighbour in the world.


These national parks and state forests are awash with all sorts of nasties: wild pigs, which do a lot of damage to crops and hurt the economic interests of the communities that I represent; wild dogs that prey on calves and lambs and do enormous damage to the economic situation of some of the people I represent; and deer that run through people's vineyards or across people's crops or are hit by your car. Try hitting a fallow doe on the Texas Road and see what that does to your car. We never hear about this from the Labor government. We also have floral pests. In my neck of the woods there is Johnson grass, harissa cactus, boxthorn and blackberry. These are abundant in some of the state forests and national parks. We have lovegrass all over the place now thanks to the generosity of the state government.

These areas must be managed properly. When the member for Cooper says 'Oh, my electorate is in favour of the environment. They want to see more of these national parks. They want to see us doing more and having more of the national environment preserved', it needs to be more than just rhetoric. It cannot just be a torrent of talk about improving the environment, it has to mean something. I say again to the House that if anybody doubts that, I suggest they visit a farmer whose property adjoins the boundary of state government land. I know a number of my colleagues would agree with me. I am sure that the member for Gympie, the member for Condamine and the member for Lockyer would agree with me. Anybody who does live beside a national park or a state forest knows what I am talking about.

I urge the state government to take its responsibilities in respect of this addition to the national park seriously. I urge them to properly resource the containment of weeds and invasive pests. I urge them to properly manage the fuel load there. When we had a fire in that neck of the woods it closed Cunninghams Gap for two weeks. Does anybody in this House understand what the economic implications of that are for my electorate? I know the member for Scenic Rim certainly does, as does the member for Lockyer. We share that area.

The rural fire brigade operators in my electorate, and I am sure I speak for the member for Scenic Rim and the member for Lockyer as well, know that area like the back of their hand. Many have been in the service of the rural fire brigade for 50-odd years. They have never seen our state forests and national parks more poorly maintained as they are now, especially in relation to access to trails for fire trucks and fuel loads. I do not know why the state government resists this, but fuel loads build up and when a bushfire passes through a national park and state forest with excess fuel far more damage is done to the natural environment than if it had been cleared on a regular basis with fuel reduction burns and so forth. This is not happening in the state forests and national parks in our state. I say again, a torrent of talk, a soaring rhapsody about the environment and increasing the amount of national park we have means nothing if it becomes a haven for pests of all descriptions and a fire hazard, not only to the environment itself but also to the people whom I represent that neighbour the state forests and national parks.

In respect of this particular acquisition and incorporation to the Main Range National Park I say to the minister, through the chair, please ensure that the resourcing for the maintenance of the Main Range National Park is sufficient to eradicate pests under the Biodiversity Act, as all landowners seem to do—although the state government thinks it is exempt from that—to keep it clear of fuel and to make sure that the fencing of it and the relationship that it holds with the neighbours of that state forest or national park are dealt with with respect and care.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (4.54 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the revocation. I commend this additional land being included in the Main Range National Park. I have been to the Main Range National Park many times. Like many of my colleagues, I want to talk about the management of those areas. Parts of the Main Range National Park have beautiful beech tree forests. If members get


a chance to visit those beech tree forests it is like going back in time. Those areas were heavily hit in the 2019 bushfires. Around 96 per cent of the Gondwana forest in the Main Range National Park was heavily affected by the fire.

A beech tree forest is normally a wet environment. As many scientists will contest, for thousands of years they have never experienced fire. They are covered in lichen which grows on the sides of the trees. They are a mist forest—a cloud forest. It is something that you would literally go back in time to see. I have been to Mount Superbus and the area is truly beautiful. I say to the minister that we need to ensure that the damage to those forests is not terminal. The fear is that after that fire weeds will now start taking over, potentially damaging the regrowth of those beech tree forests. Beech tree forests take a long time to grow. Some of the beech trees would have been around when Captain Cook went up the east coast of Australia.

We need to ensure that proper fire management is in place to protect these areas. Whilst it is great to add to the area of national park—it is wonderful to do that—if we do not protect those rare, endangered Gondwana forests then they will be lost to history. As other members have alluded to, when it comes to national parks and state forests, farmers do not like the state government as a neighbour because it is not properly managing these areas. There is lantana and fireweed coming from those areas. There are wild pigs and dogs.

The Australian Defence Force neighbours my parents' property at Beechmont. They manage their forests well. They do regular burnoffs. They regularly manage the undergrowth to ensure that weed growth is minimised and also to stop potential wildfires in those areas. They are very good neighbours. I say to the minister, through the chair, that we need to ensure that we properly manage these forests to ensure that the beech tree forests—the cloud forests—are protected for generations to come.

I say to all members, if you get a chance to go to Mount Superbus do get up there. It is a bit of a hike through the vine forests and the tracks are not particularly marked—I do not think there is much of a track actually. You get to go past a Lancaster bomber which everybody seems to take a few parts off every time they go past. It is the highest point in South-East Queensland and the views at the top are absolutely spectacular. It is something that you will love. We need to properly manage these areas to prevent hot wildfires and to ensure that there is not lantana growing in them and going into neighbouring properties.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (4.59 pm): I rise to lend my support to some of the comments made by the opposition. At the outset, I also note that I support the shadow minister in his support for the revocation. In many instances this process is very important and has been done by both sides of the chamber. As we are coming up to bushfire season, particularly with my electorate of Nanango in mind, I feel I need to put on the record some statements in relation to the state government's management of the national parks, particularly the protected area estates. In the past couple of bushfire seasons, unfortunately I witnessed some of the most horrific bushfire damage. Bushfires ravaged through areas of the Southern Downs, the Scenic Rim, areas in the electorate of the member for Theodore, within my electorate particularly around the Linville and Somerset regions and then up into areas around Gympie. There are a couple of issues that I want to touch on.

First, bushfires predominantly—I would suggest over 95 to 98 per cent of the time—start on government owned land. That leads me to the issue that we on this side of the House constantly raise with the government in relation to protected estates, which is that they need to be managed properly. I note that the member for Southern Downs talked about bad neighbours and the bad neighbour policy. That is exactly what we have when landholders live beside national parks. I will say that the rangers, particularly the rangers based out of Kingaroy whom I know, are hardworking, decent and incredible people but they are run off their feet.

An opposition member: Under-resourced.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: They are absolutely under-resourced.

A government member interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I am happy to take that interjection because it shows how arrogant and stupid—sorry; I withdraw. For those on the government benches to make such an interjection simply shows their arrogance and misunderstanding. I am sure that the minister would counsel her colleague against that because it has actually been close to nine years since the then premier of Queensland stood in this House and spoke about a reduction in the Public Service. I suggest to the member who

just called out that that was not in forestry. It was not in the positions that we are talking about. If it is the case that that member so arrogantly thinks that that is still the problem, why in heavens hasn't the Palaszczuk government re-employed them? Why haven't more people been employed in the past seven years? For goodness sake!

Ms Scanlon interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I hear the minister saying, 'We have.' I suggest that more needs to be done because bushfires start in the protected forests that are under the ambit of the minister. This is real. People's homes burn down.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I am happy to take that interjection as well. I know that through this fire season I will again, like I do every fire season, write to the minister to plead on a couple of fronts. One of the fronts that I want to talk about is a very serious issue. It is water. Water is taken from people's land beside the protected area—

Mr BROWN: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The revocation is quite specific. My point of order is in regards to relevance. We have entertained this for a fair while now. I ask that the speaker be drawn back to relevance in regard to the revocation itself.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Member for Nanango, I ask that you come back to the motion.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I very much will because it is vitally important. The revocation of land in a protected area is very important, as I have mentioned. I heard the minister's speech. I sat here and diligently listened. I note that the maintenance of protected areas is very important and I put on the record the issue around water when those areas go up in flames. I can see that the member is trying to shut me down. It is a protection racket and we get that.


Mr BROWN: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order, again on relevance. You cannot say, 'I want to get to water.' You have to be specific to the revocation itself.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: And I will.

Mr BROWN: There is water all over the planet.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, I ask that you come back to the motion.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: We are talking about the protected forest and during the bushfire season a neighbour's water can be taken from their dam. That happened at Widgee, as the member for Gympie knows full well. I wrote to the minister about this issue during the last bushfire season. I ask the minister, as the one responsible for the protected area estates, to please take this into consideration. We support the protected area estates and it is vitally important that we continue to do so. As the minister responsible for those lands, I suggest to the minister that it would be great to see some dirty boots on the ground in order to actually understand the neighbour and the good neighbour rule.

