



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

Email: [hansard@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:hansard@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Phone (07) 3553 6344

## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

### Thursday, 28 October 2021

Subject	Page
<b>SPEAKER'S STATEMENT</b> .....	<b>3363</b>
School Group Tours .....	3363
<b>PETITION</b> .....	<b>3363</b>
<b>MINISTERIAL PAPER</b> .....	<b>3363</b>
State Finances .....	3363
<i>Tabled paper: Queensland Government: 2020-21 Report on State Finances of the</i>	
Queensland Government—30 June 2021 .....	3363
<b>MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS</b> .....	<b>3363</b>
Coronavirus, Update .....	3363
Coronavirus, Vaccination .....	3364
His Excellency Honourable Paul de Jersey AC .....	3364
Dr Jeannette Young, Appointment as Governor .....	3365
People's Long Weekend .....	3365
Screen Industry .....	3366
2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games, Organising Committee .....	3366
Renewable Energy, Prospectus .....	3366
<i>Tabled paper: Queensland Government, Trade and Investment Queensland report titled</i>	
'Queensland, Australia, Renewable Ready, Right Now: Clean energy opportunity investment	
<i>prospectus' .....</i>	3366
Social Housing; State Actuary .....	3367
Coronavirus, Vaccination; World Teachers' Day .....	3368
Young, Dr J .....	3368
Great Queensland Getaway .....	3369
<i>Tabled paper: Tourism Industry Reference Panel report, dated October 2021, titled 'Interim</i>	
<i>Action Plan for Tourism Recovery' .....</i>	3369
Coronavirus, Vaccination .....	3370
Child Safety; Day for Daniel .....	3370
Social Housing .....	3371
Road Safety .....	3371

# Table of Contents – Thursday, 28 October 2021

<b>SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT.....</b>	<b>3372</b>
<b>STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE.....</b>	<b>3372</b>
Inquiry.....	3372
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 25 October 2021, from the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure, Hon. Dr Steven Miles, to the Chair, State Development and Regional Industries Committee, Mr Chris Whiting MP, regarding the Office of the Independent Assessor .....	3372
<b>HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE .....</b>	<b>3372</b>
Report .....	3372
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Health and Environment Committee: Report No. 15, 57th Parliament—Subordinate Legislation tabled between 16 June 2021 and 31 August 2021 .....	3372
<b>QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE.....</b>	<b>3373</b>
Hospitals, Demand.....	3373
Redcliffe Hospital.....	3373
Coronavirus, Vaccination .....	3374
Hospitals, Access .....	3375
Renewable Energy .....	3375
Minister for Health and Ambulance Services .....	3376
Employment .....	3376
Minister for Health and Ambulance Services .....	3377
People's Long Weekend.....	3378
Minister for Health and Ambulance Services .....	3379
Hospitals, Bed Capacity .....	3380
Minister for Health and Ambulance Services .....	3380
Coronavirus, Tourism Industry .....	3382
CSIRO Facility, Atherton Arboretum.....	3383
Members of Parliament, Accountability and Transparency .....	3383
Hospitals, Bed Capacity .....	3384
Renewable Energy .....	3384
<b>PUBLIC TRUSTEE (ADVISORY AND MONITORING BOARD) AMENDMENT BILL .....</b>	<b>3385</b>
Message from Governor.....	3385
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Message, dated 28 October 2021, from His Excellency the Governor recommending the Public Trustee (Advisory and Monitoring Board) Amendment Bill 2021 .....	3385
Introduction.....	3385
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Public Trustee (Advisory and Monitoring Board) Amendment Bill 2021 .....	3385
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Public Trustee (Advisory and Monitoring Board) Amendment Bill 2021, explanatory notes .....	3385
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Public Trustee (Advisory and Monitoring Board) Amendment Bill 2021, statement of compatibility with human rights .....	3385
First Reading.....	3387
Referral to Legal Affairs and Safety Committee.....	3387
<b>INSPECTOR OF DETENTION SERVICES BILL.....</b>	<b>3387</b>
Message from Governor.....	3387
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Message, dated 28 October 2021, from His Excellency the Governor recommending the Inspector of Detention Services Bill 2021 .....	3388
Introduction.....	3388
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Inspector of Detention Services Bill 2021 .....	3388
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Inspector of Detention Services Bill 2021, explanatory notes .....	3388
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Inspector of Detention Services Bill 2021, statement of compatibility with human rights.....	3388
First Reading.....	3390
Referral to Legal Affairs and Safety Committee.....	3390
<b>ADDRESS-IN-REPLY .....</b>	<b>3390</b>
<b>PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS .....</b>	<b>3404</b>
Buderim Electorate, Infrastructure; Coronavirus, Border Restrictions .....	3404
Banyo Rail Crossing .....	3405
Health System .....	3405
Growing Queensland Business Roadshow; Buy Queensland.....	3406
South Brisbane Electorate, 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games .....	3407
Townsville, Federal Members of Parliament .....	3407
Local Government Association of Queensland; Office of the Independent Assessor .....	3408
Railways, Manufacturing .....	3409
Coronavirus, Border Restrictions .....	3409
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Email (redacted), dated 11 September 2021, to the member for Surfers Paradise, Mr John-Paul Langbroek MP, titled 'Re-approval of cancelled border passes' .....	3410
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Email (redacted), dated 13 September 2021, to the member for Surfers Paradise, Mr John-Paul Langbroek MP, titled 'QLD border Advocacy Assistance' .....	3410
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Bundle of emails (redacted), dated 16 and 20 September 2021, to the member for Surfers Paradise, Mr John-Paul Langbroek MP, and screenshot of messages, regarding health directions exemptions .....	3410
Bundaberg Electorate, Events .....	3410
Burdekin Electorate, Vaccination.....	3411
Jordan Electorate, Weather Event .....	3411
World Teachers' Day; Day for Daniel .....	3412
The Gap State High School .....	3413

# Table of Contents – Thursday, 28 October 2021

Burleigh Pavilion; World Teachers' Day.....	3413
Lytton Electorate .....	3414
Sexual Violence Awareness Month; Health Services; Coronavirus, Vaccination.....	3415
Mental Health Week .....	3415
Scenic Rim, Tourism .....	3416
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Article from the <i>Courier-Mail</i> , dated 28 October 2021, titled 'Ready for Take-Off' .....	3416
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Article from the <i>Courier-Mail</i> , undated, titled 'Scenic Rim in World's top destinations' .....	3416
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Nonconforming petition regarding the Scenic Rim Regional Council [1848]. .....	3416
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Nonconforming petition regarding the Scenic Rim Regional Council secret meetings .....	3416
Pumicestone Electorate, Coronavirus Vaccination .....	3417
STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE .....	3417
Report, Motion to Take Note .....	3417
PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMITTEE .....	3420
Report, Motion to Take Note .....	3420
TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE .....	3424
Report, Motion to Take Note .....	3424
COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY .....	3428
Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates.....	3428
MOTION.....	3428
Order of Business.....	3428
QUEENSLAND VETERANS' COUNCIL BILL .....	3428
Consideration in Detail.....	3428
Division: Question put—That the amendment be agreed to. ....	3429
Resolved in the negative. ....	3429
Non-government amendment (Mr Lister) negatived. ....	3429
Clause 35, as read, agreed to. ....	3429
Clause 36, as read, agreed to. ....	3430
Clause 37, as read, agreed to. ....	3430
Clauses 38 to 86, as read, agreed to.....	3430
Schedule 1, as read, agreed to.....	3430
Third Reading.....	3430
Long Title .....	3431
MOTION.....	3431
Order of Business.....	3431
ADDRESS-IN-REPLY .....	3431
ADJOURNMENT .....	3444
Carina Leagues Club, 50-Year Anniversary .....	3444
Coronavirus, Vaccination.....	3444
Mooloolaba Spit; Sunshine Coast, Infrastructure.....	3445
Mansfield Electorate, Rotary; Harvard Club of Australia; World Teachers' Day.....	3445
Early Childhood Education; World Teachers' Day .....	3446
Runcorn State School, 120-year Anniversary; World Teachers' Day .....	3447
World Teachers' Day; Traeger Electorate, Withdrawal of Services .....	3447
Diwali Festival .....	3448
Upper Coomera War Memorial.....	3448
Capalaba Electorate, Basketball .....	3449
ATTENDANCE.....	3450



## THURSDAY, 28 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.

### SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

#### School Group Tours



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Guardian Angels Catholic Primary School in the electorate of Southport, Northview State School in the electorate of Mackay and Samford State School in the electorate of Pine Rivers.

### PETITION

The Clerk presented the following paper petition, sponsored by the Clerk—

#### Trinder Park, Rail Corridor

16 petitioners, requesting the House to use the existing rail corridor between Kuraby and Wembley Road until such time to allow for proper community awareness and the conduct of an independent assessment on the proposed new rail corridor at Trinder Park [[1829](#)].

Petition received.

### MINISTERIAL PAPER

#### State Finances



**Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.32 am): I lay upon the table of the House the report on state finances for the 2020-21 financial year.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Government: 2020-21 Report on State Finances of the Queensland Government—30 June 2021 [[1830](#)].

At our budget in December 2020 we projected the budget deficit for the 2020-21 financial year would be \$8.6 billion. At this year's budget in June we revised the forecast deficit down to \$3.8 billion today. I am pleased to inform the House that the actual deficit for 2020-21 was \$937 million. This is a tremendous result and a tremendous reward for all Queenslanders who worked so hard throughout the pandemic. It is a consequence of the strength, resilience and confidence of Queenslanders and it is the best result of the big east coast Australian states. It recognises that our economic recovery plan is delivering the dividend that Queenslanders deserve as it starts rebuilding our fiscal headroom for whatever the future may hold for our state.

### MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

#### Coronavirus, Update




**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.33 am): I can advise the House that overnight Queensland has recorded zero cases of community transmission. We have one case in hotel quarantine. This person is a flight crew member who recently travelled from Mongolia and Singapore. They were infectious on the flight. We conducted 8,395 tests and there were 13,415 vaccines delivered by Queensland Health. This means that 76.13 per cent of Queenslanders have received one dose and 61.79 per cent of Queenslanders are fully vaccinated.

**Mr SPEAKER:** There is protest activity outside. I assume that is where that noise is coming from.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** It is nice music though—very calming for parliament.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, it is no Vanilla Ice!

### Coronavirus, Vaccination

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.34 am): COVID is coming. It is coming to every corner of this state. It is coming to places it has never been before, and it is coming soon. Anyone who has not been vaccinated now has three days—three days—or they will not have the protection they need when the borders open just before Christmas. The impact on anyone who is unvaccinated will be devastating. We are talking about life and death. Today Victoria recorded 1,923 new cases, and tragically 25 people lost their lives. New South Wales recorded 293 cases and two deaths.


There are 16 areas of concern where vaccination rates must improve: Callide, Central Highlands, Charters Towers, Gold Coast hinterland, Isaac, Lockyer Valley, Mackay and surrounds, Murgon, Rockhampton, Sunshine Coast hinterland, the Tablelands, south and west of Cairns, Torres and Cape York, Townsville, Toowoomba west to Miles, Mount Isa, Cloncurry and Bourke. If you are on this list you are at risk if you are unvaccinated. As soon as question time is over, I will be speaking with the mayors of these communities just as I would if a cyclone were coming, because a cyclone is coming. A tsunami of COVID cases will follow people who are coming in from interstate, and we must be prepared and we must get vaccinated.

Transport and Main Roads signs will carry the message 'vaccinate now'. I am also going to ask every church and faith-based group and every school to use their signage to carry the same urgent message. Those on this side of the House share that view, and I encourage all members of parliament to do all they can to make sure their communities are protected. I am advised that last week's vaxathon had the desired effect of encouraging more people to get vaccinated. In Rockhampton vaccinations jumped 3.5 per cent; Mackay was up 4.4 per cent; Cairns was up 2.5 per cent; Whitsunday was up 3.5 per cent; and Toowoomba was up 2.9 per cent, but we must do more.

This weekend is the Lifesaver Long Weekend because every vaccination is a lifesaver. Some 23 surf lifesaving clubs will open from 8 am to 2 pm on Saturday and Sunday, including: Arcadian in Townsville, Port Douglas and Cairns, Emu Park, Elliott Heads, Bundaberg and Hervey Bay, Eimeo, Broadbeach, Miami, Burleigh Heads, Southport, Coolangatta and Pacific, Coolum, Metropolitan-Caloundra, Marcoola, Maroochydore, Mooloolaba, Mudjimba and Sunshine Beach. In addition to the surf lifesaving clubs, pop-up clinics will open in theme parks, including: Dreamworld, Sea World, Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, Aussie World and Australia Zoo.

But wait, there's more! Shortly, the education minister will detail 12 schools that will open in target areas this weekend. They will include Logan, Emerald, Woodridge, Browns Plains and Rockhampton, but the minister will go through more. Everyone is welcome. Walk-ins are accepted, so please look at the list. There are places right across Queensland for Queenslanders to get vaccinated this weekend. Next weekend Bunnings is back. Some 34,561 people were vaccinated during our last Bunnings weekend. It is time for them to come back for their second dose, and, of course, you are welcome to come in and get your first dose too. The time to get vaccinated is now. Three days—that is all we have.

### His Excellency Honourable Paul de Jersey AC

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.38 am): On behalf of my government and our state I take this opportunity to publicly farewell and pay tribute to His Excellency the Hon. Paul de Jersey AC as the 26th Governor of Queensland. His Excellency was appointed to the role by Her Majesty the Queen in 2014 following a distinguished legal career.


He was called to the bar in 1971, appointed Queen's Counsel in 1981 and a judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 1985. In 1998 he became the 17th Chief Justice of Queensland, serving in that role for more than 16 years. He was made a Companion of the Order of Australia in 2000 and awarded the Centenary Medal in 2003. Her Majesty the Queen appointed His Excellency Commander of the Royal Victorian Order in the 2021 Queen's Birthday Honours List in recognition of services as Her Majesty's Governor of Queensland.

For the past seven years His Excellency has carried out his constitutional duties, ceremonial functions and community role as Governor with the utmost dignity and dedication. I particularly acknowledge his outreach to communities across the state during his term, which officially ends on Monday.

It was my honour to host a farewell dinner for His Excellency and Mrs de Jersey. It was an evening of great warmth and affection. I was very pleased to offer my personal impressions which I believe are shared by many—such as his eagerness to engage with the people of our state, his 272 visits to regional centres, his effective use of social media, his famous walks down Gregory Terrace during the Ekka surrounded by happy showgoers and posing with a strawberry sundae, his considerate advice and guidance, and his sensible, modern approach to the executive duties of Governor in our system of government.

In his reply, he conveyed his deep respect for the office and his profound affection for our state. With very good grace and humour, he pointed out that although he will remain 'Honourable', he will no longer be 'Excellent'. That may officially be the case, but I am sure the House would agree that we will always associate 'Excellence' with Paul de Jersey. His Excellency also wanted us to know that, although he leaves Government House on Monday morning, he is still Governor until his successor is sworn in on Monday afternoon. He said that, if urgently required during the intervening four hours, he would of course carry out any vice-regal duties that suddenly arose. It is our intention to leave him in peace to enjoy private life not from Monday afternoon but from Monday morning. After all, he and Kaye have richly earned it. On behalf of the government and the people of Queensland, I express my gratitude to His Excellency and Mrs de Jersey and extend my best wishes to them and their family for the future.

### **Dr Jeannette Young, Appointment as Governor**


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.41 am): As Governor de Jersey's successor, Dr Jeannette Young will on Sunday complete one of the most exceptional chapters of public service that our state has ever seen. After 16 years dedicated to the wellbeing of every Queenslanders, Dr Young's time as our longest serving Chief Health Officer draws to a close. Over the past two years, we have been able to rely on her steadfastness during COVID, but this has been the culmination of her long devotion to every aspect of our health. Since 2005 she has campaigned for wellness and fought long and hard against cancer, smoking, obesity and the flu—remember the flu—anything from a public health perspective that improves the lives of Queenslanders, from the inner cities to our remote Indigenous communities.

In 2015, Dr Young was awarded the Public Service Medal for 'outstanding public service to Queensland Health'. Just some of her responsibilities have included: health disaster planning and response; aeromedical retrievals; cancer screening, communicable diseases, environmental health and preventive health; and medical workforce leadership. Of course she has been the State Health Incident Controller for the management of the COVID-19 pandemic response. This has meant enormous pressure, sleepless nights and a torrent of information which she has processed calmly and clinically with compassion and care.

Under this unprecedented burden, Dr Young has done precisely what her role requires: she has kept us as safe as possible from COVID. She has done that from the very beginning when she was the first to recommend an emergency response. I am proud to say that in my opinion Dr Young has led Australia and the world in COVID health measures. I am grateful to have had her with us each day as we have stood together to face this challenge.

Of course, her service to Queensland does not end on Sunday. On Monday, Dr Young becomes Her Excellency when she is sworn in as our 27th Governor. I know she will bring those same attributes of intelligence and compassion to her new role. There is a famous phrase from history: 'Never was so much owed by so many to so few.' Dr Jeannette Young would be the first to say she had a wonderful team dedicated to our health, but on this occasion we single her out to acknowledge the debt of gratitude of 5.2 million Queenslanders.

### **People's Long Weekend**


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.44 am): The delta variant claimed the Ekka for 2021 but it will not take away the people's long weekend. Public holidays inject millions of dollars into struggling tourism businesses and support local jobs. That is why when we were forced to cancel the Ekka for the second year in a row in August, we made a decision to relocate the people's long weekend public holiday to 29 October. This decision is already paying off. Sunshine Coast tourism operators have reported a strong surge in bookings for this weekend, Gold Coast theme parks are bracing for an influx of tourists and family resorts at many tourism locations throughout the state are reporting a boost in patronage.

Last year's people's long weekend delivered a 31 per cent increase in Queenslanders holidaying at home and a 62 per cent increase in the amount of money spent by locals throughout the state. In total, this year's people's long weekend is set to generate \$130 million for tourism operators throughout Queensland.

Today I am also proud to announce that our latest tourism promotion has sold out. In only 10 days, our Great Queensland Getaway campaign has generated more than 43,000 bookings throughout Queensland, worth more than \$10.5 million. Overall, we expect this initiative will generate \$80 million for tourism operators throughout the state.