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (5.05 pm): Firstly, I thank the members for their participation in the debate on the revocation of part of Glen Rock State Forest. I want to address a couple of the matters that have been raised by those opposite, particularly the members for Lockyer, Southern Downs, Theodore and Nanango, who talked a lot about properly funding the management of national parks. As I have said previously, our budget makes a \$394 million annual investment in our Parks and Wildlife Service, which is an annual increase of \$80 million over the budget provided by the Newman government.

It is also important to put on record the history of people such as the member for Nanango, who was the assistant treasurer who was responsible for cutting nearly 500 jobs in the Department of Environment and Science, including 60 ranger positions. It is interesting that they come in here and talk about management yet their own track record does the opposite.

When it comes to the protected area estate that the member for Bonney talked about, as I have said previously since 2015 this government has increased the extent of our protected areas across Queensland by 1.2 million hectares and committed \$60 million to continue to expand that area. We have doubled the number of Indigenous land and sea rangers, investing an additional \$24 million into that particular program. More recently, we have protected more land on Wild Duck Island, Mon Repos Conservation Park, Pinnacles National Park and a whole range of additional protected areas.

It was also interesting to again hear the discussions around the protection of biodiversity. Of course we need to increase our protected area estate but there are other measures that we can take to protect biodiversity. I note the measures we have put in place in comparison to those opposite, who while in government oversaw the equivalent of 1,000 football fields of habitat loss each day due to repealing tree clearing laws.

Those opposite talked about bushfires. It is a fact that we have exceeded our planned burn target and we will continue to do so. It is interesting that members come in here and talk about the increased risk of bushfires in our national parks yet continually oppose action on climate change. We heard a lot of contributions from the Nationals opposite, but they absent when it comes to climate action.

I am pleased that we do have support for this motion, which is an important motion. We will continue to invest in the environment because it is the Queensland Labor Party that always protects our environment. I thank the honourable members who took part in the debate. I urge all members to support the motion.


Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

QUEENSLAND VETERANS' COUNCIL BILL

Resumed from 22 April (see p. 1125).

Second Reading

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (5.08 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

The Queensland Veterans' Council Bill was introduced into the Legislative Assembly on 22 April 2021 and referred to the Community Support and Services Committee. The committee tabled its report on 11 June 2021. I thank all members of the committee for their consideration of the bill. I also take this opportunity to thank all those who made submissions to the committee.

The committee's report made three recommendations. I formally table the government's response to the committee report.

Tabled paper: Community Support and Services Committee: Report No. 6, 57th Parliament—Queensland Veterans' Council Bill 2021, government response [\[1761\]](#).

The committee's first recommendation is that the bill be passed. I thank the committee for its support of the policy intention underpinning the bill.

The committee's second recommendation is that clause 13 of the bill be amended to provide that at least 50 per cent of the members of the Queensland Veterans' Council must be veterans or representatives of the veterans community. In accordance with the provisions of the bill, the Queensland Veterans' Council will have a membership of up to eight people, comprising two ex-officio members and up to six members appointed by the Governor in Council. The two ex-officio members will be the director-general of the department that administers the act or an employee of that department nominated by the director-general and the Chief Executive Officer of the Brisbane City Council or a Brisbane City Council employee nominated by the Chief Executive Officer. The six appointed members will include up to two members nominated by veterans organisations on the request of the minister and up to four people with qualifications or experience in corporate governance, business or financial management, heritage conservation or another area the minister considers relevant or necessary to support the Queensland Veterans' Council in performing its functions.

The composition of the membership aims to ensure that the Queensland Veterans' Council as a governance body has a membership that can support the Queensland Veterans' Council in the performance of its functions. While the bill, as it is currently drafted, does not limit the number of veterans on the council and while no Labor government would ever seek to limit the number of veterans serving as appointed members on the council, we acknowledge that stakeholders want a commitment from the government of a fair minimum threshold of veterans representation on the council.

That is why the government supports the committee's recommendation to ensure that at least 50 per cent of the members of the Queensland Veterans' Council are veterans and members of the veterans community. Therefore, I propose to move amendments during consideration in detail to give

effect to the committee's recommendation and ensure that four of the appointed members of the Queensland Veterans' Council are veterans or members of the veterans community. This amendment is being adopted by the government as a commitment to the veterans community that their passion, their views and their representation will be of paramount importance to the council and the important institutions that it will be administering.

The committee's third recommendation is that bill be amended to provide that the minister must establish a veterans reference group. One of the functions of the Queensland Veterans' Council will be to monitor and provide advice to government on veterans matters. Clause 34 of the bill provides that the minister may establish a veterans reference group. It is intended that the veterans reference group will support the Queensland Veterans' Council in providing advice on veteran-related matters and these functions are specifically prescribed in clause 35 of the bill.

The government recognises that the veterans reference group is essential to supporting the Queensland Veterans' Council in the performance of its advisory function and assisting the council to consult with a broad range of veterans organisations. The reference group also provides a mechanism for government to engage with the Queensland veterans community. The government accepts the committee's recommendation to mandate the establishment of the veterans reference group. I propose to move amendments during consideration in detail to give effect to the committee's recommendation and mandate that the minister must establish the veterans reference group.

The proposal to establish the Queensland Veterans' Council as a new statutory body demonstrates the Palaszczuk government's commitment to veterans and their families. It is proposed that the Queensland Veterans' Council will have three areas of responsibility and each of these functions are equally important.

Firstly, the Queensland Veterans' Council will become the trustee of Anzac Square and will have responsibility for its ongoing management and operation. Secondly, the Queensland Veterans' Council will have responsibility for managing the Anzac Day Trust Fund under the Anzac Day Act 1995. Thirdly, the Queensland Veterans' Council will provide advice to government on veterans matters.

Anzac Square is the state's war memorial. It was built as the Queensland community's response to World War I and it is a special place of remembrance to honour the service and sacrifice of Queenslanders and other Australians in war, conflict, peacekeeping and peacemaking. The significant redevelopment undertaken between 2014 and 2019 created new memorial galleries to allow Anzac Square's original purpose to expand to include education.

I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the expert curation of the memorial galleries by the State Library of Queensland and encourage people to take the time to visit the galleries and learn about Queensland's military history and experiences of those who have served. The establishment of the Queensland Veterans' Council will provide the new governance framework for Anzac Square and ensure the state's war memorial remains a place of special remembrance for generations to come.

Anzac Square is also a significant heritage site for Queensland. In recognition of this, the bill requires the Queensland Veterans' Council to prepare and implement a conservation management plan to be endorsed by the Queensland Heritage Council and reviewed every five years. The Queensland Veterans' Council will also be required to report to the minister and the Queensland Heritage Council about the implementation of the plan.

The Anzac Day Trust Fund was established in 1964 under the Anzac Day Act 1921 and has continued under the Anzac Day Act 1995. In accordance with the provisions of the act, the trust fund provides annual payments to institutions, organisations or associations to assist and support ex-service men and women and their dependants.

Last year the Anzac Day Trust provided 204 not-for-profit organisations with reimbursements totalling \$1.49 million so that they could continue to deliver their welfare services for veterans and their families. The Palaszczuk government has committed to bolstering the Anzac Day Trust with an additional \$1 million over three annual rounds to provide financial support for veterans affected by COVID-19 and for veterans organisations to assist with staging COVID-safe commemorative events.

The Palaszczuk government knows the importance that is placed in the proper administration of the Anzac Day Trust by members of the veterans community here in Queensland. That is why this bill makes no changes to the purposes for which the trust fund may be used and why it does not seek to draw funding from the trust fund to assist with other functions of the council.


Currently the trust fund is administered by the Anzac Day Trust, a statutory body which is governed by a four-member board of trustees. Under the provisions of this bill, the government's responsibility for the trust fund will transfer to the Queensland Veterans' Council. This will provide a modern governance structure for the trust fund.

A further function of the Queensland Veterans' Council will be to monitor and provide advice to government on veterans matters. As I mentioned earlier, the veterans reference group will support the Queensland Veterans' Council in the performance of this function.


The bill also provides the Queensland Veterans' Council with the ability to establish one or more committees to advise on matters relating to its functions. Such committees may be established to advise on Anzac Square or payments from the Anzac Day Trust Fund.

The bill provides the minister with the power to issue a statement of expectations or require the production of a document or information. Such powers may be used, for example, for the minister to set expectations around the level of consultation and engagement with the Queensland veterans community or if the minister requires specific information about the performance of the council functions. To ensure transparency, any statement of expectations or written notice to give a document or information is required to be included in the annual report which will be tabled in parliament.

Queenslanders have a long history of supporting our veterans. Consistent with the committee's first recommendation, I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BOYCE** (Callide—LNP) (5.17 pm): I rise on a matter suddenly arising. Earlier today the member for Gladstone, Mr Butcher, made a ministerial statement—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Member, I will ask you to stop there. I understand that that is not a matter suddenly arising as it pertains to this bill, so you will need to raise that outside of the debate of this particular bill.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (5.18 pm): I rise in my capacity as shadow assistant minister for veterans in the LNP opposition to represent the LNP in the veterans bill 2021. I am proud to be a veteran myself and I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the opportunity to employ my 17 years experience as a veteran as part of the team.

From the outset, I would like to make it clear that when I refer to the veterans community, I am describing any person who has served in the Australian Defence Force or is serving in the Australian Defence Force and also includes their spouses and carers. A veteran, as I shall refer to them, should be taken to mean people who have served in or are serving in the Australian Defence Force now.

The implications of this bill are important to Queensland. Queensland is a defence state. We have always been a defence state. We have an illustrious military history spanning from colonial times through Federation to today with many warlike, humanitarian and peacekeeping commitments throughout. We have a large and growing veterans community in our state and their needs for state government provided services and considerations are growing.

Queensland is home to Australia's largest concentration of Australian Defence Force personnel, having as we do large military bases such as Lavarack Barracks in Townsville, Enoggera Barracks and RAAF Base Amberley.

Mr McDonald: Hear, hear!

Mr LISTER: I take that 'Hear, hear!' from my good friend the member for Lockyer. We have large bases in Townsville—Lavarack Barracks and RAAF Base Townsville.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr LISTER: I could mention Canungra as well. There are many other smaller locations within Queensland to which Australian Defence Force who are serving are posted. All up, there are 22,000 regular and full-time members of the Navy, Army and Air Force who are posted to Queensland defence locations. The veterans community is not comprised exclusively of serving personnel. Queensland is also home to 175,000 former serving members. There are 68,000 people who are either the spouse of a serving member or the spouse or carer of an ex-serving member. This does not even consider the children and dependants of our veterans community. All up, Queensland has 264,000 people who are members of the veterans community. This is seven per cent of the total Queensland adult population.

That is why this bill is important. We believe the bill is important but it has some flaws. In due course, on behalf of the LNP opposition, I will move amendments which seek to address the concerns we share with the veterans community in Queensland.

The bill was introduced by the Premier on 22 April 2021 and referred to the Community Support and Services Committee. The purpose of the bill as presented is to establish the Queensland Veterans' Council as a new statutory body. It would have three areas of responsibility previously held by other bodies or levels of government. It would be the trustee of Anzac Square with responsibility for the ongoing management and operation of the square. It would take over the functions of the board of trustees under the Anzac Day Act 1995 and provide advice to the government on veterans issues.

As presented in the bill, the Queensland Veterans' Council would be made up of eight people: two members being dedicated veterans representatives nominated by veterans groups; four members to be nominated by the minister based on their experience relative to the Queensland Veterans' Council responsibilities; and two members being ex officio, one the CEO of the Brisbane City Council or their delegate and a departmental representative. Each appointed member would hold their position for four years. Members of the QVC would be paid in line with normal government remuneration procedures. I believe the amount would be set by the Governor in Council.

The bill provides that there will be a veterans reference group that sits under the QVC to assist the QVC consult with the broad range of veterans groups. It will have 12 members, including two members of the Queensland Veterans' Council. It would meet biannually. The reference group members, unlike the council members, would not be paid.

Anzac Square was dedicated as Queensland's state war memorial in 1930. It is a beautiful location. It sits on Crown land that was placed under the control of the Brisbane City Council as trustee. The Brisbane City Council currently meets the costs of maintaining Anzac Square and its parklands. This cost will be borne by the state with the formation of the Queensland Veterans' Council.

The Anzac Day Trust Fund provides annual payments to institutions, organisations or associations to help ex-service personnel and their dependants. The payments are funded predominantly by grants appropriated from the Queensland government. The Anzac Day Trust Fund was initially established in 1921. It is currently administered by the Anzac Day Trust, comprising a four-member board of trustees. In terms of funding, the government has proposed \$2.4 million per annum for Anzac Square and \$2.7 million over five years for the establishment of the Office for Veterans.

In our view, this bill is not without issues. The proposed Veterans' Council would see the voice of veterans watered down on decisions that impact them such as the operation and granting of funds from the Anzac Day Trust Fund. Under the bill, the chair does not have to be a veteran. I understand that on this and a number of other matters, the minister has foreshadowed amendments. That is good to see. The bill does not propose that the chair be a veteran.

As it stands, the Queensland Veterans' Council is more of an asset management body for Anzac Square and not a body to provide recommendations on veterans matters. The opposition fears that this is being set up so that the government can stack it out with their own appointments rather than members who are genuinely from the veterans community. The Community Support and Services Committee saw this glaring flaw and recommended that at least 50 per cent of the members should come from the veterans community.

With regard to the views of stakeholders, there were quite a few submissions from the veterans community and individuals. There were 12 in total. They included submissions from the Australian War Widows of Queensland, former executive members of the Queensland Veterans' Advisory Council and the Queensland Advisory Committee on the Commemoration of the Anzac Centenary, the RSL, Legacy, the Royal Australian Regiment Association, the Royal Australian Air Force Association of Queensland and the Defence Force Welfare Association. I would like to highlight two individuals who made submissions Air Commodore Stewart Cameron Rtd and Group Captain Rob Shortridge Rtd. I had the honour of serving beneath both those gentlemen as a young flying officer at RAAF Base Amberley many years ago. All of the submissions and all of the contributions by members from the veterans community and their representatives questioned the lack of veteran representation on the proposed QVC. Their concern was that nonveterans were going to be making decisions on issues that only veterans have an in-depth knowledge of.

As a veteran, I would like to say that there is a thing called unique nature of military service. Those who are members of the Australian Defence Force are either commissioned or enlisted to serve the country under any condition. They are not employed in the normal sense, but have to submit themselves to military discipline. They must accept orders and they must work continuously if necessary with no additional pay in dangerous and difficult conditions. Ultimately, they may be required to give their life in the service of their country or take the lives of others in the service of their country. Those

are onerous obligations. For this reason, the specific nature of defence service can probably truly only be understood by veterans themselves. The LNP certainly believes that the Queensland Veterans' Council which is not dominated by the voices of veterans is not an appropriate source of advice for the government on veterans' matters.

I can give an example where the unique nature of service would require a knowledge of what serving life is like and how best to communicate in a constructive fashion what those matters are. For example, my wife and I are both veterans. My wife, Belinda, broke her leg badly at work whilst on the Air Force base at Amberley. She had to go to hospital, was ramped and spent several weeks in hospital as a result of developing fracture blisters. That is a matter where I would think the veterans groups through the Queensland Veterans' Council might communicate the needs of defence members and veterans who live in the area around Amberley.

Another concern we have—and our amendments will reflect this—is that two public servants are proposed to be on the Queensland Veterans' Council, making decisions and having voting rights on the council. Our amendments will propose that the Brisbane City Council representative be removed and that the functions relating to Anzac Square be devolved to a body to sit beneath the Queensland Veterans' Council. I think that would be a good thing and would provide more voices for veterans on that council.


The LNP wants to ensure that the majority of members on the Veterans' Council and the chair are veterans. We see the prime function of the council as dealing with veterans matters such as the disbursement of funds from the Anzac Day Trust Fund. Those council members with asset management experience who sat on the council under the government's bill will now sit on the Anzac Square reference committee, which we propose in our amendments. This will be chaired by the state government or Brisbane City Council representative and we believe is a more appropriate forum for considering matters to do the maintenance of Anzac Square. The committee will provide advice and recommendations to the council on the management of Anzac Square as an asset. The council will have final say on the management of the square though. Because the council will now be made up of a majority of veterans, the veterans reference group would no longer be required. The role it was to perform will be done by the Veterans' Council.