Queenslanders have only three days to get vaccinated to ensure they are fully protected by 17 December. Today marks 50 days until Queensland reopens, which means the people's long weekend is likely to be Queensland's last delta free public holiday. I encourage all Queenslanders to make the most of it. It is not too late to book. I am advised there is still accommodation available at tourism destinations throughout the state—from the Far North, to the Fraser Coast and down to the Gold and Sunshine coasts. I call on all Queenslanders to support local businesses and local workers to recover from the impacts of COVID-19. Get a jab, and get away.

### Screen Industry


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.45 am): Our screen industry continues to generate millions of dollars for our economy and jobs for Queenslanders critical to our recovery. The spotlight is often on big blockbusters but it is other industry areas we are targeting that also create jobs. Things like post-production bring work into our production houses. I am pleased to announce today we are supporting seven productions to complete post-production here via our post, digital and visual effects 15 per cent incentive, including Paramount Pictures *The Infernal Machine* starring Guy Pearce, action-adventure children's feature film *Scarygirl*, feature film *The Best Surf Movie in the Universe*, among others.

All of the productions will create around 250 jobs at post-production studios in Queensland, including Like a Photon Creative, The Post Lounge, Serve Chilled, Pixel Zoo and Cosmic Dino Studio. In a game changer, I can also announce today we will be further supporting the Queensland games industry by offering a brand new 15 per cent rebate to attract games projects into our expert local games studios—the most competitive rate in the country. This will mean jobs, jobs and more jobs.

### 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games, Organising Committee

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.47 am): I am pleased to announce Kurt Fearnley will be the Paralympic athlete representative on the Brisbane 2032 organising committee. What a wonderful appointment. Kurt has won 13 Paralympic medals, including three gold medals over five Paralympics. Swimmer Bronte Barratt was elected as the Olympic athlete representative. We also welcome Catherine Clarke, the CEO of Netball Queensland, as the new chief executive of Paralympics Australia.

### Renewable Energy, Prospectus

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (9.47 am): It has been an exciting few weeks for high-skilled jobs and renewables in Queensland, but now all eyes are on the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow which kicks off on Sunday. As the world's leaders meet for what is arguably the most important climate summit in years, everyone is looking for the best place to invest in renewable energy and energy intensive industries—and that place is Queensland. Our renewable energy prospectus that we prepared for the Glasgow conference highlights to the world why Queensland is the place for businesses looking to draw on cheaper, cleaner energy to power what they do. I table a copy for the benefit of the House.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Government, Trade and Investment Queensland report titled 'Queensland, Australia, Renewable Ready, Right Now: Clean energy opportunity investment prospectus' [\[1831\]](#).

Queensland is renewable ready right now. We have an enviable combination of significant resources. We have more than 300 days of sunshine each year, world-class ports, longstanding trade partnerships, highly skilled workers and proximity to Asian markets—and that means we are perfectly primed to play a major role in the world's future need for renewable energy supply chains.

Queensland is investing heavily in renewable energy and has already committed to achieving zero net emissions by 2050. We will not see Queensland's regions left behind in the race to secure the high-skilled jobs that come with decarbonising. We are transitioning our advantages into global



interests, we are transitioning that interest into local investment and we are transitioning that investment into real jobs. Global giants have already begun projects across the state that provide more renewable energy into the grid, use that energy to manufacture things here and create local jobs. Our prospectus sets out the key advantages business has by working with Queensland.

Just last sitting we signed a statement of cooperation with one of the world's largest resource companies, Rio Tinto, to work with them to power their operations with renewable energy. With an ambitious agenda for growing more jobs in more industries, we have already earmarked \$2 billion for renewable energy and hydrogen jobs as part of the Queensland government's Jobs Fund. We have a coordinated whole-of-government approach that can assist with the facilitation of land, infrastructure and social capital required for the next renewables projects, and major companies can already see that.

Earlier this month we partnered with leading renewable energy and hydrogen company Fortescue Future Industries to announce one of the world's largest hydrogen equipment manufacturing hubs in Gladstone. When the world is looking for the renewable superpower of the future, they will not have to look any further than Queensland.

Finally, can I add my voice to the words of the Premier in thanking His Excellency and Mrs de Jersey for their wonderful service. It has been an honour to get to know them a little bit in my role as a minister, and I wish them all the best. I also thank Dr Young for her extraordinary service as Chief Health Officer and congratulate her on her new role.

### Social Housing; State Actuary



**Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.50 am): Every Queenslander deserves to have a roof over their head. That is why our government has committed the largest concentrated investment in social housing in Queensland's history. We are investing to address the future housing needs of Queenslanders, including through our \$1 billion Housing Investment Fund. That is why I am pleased to announce that our government will open expressions of interest to the market today to deliver 3,600 homes through the Housing Investment Fund.

Today we call on the property industry to step forward and join us in delivering the Queensland Housing Investment Growth Initiative. Through the proceeds of the Housing Investment Fund, we will be able to supply up to 3,600 new social housing dwellings across Queensland over the next four years and, beyond that, the Housing Investment Fund will deliver a stable, long-term investment model to create ongoing certainty for investors and industry. We want builders, developers and investors to bring us the innovative solutions that will provide affordable housing and social housing for vulnerable Queenslanders.

This is a great example of the Palaszczuk Labor government working with the private sector to deliver for our state, including for our most vulnerable people, generating jobs and investment along the way. Every Queenslander deserves to share in Queensland's economic success and prosperity, and a safe, secure home goes a long way towards delivering that. It is a springboard to opportunity and to participation in our growing economy.

On Tuesday during his remarks on the Superannuation (State Public Sector) (Scheme Administration) Amendment Bill 2021 the member for Mermaid Beach made the following statement regarding the State Actuary. The member for Mermaid Beach said—

An independent auditor of the government tells us that ... the defined benefit scheme has been touched up—that it is \$2 billion in the red.

...

The State Actuary, a government employee, says it is \$3 billion in the black. Who do we believe? The independent auditor or the government employee?

...

As Mark Twain famously said, there are lies, damned lies and statistics. The defined benefit scheme—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Regardless of where this is coming from, we cannot use those words. They are unparliamentary, Treasurer.

**Mr DICK:** I withdraw. The quote goes on—

The defined benefit scheme can be made to look like it has a positive outcome, but I will take the independent auditor's advice every day.


The State Actuary, who is listening to the debate, has asked me to place on the parliamentary record the following statement—

The State Actuary is bound by professional actuarial standards and must comply with APRA standards in valuing defined benefit assets and liabilities.

Both the Auditor General and the State Actuary are bound by their professional standards for their industry. Both sets of standards are valid in their context.

I place on the record our government's support for this important office and its office holder, who discharges his duty with integrity and impartiality. The member for Mermaid Beach should withdraw his remarks and apologise to the State Actuary at the earliest possible opportunity.

### **Coronavirus, Vaccination; World Teachers' Day**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.53 am): Our school vax pop-up clinics were a huge success on Super Saturday. More than 13,500 people came through and got their jabs at more than 100 schools, with 86 per cent of these people receiving their first dose. Today I am pleased to announce, along with the Premier, that we are rolling out even more pop-up clinics at 12 Queensland schools over the next three days. We want to make it as easy as possible for our school communities to access the vaccine. That is why these clinics will be open during school hours, after school and on the weekend.


Some of these school clinics include: Logan Special School in the electorate of Woodridge, will be open tomorrow during school hours; Kutta Mulla Gorinna Special Assistance School in the electorate of Mackay, with the clinic also opening tomorrow during school time; Emerald State High School in the electorate of Gregory, which will be open this Saturday—and I thank the member for his assistance with vaccinations—and Laidley State High School in the electorate of Lockyer, which will be open both days this weekend. Other clinics will be based in schools in Deception Bay, Woodridge, Browns Plains, Bloomsbury, Pindi Pindi, Rural View and Rockhampton. These clinics are based in target areas where we need to lift the vaccination rates. The list of schools will be available on the vaccination locations page of the Queensland Health website today—and I thank the minister for her assistance.

Not only are we encouraging students, their families and their friends, but we are also particularly encouraging our school staff to come forward. We are proud to be the first state in the country to bring forward school and early childhood staff into the priority 1b vaccination category, and the statistics speak for themselves. We have seen more than 74,000 staff vaccinations since 8 August, and that figure does not include those teachers and staff who received a jab outside of the program.

Tomorrow is also a special day. Tomorrow Queensland celebrates World Teachers' Day, and what a great opportunity this is for all of us to acknowledge the fantastic work of our 78,000 teachers in state and non-state schools across Queensland. Landmarks across the state will light up in purple, green and blue to mark the occasion. This includes the Story Bridge right here in Brisbane, the Warwick Town Hall in Southern Downs, City Hall in Charters Towers and the Victoria Bridge in Townsville just to name a few.

Each and every one of our teachers brings something special to the classroom, and I have been lucky enough to meet many of them as I travel around the state as Minister for Education. This World Teachers' Day we say a big thanks—I have also given certain areas a day off tomorrow—to each and every one of our dedicated and professional Queensland teachers.

### **Young, Dr J**

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.57 am): There have been many reasons Queensland has weathered the pandemic so well, but the main one is without a doubt the guidance and efforts of our hardworking Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young PSM. Queensland is fortunate to have had the best Chief Health Officer in Australia and probably the world. Dr Young never fails to thank Queenslanders at our daily media conferences. The thanks should go to Dr Young. Her advice, her planning and her leadership are second to none. I am not exaggerating when I say that she has saved lives—lots of lives.

As honourable members would be aware, Dr Young has been appointed Queensland's 27th Governor. This is her last week as Chief Health Officer, a role she started when she was just 43. Dr Young's career is too extensive and her accomplishments too abundant to convey in a ministerial statement, but let me give an abridged version. Dr Young graduated from the University of Sydney with

a Bachelor of Medicine and a Bachelor of Surgery in 1986. That same year she joined Westmead Hospital as an intern. By 1994 she had risen to the ranks of assistant director of medical services at Westmead.

Lucky for us, Dr Young chose to move to the best state in the country, Queensland, in 1994 to take up the position of executive director of medical services at Rockhampton Base Hospital. I know how happy she has been in the last few days to go back to Rockhampton to promote vaccinations, to see her old home where she lived in front of the hospital and to recall some of those days very fondly.

**Ms Palaszczuk:** And the nurse who used to work with her.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I take that interjection. In 1999 she became Executive Director of Medical Services at the Princess Alexandra Hospital and in 2005 she was appointed the state's Chief Health Officer.

Dr Young will no doubt be remembered for leading Queensland through the COVID-19 pandemic—and so she should, because she has done a stellar job—but she should also be recognised for improving the public health of Queenslanders. At the time she became Chief Health Officer, around 20 per cent of Queenslanders smoked. That has since halved. Under Dr Young's watch, childhood immunisation also rose from 77 per cent to just under 95 per cent. I know that she wants that target for COVID vaccinations. Dr Young was also instrumental in establishing a medical school in Central Queensland—I know how excited she is that the first student will be coming in next year—and the state's world-class aeromedical retrieval service through partnerships with the Royal Flying Doctor Service and LifeFlight. Dr Young is an inspiring woman, a warm and caring person and an intelligent and passionate professional. She will be an exceptional Governor. We thank her for her service and will soon say 'Your Excellency'.

On a personal note, I thank Dr Jeannette Young for her support while I have been the health minister. I have enjoyed her passion, compassion, empathy, absolute focus and dedication to keeping Queenslanders safe and saving lives through this pandemic. As the Premier said, there have been many sleepless nights. She has taken her role extremely seriously. It has weighed heavily. She knew the risks in every single decision she made. There were many late nights and very early mornings. In fact, everyone comments that she is the hardest working health professional in Queensland Health. I have no doubt about that, and that takes nothing away from our amazing health workers. Dr Young leaves us in the best possible position to open up our state, our borders and our economy, with only 17 active cases and no community clusters. Dr Young, I thank you on behalf of my staff, the Department of Health and Queenslanders.

### Great Queensland Getaway



**Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement) (10.02 am): Some news is so good it is worth repeating, like the Great Queensland Getaway. The promotion has made a significant contribution to our economic recovery plan. Four days ahead of schedule, the promo codes have been exhausted. As the Premier said earlier, 43,000 bookings have been made for visitor experiences—that is \$10½ million into the pockets of tourism operators. There are still good deals to be found for what has become effectively the great Queensland holiday stampede.

The pandemic has been an enormous challenge for tourism, as we all know, but the resilience of Queensland's tourism operators has been noted by Liz Savage, Chair of the Tourism Industry Reference Panel. Today the panel releases its interim action plan for tourism recovery, and I table a copy for the House.

*Tabled paper:* Tourism Industry Reference Panel report, dated October 2021, titled 'Interim Action Plan for Tourism Recovery' [1832].

The panel comments—


We can emerge from this once-in-a-century crisis with a modern world-beating visitor economy which will drive our state's growth for decades to come.

The interim action plan comes with recommendations. In response, over two years we will invest \$14 million to wean companies off Zoom with incentives to bring face-to-face conferences and business events back to Queensland. This is a \$35 billion industry that fills hotel beds and restaurants. Business travellers spend \$500 a day on average, and we know that they often come back with their families.

The interim action plan also favours an aviation restart strategy. Our \$10 million aviation budget has kept intrastate routes in the air, and we have given airports the ability to work with airlines to land more interstate flights from 17 December. We have kept our overseas aviation relationships warm, so we are ready to fly when it is safe to reopen the international border as well.

In coming weeks, with more vaccinations, we will relaunch Work in Paradise. Tourism operators need staff for those world-class holidays this state is so famous for. The final report is due mid next year and is expected to discuss the extraordinary global tourism and trade opportunities that we can leverage over the next 20 years around the Brisbane 2032 games.

### Coronavirus, Vaccination


 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.04 am): This morning outside parliament we unveiled a new element of Queensland's vaccination campaign, this one involving our frontline emergency services workers. Frontline emergency response vehicles will be adorned with a magnetised sticker bearing the message: 'Our JOB saves lives, your JAB saves lives'. The sticker will be distributed to more than 6,000 first responder vehicles. I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to Queensland Fire and Emergency Services for their efforts in producing and supporting this awareness campaign. They truly have done an extraordinary effort to get these materials together and distributed.

It is a very simple message from our emergency services and it is so true. Their jobs save lives, and Queenslanders' jabs can also save lives. Right now we need everyone to be like a first responder, because right now every Queenslanders is on the front line. COVID is coming. Unless you are fully vaccinated, you may be vulnerable. The statistics do not lie. If you are fully vaccinated you have an 86 per cent lower chance of catching the virus and passing it on. If you are fully vaccinated you have a 90 per cent lower chance of dying from COVID.

There is no shortage of vaccination clinics. This weekend surf lifesaving clubs are having a vaxathon, with more than 20 surf lifesaving clubs hosting vaccinations clinics. We are also taking our message to the skies this weekend. This weekend we will have an aircraft towing a banner urging everyone to 'Be a lifesaver—get a jab'. I again express my thanks to Queensland Fire and Emergency Services but also to Surf Life Saving Queensland and Queensland Health for their efforts in ensuring the surf lifesaving club vaxathon is a success this weekend.

I urge every Queenslanders to be a lifesaver and get a jab. Be like a first responder, because their job saves lives and a Queenslanders' jab will save lives. It could make all the difference for Queenslanders, for their loved ones and for their fellow citizens. We are all in this together.

### Child Safety; Day for Daniel

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.06 am): This week Queenslanders are celebrating Children's Week. This year's theme is: 'Children have the right to choose their own friends and safely connect with others'. It encourages us all to acknowledge and respect children's ability to make choices, and for adults to listen and provide guidance.

Encouraging children to be part of decisions that directly affect them is at the heart of what we do across my portfolio. I am proud to say that Queensland is the first jurisdiction in the country to acknowledge in legislation the need for children to have a voice, where they must be listened to, engaged with and every attempt made to understand their views.

Empowering children to share their hopes, dreams, worries and fears not only helps them bring about the change they want to see but also is a crucial way of informing government as it makes big decisions relating to their safety and wellbeing. I am proud to say that through our Supporting Families Changing Futures reform program this government is taking steps to legislate to enshrine the voice of children and young people, where they must be listened to, engaged with and attempts made to understand their views. This commitment to strengthen mechanisms that capture the voices of children in our care is essential to supporting families, communities and cultures to be free from violence, abuse and neglect.


Keeping children safe is the responsibility of each and every one of us. Tomorrow is Day for Daniel, a day which unites our nation under one goal: to make Australia a safe place for all children. It is 18 years since the tragic murder of 13-year-old Sunshine Coast boy Daniel Morcombe, a boy dressed in red who will forever be part of our lives and in our hearts. Through their tireless work, Daniel's parents, Denise and Bruce Morcombe, have been determined to prevent another similar tragedy from happening, and they have ensured generations of children are learning how to keep themselves safe.

The theme this year is: 'wear red, educate and donate'. It is all about encouraging parents, carers and educators to start a conversation with children and young people about their personal safety so that they are able to recognise, react and report to grown-ups to get the help that they need. Importantly, the message equally is: when children raise and report, believe them.

Last year's Day for Daniel saw over 4,800 schools and early learning centres wearing red in remembrance of Daniel. The Daniel Morcombe Foundation does an amazing job and I am proud to be part of a government that stands shoulder to shoulder with Bruce and Denise in the fight to keep all children safe. I encourage all members to wear red tomorrow in remembrance of Daniel. Tomorrow I hope all Queenslanders will take a moment to remember Daniel and to make a promise to themselves to keep all children safe from harm every day of the year.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, if I am not mistaken, tomorrow is your birthday. Happy birthday for tomorrow!

### Social Housing


 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Alger—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (10.09 am): As part of our plan for economic recovery, the Palaszczuk government is investing \$2.9 billion to support better long-term housing outcomes and move more vulnerable Queenslanders into safe, secure and affordable housing sooner. This is the largest concentrated investment in social housing in Queensland's history. It includes a \$1.9 billion investment and it is backed by the new \$1 billion Housing Investment Fund to boost housing supply and increase housing and homelessness supports across Queensland, and we are looking at new and innovative ways to make the most of this investment.

Today, as announced by the Treasurer, the Queensland government is launching an expression of interest process for the Queensland Housing Investment Growth Initiative, or QHIGI as it is known. The QHIGI is an important element of our Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2021-2025 and will deliver accelerated social and affordable housing supply of almost 7,400 homes. It will do that through the Housing Investment Fund and QuickStarts Qld funding initiatives, with an additional 1,000 homes to be made available for lease through the Help to Home program. The EOI is our call-out to developers, institutional investors, community housing providers and eligible government entities to bring forward innovative proposals to add new social homes and additional affordable housing builds or refurbishments across Queensland scaled to fit with local development. These could include projects which deliver mixed residential developments, including of course social housing. If you have a great idea, we want to hear it.