The committee recommended, as we have heard, that half of the members of the Queensland Veterans' Council should be veterans. We support that position. We would go further and say that, in order for the QVC to be genuinely representative of veterans, the chair of the council should be reserved for one of the veterans. We support the government's efforts to correct that mistake. I think it should be put on the record that the very fact that the government contemplated creating a Queensland Veterans' Council of eight members where only two were veterans themselves shows a lack of judgement and a tin ear for veterans matters. The criticism of that was universal from the veterans groups and individuals who submitted to the committee.

We also heard about the inadequate consultation during the development of the bill; the focus apparently being on Anzac Square more than on the welfare of veterans; and the membership of the Queensland Veterans' Council, including the underrepresentation of veterans and the appointment of public servants with voting rights.

We have serious concerns about the consultation that was undertaken on this bill. The inadequate consultation on the bill was raised by several submitters at the public hearing on 24 May 2021, including the Bundaberg District Women Veterans' Inc., the Defence Force Welfare Association—Queensland, RSL Queensland and the Legacy Club of Brisbane. The dissenting report says that the issue was raised with the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. The department was asked what had gone wrong with the consultation process and if stakeholders' views had been regarded. In response, the department advised, 'None of the people who participated [in the consultation] raised concerns about the potential structures and responsibilities of the Queensland Veterans' Council.' That statement seems to be entirely at odds—180 degrees out of sync—with the experience of the committee in dealing with the interest groups.

The issues facing veterans are not exclusively concerned with welfare, medical support and the things which people in the community might reasonably associate with veterans. To have a better understanding of the veterans community, the government does need advice. The Queensland Veterans' Council could be that vehicle. However, it is necessary that that body be equipped with the experience of the unique nature of military service to be able to provide cogent and correct advice to the government. As I said, the LNP will be supporting the bill but we will be moving amendments. I look forward to speaking on those at the time.

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (5.33 pm): I rise to support the Queensland Veterans' Council Bill 2021. In many capital cities of developed countries across the world, war memorials play an integral role in acknowledging the sacrifices made by men and women and their families during periods of conflict. Such war memorials afford a special place of remembrance of those lives lost and the stark reality of the human cost of war. This bill will ensure that Anzac Square is one such war memorial in which Queenslanders and in fact all Australians can be proud.

The historical origin of Anzac Square was the culmination of the broader Queensland community's response to the World War I. This tradition continued with the detailing of significant periods of conflict that followed, ensuring Anzac Square serves as a war memorial for all Queenslanders and visitors to Brisbane, the capital city of Queensland.

The bill proposes the establishment of a statutory body, the Queensland Veterans' Council. In accordance with the bill, the QVC will have responsibility for Anzac Square, in accordance with the role of trustee under the Land Act 1994. This bill creates a vehicle by which the Queensland government will take over the crucial responsibility of the day-to-day management of Anzac Square, our state's premiere war memorial.

The QVC will also have responsibility for the functions currently performed by the board of trustees for the Anzac Day Trust established under the Anzac Day Act 1995 that provides annual payments to institutions, organisations or associations that assist ex-service men and women and their dependants, recognising the very important role that veterans and their families play administering the Anzac Day Trust Fund. Further, the QVC will provide advice to government on veteran related matters—a role currently performed by the Queensland Veterans' Advisory Council. This means that the bill ensures that the Queensland veterans community are afforded a clear and direct pathway for communication with the highest levels of the Queensland government about matters important to them.


To support the QVC with formulating and providing advice to government on veterans matters, this bill proposes to establish a veterans reference group. This veterans reference group will be made up of 10 members, two of which will be the members of the QVC that have been nominated by veterans organisations and eight other members with knowledge, skills or experience in areas relevant to veterans including veterans welfare, health, military service and transition from military service. We on this side of the House understand the significance of the creation of this body and what it will mean for veterans in this state. This is a landmark moment where veterans, their families and their broader community will be handed an unprecedented amount of control and input in the management of their affairs in Queensland.

In addition, the establishment of the QVC ensures that strong governance and accountability arrangements are in place to safeguard the use of public funds in Queensland. Like for any board, it is imperative that the governance structure and membership of the QVC be inclusive of a wide degree of skills and experience that can contribute to the successful administration of the body. However, it is also necessary in this case that this be met alongside a requirement for adequate representation for veterans, their family members and members of the broader veterans community.

Whilst the LNP recommended that the bill should be amended to remove remuneration for members of the QVC—the LNP suggest that instead they should receive reasonable reimbursement for their expenses only—the Palaszczuk government will not be supporting this recommendation. We believe that chairs and members of government bodies provide a significant contribution to the community through their participation on these bodies.

I welcome the amendments outlined by the Premier and the Attorney-General in response to the committee's recommendations which will (a) amend clause 13 (Membership) to provide that at least 50 per cent of the members of the QVC must be veterans or representatives of the veterans community; and, (b) amend clause 34 (Establishment of the veterans' reference group) to provide that the minister must, rather than 'may', establish a veterans reference group. Both amendments reinforce the Palaszczuk government's commitment to listening to Queenslanders and to our commitment to the veterans community to ensure their representation and participation in the QVC and the institutions it will administer. This is of the utmost importance to our government.

On behalf of the committee, I do recognise all members of parliament who have served in the defences forces, including the member for Southern Downs. I thank him for his contribution. On behalf of the committee, I thank those individuals and organisations who made written submissions on the bill. I also thank our Parliamentary Service staff, Brisbane City Council, the State Library of Queensland and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. This bill builds on our government's commitment to veterans and servicing Queensland's monuments to their service and sacrifice. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (5.38 pm): Following on from the chair, I acknowledge the work of my committee members and the secretariat in drafting this report. It is amazing some of the issues we deal with when doing committee work, particularly in interesting areas of legislative reform. For those who have not visited the Anzac Square memorial here in Brisbane, I suggest you make it a priority.

Our committee's visit was fantastic and informative. I must admit that I walk around Brisbane a fair bit, but I have never really taken the time to absorb that amazing opportunity. I do not need to repeat what has been said about why the memorial exists. On 5 December 1974, by order in council the land was placed under the control of the Brisbane City Council as trustee, and I guess we are moving forward into another management structure. Between 2014 and 2019 significant restoration work was undertaken on Anzac Square. As I said, do yourself a favour: go and see it.

I pass on my thanks for all of their work and passion to the staff of the State Library of Queensland, including Linda Barron, director, and Alice Rawkins, team leader. We met the amazing Wade Fitzgerald, project manager, from the Brisbane City Council and Aashish, senior project manager. I want to put on record my acknowledgment and thanks for the work they have done in transforming what we have before us today. I want to acknowledge the minister and the work the chair has done.

It is important to acknowledge the amendments to be moved during consideration in detail. That is an important step, and I think the bill will be stronger for those amendments. It is important that we acknowledge the submitters to the committee, and I want to talk about a few of them as we move forward. That said, I do hope that serious consideration can be given to some, if not all, of the member for Southern Downs's proposed amendments. I will explain in more detail my thoughts about the remuneration issue raised by the chair, but that is the government's choice and I can always live with that.

There were concerns about the bill which we spoke about during the committee process. I do believe there were serious issues with the consultation on this bill. The issue of inadequate consultation was raised by many submitters in the public hearings in May. The Bundaberg District Women Veterans, the Defence Force Welfare Association, RSL Queensland and Legacy Brisbane all talked about the lack of consultation. I raised that with the Department of the Premier and Cabinet officials at the public hearing on 24 May and asked what had gone wrong with the process. The department advised that—

None of the people who participated in the consultation raised concerns about the potential structures and responsibilities and functions of the QVC.

This statement is inconsistent with the views of those submitters, and that is why I put on record that there were serious flaws in the consultation process. Many felt quite aggrieved about that, and I put that on the record. I guess that will be for others to determine.

Daniel O'Kearney, the former chair of the Queensland Veterans' Advisory Council, stated at the public hearing—

... removes a 100-year-old faith in the veterans' community to manage the funds of the Anzac Day Trust ... It mixes bricks and mortar with the welfare of people.

He further stated—

The biggest problem with what this bill calls a veteran's council is that it really is trying to run together two Acts—about Anzac Square, to look after a static thing which has different requirements, and about looking after people's welfare.