The expression of interest will enable submissions for all three QHIGI initiatives. It is designed to streamline applications and reduce the time and costs for proponents to submit their proposals. These partnerships will complement the Queensland government's own new social housing construction, purchases and headleases. By pursuing both options, we can maximise opportunities to deliver new social housing options for Queenslanders in need.

To support the expression of interest, we have released a new social housing design guideline. At its heart, the social housing design guideline demonstrates that good design contributes positively to our community's safety, livability and resilience and provides the opportunity to strengthen our ties with each other as well as reducing living costs and our impact on the environment. Developed with input from our tenants and our staff as well as from the Office of the Queensland Government Architect and industry specialists, the guideline will not only help ensure social housing homes are safe, welcoming and sustainable but also provide principles that can be used for new home constructions for all Queenslanders no matter where they live. The Palaszczuk government is committed to getting more vulnerable Queenslanders into homes sooner and we are getting on with that job.

### Road Safety

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.12 am): I also lend my support to comments by the Premier and the Deputy Premier to the great service by Dr Young as our Chief Health Officer—someone who has been humble, sharp, thorough, direct and ahead of the curve, who has been excellent and who will officially be excellent from next Monday. It is a wonderful appointment.

We are cracking down on distracted drivers and those not wearing seatbelts. New high-tech cameras have been operating on Queensland roads since July, catching and warning people driving dangerously and distracted. It is shocking how many drivers we have identified in that time. Over 18,000 people have been photographed driving distracted with their mobile phone behind the wheel—18,000. Using a phone while driving is just as dangerous as drink driving, and the research is very clear: it is like driving drunk with .07 to .1 blood alcohol in your system. That is like having 18,000 drunk drivers

on our roads. And then there are those, incredibly, who are in this day and age not wearing a seatbelt—more than 3,000 of those drivers. All up, we saw more than 20,000 warning letters issued in three months.

This is a wake-up call to our dangerous distracted drivers. We see you and we will catch you. From Monday there are no second chances. Big fines from these cameras kick in from Monday so that people driving distracted and dangerously behind the wheel can expect a \$1,033 fine and cop four demerit points, and we make no apology for that whatsoever. Repeat offenders face losing their licence if they are caught twice in a year. I make no apologies for us being tough on this because this is about making our roads safer for every single Queenslander.

If you are one of these people who are doing the wrong thing, deal with it right now because we will deal with you. That is why the Palaszczuk Labor government is investing in this innovative technology and road safety. Innovative technology like new school zone and roadworks cameras will also be trialled from next year. These solar powered cameras will be built into flashing school zone and roadwork signs already on our roads. What we want to see from this world-first trial is a serious reduction in reckless driving through school zones and work sites.

In the first six months of this year, we saw more than 6,500 people caught speeding through school zones. This reckless behaviour of course endangers students, parents, our crossing supervisors as well as teachers and staff. We want drivers doing the right thing on our roads every single time they drive. The Fatal Five are a factor, tragically, in more than half of deadly crashes—all of those preventable. Just like random breath testing is anywhere, anytime enforcement, our new mobile phone distraction and seatbelt cameras will be too from Monday, so slow down, belt up, stay off your phone and stay safe on our roads. These cameras start Monday.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I do not normally comment on matters of public interest, but that is a very disturbing set of statistics, Minister. I hope people heed the call.

## SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.16 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 16 November 2021.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE

### Inquiry



**Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (10.16 am): I table a letter from the Deputy Premier to the State Development and Regional Industries Committee requesting the committee report on the functions of and performance of these functions by the Office of the Independent Assessor. The committee has resolved to hold an inquiry and adopted the terms of reference suggested by the Deputy Premier and resolved to publish this letter.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 25 October 2021, from the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure, Hon. Dr Steven Miles, to the Chair, State Development and Regional Industries Committee, Mr Chris Whiting MP, regarding the Office of the Independent Assessor [\[1833\]](#).

## HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

### Report



**Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (10.16 am): Mr Speaker, I commend you on your excellent choice of tie.

I lay upon the table of the House report No. 15 of the Health and Environment Committee titled *Report No. 15, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 16 June 2021 and 31 August 2021*.


*Tabled paper:* Health and Environment Committee: Report No. 15, 57th Parliament—Subordinate Legislation tabled between 16 June 2021 and 31 August 2021 [\[1834\]](#).

The subordinate legislation includes the Public Health (Further Extension of Declared Public Health Emergency—COVID-19) Regulation (No. 2) 2021. I also take a moment to acknowledge Dr Jeannette Young, who has kept our committee fully informed of all health related issues and of course managing COVID-19 so well in Queensland—most excellent. I commend the report to the House.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, question time will conclude today at 11.17 am.

### Hospitals, Demand

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (10.17 am): My question is to the Minister for Health. Queensland Health ambulance ramping and elective surgery waiting list data shows our sick system is lagging behind states which are dealing with COVID. Does the minister take responsibility for the Queensland health crisis?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for his question and I note all of his social media tweets this morning and commentaries around ramping. It is a pleasant surprise to see that, for once, the opposition is looking beyond our borders and seeing what else is happening around the country, so it has finally acknowledged that there is ramping happening elsewhere in the country. Interestingly, the data it is relying on is from April to June 2021. New South Wales had its recent outbreak in June, so we have not seen what the data actually shows. In fact, what we do know is that the pressure on our EDs declines as we get major outbreaks. We have seen that happen in Queensland before because people tend to stay away from the hospitals because of their concern.

The Premier mentioned earlier the very sad news that overnight Victoria recorded 25 new deaths and New South Wales another two deaths. When we talk about ramping and statistics, let us also talk about those figures. I have today's statistics: 65.58 per cent of patients off stretcher within 30 minutes. Even the data they are putting on Twitter today—41 per cent—is now down to 32 per cent. We are making improvements.

What is happening around the country? Not just ramping—ED, bed capacity, aged care, disability and then COVID coming over the top of that is why every single health minister has written to the Commonwealth saying we need immediate support. I know the Leader of the Opposition has come out and said he backs the AMA's calls for the Commonwealth to give more funding. Well done. Why is it they also keep saying do not blame the Commonwealth. Which is it? Do they acknowledge the Commonwealth has a role to play or don't they? The Commonwealth failed to stand by the commitment made back in 2012 by a federal Labor government that said the funding was to be fifty-fifty. They stopped at 45 per cent and have not shifted ever since.

There is a very important role to play by the Commonwealth in funding our public health system, let alone their market failure in the primary and allied healthcare system in this country that is leading to more pressures on our public health system. I am happy to talk about ramping. I am happy to talk about pressures. I am glad finally the Leader of the Opposition understands it is happening around the country.

*(Time expired)*

### Redcliffe Hospital

**Ms BATES:** My question is to the Minister for Health. Poor planning has led to the Redcliffe Hospital in the minister's own electorate not being able to provide orthopaedic surgeries for categories 2 and 3 patients. Does the minister take responsibility for this failure?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for Mudgeeraba for that question because I love talking about the Redcliffe Hospital. We have put millions of dollars of investment into this hospital. When I came into the state parliament in 2014 at the Redcliffe by-election—and a lovely by-election that was; thank you to everyone on this side for their wonderful support—I recall what was happening with our elective surgery at that time. I recall the waiting list for the waiting list that grew every reporting period. Every time I looked at it the waiting lists were going through the roof. Not the surgical waiting list because you could not get on that list. You could not even get to see a specialist in outpatients.

I am so proud of the fact that we have an MRI, an extra CT, we have a whole new ward opened up, improvements in special intensive care paediatrics and we have moved the dialysis and oncology treatments over to the Moreton Bay Integrated Care Centre. There is amazing work happening. Now

we have invested in a business case that we announced at the last election with the former health minister. I am very proud that we continue to invest in this area because we understand the growth happening in the Moreton Bay region—one of the fastest growing areas of the state—and the need to continue to invest. We also have a very large First Nations population in our region so we must make sure we are continuing to invest in this area.

I am happy to stand up any day to compare what those opposite invested in the Redcliffe Hospital. I know what they did to Redcliffe Hospital: they cut staff. Their LNP candidate, who was a nurse, stood up and said, 'We didn't sack anyone. They wanted to go.' She actually said that in a public forum. She said, 'They are happy. They wanted to go.' Then when asked, 'What about these individual agreements with doctors and this crisis?', she said, 'What individual agreements? What issue?'

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 118(b) on relevance. I ask that you guide the minister back to the question which was specifically about orthopaedics at the Redcliffe Hospital.

**Mr SPEAKER:** There was a specific component to that. I would ask that you come back to that particular element, notwithstanding the broader context around the Redcliffe Hospital has been the theme, I understand, of your response.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I know work is being done across Metro North HHS in relation to orthopaedic surgery and looking at the coordination across Caboolture Hospital, the Prince Charles and the Redcliffe Hospital both in elective and emergency surgery in relation to orthopaedics to make sure that we can do both of these surgeries at Redcliffe Hospital and make sure it is not all going to Redcliffe, as it was. Prince Charles and Caboolture were the ones doing the elective and we were doing all of the emergency. We have been working with the orthopaedic specialists to improve that flow across the hospital.

*(Time expired)*

### **Coronavirus, Vaccination**

**Ms LAUGA:** My question is to the Premier and Minister for the Olympics. Will the Premier update the House on which areas in Queensland have improved their vaccination rates in the past week and which ones still need to lift their game?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Keppel for that question. I know that the member for Keppel and the member for Rockhampton have been working very hard in both of their local communities to lift those vaccination rates. It was an absolute pleasure to go there last week to encourage more people to get vaccinated. As we know, a lot of people like going to Yeppoon. It is a tourism destination. In the member's electorate 71.86 per cent have had a single dose and 53.7 per cent a double dose. Those numbers are increasing, but we want to see even more people get vaccinated.

As I said in my ministerial statement this morning, we have concerns about a number of areas of Queensland. They include Callide, Central Highlands, Charters Towers, Gold Coast hinterland, Isaac, Lockyer Valley, Mackay and surrounds, Murgon, Rockhampton, Sunshine Coast hinterland, Tablelands et cetera. On this side of the House we are absolutely promoting vaccination. My members and I are out there doing everything we possibly can to lift those vaccination rates. We have crickets on the other side. The crickets still remain silent. They are not out there encouraging their communities to get vaccinated.

**Mr Janetzki** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Toowoomba South is warned under the standing orders.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** In the Callide electorate the single dose rate is 61.3 per cent. What is the member doing to promote vaccination?

**Ms Grace:** He is fighting about climate change!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right, he is fighting on climate change, not talking about vaccination. In some of those Callide postcodes they have only 44 per cent double dose. In the Lockyer electorate, the postcode of 4311, 62.46 per cent have had their first dose—nowhere near the state average. What is the member for Lockyer doing?

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

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



**Ms PALASZCZUK:** What are they doing? Not much. This is a critical point in Queensland's time. Let it be noted the members of this House who are out there promoting vaccination and those who are remaining silent. The Leader of the Opposition should be out there encouraging every single member of his team to say the word 'vaccinate'. It is a simple word: 'vaccinate'. Time is running out. We are talking to the mayors today. The best thing those opposite could do is get out there and promote vaccination.

### Hospitals, Access

**Mr MINNIKIN:** My question is to the Minister for Health. With lives being put at risk because of record high ambulance ramping of 61 per cent at QEII, 62 per cent at Logan Hospital and 65 per cent at Redlands Hospital, does the minister take responsibility for this failure?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for his question. I do not accept the premise of the question. Our paramedics do an incredible job. In fact, there were 2,992 triple 0 calls in the last 24 hours and, of those, 88.97 per cent were answered within 10 seconds. There were over 3,000 acute responses and 1,181 non-urgent responses.

As I have just said, we are starting to see the patient off-stretcher times come down. Between May and September we have seen a 20 per cent improvement in lost time for paramedics on ramps. Our investment is starting to see improvements, but our investment alone is not going to be enough. We need more resources to be put in by the Commonwealth. We need it both in investment to support every state and territory health minister—

**Ms Palaszczuk** interjected.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am sorry, Minister. Premier and Leader of the Opposition, I ask that you both cease your interjections. The minister is answering the question.

**Mrs D'ATH:** We need that investment and we need it in the primary and allied healthcare sectors as well. Many members on the other side of this chamber are from regional and remote communities. I ask every one of those members if they can say there is no market failure in their communities when it comes to primary and allied health care? Do they have all the GPs they need? Can everyone get to see a GP in a timely way? Do the GPs all bulk-bill? Are there private specialists? If you have private health and live in a regional town, do you have a private hospital that you can go to for support or do you still walk into the emergency department of the public hospital because that is the only place that you can get treatment? Last week when I was in Central Queensland with Dr Young—

**Mr MINNIKIN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 118(b), relevance. The question was directed towards three specific hospitals in South-East Queensland.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, the question pertains to ambulance ramping at specific locations. Could you come back to that in your answer?

**Mrs D'ATH:** The question was whether I take responsibility for the health system. I am and I do and I am explaining it to those opposite because they are struggling to understand how the health system works. I ask every metropolitan member: do you have enough GPs so that your constituents—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Through the chair, please, Minister.

**Mrs D'ATH:**—have no problems getting in to a GP? They should ask their federal members to give them the data on whether the number of people taking up private insurance is increasing in their electorates. Even when they have private health insurance, they are coming to our major hospitals—

*(Time expired)*

### Renewable Energy

**Ms BUSH:** My question is of the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on the Palaszczuk government's plan to turn Queensland into a renewable energy superpower and seize the jobs that that will create, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

**Dr MILES:** I thank the member for Cooper for her question. I know how committed she is to seeing Queenslanders get the renewable energy jobs of the future right here in Queensland. The world is rapidly moving to zero net emissions. The momentum is gaining. Even the Queensland National Party

has signed on to the Palaszczuk government's commitment to zero net emissions by 2050—finally. Now we have only one choice: will we seize the opportunity of the global move to decarbonisation or will we let those jobs pass us by and be created in other countries?

That is why the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow is so important. I am sure the delegates will share my disappointment with the Prime Minister's so-called plan. He held a 55-minute press conference at which he said the word 'plan' 150 times, but the only thing missing from the press conference was an actual plan. He had a power point that said 'plan' but the plan amounted to this: take credit for what the states have done—land-clearing laws and renewable energy targets, both of which they opposed—and then hope that technology will magic the rest for them.

Let us not forget how hard those opposite and the Morrison government fought against our land-clearing laws and our renewable energy targets. They tried to cut the Clean Energy Finance Corporation and the federal renewable energy target. How many times did they fail to deliver an energy plan? Now the Prime Minister will fly to Glasgow and claim credit for it all. He is all spin, no substance; all marketing, no detail; all slogan, no solutions. In Australia he is all hat but no cattle and in Glasgow he will be all kilt but no knickers.

The plan the Prime Minister has delivered is a bit like deciding that you are going to swim at the 2050 Olympics but do no training whatsoever and hope that pool and speedo technology improve enough to get you there. It is a bit like the Queensland LNP hoping to win an election by 2050 but doing no work, sticking with weak leaders and hoping that policy-making technology will improve so much that they can win an election by then. The real problem with waiting for technology to do it is that all countries will get the technology at the same time and those that embrace and lead with it will create the jobs in their countries.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Deputy Premier, could you consider withdrawing some of the references to underwear and other things, and also the mental imagery?

**Dr MILES:** I can withdraw the words but not the image.

### **Minister for Health and Ambulance Services**

**Dr ROWAN:** My question is to the Minister for Health. Questioning patients when they came to this House to raise issues, being unaware of a review, reprimands, a suspended doctor or accreditation lost at Mackay Hospital and not responding to patients at Caboolture Hospital until over 100 called: will the minister take responsibility for failing to know what is going wrong with Queensland's health system?

**Mr Harper** interjected.

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

**Mrs D'ATH:** When those matters came to light, the board chair of Metro North Hospital and Health Service initiated an independent review by an eminent expert to undertake an assessment of all complaints that had been raised and brought forward during the review and to assess them from a clinical perspective as to whether there had been any failings by the hospital in relation to the treatment of those complaints. That is the proper course to follow. They have completed that process. The report has been provided to the board chair and, as I have said publicly, the board chair will be releasing that report publicly within a week, along with an implementation plan for any of the recommendations.

### **Employment**

**Mrs GILBERT:** My question is of the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment. Will the Treasurer please update the House on how employment in Queensland is recovering from the COVID-19 downturn and is the Treasurer aware of any obstacles to Queensland's ongoing prosperity?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Mackay for her question. I was very pleased to be in Mackay last week with the Premier where we were enthusiastically supporting the state vaccination campaign. We know we have a challenge in the north of our state and in regional parts to get vaccination rates up. I know how hard the member for Mackay, along with all members of the government, is working to improve vaccination rates.

The member for Mackay is right: we have delivered outstanding economic results for our state precisely because the people of the state have followed the health advice. Our economy continues to exceed all expectations. The recent data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics shows that in September Queensland employment rebounded by 30,800 persons. There are now almost 98,000

more people employed in Queensland than before the pandemic. At the same time, and I think this is an important matter to note, every other state and territory combined have shed 208,600 jobs. Queensland is up almost 98,000 and the other states and territories combined are down 208,600.

At 4.9 per cent, our unemployment rate is the lowest it has been for 12 years—that is, since 2009. We have exceptional jobs growth and with our labour market performance we are the envy of the country. Today we know that the budget deficit for the 2020-21 financial year was less than a \$1 billion. That is the best of the big east coast states. When other states went into four-month lockdowns and disastrous economic decline, we remained strong.

I am asked by the member for Mackay what are the obstacles to that ongoing prosperity. The single biggest obstacle is a lack of vaccination in this state. Every member on this side of the House has been absolutely unified in the message to get vaccinated. The craven response by the LNP, the craven weakness by the LNP, has been to completely fail to support that campaign. The leader of that party, who refuses to support the mandatory vaccination of health workers, has done nothing to support the campaign. Yesterday in the House he would not even say the words, 'I support the mandatory vaccination of health workers.' He refused to do that. That is because his party is infected by anti-vax sentiment, just as NPAQ is infected by anti-vax sentiment.

The reason the member for Mudgeeraba did not say it is that she believes it. She actually believes that health workers should be vaccinated. The Leader of the Opposition cannot say it because he is trapped by anti-vax sentiment and will not demonstrate the courage that this state needs to be vaccinated. That is the choice that Queenslanders have and the difference—between a government that is working as hard as possible to get people vaccinated—

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

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

**Mr DICK:**—and a leader who refuses to demonstrate leadership, who refuses to lead regional and rural parts of our state. When the time comes, the Leader of the Opposition will be the one who has to be blamed.