I thank Mr O'Kearney for that because it was very important and relevant. Mr Andrew Craig made a similar point, stating—

... the bill attempts to conflate three elements, all of which require different skills and methods of operation.

To resolve this issue Mr Stewart Cameron, who most of us know, suggested—

... that the management and conservation and significant aspects of Anzac Square need to be treated as a separate entity ...

The veterans community should be treated as a separate issue. Defence Force Welfare Association Queensland echoed this view, saying—

Anzac Square deserves focus by itself. It has clear boundaries and clear bricks and mortar responsibilities ...

I want to share the legitimate concerns of those submitters about the focus of the Veterans' Council. We note that the report suggests that the Veterans' Council, if established, should consider setting up advisory committees, and they are being discussed this evening. As has been alluded to, the bill should go further to require that separate entities be created to perform these very different functions.

I note the changes to clause 13 about membership; they are truly welcomed. I hope that a veteran can be made the chair of that organisation as a result of amendments moved during consideration in detail. I support recommendation 2 of the committee report, which has been addressed, that representation must be 50 per cent veterans. We really have to make sure we do not ever erode the strong voice of the veterans community in all that we do in this state on a lot more issues than this bill. I have mentioned the chair, and I hope we can do that.

Clause 17 of the bill provides for the appointment of members. This relates to remuneration allowances. I have raised the issue of the appropriateness of paying remuneration to members as it may impact their ability to provide unbiased advice and compromise their ability to do that. We note the department's inability to provide any information about the level of remuneration they would receive. When questioned about this, the department came back to me and said—

To be honest, we have not got to that point yet. We have not considered what band they would fit in under the remuneration procedures.

It was concerning that we have not even put thought into what we are going to pay these people. I hope it is not just remuneration to fit a person et cetera. How can we have unbiased, fair and frank advice given to a council when we are paying these people remuneration to keep them in a job? I still do not believe it is fair. The chief executives or employees of the department and Brisbane City Council are to be members of the QVC—

A government member interjected.

Mr BENNETT: I will take those interjections from whoever wants to talk about it. Why don't we just give the veterans community some respect and allow them to run this as they have in the past? Why do we have to pay people?

A government member interjected.

Mr BENNETT: Well, there you go. So take that; that is my point.


A government member interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order, members! There is only one speaker on their feet.

Mr BENNETT: All that said, my contribution is that I thought fair remuneration was about travel expenses so we did not have people out of pocket. My point is that I am talking about remuneration. It is my contribution, so it is my speech. I put on record that I do not think we should be paying these people for a very good reason. I do not think we will get fair and unbiased advice given once we have these people in our back pockets.

The trust fund is currently administered by four people, at least three of whom must come from the veterans community. In the words of Mr O'Kearney, the bill rips up history and tradition and provides that nonveterans will oversee the trust fund. I want to put that on the record. I share the submitters' concerns.

I do have concerns about the lack of detail about the funding of the Veterans' Council in order to perform its function of managing Anzac Square. The department advised that the \$2.4 million per annum budget allocation, referenced in the explanatory notes, includes the cost of the Office for Veterans, the Veterans' Council, the maintenance and operation of Anzac Square Parklands and the operation, including the curation, of the memorial galleries. There is little to no detail about depreciation, future capital costs, ongoing asset maintenance of the heritage structures at Anzac Square, and without these details it is difficult to judge the real ongoing costs in the proposal for the bill. With that, I hope we can have a mature debate about the amendments. Remember the veterans in our community. Let's give them the respect they deserve as we finally debate this piece of legislation.

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (5.47 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Queensland Veterans' Council Bill 2021. This is a strong piece of legislation that will ultimately safeguard and preserve the history and memory of the men and women who have served in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations. The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring that the contributions of Queensland veterans are acknowledged and supported. When it comes to preserving the history and memory of service men and women it is important that we have the right mechanisms in place to continue their important legacy. I would like to acknowledge the Community Support and Services Committee, the chair, Corrine McMillan, members of the committee, committee secretariat and Hansard for their hard work in pulling this bill together.

During the consultation phase the Community Support and Services Committee invited written submissions from different subscribers, and 12 were received. The explanatory notes state that consultation on the options for the future governance of Anzac Square occurred at various times between 2017 and 2021. I acknowledge the Anzac Square Steering Committee, which was established to oversee the restoration project, the former Queensland Advisory Committee for the Commemoration of the Anzac Centenary—now ceased—the Queensland Veterans' Advisory Committee and Brisbane City Council, which were consulted during this time. I would also like to acknowledge and thank all those who took the time to contribute to this important legislative reform.

The objective of the bill is to establish the Queensland Veterans' Council as a statutory body. The QVC will have three key areas of responsibility: the trustee of Anzac Square under the Land Act 1994 and the ongoing management and operation of Anzac Square; the functions of the board of trustees under the Anzac Day Act 1959; and providing advice to government on veterans matters. Anzac Square in Brisbane is Queensland's pre-eminent war memorial and plays a significant role in commemorating the contribution of Australian armed forces, particularly the service of Queensland's men and women in overseas conflicts since the Boer War.


The committee conducted a site visit to Anzac Square on 28 May 2021. I was humbled by the opportunity to visit that day, as it was my first experience of visiting Anzac Square. It was such a wonderful experience. I recommend that anyone visiting Brisbane should visit Anzac Square and learn about our Anzacs. The committee was given a tour and got to see the completed four-stage restoration work that took place between 2014 and 2019. Part of the project included a major redevelopment of the undercroft to create the Anzac memorial galleries, which are modern gallery spaces fitted with digital technology that provide a platform for educational and interactive exhibitions. The memorial galleries allow Anzac Square to expand its original purpose to include education, which I think would be perfect for the young tech minds.

The educational and interactive exhibitions were incredible and are absolutely needed. There are decades and decades of documents, heirlooms and various items that need to be kept in a safe place. It was explained to us on the day that, because there are many visitors to Anzac Square, items are at risk of getting damaged in the handling process, so it is a must that we have technology in this space so we can continue to preserve our most treasured history and the legacy of the men and women who fought so hard for us. The interactive exhibitions mean that visiting members of the public will be able to see three-dimensional images of items that are kept in archive to preserve history. It was wonderful to be able to see, feel and hear some of the recounts of history told through personal stories. I could never imagine what life must have been like for them, but visiting Anzac Square gave me the opportunity to learn and appreciate the vast legacy left for us.

The project cost \$21.98 million and was jointly funded by the Australian government, the Queensland government and the Brisbane City Council. Upon commencement, the bill would transfer the trusteeship and management of Anzac Square to QVC. QVC would become responsible for the administration of the trust fund. With no changes to the Anzac Day Act and the requirement for the Queensland government to make an annual grant for the purposes of the trust fund and the purposes for which payments may be made from the trust fund, institutions, organisations and associations would continue to access annual payments to provide assistance to ex-service men and women and their dependants.

Although QVC will not assume responsibility for developing, promoting and delivering ceremonial activities and events, they will hold the authority to oversee the use of Anzac Square and they will be responsible for the maintenance of the heritage significance of Anzac Square. The bill provides that QVC must prepare and implement a conservation management plan for Anzac Square, which must be approved by the Queensland Heritage Council, and the plan must be reviewed at least once every year.

The establishment of QVC will create a direct pathway of communication between the veterans community and the government. It is important to have these strong mechanisms in place. It is about preserving our long history for the men and women who have sacrificed their lives to support us. It is important that we continue to hold on to that legacy and that we continue to pass the history that we have here onto the next generation. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (5.54 pm): In making some comments on the Queensland Veterans' Council Bill 2021, I reflect on the enormous privilege it is to be elected to this House, especially representing the great Scenic Rim electorate. As a member of the committee examining the

bill, we have been given an opportunity, albeit a small one, to be a part of the process of preserving, maintaining and enhancing the legacy that is Anzac Square. It is a great memorial for all those service men and women over the generations who have served our country across numerous conflicts.

I think the committee did a good job in this inquiry. It is a reasonable assessment to say that, when the bill came to us, there were some details that needed to be ironed out. The bill was, some could say, a little undercooked and perhaps a little underconsulted as well, but the committee process brought those issues to the fore and enabled amendments to be brought forward that will make it a better bill. I acknowledge the amendment that has been circulated by the Attorney-General which will change the bill's provisions about the composition of the Queensland Veterans' Council to specify that four of those appointed members must be veterans or members of the veterans community. That was certainly one of the issues that featured prominently during the committee process. There was a real concern on the part of a number of submitters that veterans would not be adequately consulted on that council. Given its joint role of managing Anzac Square and also constituting the council itself, a lot of importance was placed on that. It is good to see that amendment coming forward.