*(Time expired)*

### **Minister for Health and Ambulance Services**

**Mr POWELL:** My question is to the Minister for Health. There are two reviews underway for hospitals in Mackay and Caboolture after allegations of life-altering botched surgeries. After weeks of waiting, we still do not have the terms of reference for Mackay and we have not seen the results from Caboolture. Does the minister take responsibility for system failures that are putting lives at risk?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I take offence at the member's claims about our health system. It is a reflection on the doctors.

**Mr Powell:** No, it's not.

**Mrs D'ATH:** The member for Glass House is shaking his head: 'No, it is not a reflection on the doctors.' Day after day they stand up and use the term 'botched surgery' to impugn the reputation of these doctors without seeing the findings. The member has just said that there are two reviews, from which they have not seen the findings, yet they stand up here and they run around the state talking about botched surgeries when they know that in a health system there will be adverse reactions and complications from surgeries from time to time. There will even be errors by doctors. Those errors must be identified and they must absolutely be dealt with. If there are doctors doing the wrong thing in our health system, we need to identify them and we need to deal with it. In fact, in Mackay, as I reported last sitting week, the chief executive suspended one of those doctors within 24 hours of becoming aware of the allegations—

**Mr Powell:** What, for adverse reactions?

**Mrs D'ATH:** Mr Speaker, I take offence at being verballed by the member for Glass House in claiming that.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Pause the clock. Members, when I am calling the House to order, I expect it to come to order. Otherwise, we will have a much quieter question time. Minister, are you taking personal offence?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I am.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Are you asking the member to withdraw?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I am.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Will you withdraw, member?

**Mr POWELL:** I withdraw.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There was no mention of the minister or the member's name in respect to any comments that were being made. I was listening carefully to it. I am not in any way reflecting on the chair in that respect. I am just seeking an understanding—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members! I will hear the point of order.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I am just seeking an understanding of the interpretation in respect to those points of order, because it is different from what I understood had been the practice in previous decisions that have been given by Speakers.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am resting on convention here more so than anything else, given that I understand the minister's offence is not with the substance or the content of what was said but rather the manner in which the interjections were being directed. That is what I have listened to the member's concerns about.

As I have said before, members, if a question is asked and the minister is being responsive to the question asked, we really should be listening to the answer and not providing additional commentary around that.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I will make it very clear so that those on the other side do not inappropriately and inaccurately report what I have said today. I take every single complaint about the health system seriously. I in no way question the validity of those complaints. I believe that there should be a proper process across our hospitals to deal with those complaints and, if there are faults—

**Ms Bates** interjected.

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

**Mrs D'ATH:**—and blame to be held against any individual—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Pause the clock. Members, I can barely hear the minister's response because of the cross-chamber attacks. Member for Pine Rivers, you are also warned under the standing orders.

**Mrs D'ATH:** Those matters should be dealt with through the proper channels and the proper courses, and if there is to be disciplinary action it should be taken. Those on the opposite side should not be drawing their own conclusions as to what the findings about those complaints should be without them going through a proper process and review and assessment by the clinicians and experts who are capable of doing that.

### **People's Long Weekend**

**Mr WHITING:** My question is of the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Can the minister update the House on arrangements for the upcoming people's long weekend and advise if there are any alternative approaches?

**Ms GRACE:** I thank the member for the question. I know that the constituents in his electorate are really looking forward to the people's day long weekend. As Minister for Education, I acknowledge the students in the gallery. They will be enjoying the long weekend as well. It was sad when Ekka was cancelled, but obviously we have kept Queensland safe. It was a hard decision to take at the time, but the government acted quickly and moved the long weekend. It was great to see the Scenic Rim and Moreton Bay regional councils join us for the long weekend. It is World Teachers' Day tomorrow, so teachers in those areas will also be enjoying a day off, as will the member for Nudgee, Minister Linard, who will be having a holiday on her birthday. Happy birthday to her.

Talking about alternative approaches, when we moved that day there was nothing positive from those opposite. I remember the whingeing and whining—their usual mantra. Here we are enjoying a people's day long weekend. You can travel anywhere in Queensland. You have no restrictions. We are free!

I join others in acknowledging the magnificent job done by Dr Jeannette Young, our Chief Health Officer. I congratulate her. We are enjoying this weekend because this government, this Premier and this side of the House have done all they can to keep Queensland safe. Now we want to go the next step and that is to vaccinate. This long weekend gives us the opportunity to vaccinate in theme parks—in places like Australia Zoo and the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary—and in more than 20 surf lifesaving clubs, from Cairns to Coolangatta. We continue to keep Queensland safe.

In terms of alternative approaches, there is nothing coming from those opposite. Sometimes I honestly wonder what rock they live under. We are in a world health pandemic. For the last two years we have had pressures on the health system like we have never had. That is the case not only in Queensland but also right across the country. All they keep doing is whingeing and whining when we are the envy of the world and the envy of every other state and territory in this country.

It is incredible that not one of them can get up and talk about vaccination, not one of them can get up and say what a fantastic job we have done here in Queensland and not one of them can do anything but whinge and whine all the way along. When we think about what we have done in relation to vaccination and the silence from the federal government at the moment, we ask: where are they, who are responsible for 70 per cent? I will tell members where—nowhere.

*(Time expired)*

### **Minister for Health and Ambulance Services**

**Mr JANETZKI:** My question is to the Minister for Health. After seven years in power—

**Mr Brown** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Capalaba, you are warned under the standing orders. Start your question again please, member.

**Mr JANETZKI:** My question is to the Minister for Health. After seven years in power and almost two years to prepare, the government has failed to get Queensland hospitals ready for COVID cases. With over 100 code yellows this year and 31 last month alone, will the minister take responsibility for failing to prepare Queensland's health system?

**Ms GRACE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. We have had a number of questions containing deliberate imputations about failures and a number of comments have been made. The same happened with the question recently asked. Can I ask you to rule on the imputation in that question and whether it is in order?

**Mr SPEAKER:** I have been listening to the questions as asked. Some of them are borderline. However, I have been giving the Minister for Health quite a lot of latitude in terms of her response. I will allow the question and ask the minister to respond.

**Mrs D'ATH:** There is an error in that question. They are misleading. We have not been in for seven years. Keep waiting and we will be. It has been six years so far.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** A shadow Treasurer who can't add up.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I will take that interjection. 2015 to 2021—minus 15 from 21 and we get six.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members to my right.

**Mr Crisafulli:** Six years and 10 months. It goes up to seven.

**Mrs D'ATH:** Sorry, Mr Speaker, but I have to take that interjection. When it is six years and 10 months, you have to round up.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members to my right!

**Mrs D'ATH:** It is serious. The claims that those opposite are making publicly and in this chamber are that we have not been preparing and we are not prepared for the pandemic. Again, I remind the member that New South Wales has had 562 deaths since the start of the pandemic. Victoria has had 1,090 deaths since the start of the pandemic. Queensland has had seven deaths. To say that we have not been planning to manage the pandemic over the last 20 months, we have to ask: where has the Deputy Leader of the Opposition been? Over that time they called 64 times for the borders to be opened.

**A government member:** Round it up to 65.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I take that interjection. I can round it up to 65 because last sitting week the member for Scenic Rim said, 'Tear down the wall.' There is another call.

We have been showing our credentials every single day when it comes to how we are managing the pandemic. We have shown that we have managed this pandemic exceptionally well, when compared not just nationally but internationally, to keep the number of positive cases extremely low—we have had just over 2,000 positive cases in total—and the number of deaths extremely low. Although, sadly, there have still been seven deaths.

Every one of our hospitals across the state has been preparing and is prepared. They know that on any given day the person who walks into their ED with a cough, with an upper respiratory condition, could have COVID and they have to manage that. They have been putting plans in place. They have been managing this from day one. They will manage it, but they will be under pressure. There is one thing the opposition can do: get on board and encourage your communities to get vaccinated.

### Hospitals, Bed Capacity

**Ms HOWARD:** My question is of the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Can the minister please update the House on what the government is doing to increase bed capacity in Queensland hospitals, including in my electorate of Ipswich?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for Ipswich for her question. I know she is very passionate about her community and is a great advocate for improved health services in the region. As we know, the Ipswich corridor is one of the fastest growing regions in the country. Growth in population means growth in demand for our services, including health services.

That is why we are investing a record amount in health services in Ipswich, including \$25 million to deliver 26 new beds at Ipswich Hospital, which will be open and operational from 8 November. We are investing in three additional transfer initiation nurses. I have heard the opposition say and I have seen their tweets around calling for better triaging in our hospitals. It is a Labor government that has brought in TINs which help us with the transitioning of patients out of ambulances and into our EDs in a more efficient way. This initiative is now operating in the emergency department at the Ipswich Hospital 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Thank you to the transfer initiation nurses. We are very proud of the work they are doing, along with our nurse navigators, nurse practitioners and all of our nurses across the health system.

There is \$40 million to build a new satellite hospital in Ripley. This facility will offer a range of health services such as dialysis and urgent care which will open up additional bed space in Ipswich Hospital. I have heard those opposite and the member for Mudgeeraba, in particular, carrying on about not having overnight beds. When we moved dialysis and oncology over to the Integrated Care Centre at Redcliffe it freed up beds on an entire floor. That is how it helps. That is how it assists.

There is \$177 million from our Hospital Building Fund to deliver a further 174 beds, including up to 40 ED spaces in the Mater Springfield stage 2. There is \$87.4 million to build a new 50-bed mental health unit and link bridge to the hospital. There is a record \$750.4 million in the 2021-22 budget—an increase of 64.2 per cent on that allocated to West Moreton in the final budget of the Newman government. There are more resources for the front line: 168 more doctors, 635 extra nurses and 207 allied health professionals.

This is what a Labor government does. We are investing in a region that we know has had significant growth. We will continue to invest in the West Moreton area. We will continue to invest in all of our HHSs across the state. We will continue to invest in our health workforce and value the work that they do—not talk them down, not attack them, not sack them, but support them.

### Minister for Health and Ambulance Services

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** My question is to the Premier. Under Beattie, Gordon Nuttall lost his job over the Jayant Patel saga. Under Bligh two health ministers were moved on following the Health payroll disaster and the fake Tahitian prince scandal. Under this Premier, Queensland Health is in crisis. Will the Premier show the same leadership and remove this health minister?

**Ms GRACE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on imputation. 'The health sector is in crisis', I think is an imputation. I seek your ruling—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Please resume your seat. I will allow the question, but the Premier has latitude in responding.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I reject the premise of the Leader of the Opposition's question.

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Let me say very clearly that I support the health minister. I support this team. I support the government promoting vaccination across the state. I support this team keeping Queenslanders safe. Those opposite should hang their heads in shame. How dare they raise health when they gutted the health system across the state. They decimated mental health.

**Dr Robinson** interjected.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** You have the architect of Strong Choices still sitting on that side of the House—the member for Clayfield. The member for Broadwater every day—

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:**—looks more and more like Campbell Newman.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I have two pieces of advice for the House. The first is that the Leader of the Opposition is warned under the standing orders. Your interjections have been consistent today. Also, members, if the House is called to order, it is not an opportunity for you to catch your breath before going back into a series of interjections. Let me make that very clear.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The Leader of the Opposition is a very angry man—a very angry man—and is not fit to hold the office of Leader of the Opposition. The man sat around the cabinet table—the member for Broadwater. He was not the member for Broadwater back then. He sat around the cabinet table and made the decisions—

**Mr Saunders** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Maryborough, you are warned under the standing orders.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** He sat around the cabinet table with the member for Clayfield and for a short time with the member for Mudgeeraba—

**Mr Dick:** Before she was moved on!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right. They sat there and they made the decisions to sack health workers across Queensland, to sack not hundreds but thousands—over 4,500.

**Mr Boothman** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Theodore, you are warned under the standing orders.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Then, not content with that, they picked a fight with the doctors. They fought with the doctors in this state. Then, not happy to stop there, they cut funding to the NGOs who provided vital health services and gagged them from speaking out against the cuts. For goodness sake, get a reality check! Get a reality check about what you did to health in this state! You should hang your heads in shame—every single one of you!

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Pause the clock.

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

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, I will ask that you withdraw that last statement.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I withdraw.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I have asked that members ensure that comments are directed through the chair. It is for the dignity of the House that that does occur.

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

**Mr SPEAKER:** What is your point of order?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I had two points of order. You have dealt with one.

**Mr SPEAKER:** So you have one point of order.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members to my right!

**Mr BLEIJIE:** My second point of order is this—and I did not want to interrupt the Premier during her contribution: the member for Pine Rivers interjected on two occasions whilst the Leader of the Opposition was asking his question. The member for Pine Rivers was on a warning.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Let me be clear.

**Ms Grace:** We're not in school.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for McConnel, I do not need your assistance. You are warned under the standing orders. Member for Kawana, in terms of your point of order, I will be using my discretion as Speaker to consider who is speaking and who is not speaking. I will not get to a tale of dib, dib, dib and dob, dob, dob as to who has done what. I will not be addressing that element of your point order.

I am aware that the member for Pine Rivers is on a warning. I did not hear her speaking during that question being asked. I will be resting on my decision. If you have any concerns about that, you are welcome to speak to me about that, but that is my ruling. Premier, you have 16 seconds remaining. Do you have anything further to add relevant to the question?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Absolutely, Mr Speaker. Then they cut \$1.6 billion out of health. That is what they thought about health in this state. They did not care about the people. They did not care about the patients. On this side of the House, we restored frontline services and we increased the funding.

*(Time expired)*

### **Coronavirus, Tourism Industry**

**Mr SAUNDERS:** My question is of the Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement. With Queensland's border to open on 17 December, can the minister inform the House of the government's efforts to protect tourism communities from COVID-19?

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I thank the member for the question. In particular, I note that Maryborough and the Fraser Coast region have seen some outstanding visitor numbers over the past 12 months and how encouraging that has been for operators on the ground. When I have been in the region I have had great feedback. It is equally very encouraging to note that those regions are above the Queensland average in terms of their second vaccine jab. It is further pleasing to see that the member's Facebook page is encouraging residents to get fully vaxed in time for 17 December. The member has been very active encouraging that message, as so many members on this side of the House have been throughout this important time to get that message across.

That date, Mr Speaker, as you know, is when Queensland rolls out the welcome mat to our biggest domestic tourism customers from New South Wales and Victoria, traditionally representing 80 per cent of our tourism markets. It is great to see that currently 63.6 per cent of residents on the Fraser Coast are fully vaccinated for COVID-19 compared with the state average of 61 per cent. However, in contrast, it is concerning to see the vaccination rates in some regions. I note that the Premier elucidated earlier in question time the list of regions that have lower vaccination rates. I am particularly concerned about the Whitsundays. As mentioned earlier this week, I found few references to vaccination—

**Ms Camm:** What about setting up a vaccination hub in the Whitsundays?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Whitsunday will cease her interjections.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I encourage the member for Whitsunday to wait, but I do encourage her to get on Facebook and at her engagements with the community—

**Mr Langbroek** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Surfers Paradise, members will be referred to by their correct titles. You are warned under the standing orders.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** As I said earlier this week, I was very disappointed to see there was only one reference to vaccination by the member for Whitsunday on her Facebook page buried in a criticism of the government. Then there is George Christensen, who insists that his anti-COVID-19 vaccination posts are not to blame for the Whitsundays' low jab rates.

**Mr O'Connor** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Bonney!



**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** He says 'no-one is at fault' for the Whitsundays' low vaccination rate of 45.4 per cent. Now is the time to act and now is the time to get serious.

**Mr O'Connor** interjected.

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

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** If the member for Whitsunday is serious about it, she will be pleased that the Palaszczuk government is stepping in. Tomorrow we are setting up a vaccination hub at the port of Airlie. This is where the ferries pull in from Hamilton and Daydream islands and where day trips to Whitehaven depart from. I hope that we all get out there and encourage people to take advantage of those opportunities.

### **CSIRO Facility, Atherton Arboretum**

**Mr KNUTH:** My question without notice is to the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs. The federal government has announced the closure and sale of the CSIRO site at Atherton, creating enormous community concern about the future of the arboretum that has a 50-year old unique collection of 500 native trees. Will the minister consider purchasing the property to preserve its environmental, scientific and historical significance to the region?

**Ms SCANLON:** I thank the member for the question. I certainly understand your and your community's concern about the federal government's decision to close and ultimately sell off that CSIRO facility. I think it is disappointing that the federal government continue to vacate the space when it comes to protecting our environment. We know that in a number of World Heritage listed sites their funding has stagnated over the last 10 years. The state is having to do the heavy lifting not only in the climate space but also in protecting our important protected areas.

When it comes to this particular site, I need to get some advice from the department around whether or not it could be considered in our protected area estate. We need to make sure that when we are spending money we are getting value for money to make sure that those biodiversity values, those conservation values, are absolutely in the state's interest. I am more than happy to have a conversation with the department around that and give the member an update.

The other option also is that, if the federal government does sell this particular property, the community could consider possibly going down the avenue of heritage listing this site. Again, it needs to fit that criteria. Ultimately, it is a responsibility of the federal government. They should be playing their part in protecting our environment. They continue to vacate that space. I encourage the member and the community to keep those calls and that pressure up on the Morrison government.

### **Members of Parliament, Accountability and Transparency**

**Ms LUI:** My question is of the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Will the Attorney-General update the House on what steps the government has taken to improve the accountability and transparency of members of parliament and is the Attorney-General aware of any alternative approaches?

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I thank the member for Cook for her question. Our government has taken decisive leadership on accountability when it comes to the scrutiny of interests of members of parliament and ministers, and transparency and accountability when it comes to donations. Last year the government passed legislation creating two new criminal offences which seek to capture the deliberate and intentional dishonesty of ministers as well as a suite of new donation laws to increase transparency and the public's confidence in the political system.

Last month in this House I spoke about the ongoing saga of former attorney-general Christian Porter and his inability to disclose the donors who contributed to his blind trust—a blind trust established to pay for private legal fees for a defamation case regarding reported rape allegations. He has now gone so far as to resign from the front bench to keep these donors a secret. Christian Porter says he does not know who has contributed to the \$1 million blind trust, but somehow he has managed to rule that his donors were not prohibited foreign entities or on the lobbyists register, so he knows something. The question for Mr Porter is: does he know who his donors are, or not? These so-called secret donations are, as journalist Niki Savva put it, 'stunningly stupid'. But it gets even worse.

**Mr Lister** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Southern Downs is warned under the standing orders.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** It seems that it is not just Christian Porter who is refusing to come forward with who has donated to his blind trust. In the last sitting of federal parliament the Prime Minister Scott Morrison and the LNP government voted down a motion to have Mr Porter referred to the Privileges Committee. That is despite their own Liberal Speaker, Tony Smith, agreeing there was a prima facie case that he had breached the rules and it should be referred to the Privileges Committee. For the first time since Federation the government voted down a motion to refer a matter where the Speaker ruled there was a case to be made to the Privileges Committee. What are they hiding?

It is not only Christian Porter who does not want these donors to be out in the public light: it is Scott Morrison and the LNP government. It is absolutely disgraceful. Like always, Scott Morrison is refusing to admit he has a problem. He is refusing to take any action to fix the problem, and he refuses to do anything at all given there is a federal election right around the corner. They are a government that is obsessed with hiding the truth. They are not accountable. They have absolutely no integrity. It is about time they came forward and told Australians who donated to that trust.

### Hospitals, Bed Capacity

**Dr MacMAHON:** My question is for the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Data from Queensland Health says that during the financial year from July 2020 to June 2021 the number of hospital beds in Queensland increased by just 200, well below the 10-year average of 245. Why has the number of beds in Queensland failed to keep pace despite the need to prepare for reopening?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for the question. The member may not understand that, when it comes to the health system, beds flex up and flex down throughout the year in relation to the needs of communities. In fact, we have already announced additional funding in the last few months, including this year's budget, to open up and purchase 416 beds, both in the public system and the private system. This is not unusual, because we partner with the private system often where there are surges to ensure that we can deal with the extra demands we see happening in the health system.

In saying that, we know that we need extra beds. We know that the 600 beds being taken up by people in aged care and disability right now—I see the member roll her eyes. Imagine having a disability where you do not need clinical care. You could be living in a home. You could be going out into the community with friends and family having a good quality of life, and instead you spend every minute of your day in a hospital bed in a ward. That is your home, not because medically you need to be there, but because no-one has bothered to make sure you have a disability package. It is the responsibility of the Commonwealth to ensure they have that support. Imagine your elderly parents or grandparents sitting in a hospital bed when they could be either in their home or in an aged-care facility that will give them the care and support they need.

This is the No. 1 priority of every health minister in this country right now in our requests of Greg Hunt and Scott Morrison. This is our No. 1 request because we care about these people. They do not deserve to be spending their time in hospital beds when they do not need to be there. Those 600 beds could be used for elective and emergency surgery, dealing with the pressures in emergency departments and ramping. When the member asks about bed capacity, at least acknowledge that these are genuine issues. Do not roll your eyes, shake your head or say, 'Don't blame the Commonwealth.' Someone has to call the Commonwealth out. This side of the parliament will. This government will, because we invest in health. The LNP cuts. The Leader of the Opposition claims he supports the AMA's call. Well, pick up the phone, write a letter to 'Scotty from marketing' and say 'Hand over the money now.'

*(Time expired)*

### Renewable Energy

**Mr BROWN:** My question is of the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement. Will the minister update the House on the Palaszczuk government's commitment to emissions reduction and renewable energy targets and can he advise of any federal government support in this space?

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

**Mr de BRENNI:** I thank the member for Capalaba for the question because, coming from the federal electorate of Bowman, I think he knows that the concept of federal government support is a bit of a joke.


When the United Nations issued a dire warning on climate change in August, Scott Morrison said he would not sign a blank cheque to reduce emissions. That is strange, because the Prime Minister has been signing plenty of cheques but they just did not go to places like Queensland. They only go to states run by Liberal governments. There was \$1.7 billion in energy deals for Liberal states Tasmania and South Australia, with the lion's share, \$960 million, going to New South Wales, proving Scott Morrison really is the prime minister for New South Wales. His so-called plan is a collection of shame. There is net zero modelling, there is net zero legislation and there is net zero leadership from this Prime Minister.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** The period for question time has expired. Members, some bills will be introduced. I ask that you please leave the chamber quietly to ensure that process is uninterrupted.

## PUBLIC TRUSTEE (ADVISORY AND MONITORING BOARD) AMENDMENT BILL

### Message from Governor

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (11.17 am): I present a message from His Excellency the Governor.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The message from His Excellency the Governor recommends the Public Trustee (Advisory and Monitoring Board) Amendment Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

#### MESSAGE

PUBLIC TRUSTEE (ADVISORY AND MONITORING BOARD) AMENDMENT BILL 2021

*Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68*

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


A Bill for an Act to amend the Public Trustee Act 1978 for particular purposes

#### GOVERNOR

Date: 28 October 2021

*Tabled paper:* Message, dated 28 October 2021, from His Excellency the Governor recommending the Public Trustee (Advisory and Monitoring Board) Amendment Bill 2021 [\[1835\]](#).

### Introduction

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (11.18 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Public Trustee Act 1978 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Public Trustee (Advisory and Monitoring Board) Amendment Bill 2021 [\[1836\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Public Trustee (Advisory and Monitoring Board) Amendment Bill 2021, explanatory notes [\[1837\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Public Trustee (Advisory and Monitoring Board) Amendment Bill 2021, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[1838\]](#).

Today I present the Public Trustee (Advisory and Monitoring Board) Amendment Bill 2021. The bill amends the Public Trustee Act 1978 to establish the Public Trustee Advisory and Monitoring Board to monitor and review the operations of the Public Trustee.

The Public Trustee performs a vital role in our community, including providing financial management services to more than 10,000 Queenslanders each year. Importantly, the Public Trustee forms a central role in the guardianship system in Queensland. The guardianship system provides for a range of substitute decision-makers to make decisions on behalf of adults with impaired decision-making capacity. The Public Trustee may be appointed by the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal under the Guardianship and Administration Act 2000 as an administrator and by a principle under the Powers of Attorney Act 1998 and as an attorney in an enduring power of attorney to make decisions about financial matters or legal matters in relation to property.

Protecting Queenslanders, especially those experiencing vulnerability, is a priority for this government, and that is why the government has moved decisively to establish the Public Trustee Advisory and Monitoring Board. The board is part of the government's response to the Public Advocate's report, *Preserving the financial futures of vulnerable Queenslanders: A review of Public Trustee fees, charges and practices*, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 10 March 2021.

The report makes 32 recommendations in relation to the Public Trustee's fees and charges regime, sustainability and provision of legal fees. Government is responsible for the implementation of 10 of these recommendations, including one jointly with the Public Trustee. The report found that many of the Public Trustee's customers appear to receive a high level of service for very little or no cost. However, the report also identified opportunities for improvement in the way the Public Trustee engages with its customers. Relevantly, recommendation 30 of the report was that the government consider additional oversight and reporting mechanisms to improve the Public Trustee's performance, transparency and public accountability.

The bill is consistent with the government response to the Public Advocate's report, tabled in March this year, in which government publicly committed to the establishment of a Public Trustee board with an advisory and monitoring focus. The board will monitor the performance of the Public Trustee's functions and provide advice and make recommendations about how the performance of these functions can be improved.

Specifically, the bill provides that the board will have the following functions: to monitor and review the performance of the Public Trustee's functions; to monitor complaints received by the Public Trustee about the performance of the Public Trustee's functions; and to monitor and review the Public Trustee's processes for managing these complaints. The board may also give written advice or make written recommendations to the Attorney-General about: changes to legislation or improvements to the policies, practices, resources, services or training of the Public Trustee to ensure the Public Trustee can effectively perform its duties; and improvements or enhancements to the performance of the Public Trustee's functions to promote the interests of the Public Trustee's clients, particularly clients with impaired decision-making capacity.

The Attorney-General can also request the board to give advice or make written recommendations to the Attorney-General about specific matters relating to the performance of the Public Trustee's functions. Separate to this, the board may also give advice or make written recommendations to the Public Trustee about matters relating to the performance of the Public Trustee's functions. The board will not have any management functions or the ability to direct the Public Trustee, except to require the Public Trustee to provide it with information about the performance of the Public Trustee's functions. This will maintain the Public Trustee's independence as an independent statutory office and avoid a conflict with the Public Trustee's statutory, fiduciary and other obligations.

In performing its functions, the board must act independently and in the public interest and is not subject to direction by anyone, including the minister, about how to perform its functions. It is important, given the nature of the Public Trustee's role and functions, that the board is comprised of persons with relevant knowledge, qualifications and skills including in relation to: management and delivery of public sector services, including executive experience in management of human, physical and financial resources; legislation, policy and programs for seniors and people with disability, including people with impaired decision-making capacity; finance, banking and financial services; and legal frameworks and practices relevant to succession law, powers of attorney, duties and obligations of trustees, substituted decision-making for adults with impaired capacity, commercial litigation, and the principles and rules of equity.

The Public Trustee Advisory and Monitoring Board will have a membership of up to 10 people, comprising up to five ex-officio members, or permanent board members, and at least four, but no more than five, members appointed by the minister. The permanent board members will be the chief executive, or nominated senior executive, of the following departments: the department that administers the Public Trustee Act 1978; the department in which the Financial Accountability Act 2009 is administered; the department in which the Disability Services Act 2006 is administered; the department mainly responsible for seniors; and the department in which the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003 and the Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003 are administered.

The appointed board members will be comprised of: at least one person with knowledge, qualifications or skills in corporate governance, finance and banking, financial investment, financial services, insurance, or the management of financial funds, financial risk or trusts; at least one person

with knowledge, qualifications or skills in relation to advocacy, services and support for seniors and persons with a disability, including persons with impaired capacity; at least one person with legal knowledge, qualifications or skills in commercial litigation, duties and obligations of trustees, powers of attorney, substituted decision-making for adults with impaired capacity, succession law, or the principles and rules of equity; at least one person with knowledge, qualifications or skills in relation to human resource management and, importantly, culture change management; and any other persons with the knowledge, qualifications or skills the minister considers appropriate.

When appointing appointed board members, the minister must ensure the members reflect the diversity of the Queensland community and that at least one is an Aboriginal person or a Torres Strait Islander. Given that the purpose of the board is to provide oversight over the operations of the Public Trustee, the Public Trustee will not be a member of the board. However, the board may invite a person to attend a board meeting for the purpose of advising or informing the board and this could include the Public Trustee. The chairperson for the board is to be appointed by the minister and will be an appointed board member, not a permanent board member.

The bill includes arrangements for meetings and ensuring the integrity of board members, including through criminal history screening and processes for dealing with members' conflicts of interest. Given the sensitivity of the information the board will likely be exposed to, there is also a prohibition on board members disclosing personal information. This includes, for example, personal information of the Public Trustee's clients, except to the extent the use or disclosure is necessary to perform the person's functions under the act or as otherwise required or permitted under the act or another law. This prohibition extends to including personal information in any recommendation or advice to the minister. The board will report in the Public Trustee's annual report on the exercise of its functions and powers during the relevant financial year.

In summary, this bill demonstrates the commitment of the Palaszczuk government to look after the interests of vulnerable Queenslanders by establishing the board and ensuring additional independent oversight over the Public Trustee. The government will continue to work with the Public Trustee, the Public Advocate and other experienced stakeholders for the detailed consideration of the remaining nine recommendations that are the government's responsibility. I commend the bill to the House.

### First 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) (11.26 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

### Referral to Legal Affairs and Safety Committee

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee.

## INSPECTOR OF DETENTION SERVICES BILL

### Message from Governor



**Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (11.27 am): I present a message from His Excellency the Governor.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): The message from His Excellency the Governor recommends the Inspector of Detention Services Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

## MESSAGE

## INSPECTOR OF DETENTION SERVICES BILL 2021

*Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68*

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

A Bill for an Act to provide for an inspector of detention services, and to amend this Act, the Corrective Services Act 2006, the Crime and Corruption Act 2001, the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011, the Mental Health Act 2016, the Ombudsman Act 2001, the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 and the Youth Justice Act 1992 for particular purposes

## GOVERNOR

Date: 28 October 2021

*Tabled paper:* Message, dated 28 October 2021, from His Excellency the Governor recommending the Inspector of Detention Services Bill 2021 [\[1839\]](#).

## Introduction



**Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (11.27 am): I present a bill for an act to provide for an inspector of detention services, and to amend this act, the Corrective Services Act 2006, the Crime and Corruption Act 2001, the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011, the Mental Health Act 2016, the Ombudsman Act 2001, the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 and the Youth Justice Act 1992 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Inspector of Detention Services Bill 2021 [\[1840\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Inspector of Detention Services Bill 2021, explanatory notes [\[1841\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Inspector of Detention Services Bill 2021, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[1842\]](#).

I am pleased to introduce the Inspector of Detention Services Bill 2021. The bill provides for a new role of the Inspector of Detention Services to provide independent oversight over places of detention, namely: prisons, community corrections centres, work camps, youth detention centres and watch houses. Independent inspectors ensure accountability and transparency in the way that places of detention, and the people detained in them, are managed by providing the community with insight into detention environments. The purpose of the inspector is to promote the improvement of places of detention and detention services with a focus on ensuring the humane treatment of detainees and the prevention of harm, including torture, cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to establishing an independent Inspector of Detention Services in response to recommendations in a number of reviews including: the Independent Review of Youth Detention; the Queensland Parole System Review; Taskforce Flaxton: an examination of corruption and corruption risks in Queensland's corrective services facilities; the Queensland Productivity Commission's report on its Inquiry into Imprisonment and Recidivism; and the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. Importantly, the bill represents a further commitment by this government to uphold human rights in Queensland and recognises that observance of human rights is the most effective and safe way to manage custodial environments. At present, there is no single body whose primary function is to provide this independent external oversight. The inspector will not be subject to direction by any person about the way the inspector performs their functions.

The bill provides that the inspector will provide independent oversight through a system of regular inspections and reviews of places of detention and detention services. There will be independent and transparent reporting to ensure accountability and transparency in the way that places of detention, and the people detained in them, are managed. The focus will be on the prevention of harm by examining the systems and lived experiences of people who are deprived of their liberty. It is intended that the inspector will consider the operation and management of facilities and the treatment and conditions of people in light of national and international materials that establish best practice.

Under the bill, the Queensland Ombudsman will be the Inspector of Detention Services, and staff from the Office of the Queensland Ombudsman will support the exercise of the inspector's functions. The inspector, like the Ombudsman, will be functionally and operationally independent from government and will be appointed as an officer of the parliament. The inspector will also report directly to the parliament on the performance of its functions. Queensland's inspectorate model is broadly consistent with similar models in other jurisdictions across the country.

A key function of the inspector will be to conduct inspections of places of detention—within its scope—and review detention services provided in those places of detention. The bill will provide for mandatory inspections of particular places of detention as well as allow the inspector to inspect a place of detention within scope at any time, unannounced or announced. The inspector will also be able to review a detention service at any time, including the transport of detainees between places.

Detention services are broadly defined in the bill to include: the operation, management, direction, control or security of a place of detention; security, management, control, safety, care or wellbeing, including health care and education, of a detainee at a place of detention; and transport of detainees between places of detention, given the unique vulnerability of persons detained during transport.

The inspector's focus will be on preventing harm through systems review rather than responding to harm through the investigation of individual complaints. It will not be the role of the inspector to investigate specific incidents such as riots, deaths or escapes. These will remain the responsibility of existing internal and external oversight bodies, and the bill provides that the inspector may refer matters to an appropriate body for further investigation.

The bill also provides the ability for the inspector to refer matters to the relevant minister who has responsibility for the place of detention. This is for cases where the inspector suspects, on reasonable grounds, that: there is or has been a serious risk to the security, control, safety, care or welfare of a detainee; or a detainee is, or has been, subject to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

In order to carry out the inspector's functions, the bill provides the inspector with broad powers to do all things necessary to fulfil its preventative, proactive and independent mandate. This includes the power to: take any equipment to a place of detention; enter a place of detention at any time, including place of detention, vehicle or equipment used in place of detention; access any information, including documents, about the place of detention or services provided to people detained, including health information; require answers to questions and speak to detainees privately; and require reasonable help for a review or inspection. To facilitate full and frank disclosure to the inspector, the information obtained will be protected except in specified circumstances. The bill also provides for evidential immunity and to protect a person from victimisation or reprisals.

The bill will also require the inspector to have regard to the good order and security of places of detention and the safety of people who work at places of detention in exercising their powers. In line with a commitment to transparency and external scrutiny, the bill requires the inspector to prepare an annual report directly to the Speaker that focuses on the operations of the inspector during the reporting period and reports directly to the parliament on each review of a detention service and each mandatory inspection. The inspector can also report on any issue it considers is in the interest of any person or in the public interest. These reports may include advice or recommendations from the inspector. The inspector is also required to prepare and publish inspection standards that will articulate best practice and contribute to consistency and transparency.

Measures in the bill are included to provide that the inspector must have regard to the cultural background and vulnerabilities of detainees, for example: when appointing staff to exercise the inspector's functions, to consider the desirability of staff reflecting the social and cultural diversity of detainees in Queensland, including those people who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander; in carrying out a review or inspection, requiring the inspector to have regard to the cultural background or vulnerability of detainees; and consulting with people or using staff suitable to the cultural background or vulnerability of any detained person involved in an inspection or matter being reviewed. For a review or inspection relating to an Aboriginal person or Torres Strait Islander, the inspector must arrange for an appropriate representative for the detainee to help the inspector carry out the review or inspection. For a review or inspection relating to a child, the inspector must arrange for a person with expertise in child trauma, prevention and identification of child sexual abuse to help the inspector carry out the review or inspection.

The inspector may also consult with or engage consultants with professional skills or expertise; for example, legal or medical or experience working with vulnerable persons such as children, as well as another person with other appropriate skills or experience; for example, a former detainee, or a family member or close friend of a former detainee. These measures respond to the feedback from stakeholders during consultation on the draft bill that staff exercising the functions of the inspector should be multidisciplinary in composition, strive for gender and minority representation, and include the perspectives of people with lived experience of disability and incarceration.

In response to stakeholder feedback on the draft bill, the bill being introduced today allows the inspector access to prisons under a declaration of emergency, with Queensland Corrective Services maintaining the power to restrict access under section 268 of the Corrective Services Act. The relationship between the inspector and existing oversight bodies is integral to ensure a coordinated approach to the external oversight of places of detention. The bill provides that the inspector must ensure it does not duplicate, delay or interfere with other independent or investigative statutory functions and will also be able to enter into arrangements with corrective services, police, youth justice, education, health service and other service providers for detainees.