That was not the only issue that was raised. There were also questions raised about whether there would be adequate funding for the newly constituted council because it was going to be coming from existing sources of funding within the department. There were also questions around the transparency of payment for those council members. Departmental officers were asked questions about that issue and what the remuneration would be, but there simply had not been consideration of that issue. In reality, you would expect that detail would have been sorted before the bill—which includes extra spending obligations on behalf of the parliament—was brought to the House for examination by the committee, but it was not. Hopefully, in the process of this examination in the House, there might be some light shed on the issue of remuneration for council members.

There was also some concern about combining those two functions of the Veterans' Council and the management of Anzac Square. If that has not been addressed already, I would be interested to hear the minister's reply in relation to those concerns. They were genuine concerns on behalf of a lot of submitters. In fact, it was quite amazing how uniform the concerns raised by a lot of the submitters were. I do not know if there was any organisation or communication about that before the process, but they spoke with a clear voice about the issues that needed to be fixed and it is our job to take heed of that.


There were concerns raised about the level of consultation, who was invited to that and also the content of it. We were actually provided with some of the material that was used in that consultation process, and it was not immediately clear to us as a committee how it actually shed a lot of light on what was going on with the bill. Again, it was a key issue raised by submitters almost uniformly.

I support the bill. I obviously support the provisions to ensure that Anzac Square is managed well and properly into the future. It is a vital place for Brisbane and Queensland where people can remember those who have served our country. I hope that in the implementation of this bill, assuming that it is passed, and we all know it will be, it does what it is intended to do—that is, to preserve Anzac Square for the future, to ensure that the Queensland Veterans' Council can fulfil their functions in representing the veterans community in the public space to the best of their ability and to ensure they are supported by the government and this parliament as best they can be. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Krause, adjourned.

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House


 **Mr BOYCE** (Callide—LNP) (6.00 pm): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. Earlier today the member for Gladstone, Mr Butcher, made a ministerial statement with regard to correspondence I have had with the Speaker's office with regard to Mr Butcher misleading the House. I find his response inadequate and rather insulting—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member for Callide, just pause there. That is not a matter of privilege suddenly arising. If the minister's statement has raised new or additional issues, you should write to the Speaker in relation to those matters.

Mr BOYCE: That is my intention, Mr Deputy Speaker.

ADJOURNMENT

Inland Rail Freight Route

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (6.00 pm): Tonight I rise to speak on a very important issue for our local community. Some say the \$15 billion inland rail freight route is a nation-building project, but for those of my community directly affected by this nation-building project it is a game changer. It is destroying some people's lives. It is destroying their family assets. It is of real concern to them. Those who are for the project say it is a nation-building project and that it will improve freight connectivity. Those against it say that our grandchildren will be paying for it.


The proposal has been around for many years and our community, quite sincerely, has been overconsulted in this regard. But those people directly affected by the inland freight route cannot be supported enough in this really sad time in that they may be losing family assets. I thank the Coordinator-General for increasing the four-week usual consultation period on this last EIS to the current stage, but the EIS is closing on 20 October for the Gowrie-to-Helidon stage. It is a very important time for us to have our say.

I congratulate the leadership of the Lockyer Valley Regional Council and my colleague Scott Buchholz, the federal member, who together with me has had many meetings with constituents and those affected so that we could fall on a landing spot of an agreed position, namely, that this may be a project of national significance but it cannot be at the expense of Lockyer. We do not want to see the loss of community connectivity or, worse, flooding. In fact, we want to see flooding outcomes improve, see and minimise the loss of strategic cropping land and also ensure that our affected community is fairly compensated.

This project also delivers a great opportunity. With the 2032 Olympics coming along as well as the work that is happening sponsored by the Deputy Prime Minister's office and mayors Tanya Milligan, Paul Antonio from Toowoomba and Teresa Harding from Ipswich working together to examine the real case for high-speed passenger rail, that east-west corridor will be a vital asset into the future of our region.

This project, although designed and being all about freight, should consider and allow for the delivery of high-speed passenger rail. We cannot miss this opportunity. If we do not get this right, it will cost more when that time comes. I ask our community if they have more concerns to have their say and, please, let us build this thing so that future assets like high-speed passenger rail can be delivered.

Pine Rivers Electorate, Investment

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (6.03 pm): It has been the Palaszczuk government's strong health response to COVID-19 that means our economic response can also be strong and effective. Today we announced the lowest unemployment rate in Queensland at 4.9 per cent and the creation of 97,700 new jobs over the past 18 months—more than every other state combined in the Commonwealth.

Our recovery has allowed our communities to rebuild and continue to thrive. Our kids are at school. On the first day of term 4 it was a real thrill to get out to Bray Park State High School, see the construction fences coming down and kids flocking to its new innovation centre. Every child is learning in an air-conditioned classroom in my community, and our refurbishment program means that learning spaces are modernised and contemporary. Solar is rolled out on almost every school rooftop, having huge environmental and economic benefits. Yesterday's announcement of the GP trial in schools means children at Pine Rivers State High School will be able to access medical advice free of charge privately and easily.


Investment is happening right around our community. Only this week we learnt that the Redcliffe Dolphins will be entering the NRL as the 17th team, something I know the Deputy Speaker Kelly is particularly happy about, with superstar coach Wayne Bennett steering them through their first season.

Also in welcome news this week, I was proud to join with our Minister for Main Roads to announce environmental protections for our state roads with a \$4.5 million investment on fauna protections. This investment will be made on treatments like fauna underpasses, fauna rope bridges, animal exclusion fencing, animal refuge poles, nest box habitat, wildlife road stencilling, monitoring equipment and habitat enhancement across the Moreton Bay region.

Our community is such a special place to live, in large part due to the wonderful environment that surrounds us. Our government has a strong record of environmental protection. This literally takes our investment to where the rubber hits the road. On behalf of my community I recognise Minister Bailey and his responsiveness and also Pine Rivers Koala Care and Moreton Bay Koala Rescue, particularly Karin Machell, who have been advocating so strongly for extra wildlife protections across our region.

This funding will make a real difference and will tie into the work for green infrastructure protections that Moreton Bay Regional Council is already making. The future is bright in our region and our strong, effective COVID management is delivering results right across Queensland. This weekend our Brendale Bunnings has provided the opportunity for locals to get a snag and a jab. Our best way out of this pandemic is through vaccination. I implore our community—please, come out and get your vaccination at Bunnings. If you have not yet received your jab, either come to Bunnings, one of our walk-in clinics or seek out your GP or pharmacist.

Coronavirus, Small Business

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (6.06 pm): Christmas for small and family businesses is planned in October—not November, not December. That is why the LNP is desperately calling on the Premier to release the road map out of the pandemic now. If the Premier will not release the plan and there is the uncertainty of lockdowns, restrictions and border closures continuing to hang like a dark cloud over the head of my community with no hope in sight, I call on the small business minister to step up and take action to ensure no more small and family businesses fall through the cracks. I call on the small business minister to establish a hardship panel to assess on a case-by-case basis businesses that are falling through the cracks and suffering genuine financial hardship as a result of government restrictions.

After our pleas, the minister extended the business support package and talked in this very chamber about meeting with border businesses. I believe the small business minister is well-intentioned in trying to help my community. She visited Coolangatta—unlike the Premier—and genuinely spoke with businesses but, unfortunately despite the minister's best intentions, the businesses she spoke to are still not eligible for the grants that she has extended. One of those businesses, Antonietta, wrote to me and said—

I am still not eligible. Once again, I have fallen through the cracks. Annastacia Palaszczuk has a lot to answer for ... While she sits comfortably away hiding in her office, businesses in Cooly suffer.


Antonietta is not alone. Emma owns two local cafes in Kirra: Kirramisu and Haig Street Cafe. When the Premier visited Coolangatta for a photo op, she had her breakfast at Haig Street Cafe. The Premier did not seek out cafe owner Emma to talk with her while there. When the exposure sites were listed in Kirra, Queensland Health incorrectly listed Kirramisu as a location when it was meant to be Haig Street Cafe—on the same day the Premier visited.