To assist the inspector in effectively performing its functions and to encourage cooperation with the inspector, the bill contains some offences. It will be an offence to, without reasonable excuse: provide false or misleading statements or documents; fail to comply with any lawful requirement of the inspector; or obstruct, hinder, resist or threaten the inspector in the performance of their duties. In recognition of the sensitivity of the information the inspector may obtain, it will also be an offence for the inspector to disclose information obtained under the act except in specified circumstances.

This important bill continues to demonstrate the government's commitment to human rights and will ensure that the oversight, accountability and transparency of our places of detention and the treatment of detainees are strengthened. As I have mentioned, development of the bill was informed by extensive targeted stakeholder consultation with non-government and government stakeholders from a range of interest areas. Where possible, feedback from stakeholders was incorporated into the bill, and I thank all those involved for their time and their valuable input to inform this bill. I commend the bill to the House.

### First 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) (11.37 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

### Referral to Legal Affairs and Safety Committee

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee.

### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from 2 September (see p. 2515).



**Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (11.38 am), continuing: I think it has been six or seven long weeks since I delivered the first half of this speech, so if I double up on anything or leave anything out, that is the reason. I will go into detail about the first two terms after I was elected about Don delivering for his electorate. There is a lot to go through here.

**Ms Pease:** We haven't got enough time.

**Mr BROWN:** I only have 10 minutes, so I had better get into it. TAFE is obviously what I have been most proud of. When I came to office, the Alexandra Hills TAFE had been stripped to its bones ready to be sold off by the LNP.

In our first term we made sure that we restored TAFE, that we got QTAMA out, that we took control of our assets and that student numbers went up and up. Then in the last term, not only did we restore TAFE but we made it even better, with massive investment—over \$15 million—in automotive facility upgrades; a brand new building for its plumbing workshops; engineering upgrades; and a new facility for nursing at Alexandra Hills TAFE. It gets better this term, because we are upgrading electrical right now. There are more students than ever before. I will not stop there. I know that TAFE gets jobs and a future for the students in my local area. If you have a trade or a certificate qualification, you are more likely to get a job than someone with a bachelor degree. It ensures a pipeline of education that means real jobs for kids in my community.



I thank all the teachers, especially with tomorrow being World Teachers' Day, for the fantastic job they do. One teacher I want to acknowledge in particular is Barry Evans, who has retired. He was a day one-er at Alexandra Hills TAFE and gave over 30 years of service. He was integral to the upgrades at Alexandra Hills TAFE.

Also in the field of education we have been delivering so much infrastructure in my local community, with prep upgrades and playground upgrades across the electorate. Alexandra Hills State High School has also received a state-of-the-art centre of excellence in robotics and automation. We have nearly completed the solar program for every state school in the local area and there are only one or two schools yet to get air conditioning. It has been a fantastic commitment, and it keeps on going. There will be a new teachers car park at Birkdale State School.

**Ms Pease:** My old school.

**Mr BROWN:** It is my old school as well. The thing I have been fighting for the most after last term is a hall at Capalaba State College. At the moment, the primary school and the high school cannot have their assemblies together because there is not enough room. Also, the school has basketball and volleyball excellence programs, but they cannot play inside at the moment. We will be delivering a state-of-the-art hall for Capalaba State College. I know that the school is looking forward to that.

With regard to infrastructure, Old Cleveland Road has just had roadworks. I apologise to my constituents for that inconvenience, but it means upgrades for Old Cleveland Road. Right now, the Eastern Transitway is under construction at Carindale. We have just completed the on-ramp from Old Cleveland Road to the Gateway Motorway—a fantastic upgrade that has helped alleviate traffic congestion in my local area, especially during the morning commute.

We have also gained a commitment to upgrade the Birkdale Railway Station car park with regard to its planning study. A planning study is needed because at the moment we have two separate car parks and, for some unknown reason, a fenced-off area where my old preschool used to be that is protecting a concrete slab. It has to go. I have a sentimental attachment to it as it is my old preschool, but I do not think anyone else does! It should be more car parks and it should be joined up. I am glad that the design work will be happening and that we can deliver there.

Having grown up fishing and crabbing on my local creeks, the environment in my area is important to me. When I came into office, sunken wrecks were scattered throughout Tingalpa Creek. I know that the member for Lytton knows how many were in neighbouring Lota Creek as well. What fantastic work the member for Redlands and the minister have done in the War on Wrecks—removing some 14 wrecks out of Tingalpa Creek over the first two terms. It is fantastic because it means that our local waterways are cleaner, that community groups such as the Wynnum Redlands Canoe Club can have fantastic morning events, not having to dodge sunken wrecks, and that there is no longer an eyesore throughout the creek. Like I said, it is where I crabbed and fished. I want to ensure that the pristine creek I grew up on is the same for future generations as well.


Further, we are delivering for local sporting clubs in my local area. We delivered brand new goalposts for my old Rugby club and brand new cricket nets for my old cricket club, Muddies. The Capalaba Warriors have received half a million dollars for female change rooms. They also received a grant to fix their lights, but it is not enough yet. Hopefully the council can come to the party and help them fix their lights. I am working very hard with the Redlands Rays Baseball Club to make sure their lights are upgraded to LED so they can actually turn them on. At the moment it is too expensive for them so they cannot use their facilities to full potential. I continue to work hard with that club to ensure they receive some grants, either from the state government or from council, to fix the lights at their sporting grounds.

I want to compare that to what the LNP were offering at the last election. The candidate for the LNP made one commitment: a study into Leslie Harrison Dam recreational use. They already delivered that. I felt sorry for Steve Davies, the former member for Capalaba, because he actually delivered that study in 2014! All they had to do was pull it out of the drawer and give it to the new candidate! The study says that recreational use, whether gates are on or off, is not possible because of water safety issues. That makes sense, because there has never been recreational use on Leslie Harrison Dam—under state control or, before that, under council control. At election after election those opposite sell false hope to the people of my area about recreational use on that dam. The LNP did the report. The scientific report came back and said that it was impossible. I do not understand why they do not listen to their own reports and then raise false hope.

Let us talk about the candidate who was ill prepared for the past election. To lodge a defamation claim against me because I called out her position on borders over COVID was absolutely ridiculous. That now has sat on the law list of the Supreme Court for over a year. She obviously does not have the money. I brought it on. The judge awarded me costs. It was a pleasure to send her an invoice for the \$57,000 of my legal costs, which she is refusing to pay. She is refusing to take the matter further and refusing to pay the costs that were awarded against her. She was absolutely ill prepared to come into a political debate about borders. She ran off, hid behind lawyers and then did nothing with it. If you are going to put up candidates, be prepared to have a political debate. Give them some assistance, for God's sake. That is typical of the LNP. It is no wonder they went backwards, yet again, in Capalaba. There were more votes than ever before for Don.

I want to thank a fair few people. Obviously I thank my EO staff—Zac, Murray, Chase and Chanelle, who has gone off to the Attorney-General's office. I also want to thank the caucus for again electing me as Chief Government Whip. I acknowledge all the help I get from the Leader of the House. I thank Darren Cann and his office. I thank the members for Lytton and Mount Ommaney for helping me in this role. I thank the ALP members in my branch, the red army in Capalaba, who come out at every election. We steamroll it every time and bring it home.

I thank my colleagues on the bayside—the members for Lytton, Springwood and Redlands. We are quite a formidable team that keeps on delivering for the bayside every single term and at every election. I have no doubt that we will be doing that in this term and into the future as well, especially with the Olympics. The Olympics will be a fantastic pipeline of opportunity, especially for the east side of Brisbane—at Chandler and Birkdale, where a lot of events will be. I have no doubt about the pipeline of infrastructure that will come with that over the next decade. It is exciting times to be out in the bayside.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (11.48 am): It is interesting that 12 months ago most of us in this House were out on the hustings. This day last year was the Thursday before election day. There was a 12-hour opening of electoral booths on that day. I got to the electoral booth in Fortitude Valley at about 8 am and left at 9.30 that evening. They were long days, but what an outcome!

It was fantastic to see the Premier and the Palaszczuk Labor government returned with an even greater majority. It was outstanding work, mainly because it was an election like no other. I have done six elections in 13 years—that was my sixth—and, as I said, it was an election like no other because we had not been in a world health pandemic for over 100 years. Smack in the middle of it we were hit with an election. We went to the people with three main things that we campaigned on—that we have kept you safe, that we have an economic plan and that we are the only side of politics that is going to guide this state out of this pandemic, and that is exactly what we have delivered. Twelve months down the track we have a road map to open up this state. It is a cautious, well-planned and measured road map.

We have done an amazing job, regardless of what anybody says. Regardless of the whinging and whining that we hear from those opposite, we are the envy of the world and Australia. We are world leaders in how we have handled COVID-19. Every member on this side of the House should stand proud to be part of a team under the guidance of the Premier and under the guidance of the Chief Health Officer and the magnificent job that she has done. She is one of the best chief health officers in Australia despite the fact that she had to withstand some pretty horrific backlash. She took a measured approach, as did we as a team in working together.

There is no manual and there are no guidelines when you are in a world health pandemic. No-one comes to you and says, 'This is what you have to do.' We were the first in the country to act. We were the first in the country to take decisive action, and much of that happened because of the magnificent job of the leadership team on this side of the House and our Chief Health Officer. We should thank her every single day and congratulate her on soon becoming the next Governor of this great state—a job that I know she will do just as well as she did as Chief Health Officer.

This parliament has been a bit unusual in that not long after we were elected we were in estimates after delivering our first budget, and what a proud budget it was as Minister for Education. We have once again delivered our second record budget. Not a single member in this House could not say what fundamental infrastructure has occurred in their electorates. It has been a journey. There are 1,254 state schools in this state and every electorate has benefited from the record infrastructure spend in our budget, and we will continue to do that.

**Mr Furner:** Give thanks to the Palaszczuk government.

**Ms GRACE:** I take the interjection from Minister Furner, the member for Ferny Grove, that Queenslanders should be very grateful that the Palaszczuk government was elected because any alternative plan that was brought out by those opposite in relation to education simply did not stack up and the people saw straight through it.

The 2021 budget embedded the education commitments we took to the last election with a comprehensive education package worth \$15.3 billion that will ensure we are delivering a world-class education for all Queensland children no matter their circumstances or where they live in this state, with the goal of every student succeeding. It was a package that included a billion dollars in additional education infrastructure and \$100 million for a game-changing student wellbeing strategy, with none other like it in the country with new wellbeing professionals for every school. With regard to the pilot of GPs, we went to the election with 20 and we have 50 because there were outstanding expressions of interest, and under that funding envelope we can do that and we are bringing them in. That will be a game changer.

We have started our homework centres, with some already operating, and then there is our \$20 million Turn to Teaching. There is a worldwide and an Australia-wide struggle happening in terms of attracting young people to teaching. This is not just happening in Queensland but all over the world and Australia more broadly. We have committed to 300 positions, with Turn to Teaching helping those who always aspired to be a teacher but for whom financially and the manner in which to do it was always a little bit difficult. Our commitment to these 300 is all about giving them a scholarship, assisting them through their studies, giving them a school and then a guaranteed job at the end of it, obviously if they meet the criteria required for teacher registration. We are really looking forward to rolling that out over the next four years. We have our numbers right in that we are committed to employing 6,190 teachers and 1,139 new teacher aides over the next four years, and I am proud to say that we are on track to deliver that. This is a fantastic package that supports our schools, supports our teachers and school staff, and supports our students and their families. I wish all teachers a very happy World Teachers' Day tomorrow.

We are doing great work. I absolutely love going to schools and opening up new buildings, because they are really incredible. I note that the member for Hervey Bay is in the chamber, but in terms of that new performing arts centre at Hervey Bay with all of the classrooms in the back I think there is nothing better on that Hervey Bay strip. It is outstanding compared to what was built before. We even held our cabinet meeting in that performing arts centre. A new STEM building is also being built at that school. We are doing one now for Urangan and other schools in that area. That is such incredible work and no wonder the member for Hervey Bay was elected on the back of what we have been putting into Hervey Bay.

That is really fantastic, but that is just one. I just came back from Cairns and together with the member for Barron River, Minister Crawford, we opened some spectacular buildings. Even I was amazed at the architecture, the design and the delivery of those buildings within the budgets that were set, because they are truly outstanding. You can see the pride of those school communities come to the surface because of these new facilities, and in your own electorate, Mr Deputy Speaker Martin, there is that beautiful performing arts centre at Stretton state high which is second to none. I see its great lights shining bright on the Duncan Pegg memorial name that it has received. We recently went to Everton Park—a school the Labor government saved.

**Mr Mander:** How'd you save it?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): Member for Everton!

**Ms GRACE:** The Labor government saved Everton Park, and I take the interjection from the member for Everton. I will tell him how we saved it: because we did not sell it! That is how we saved it. There was no 'for sale' sign on it. There was a 'for sale' sign on it from the member for Everton—

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Everton, you are warned.

**Ms GRACE:**—and we saved it. That is how we saved it, because we did not sell it, and we have opened some beautiful buildings in that school—

**Mr Mander:** Absolute fantasy!

**Ms GRACE:**—and it is now going from strength to strength. I will take that interjection as well: just like the fantasy that he thought that he had won the election without Greens preferences. He had to go back and have a look at it, because he came in here accusing all of us of winning our seats on Greens preferences and then it was like, 'Oops, I forgot! I won on Greens preferences too.' It is absolutely ridiculous.

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock.

**Ms GRACE:** You should be worried—

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Ms GRACE:** I will take that interjection about not being—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Everton, do you understand you are on a warning? You are already on a warning under the standing orders. If you continue your interjections, you will be asked to leave.

**Ms GRACE:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for your protection. In relation to that, I remember that this last election was like no other in that the LNP directed its preferences in every single seat to the Greens. I said that that was going to backfire in my electorate. I said that the people in my electorate, particularly those who vote Liberal, were not going to like it and the LNP had its worst election outcome in the history of that seat.

In fact, at one stage the LNP was even worrying about whether it was going to come second because it went so far back. I, however, received the most votes that I have ever received in that seat in the six times that I have run, which was amazing. I told the LNP that that would happen and it will be very interesting to see what it does in the next election in 2024, but obviously that depends on who the leader is going to be at the time. As we know, there are more former leaders on that side of the House than there are current leaders.

New schools are being built at Augustine Heights in Jordan, Ripley in the electorate of Ipswich, Bellbird Park in Bundamba, Yarrabilba in Logan, Logan Reserve in Logan and at Redland Bay in the Redlands. We have new schools being built in some of our fastest growing areas.

Four new high schools are planned at Palmview in the electorate of Buderim—I am looking forward to being there and opening up not only the new special school and primary school that we built in Buderim, but also the high school that we will be building very soon; at Springfield in Jordan; in the Logan Reserve/Park Ridge area; and Redbank Plains in Bundamba. We are investing \$180 million over three years for new infrastructure in Catholic and independent schools. That is the most that the state government has spent in that sector. We are very proud to be doing that.

We are also investing in our people with our Great Teachers Great Future program and training packages for local jobs being implemented by the assistant minister for education, the member for Keppel. We are working together to make sure we drive that. It was great to visit Darra State School to see their homework centre. They are working very well. The member for Mount Ommaney and I handed out healthy snacks. It was a pleasure to see the students diligently working at their homework.

In the area of industrial relations we were the first state to bring in labour hire licensing laws. We are protecting workers in an industry that for far too long was unregulated. We are putting in \$6 million to boost our labour hire licensing unit. These frontline positions have been very well received. We are building on the success that we had three years ago.

We are also investing up to \$5 million in medical research to improve the health and wellbeing of workers suffering from occupational dust lung diseases. We will never rest on our laurels. We are reviewing the Electrical Safety Act. There is a five-yearly review of the Industrial Relations Act. We are exploring protections for workers subjected to sexual harassment in the workplace, particularly following the terrible revelations that came out of the federal parliament.

In the racing area I was proud to lock in the Country Racing Package with further funding committed through to July 2023. This package is the lifeblood of non-TAB clubs across the state. The continuity of funding will be welcomed by industry and will support tourism and jobs in these local economies. The budget also saw funding allocated to two transformative infrastructure projects that were announced by the now tourism minister. We have committed funding to commence the first phase of the \$38 million redevelopment at the Gold Coast Turf Club. An expression of interest process has now closed and we are shortlisting respondents. This project will improve training tracks and, importantly, there is the addition of lighting for night racing. The construction phase alone will create 300 jobs.

In the Ipswich area the development of the state-of-the-art Greater Brisbane Greyhound Centre is underway with community consultation occurring as we speak. I expect construction to commence very soon. That construction will obviously deliver jobs as well. We have the off-the-track arrangements following the Martin report. That board has now come together. They have a list of projects that they will be funding under the funds that are available and they are rolling out expressions of interest as we speak.

It was an honour to be re-elected by the people of McConnel. I thank them very much. Every single member of my campaign team was a volunteer. There are so many that it is hard to list them all. I thank my campaign manager Linda for the incredible job she did in leading the dedicated team of volunteers. My two staff members, Sam Jones and Judi Jabour, kept the office ticking for the constituents during the campaign. Many wonderful people worked almost around the clock. I cannot thank them enough. We had some wonderful young people on the team as well, people like Shayne, Leo and David. There were so many I cannot mention every single one of them. I also say thank you to Wayne, Peter, Lyn, Trevor, Scott, Robert, Elizabeth, Peter, Talitha, Pema, Steve, Craig and Steve, Pamela and Kay. Ex-senator Claire Moore was tireless in her efforts to assist. I have two or three pages of people to thank and I cannot go through them all. They know who they are. They are wonderful people who gave up their weekends to doorknock and street stall. They gave up their evenings to hit the phones to talk about the commitments the Palaszczuk Labor government has delivered on and our future policies. This is not a job we can do alone.

We are delivering for the constituency. The new Fortitude Valley State High School is absolutely amazing. We have growing schools in the inner city such as New Farm State School and Brisbane Central State School. They are on track for additional buildings with the growth that they are experiencing. We have secured a double sports court facility on Green Square and 13 more classrooms at Fortitude Valley State Secondary College.

Newstead House is getting a facelift. I would love every member to be there when it re-opens. We have allocated \$5.5 million for extensive remedial conservation works. It will be absolutely fantastic once it is finished. We have also allocated \$15 million for the Ballymore upgrade. We are working on finalising the ministerial designation in relation to that and landing on a fantastic design for Ballymore that will be part of the Olympic city.