As a precaution and to keep the community safe, even though Emma had no contact from Queensland Health and had not been asked to do so, Emma made the extremely tough and self-sacrificing decision to close her business. She closed it to protect the community. As a result of that, 14 of her staff were in home quarantine and she could not reopen. She was told that she is not eligible for any grants. Antonietta and Emma have been overlooked. Emma has told me that she was told she is not eligible for support because she closed by choice, but she closed because 14 of her staff were in home quarantine.

The government restrictions have affected so many businesses and their staff. Even though the minister has announced some support measures, there are still so many businesses in severe financial strain falling through the cracks. That is why I am calling on the small business minister to establish a hardship panel to assess these businesses on a case-by-case basis, so they do not fall through the cracks.

(Time expired)

Coronavirus, Vaccination


 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (6.09 pm): With delta at our doorstep, Queensland is in a race. We are in a race for our lives against COVID-19. The best way for all Queenslanders to win that race is to go out and get vaccinated. The COVID vaccine protects you, your loved ones, your community, our state and our nation. It is safe, easy to access and we have supply readily available in your neighbourhood. That is the message I want to share with all Queenslanders but particularly with the Logan community, where vaccine uptake needs to accelerate. The good news is that we have the opportunity to change that, with plenty of options for Logan and Woodridge residents to get their vaccination. You can walk into the Logan Entertainment Centre on Wembley Road, call your GP or participating local pharmacist, or register online at www.vaccinebookings.health.qld.gov.au. It does not matter what path you take; they will all lead you to the same place: protection against COVID-19.

It was absolutely fantastic to see schools in the Woodridge electorate join our state's vaccination drive last weekend. This included Woodridge State High School, Browns Plains State High School and Kingston State College, which all hosted pop-up vaccination hubs last Saturday and Sunday. Almost 800 locals took the opportunity to get vaccinated, and I thank each and every one of them. I also want to express my gratitude to the Queensland Health workers and the school volunteers who made the weekend such a success, including Alicia Sefuiva, a year 10 student from Woodridge State High School I was lucky to meet on Saturday during a visit. We have some amazing young people in our community. Alicia is one of them. She gave up part of her weekend to help others.

In even more good news, our community will have the opportunity to attend pop-up vaccination hubs at those same schools—Woodridge State High School, Browns Plains State High School and Kingston State College—on the weekend of 30 and 31 October. Queensland Health is also running more pop-up vaccination hubs this weekend as we work towards improving our vaccination rate, including at select Bunnings stores around the state. You can roll up to Bunnings and roll up your sleeve. You can grab a jab and a snag. In Logan, Bunnings vax hubs will be at stores at Browns Plains; at Underwood, on Compton Road; and at Bethania, on Glasson Drive. All three hubs will be operating from 8 am to 2 pm this Saturday and Sunday. It is just so easy to get vaccinated right now. To everyone in Logan and across Queensland: tell your friends, tell your family and tell your neighbours. Tell anyone you can. Let's all get vaccinated.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): We have had plenty of your Woodridge constituents come to see us at the World Wellness Group. Thank you for encouraging them.

Australian South Sea Islanders

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (6.12 pm): Australian South Sea islanders hold the dubious honour of being the only people ever subjected to a mass deportation order in Australia. Between 1904 and 1908, up to 8,000 Kanakas were uprooted from their friends and families and forcibly returned to the islands that most could barely remember. For those who remained, life became one long round of poverty, neglect and discrimination by law. South Sea islanders were not allowed to become citizens, vote, buy alcohol, take out a loan, open a bank account, rent a house or own land. Worst of all, they were legally prevented from working in the only industry they knew: agriculture.

In 1941 the then member for West Moreton asked the Labor government to help the South Sea islanders, who he said lived in 'great misery and distress and dependent on local charity for their existence'. He asked the House—

Do we not owe a debt to these men ...

...

Much of the prosperity that has come to our Northern cities and districts because of the great sugar industry has been made possible by the efforts of [these men who] in the prime of their lives [were] taken away from their homes and brought to this country to help in its pioneering and development.

Unmoved, the government denied the member's request. Until well into the 1960s, the South Sea islanders suffered extraordinary levels of hardship and discrimination in Queensland. In Central Queensland, islander women were relegated to what was called the 'black ward' at the Rockhampton Base Hospital. It was strictly separated from the main maternity section for white women and overlooked the morgue. Many found this experience very terrifying.


One historian has counted at least 40 pieces of discriminatory Queensland legislation between 1900 and 1940 which applied to the South Sea islanders. The prohibition on black labour in the agriculture industry was actually not abolished until as late as 1964. The call for recognition was a cry for help for the people who had borne many misdeeds in the past but who had now laid their case before the government and patiently waited for justice to be done. What did they get in return for that patience and trust? Nothing. A few flowery speeches and a couple of fancy-looking plaques on the wall—like the one that is hanging over on floor 5 in the corridors of this very building.

In 2012 the then member for Mackay, Tim Mulherin, asked the government exactly what had been done to implement the government's South Sea islander action plan. He was fobbed off by the minister again and again. His last words before his time expired were—

What about the action plan, Minister?

The question went unanswered in 2012 and it remains unanswered to this very day, which is so sad.

Coronavirus, Vaccination

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (6.15 pm): While Queensland has been spared much of COVID-19 thanks to the leadership of the Palaszczuk government, we know that the only thing that is going to get us out of this pandemic is getting vaccinated. I want to thank Queenslanders who have been doing the right thing by coming forward for their jab to keep each other safe. One of the first vaccination hubs that was set up by the Palaszczuk government was in Logan Central, followed by another in Mount Warren Park and Yarrabilba. While many in our community have been turning out to get their—

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order!

Ms FENTIMAN: I am sorry the member for Everton does not want to hear about people in Logan getting vaccinated. I am here to encourage my community to get vaccinated.

Mr Mander interjected.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Everton, you are warned.

Ms FENTIMAN: While many in our community have been turning out to get their jab, we know that Logan's population is overwhelmingly younger and more diverse than the rest of Queensland, and this has created additional challenges. I want to thank the Premier, the Chief Health Officer and the health minister for coming out to Logan to speak with multicultural leaders to encourage more diverse community members to get their vaccination. I especially acknowledge the organisations across Logan that have been involved in this process. Access Community Services is one of those services. It has played a vital role in supporting the vaccine rollout, partnering with Metro South to run three vaccination clinics. Last week I visited their clinic where so far more than 450 locals have received their vaccine. They have targeted specific communities with lower vaccination levels, including our Burmese, Afghan and African communities. They will follow up this work with more clinics to make sure people are getting their second vaccine.

MultiLink Community Services has also been assisting in the rollout, being active on social media to both share the vital government messaging in a variety of languages and myth-bust concerns raised by community members. MultiLink has also welcomed the announcement that all vaccination hubs are welcoming walk-ins. This is especially helpful to those who speak a language other than English and those who do not have frequent access to the internet.

While we are setting up vaccination clinics throughout the community, including at the Bethania and Underwood Bunnings, starting this Saturday, we are about to start a hub at the Gould Adams Community Centre, starting from Monday, 18 October—chosen specifically to target our Maori and Pasifika communities. We are doing absolutely everything we can to reach out to these communities, to make sure they have the confidence to come forward and get their jab. I strongly encourage those who have not yet done so to book in at their local GP or walk in to their local pharmacy or one of our many vaccination hubs to get their vaccination. At the access hubs and the Gould Adams Community Centre there are also interpreters available to help. Together we can safely get out of this pandemic as a community and look after one another.

Dairy Industry


 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (6.19 pm): For the last 10 to 12 years in this parliament I have raised concerns in relation to the Queensland dairy industry. Before deregulation in Queensland there were 1,500 dairy farms. Now we are well below 300. We had 270 dairy farms on the Tableland. Now we have less than 50. If this trend continues there will be no dairy farmers in Queensland by the year 2028 and we will be importing milk from interstate or overseas. That is not an exaggeration. It is that bad that we have dairy farmers who are getting loans just to pay their bills.

In 2013 I introduced the Milk Pricing (Fair Milk Mark) Bill and in 2016 I introduced the Sustainable Queensland Dairy Production (Fair Milk Price Logos) Bill. These bills were designed so if a dairy farmer was paid a fair price for a litre of milk that he produced a logo would go on that milk bottle so that when mums and dads walked into the supermarket and saw that logo on the milk bottle they knew that is the milk that is paying the farmer a fair price. Both major parties opposed those bills. What makes me sick is seeing MPs marching with the dairy farmers and saying they are with them but do absolutely nothing.

I will give credit to the minister for agriculture who recognised something had to be done and that my fair milk logo bill was a good idea after all. The minister provided \$1 million to the Queensland Dairy Organisation towards a design advertising and marketing a fair go dairy logo which would appear on the milk bottles. QDO has had two years of expensive legal battles because of disgraceful challenges backed by the processors and the supermarkets. QDO have been forced to scrap the logo due to the exhaustion of funds fighting legal battles, including the latest challenge from the Australian Dairy Products Federation.

What are the processors and supermarkets afraid of? Why are they stopping the release of the fair go logo? They do not want any transparency shown to the mums and dads who want to support our dairy farmers by identifying which milk pays a fair price back to their dairy farmers. I call on the minister for agriculture to meet with the Queensland Dairy Organisation and provide additional funding to get the fair go logo up and going for the benefit of all Queenslanders, otherwise we will have no dairy industry left here in Queensland.

Williams, Mr RB

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (6.21 pm): Today I rise to remember Richard Brian Williams, known always as Brian. Brian was a proud Bribie Island community member, an active and committed life member of the great Australian Labor Party since 1990 and a staunch life member of the Electrical Trades Union. Plain spoken, even for a Welshman, Brian did not suffer fools to the slightest degree or hold back his own often incisive feedback and he enjoyed nothing more than a lively political discussion, preferably over a glass of red wine. Brian helped run the Bribie Island branch of the Labor Party for over 26 years, serving in executive positions and as a state conference delegate. He and his wife Yvonne campaigned tirelessly and I am personally very grateful for their support and their advice.

Born in Wales 1937, Brian began his electrical apprenticeship with the railways. His electrician sons liked to joke that Brian started as a gas fitter and switched to being an electrician once electricity was invented.


Brian was not fond of the British climate so he and his wife Sheila moved with their sons, Richard and Robert, to Australia in 1968, settling in Oxley. Tragically, in 1973 Sheila died of pneumonia aged only 37, leaving Brian a young widower with two boys.

Despite some dire cooking misadventures, I am told, Brian and his boys managed with help from his community and his workmates at the Swanbank Power Station until he met Yvonne, a wonderful woman with two daughters named Rachel and Ruth at a Parents Without Partners meeting.

I am told that although they got together quite quickly, Brian insisted that they were not to live in sin and so they married in 1975. When they married they created the unit known as Brian and Yvonne and the four Rs. Their marriage was strong and respectful and it endured for over 46 years. In the time I knew Brian I never saw him without Yvonne by his side. Brian truly lived his community service ethic. Through the Oxley P&C in the 1970s he helped build the school hall at Oxley State School and he also chaired the Goodna Scouts organisation for many years. After retiring to Bribie, between driving locals to medical appointments in Brisbane and volunteering with the Bribie Woodies and the Bribie Men's Shed, Brian said that his retirement was so busy he needed to put on another person to help him.

Brian and Yvonne loved to travel and it was during a trip to Longreach that he unexpectedly passed away. Yvonne tells me that Brian's passing was all any of us could wish for: without pain, without illness and without debility—a fitting end to a proud, good man. Brian's adored wife Yvonne and their four children and eight grandchildren miss him greatly, as do his many friends, our branch members and as I will myself. Vale, Brian Williams.

Dyslexia Awareness Month; Mental Health Week


 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (6.24 pm): I rise to talk about two issues today. We need to mark Mental Health Week and also that October is Dyslexia Awareness Month. It is unusual for me to wear a red tie. I am pleased to see many red ties today. I am sure they are all doing it specifically for Dyslexia Awareness Month. Dyslexia, as many people in this House know, affects at least one in 10 people and leads to a very difficult start to one's education. A really great author in my area, Sharon Boyce, has written a book called *Discovering Dyslexia* and I provided one to every school in my electorate, and also to some other people, because it gives some understanding about dyslexia and tools to help recognise how to put things in place that can overcome some of the difficulties. I am lucky to only have dyslexia in a mild form, but it caused a lot of difficulty in my earlier years. Please respect the month, mark the month, talk about it and provide support. I urge members to look at Sharon's book and see if it is something they might want to provide to their own schools.

Mental Health Week in Toowoomba is being marked by Lattes and Letters. Cafes are giving out little orange envelopes which have inside a story of someone struggling with mental health and the difficulties that they have gone through. When one buys a latte they can get that envelope and read their story to bring some empathy into our community. The Darling Downs has 21.4 people per 100,000 take their life on an annual basis. That is the highest in Queensland and one of the highest in Australia. We really need to deal with this. I would like to thank Lee Faulkner on Triple M Breakfast. He has been reading one of these orange envelopes out each morning so that people in the community can understand and empathise with people and reach out to make sure that we are all working together to make sure people in our community are okay.

Momentum Mental Health is a community mental health and wellbeing organisation in Toowoomba that provides one-to-one and group coaching to people who want to work on their mental health. They are doing something very different. The organisation is working with the 'missing middle'—those people who fall through the cracks and who are not sick enough for acute treatment at our completely stretched and overworked hospital system in Toowoomba. This mental health wellbeing organisation is using community donations to support this unfunded group. Next time the health minister is in Toowoomba I encourage her to have a look at the organisation and consider some funding for the good work they do.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Before I call the next speaker, before anyone rises on a point of order, the Speaker has given permission for the member to wear what some might consider a campaign logo. I am pretty sure I know what the topic of this speech is going to be. I will adjudicate it fairly and evenly. As John Lennon once said, one thing you cannot hide is when you are crippled inside.

National Rugby League, Redcliffe Dolphins

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (6.28 pm): Thank you, Deputy Speaker Kelly, and I apologise for the scarf—but not the win. This week Christmas came early for the people of Redcliffe. We heard the marvellous news that the mighty Redcliffe Dolphins will be the 17th club of the NRL from 2023. How great is that! The Dolphins have always been NRL-ready and now our time has come to shine on the national stage. A number of well-known players have come through the Dolphin ranks, including Petero Cioniceva, Arthur Beetson, Bunny Pearce, with many more to come. I want to make a special mention of legend Des Webb. I wish he could have been here to see this. He would have been so proud. This is for you, Des.

In February 1947 the Redcliffe Dolphins, known then as Shellgrit, was founded. In 1959 the club received full district club status and was accepted into the Brisbane first grade competition. Fast forward 74 years and the Dolphins are now ready to take the next step in their journey and join the National Rugby League. I have been a passionate supporter of the Dolphins for a number of years—and I know many in this chamber have as well—and have seen them grow, develop and go from strength to strength. It was so thrilling to witness the Dolphins take out their sixth Queensland Cup title in 2018, defeating Easts Tigers, and while I know they did not make the finals this year, the club has won something even better—a place to shine on the national stage.

A lot of blood, sweat and tears and many months of hard work has gone into the Dolphin NRL bid. The plan to join the NRL has been in discussion for many years. I congratulate chairman Bob Jones, bid chief Terry Reader, Tony Murphy, the CEO of Redcliffe Leagues Club, and the whole team for putting together such a successful bid. The success of the bid comes down to the grassroots campaign by the local Redcliffe community and wider support base. Over 7,000 people signed the pledge to support the team. The key to long-term success is growth and that is why I am pleased to hear that a condition of the licence is that the Dolphins will invest \$2 million every year on participation and growing the women's game in South-East Queensland.

Whether you are a sports fan or not these are exciting times and the addition of a new NRL team based in South-East Queensland and, in particular, within the Moreton Bay region, will also support our local businesses and drive economic growth. I am advised that the new team is projected to generate around \$74 million annually to our regional economy and it is estimated to support more than 400 local jobs, which is great news. To say that I am excited about this new chapter at the Dolphins is an absolute understatement. I know I speak on behalf of my entire Redcliffe community when I say, 'Go the Phins!'

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Congratulations to the Dolphins. I look forward to watching the Rabbitohs beat them in the NRL and I look forward to the Easts Tigers beating them in the Queensland Cup.

The House adjourned at 6.31 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, King S, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, MacMahon, Madden, Mander, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Skelton, Smith, Stevens, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Watts, Weir, Whiting