There will be an expansion of the extended operation of the Spring Hill loop bus service and a trial of electric buses to make sure that the residents of Spring Hill are serviced just as well as other parts of my electorate. It is exciting that we will soon become an Olympic city. I say soon, but it is 11 years away. Knowing how quickly this one year has passed, I hazard a guess that I will be a lot older very soon because I can see 11 years going past quickly.

This was an interesting election because of the opponents that I was facing. There was controversy over what was being said and media reports about some of the candidates. We were scratching our heads sometimes about where some of these political parties got their finances to do the kinds of things they were doing. Then we read the political disclosure return by the Greens which showed that in 2020 they received around \$370,000 from the JobKeeper payments. We were hearing rumours on the ground that they were using JobKeeper to fund some of the staff that they had in an office. The disclosure that I have in front of me shows that that is the case. From what I understand there are disclosures from the Liberal Party showing they claimed about \$175,000. How these parties can claim JobKeeper is beyond me.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms GRACE:** I hear those opposite whingeing and whining. No wonder the people of Queensland could not bring themselves to vote for them.

**Mr Minnikin:** Thirty-five per cent primary vote.

**Ms GRACE:** The LNP went down to 31, member for Chatsworth, just to let you know, in what is a seat held by the Liberals federally and Liberals in the council. Have a look at that and see the extraordinary member that I am to have the good graces of the people of McConnel who voted a Labor member in and backed the Palaszczuk government every step of the way.

I stand in this House very proud to represent an electorate that I have lived in all my life. I have never lived anywhere else but McConnel. It is a proud moment when you are re-elected for the sixth time. I am very proud to be representing the people of McConnel and I thank them every single day. I leave the last few seconds to my husband, Michael, who is absolutely outstanding.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mrs Gerber): Before I call the next speaker, for the benefit of the House I will read out the list of members who are currently on a warning under the standing orders, and it is a long list: Toowoomba South, Nanango, Thuringowa, Kawana, Mudgeeraba, Pine Rivers, Capalaba, Buderim, Oodgeroo, Broadwater, Maryborough, Theodore, Surfers Paradise, Bonney, Southern Downs, McConnel and Everton.



**Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (12.09 pm): I rise in this House once again honoured to serve the community of Mudgeeraba for another four years. I thank locals for their enormous support. Despite the statewide election result, we were able to extend our margin in Mudgeeraba on both primary and

two-party preferred votes in one of the most volatile elections we have seen in years and with nine candidates running against me. I thank my incredible team of volunteers for their hard work during pre-poll with signage around the electorate—that is, those signs that stayed up and were not damaged by the Mexican hoon cartel—and, of course, on election day. Your efforts and energy were truly humbling and I thank you for all the time you gave to help me in my re-election.

I thank the amazing local sporting clubs and community groups of which I am patron. I hope we can continue working together to make our sporting and broader local communities even better in the years to come. It has been a pleasure to remain involved with you all in the past three years.

I send my thanks to our local schools, which have all elected their school leaders. I hope they will be able to visit the parliament sometime this year. As members would know, normally I have the kids from years 6 and 12 come in but with COVID that has been very difficult. As schools have been closed down at certain periods it was difficult to spend time with school leaders over the past 18 months. To all who are finishing their education, I wish you all the very best for the areas in life you choose and I thank you for your commitment to your school communities. I look forward to meeting and engaging with more students in the coming years, as I have done for the past 13 years.

I thank my staff of the past three years: Fiona, Nikkie, Logan and Taylor. Last but not least I thank my family, although not all of them could be with me this year or even last year. My sisters, Josie and Cathy, were invaluable during this election. My kids, Ben, Greg and Jill, gave support and love from afar. I could not have done it without you and I thank you for your ongoing support.

I thank everyone I have mentioned and the locals of Mudgeeraba for placing their trust in me to continue representing them here in the Queensland parliament. It has been a privilege and a job I take very seriously. Since my election in 2009 we have worked together closely to make our area better and better. I am so grateful to have the opportunity to keep that work going for another three years.

Often I use my address-in-reply speech as a report card to reflect on what I have fought to achieve in the area. Thus far we have fought for important projects for locals including upgrades on Beechmont Road, Springbrook Road and Worongary Road. During my first campaign, when I doorknocked close to 8,000 homes, I built a foundation for what the people of Mudgeeraba want to see in their community. I talked to the people in our area who live and breathe it every day and night. Since the first campaign, our funding tallies are in the millions: more than \$30 million has been secured for schools in the area, almost \$20 million for community groups and more than \$6 million for sporting clubs. We have also managed to fast track and secure projects such as the Nerang fire station, more east-west bus services, the reopening of the Elysium Road overpass and more crossings around the electorate. In fact, the only thing I have not yet achieved in our area is a second state high school west of the M1, which the LNP committed to starting work on at the past two elections.

All of those achievements in our area must be credited in part to the Mudgeeraba Action Group, which was one of the first ways I had of engaging with the community and taking on board the community's wants and needs. Those who make up that group carry deep ties within our part of the Gold Coast and continue to play a key role in the road forward. As any community will know, the more you grow the more issues will show. However, in the 12 years that I have been the member for Mudgeeraba, we have tackled issues head-on to get some serious action. Since my last address-in-reply speech, people power has been the answer to many of the issues we needed fixing in our local community.

We have been able to secure \$34 million to upgrade the Nerang Murwillumbah Road, \$3 million to upgrade Worongary Road and most recently a fifty-fifty state and federal government commitment so that council can build a footpath for the schoolkids in Springbrook. I am so proud to have achieved those projects for my community. The sound barriers we fought for are constructed, as is the newly designed exit 85 ramp extension project, which was much needed. All of those upgrades were achieved with support from locals who want their community to be the best place to live, just like I do. We have worked together to make those projects happen and I have the local community to thank for voicing their concerns to me. We want safer and less congested roads to transport our families around Mudgeeraba.

Whilst I am very proud of my track record in delivering more than \$800 million in road upgrades in my electorate, we still have a long way to go. We want to see projects on Gooding Drive get off the ground. We want dual lanes from Bourton Road to the M1 and traffic lights where the Gooding Drive roundabout is. We announced \$35 million for the Gooding Drive roundabout upgrade prior to the

election, but Labor is yet to commit a dollar. We want to see the rest of Worongary Road finally receive the safety upgrades it needs, after the latest upgrade was revealed to be a resurfacing job, which is better than nothing. We want to see an upgrade to the Mudgeeraba and Tallai roads intersection, which has been the scene of many crashes. We want the second M1 built to ease congestion on the southern Gold Coast and throughout the M1 corridor. All of those projects were announced by the LNP at the last election and are well supported in Mudgeeraba. With our area rapidly growing and expanding we need the road infrastructure to keep pace with population growth to ensure that Gold Coast families can continue to enjoy the same lifestyle they have come to know and love.

On the theme of families, I want our families and schoolkids to be able to get to school safely. That is why I have fought so hard for flashing school lights as far out as the Numinbah Valley and at various other locations across the electorate. Our latest announcement, made prior to the election, is for flashing school lights on Eden View Drive, which is one of the busiest thoroughfares in my electorate, as well as on Springbrook Road next to the Mudgeeraba Creek State School. I will continue to fight for those two schools to have flashing lights installed. After fighting for a crossing supervisor, our next focus is on managing traffic through the area and making it as safe as it can be during school pick-up and drop-off times. I will be calling on the Labor government to match our flashing light commitments so that our local students can get to school safely, by car or by foot.

With crime out of control under Labor, residents are rightfully anxious about what the next four years will mean for crime in our area. For many years, hoons have terrorised the hinterland. That was on show during the election campaign, with hundreds of my signs targeted in an attack by a local hooning cartel. I will not take a backward step in the fight to protect our community and stand up for the silent majority, who just want to live, work and spend time with their friends and family in a safe and secure environment. Locals are worried about this issue and, if the track record of the Labor government is anything to go by, we have an uphill battle ahead of us.

In the lead-up to the election, the LNP announced a statewide plan to tackle hooning that involves tougher laws, CCTV cameras and tyre-shredding road surfaces for hooning hotspots. In the Numinbah Valley we also announced—again—\$300,000 to install a permanent CCTV camera at the Pine Creek Road and Nerang Murwillumbah Road intersection, which is a known hooning Mecca. Up to 50 hoons have been known to congregate there. They cloud the air with smoke from their tyres, which impairs the visibility for anyone driving through. That does not take into account the noise, which echoes for miles and keeps locals awake at night. There have been times when locals were assaulted or intimidated on their way through the area, but still we are being ignored. Consecutive ministers have refused to find a solution for this problem. The LNP has announced funding for a fixed camera at the location for the past two elections. We had a plan to get the ball rolling on hooning statewide and now we are calling on the government to do the same. However, after years of inaction our hopes are not high.

Another commitment from the LNP prior to the election was to immediately begin planning a new state high school west of the M1. As members on this side know, that is a commitment that I made in my maiden speech in 2009. It is a commitment I also made as a candidate in 2006. It is a project we have announced on other occasions. Unfortunately, despite the one state high school in my electorate being almost at capacity and parents calling for another school, we still have not seen the government come to the table with a solution.

The development of the SkyRidge estate, formerly known as Pacific View Estate, means that more young families will be moving to the Mudgeeraba electorate. With Robina State High School landlocked for future development, the solution should be clear. Unfortunately, it is as clear as mud for the Labor government. With eight feeder primary schools and Robina State High School almost at capacity, we need a new high school built now for the kids of the future. I made that commitment in my maiden speech in this parliament and it is something I have never backed down from. Locals can rest assured that I will continue fighting for a new state high school west of the M1, as we have announced at the past two elections.

At this election we also increased our funding commitment for cleaning up the Mudgeeraba Creek from \$50,000 to \$100,000. That was an announcement that I was pleased to make with the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Broadwater. Being the 'green' of the Gold Coast's 'green and gold' comes with a responsibility to look after the natural environment through projects just like this one. Our local landcare groups have worked on this creek for decades and they know it better than anyone else. They have seen the deterioration of the creek over the years and the platypus population declining. We want the platypus and natural wildlife back in the creek where they belong.

Local landcare groups are ready to receive funding to improve the state of our creek, and we were very pleased to announce funding to them for the second election in a row. Unlike Labor, which sent word from Brisbane to demolish our picnic facilities in the Numinbah Valley with bulldozers, we care about maintaining the natural beauty in our area and have committed funding a number of times to our amazing community groups to do this.

The best results come from the community and are executed for the community. That is a principle I have followed throughout my time in parliament. There is something to be said for our community organisations that work quietly to keep our community going. I hope that we can continue to work together as we fight to make our area better every day.

One of our incredible community organisations is My Community Legal in Robina, which provides free legal advice to victims of domestic and family violence and others needing help. At the previous election the LNP committed \$600,000 to this organisation—that is \$600,000 more than Labor. Access to justice is such a fundamentally important issue to support vulnerable local residents and I will continue the fight to ensure funding is provided. This organisation has been overlooked for years now and is the only legal clinic of its kind in Queensland that does not receive funding from the state government. On a Thursday night the queue to get in stretches down the road. That shows how much the community values this service.

I would like to thank Ross and the team for the terrific pro bono work they do to keep our locals informed. They are a fine example of a hardworking community group, and it is very unfortunate that they had been overlooked once again by the Labor government. Indeed, the failed Labor candidate for Mudgeeraba clearly agrees that they should be funded after posting about them on his Facebook page during the election last year. Unfortunately, they have been struggling for some time now, and their client numbers are only increasing. In their first year of opening they provided free legal advice to 649 people. In 2019 it was 1,137 people—almost double. We had hoped that funding, in conjunction with the LNP's tougher proposed laws for domestic violence offenders, could tackle Queensland's and the Gold Coast's domestic violence issues head-on. Queenslanders deserve to feel safe in their own homes. I am still committed to upholding that vision.

Last year, more than ever, our health system was tested. It was tested in terms of its responsiveness, and thankfully we did not need all of the extra capacity, the ventilators and other contingencies at the time because Queensland's COVID case numbers have been relatively low compared to other states and countries. Queenslanders have done an outstanding job in listening to the advice, doing their best to help suppress the virus. Our state's response to COVID and dealing with the global pandemic is only as good as how the advice is followed and, by and large, Queenslanders have done everything that has been asked of them.

Our health heroes have just been amazing. First and foremost, they have bravely continued to undertake their roles to provide world-class public health care to Queensland families. They have put themselves first, as they always do, and put their lives on the line. As a nurse and as someone who has profound respect for our health workers, because I know firsthand the dedication they show and the sacrifices they make, I pay tribute to our nurses, midwives, paramedics, doctors, wardies, allied health professionals and other health staff, who all deserve our admiration and thanks for their commitment.

In my role as shadow minister for health and ambulance services, medical research and women, I will continue to hold the government to account, provide alternative policies and ensure election commitments are delivered. Good government for the people of Queensland is delivered by a strong opposition and, while we may be fewer in numbers, we are as determined as ever. We will continue to put patients first and ensure their health services are the government's priority—not wasting money renaming hospitals or on failed IT projects. Promised hospital upgrades need to be delivered on time and on budget. Promised service upgrades need to be implemented with the support of staff and extra training needed. Over the next 12 months, the focus will obviously be on the rollout of the vaccines and any future developments in that space.

The vaccination rollout is gathering pace, supported by medical research right here in Queensland and across the world. It heralds a new chapter in the fight against the virus. I look forward to continuing to meet with and support the fine medical research institutions and scientists we have here in Queensland, not only for their work on COVID but also on their many other important projects as well.


We will not sit by over the next three years and rubberstamp government policy, legislation and initiatives. While good decisions can be supported, our role is to scrutinise government decision-making and suggest alternative approaches. While the government may not like it, that is our role, and that is



what we will do strongly. We will not sit by and let patients languish on long waiting lists. We will not sit by and watch ambulance ramping hit record levels. We will not sit by and watch hospital projects delayed or IT failure after failure wasting taxpayers' money. We will not sit by and watch maternity services slashed in the bush. We will not sit by and watch the ice crisis continue. We will not sit by and watch nurses scapegoated or ministers hiding behind bureaucrats.

The health and welfare of Queenslanders deserves a government with a laser-like focus on best practice service delivery and world-class patient care, and that is what we will push for each and every day over the next three years. We will give a voice to the voiceless and shine a light on issues and failures in government administration that the Queensland Health spin doctors work so hard to hide and bury. We will continue to stand up for people like Ray from Hervey Bay, who needed a shoulder operation, or Kate Yeoman from Far North Queensland, who had to go public after waiting eight years needing reconstructive surgery following a double mastectomy and a battle with breast cancer, or the community mental health services in South Brisbane that lost funding and were concerned about how they were going to keep their doors open and provide vital local mental health care while taking the pressure off the local public hospitals, or Ralph from my electorate, who was on the list to see a specialist for more than 240 days and was told he had another 500-plus days to wait for his urgent hip surgery. Ralph was a category 2 patient, which means he should not have been waiting more than 90 days for surgery. Thanks to our advocacy, he finally received his treatment. It was about the support given to Jayne Brown from the Sunshine Coast, who could not even get access to a microwave oven in hotel quarantine to heat her wheat pack so she could have some temporary pain relief after undergoing life-saving brain surgery.

These are the people who matter and the issues that matter to Queenslanders. I will continue fighting for those people and raising their issues. That is my commitment to the people of Queensland and particularly the people of Mudgeeraba.

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (12.26 pm): It is a great privilege to rise in this House once again as the member for Nudgee. Securing the support of my community for a third term in this place is no less an honour than on the first day I walked in here. In fact, I believe that honour increases each and every election that my community renew their faith in me to protect and represent their interests in this place.

The 2020 state election was the fourth time I have contested the seat of Nudgee. Losing my first election in 2012 engendered a hunger in me even greater than was the case in that year to return in 2015, 2017 and again in 2020 to give my community the ongoing strong voice and advocacy that it deserves. Losing my first election also taught me a very important lesson that is always front of mind: no-one owns these positions and no-one owns these seats; we are mere caretakers and we must hold them lightly because our time in this place is limited—it is privileged but it is limited—and the Queensland community will always be the master of our time here. I would like to begin where I intend to end, and that is by thanking the electors of Nudgee for the faith they have shown in me to continue to serve and represent their interests in this place.

I am a third generation Nudgee local and I love my community. It has been good to me. It has been good to my family and it is where I am watching my two young boys grow up and put down their roots. It is a place where I feel deep connection—from Boondall in the north, where my son is at college; to Banyo, where my youngest is starting his education and I completed mine; to Nundah, where my husband coaches the local footy team; to Virginia, where I went to primary school; to Toombul, where I started my first part-time job; to Northgate, where I started my first full-time job; and to Zillmere, where my son will start his basketball journey soon at the very best local club, the Wizards. As I said, my electorate is a place where I feel deep connection and I take great pride in the people, community groups and institutions that form it.

Equally, I respectfully acknowledge the Turrbal and Jagera people, the traditional owners of the land on which I serve. I grew up on Ngunnawal, Larakia and Turrbal country, and I am raising my family on and serving the people of Nudgee on Turrbal land. It is a privilege.

I would like to thank our Premier, Annastacia Palaszczuk, and acknowledge that it is in such large part her humility, consultative approach to leadership and clear dedication to and love of Queensland and Queenslanders that has afforded me the opportunity to once again take my seat on this side of the chamber. I also offer my belated congratulations to all members across this House on their election to this honourable place, particularly the new members. To serve your electorate is a great honour. To serve the electorate of Queensland is equally a great honour. I thank my caucus colleagues sincerely for the opportunity they have afforded me this term to serve in both.

I particularly congratulate those members elected for the first time. It is always a special experience to listen to maiden speeches and to gain a small window into what has brought people to this place. The speeches delivered by new members on both sides of the House have not disappointed. While congratulating the new, I also take a moment to remember those who are no longer in this place. This is a transient place, particularly so in more recent times, we all know that. It is also a place where friendships form and people on both sides are missed. I particularly mention my long-term friend and colleague Kate Jones in this respect and wish her and her lovely family every happiness in this next chapter of their life.

None of us come to this place by our singular effort. It takes a team, a community. Before turning to the term and challenges ahead, I would like to take this opportunity to now thank mine. First and foremost, I thank my family. My husband, Ian, has been my greatest supporter and confidant for the past 22 years and along with my two gorgeous boys, Jordan and Ollie, is my greatest joy and solace. I learnt early in life growing up on RAAF bases as the daughter of a pilot and engineer that service brings sacrifice and that that sacrifice is often borne disproportionately by the families of those who serve. Political service is the same. Political service is public service. I believe deeply that public service is honourable, but it comes at a cost. I thank my family for the privacy and quality time that they sacrifice so that I may serve in this place.

I thank my amazing campaign team, once again led by my dear friend and mentor of 20 years—himself a former long-term minister and member for Nudgee in this place—Neil Roberts. Neil, along with his wife, Jenny, took me under their wing when my parents died and they have not been able to get rid of me since. I thank them for their abiding friendship, encouragement and for accepting my boys as their own.

To my campaign manager, Stacey; volunteer coordinator, Emily; sign site and equipment coordinator, Graham; and Banyo-Northgate stalwart, Reg Neil: thank you for the countless hours you dedicated to my campaign and for your friendship. I could never have covered as much ground and done so with such a large volunteer base if not for you. Thank you to my communications team, Jill, Kim and Walter; my fundraising manager, Veronica; and Margaret and Bruce who letterboxed my entire electorate and when finished would start again. Thank you to my branch coordinators, Christoff, Luke and Katie, and all of my incredibly hardworking branch and community volunteers who stood out in the heat and rain at markets, street corners, pre-poll and election day, knocked on doors and letterboxed the electorate over and over and made phone calls with me. Thank you for your dedication to the movement we serve, to our local community and to the greatest tradition of volunteering. I will endeavour to continue to serve you and our community well.

Thank you to Neil Henderson and the Services Union who have been alongside me since the day I first sought candidacy in 2012. I also extend my sincere appreciation to the United Workers Union for their support.

A special thank you goes to my electorate office team—Natacha, Jill, Julz and Jemma—who worked tirelessly for the people of Nudgee last term. I wish both Natacha and Julz every success as they move onto other career aspirations, and I welcome Julie back into the Nudgee fold. I know that, along with Jill and Jemma, you will serve the electorate well. Last but not least, I say thank you to Michael for taking a month off work this election, like the ones before it, just to be there and do whatever needed to be done.

While much has been achieved, as I look at the term ahead I see much still to be delivered for my electorate. Election and budget commitments this term will deliver: new stop, drop and go facilities at Northgate and Boondall state schools to improve student safety; \$500,000 to expand and improve facilities at the after-school care at Boondall State School; \$150,000 to build a prep playground at Virginia State School; \$300,000 to complete a new music and arts studio at Nundah State School; \$300,000 to upgrade the administration building at Northgate State School; \$100,000 to resurface and irrigate the fields at Kedron AFL club; an accessibility upgrade at Banyo train station; a park-and-ride study at Northgate train station; and a transport planning study at Boondall train station. These projects will deliver meaningful improvements to students, commuters and my community. I particularly thank ministers Grace Grace and Mark Bailey and the Treasurer for funding these worthwhile initiatives.

In addition to the commitments just mentioned that have received funding, there are many others that I continue to advocate for, including: funding for appropriate female change facilities at Zillmere Eagles and Mayne Tigers; upgrades to the changing rooms at the Earnshaw State College pool; improved traffic management in the Nudgee environmental centre precinct; upgrades to the Nundah train station; and a commitment from the Brisbane City Council to partner with us and the \$200,000 we

have on the table to deliver a Banyo level crossing precinct study. In this regard, I continue to hold out hope that the Brisbane City Council and the local LNP councillor for Northgate will finally come to the table and start genuine and constructive dialogue on how we can work together to improve road safety at the Banyo road and rail crossing. While it may not be a priority of theirs, it is absolutely a priority of my community and therefore a priority of mine.

I move from electorate priorities to ministerial priorities. It is indeed a privilege to have the opportunity to serve this term not only as the member for Nudgee but also as the Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs. I once again thank my caucus and cabinet colleagues sincerely for their support and for this opportunity. I acknowledge the leadership of ministers Di Farmer, Shannon Fentiman, Grace Grace and Stirling Hinchliffe who preceded me in my portfolio responsibilities.

I would like to acknowledge the dedication and passion of our frontline child safety officers and support staff, foster carers, kinship carers, youth justice workers, our partners in the non-government sector and all within my department who support their work. Many dedicate their professional lives to working with vulnerable children and youth and do so quietly and respectfully inside people's homes and behind the challenging walls of youth detention. Travelling across Queensland and meeting with and listening to these frontline workers in child safety and youth justice, listening to the thoughts and concerns of children in care and young people in detention, of foster carers, kinship carers, parents of those in care and those who have exited the system, is without doubt the greatest and most meaningful part of my role. It is also tremendously challenging.

With over 93,000 children across Queensland known to Child Safety each year—almost 11,000 in care—there is always more work to be done to improve the system. With one report made every four minutes to my department and three out of every four households we work with experiencing domestic and family violence, drug and alcohol abuse, mental health issues, criminal histories or other key risk factors—all of which have a profound impact on children—there is more work to be done. With roughly 280 young people in detention and many more on orders at any given time, there is always more work to do when public safety is paramount and community confidence essential.

The tragic, complex and difficult nature of the work of my department provides no shortage of material to politicise for those who would seek to do so. As I have said before, no amount of politics in here will change the life of a child or improve community safety out there. My focus remains resolutely on the work and the ongoing reform needed to continue to improve the child protection and youth justice systems.

As Minister for Multicultural Affairs, I look forward in the term ahead to continuing to meet with and give a voice to the tremendous diversity of cultures and traditions that form our great state. We are made stronger by our diversity. A united and inclusive Queensland must be something we all strive for. Racism and discrimination must always be called out because both, while sometimes hidden, continue to exist and we are the poorer for it. I firmly believe that when we move as a community from tolerance of diversity and even from acceptance of diversity to celebration of diversity it is then that we truly harness the opportunity that comes from difference.

In conclusion, I would like to end where I began. That is by thanking the electors of Nudgee for the faith they have instilled in me to continue to serve and represent their interests in this place. I will do so to the best of my ability always, as I will also do for the children, youth and families in contact with my portfolio. As I never finish a speech in the address-in-reply without an RFK quote, I leave members with this one—

All of us might wish at times that we lived in a more tranquil world, but we don't. And if our times are difficult and perplexing, so are they challenging and filled with opportunity.

To the term ahead.



**Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement) (12.38 pm): I am honoured to contribute to the address-in-reply debate. Indeed, it is the fifth time I have had the honour of being elected as a member of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland and my third as the member for Sandgate.

It is an honour to contribute to the address-in-reply to the speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor in opening the 57th Parliament of Queensland. I do so now in the context of it being the final days of His Excellency holding that position. I wish to convey to him as part of this address-in-reply the great thanks that this parliament and the people of Queensland have for his service in that role. We

wish him and Kaye well in their time ahead. I also welcome the swearing-in next week of Dr Jeannette Young as our state's 27th Governor. I look forward to the poise and grace which she will bring to that office.

I thank the people of Sandgate for their support at the election in October last year, which, as a number of members have already commented, was almost 12 months ago. I want to acknowledge the other participants, the other candidates, in that great festival of democracy that occurred last year in the electorate of Sandgate. I did not get a chance to meet Rodney Miles, from Pauline Hanson's One Nation, during the election—which was not my wish. It was a shame that One Nation only provided a paper candidate at the last election, and the support that they received reflected that.

I acknowledge and thank Clark Siemsen, the LNP candidate, for the grace and dignity with which he undertook his role and his passion and commitment to it. We spent a number of times together at polling stations and at community events, and it was good to see the good spirit in which he conducted himself. I acknowledge and thank Todd Milham, an Independent candidate who was trying to learn the ropes through the process, and also Miree Le Roy, a returned Greens candidate, for her commitment and her good humour and engagement. I think Clark, Miree and I enjoyed our times together during the election campaign.

During the election campaign, commitments were made by our government to the people of Sandgate in particular, and I want to acknowledge and reiterate how important they are to me and my community. One was the commitment to fix the Beams Road overpass to eliminate that barrier within our local traffic network, particularly in the light of the prospect of increased traffic on the rail line with Cross River Rail opening. That will mean that the level crossing on Beams Road at Fitzgibbon in my electorate—which is on the boundary of the member for Aspley's electorate, with Carseldine on the other side of the railway line—that barrier to local traffic flow, needs to be eliminated. It is very important that that happens, and it is good that we have made a commitment to do that.

I also want to particularly acknowledge the commitment that has been made to a new performing arts hall at the Sandgate District State High School. Sandgate District State High School is a great institution in our local area. It has a very fine performing arts program, particularly their music program, which deserves to have the best possible facilities. They currently conduct their teaching and their performances, sharing those skills and capabilities with the community, in buildings that predate me. They are old facilities. It is good to see that those facilities will either be demolished or refreshed, but there will be a new performing arts hall. I acknowledge and thank the Minister for Education for her recognition of that important need in the community. I also acknowledge those people on the Sandgate District State High School P&C and in the broader community for campaigning and for their support of the performing arts program.

I also want to acknowledge commitments which have been delivered statewide but which are very important to particular parts of my Sandgate community. There is the commitment that was made by the government over a four-year period of \$35.8 million to support our Volunteer Marine Rescue and coastguards around the state to support the building of new vessels and ensure increased operational capacity. That is particularly important to VMR Brisbane in my electorate at Cabbage Tree Creek in Shorncliffe. It is an organisation of volunteers that provides support and protection to users of the bay right throughout Brisbane, not just my electorate. Its base there is very important, and it is one of the great institutions in our local community. It is good to see that support provided.

I also want to acknowledge—again, acknowledging Minister Grace—the commitment that was made to the provision of free period products for Queensland schools, partnering with Sandgate founded charity Share the Dignity. It is one of the great organisations that was formed in my electorate but has been operating nationally and, indeed, has done some international outreach across the ditch. Share the Dignity provide significant support around the understanding and appreciation of how important period products are and that there should be no financial barriers to women and girls being comfortable in our community.

I appreciate this opportunity to acknowledge the new members of the 57th Parliament. In particular, as a former member for Stafford, I want to welcome the new member for Stafford. I spent a number of formative years learning my way around political life and political activity as the campaign director for the member for Stafford's father—another member for Stafford. The three of us are connected and know that part of the world very well. I want to pay tribute to the current member for Stafford's success. I know that that success will continue in this place. It is not just his success on 31 October last year. He has already proved himself to be a successful and capable member of parliament. I look forward to seeing his success into the future.

The first time that we met I think my role was to boss him around. He was amongst a group of children that, to be honest, were to be the prop children for a media event that then premier Wayne Goss was doing basically in his backyard. I want to apologise for that first meeting. I look forward to his continued contribution to this place and to the state of Queensland. I also acknowledge his family's commitment and contribution to this place and to the state of Queensland.

In making that particular acknowledgement, I also acknowledge the new members for Bundaberg, Caloundra, Nicklin and Hervey Bay who I had the privilege of campaigning with last year and whose dedication to their communities has been evident from the outset of their time in the parliament.

**Ms Pugh** interjected.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** Sorry, yes—and the member for Pumicestone. I missed that line in my speech! I was also on the campaign trail during the election last year in South Brisbane and in Whitsunday. I was not campaigning alongside the new members for those electorates, but I welcome them as well.

It has been great to see new members of parliament bring their passion, their commitment and their interests to this place. I really respect the way in which so many people have shared insights into their own lives during their contributions to this debate. It is always an opportunity that I relish greatly, to hear about the lives of people and to understand their motivations and experiences that bring them on their journey to this place.

I want to make some further comments about the election last year before I make some comments about my ministerial responsibilities. Now, 12 months on, I can make a really clear observation. Fundamentally, the result of the election in the state of Queensland on 31 October 2020 was an example of the community's reaction to a government that was willing to support the health advice of the Chief Health Officer and take seriously the concerns of the community, which was in stark contrast to the Liberal National Party's unwillingness to heed the health advice. The LNP wanted to open the border, calling for it to be opened 64 times, thus risking the health and safety of the community. That stood me in very good stead in the electorate of Sandgate. I appreciate the support of the community, which allowed me to obtain the majority of first preference votes in my first attempt to represent the Sandgate electorate.

The reality is, though, that a year later there is no evidence the LNP has learned anything. On Thursday, 2 September, on five occasions during a Sky News interview the Leader of the Opposition refused to support Queensland's strong COVID-19 border measures. It is clear that we have a situation where no lessons have been learned in the past 12 months, despite the protestations of the Leader of the Opposition that he would be a new leader with a fresh approach who would approach politics differently. We have heard that from so many people so many times, but there was nothing new at all. That is hardly surprising. In the 15 years I have been in this place or observing this place very closely—I guess it is even longer, to be honest—the Liberal and National parties in this state have not learned anything in the last 30 years, let alone the last 12 months. They have learned nothing from each of their errors, nothing from each of their mistakes. There are significant examples of the great Australian Labor Party learning from its missteps and errors, and there were plenty of them in that 30-year period. I would challenge anyone to show me even one example where the Liberal and National parties learned anything from their errors and missteps in the past 30 years in this state.

I am unsurprised that the last 12 months have not revealed any insight, capability or agility politically, or even personally, amongst those members of the Liberal National Party who seek to be an effective opposition. They have demonstrated while in government on two separate occasions in the past 30 years that they have not been capable of that. That is a shame for our democracy. I wish we did have an opposition that was capable of learning from its errors. But we do not, so the people of Queensland have yet again endorsed the Labor Party and the great leadership of the Premier to ensure we guide the state forward in response to the challenges we have experienced over the past 20 months as we chart our way out of the impacts of the global pandemic.

It is understandable that we have had the support of the people of Queensland because we are a learning government. We are a listening government. We are a government that engages with the community and does not lecture the community. We do not tell the community what they should be doing and how they should listen to us and our great ideas. We are engaged, and we continue to evolve and be engaged as a result. That is not just an observation over the last 12 months—although it could very easily be—it is absolutely an observation over the last 30 years during which the Australian Labor Party played the fundamental driving role of modernising Queensland, modernising who we are. We saw that before the last election and we have seen it since the election.

Throughout the time of the Palaszczuk government we have seen the social reforms that have been carefully and clearly enunciated to the people of Queensland, but just as fundamental have been our economic reforms and the identification of new and growth industries. The fact that we are that 'sunrise state' the Treasurer makes reference to is off the back of the careful planning and thinking we have done that will come to fruition under the guidance of the great Australian Labor Party in this state. That fits in well with our 30-year history of being the modernisers of this state—in some respects, in the early part of that period guiding this state into the 20th century—but in so many respects we have led the state into the 21st century and the opportunities beyond. That is why it is super exciting to have the great opportunity the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games present for the state, because they will continue the arc of engagement and conversation around modernising our state.

I am particularly excited about these prospects because for some time we have been on the journey of the Path to Treaty and what that represents. I am not going to presume that we will be in any position to have those matters resolved and set in stone by 2032 because that has to be an ongoing conversation between all of the people of Queensland, particularly with reference to our First Nations people. There is hope that we are on a very good path and that we will be able to tell that story to the globe as part of our storytelling when we have the privilege and honour to welcome the world to the City of Brisbane, South-East Queensland and the whole of Queensland as part of that unique global celebration that is the Olympic and Paralympic Games. It is fundamental that we do tell our stories while we are in that position. Our stories are unique and extraordinary stories that are based on tens of thousands of years of culture and experience. Ours is also an extraordinary story of people from across the globe who have come to make this place home. Ours is a multicultural story that has had its challenges and dark moments, but it has an extraordinarily bright future that we can enunciate and celebrate with the globe. I look forward to the way in which we can use that experience as an opportunity to build relationships not only with our First Nations people but with all Queenslanders and the world.

I look forward to the opportunity to work with the members of this House. Under the leadership of the Premier and Minister for the Olympics, we will work with everyone in this House in each and every one of our electorates to engage the community in that storytelling. The Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2032 present so much opportunity in terms of this state's future.

Debate, on motion of Mr Hinchliffe, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 12.58 pm to 2.30 pm.

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### Buderim Electorate, Infrastructure; Coronavirus, Border Restrictions



**Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (2.30 pm): The Sunshine Coast population has exploded in the last 18 months and it is little wonder why. We have a laid-back lifestyle with every opportunity to prosper, but we must protect that lifestyle and that comes from well-planned development and investment in infrastructure. The Harmony community in my electorate is the fastest growing master planned estate in Australia. We have seen people camping outside the sales office overnight to buy blocks in the latest land releases.

There are 12,000 people expected to call Harmony home by 2025, and that is six years ahead of schedule. Public infrastructure must keep up. LNP leader David Crisafulli and I met with local builders and key industry groups in Harmony last week. They have never been busier, but they are facing obstacles around material and skilled labour shortages, as well as red-tape restrictions. They are pushing forward to build new homes and keep up with the unprecedented demand, but we need a state government that invests in infrastructure to support this rapidly growing community.


As it stands, there is just one road in and out of Palmview. It is a daily traffic jam, not to mention a safety risk. There must be more roads linking developments like Harmony, including a road onto the Bruce Highway. We need to see proactive engagement from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and the Sunshine Coast Council, because it is residents who are disadvantaged because of their delays.

There is currently no regular bus service operating in Palmview. It is a joke that Palmview do not have any meaningful public transport to connect them to other parts of the Sunshine Coast and to relieve traffic congestion. I note that the developers have provided a considerable amount of funding to deliver that public transport for Palmview and that the Sunshine Coast Council collect a transport levy from every single property owner on the Sunshine Coast, including those who live in Palmview. I would ask the question: what benefit do Sunshine Coast residents get for that levy?

There must be better planning to support our growing communities. Palmview residents are choosing to invest in the Sunshine Coast region and the state government must do the same. Investment from the state government and from the Sunshine Coast Council in places like Palmview must be a priority as we continue to see more and more residents move to the Sunshine Coast in droves. Failure to do so will only exacerbate the challenges that are already facing our community.

Before I finish, I also want to raise the plight of many thousands of Queenslanders who are effectively refugees locked out of their own state by a state government that cannot adequately plan and whose response to the problem has been completely and utterly heartless. I have been inundated by Sunshine Coast residents who are locked out of their home state—locals like Patrick who had to rush to Sydney to see his dying father when his health deteriorated quickly and whose father then passed away a day later. Patrick accepts that he will need to quarantine on his return, but he cannot even get an answer from the exemptions unit, let alone a date when he will be reunited with his wife and young children. Queenslanders like Patrick deserve better than to be treated as refugees. I have written to the minister and I will continue to fight to ensure that every Queenslanders is able to return home.

### Banyo Rail Crossing


 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (2.33 pm): I rise to speak about a long-term issue of concern in my community—the Banyo crossing. As locals know, traffic congestion at the Banyo road and rail crossing has been a problem for many years and is getting worse as more and more developments are approved in our local area. The intersection is confusing for motorists regarding who has right of way and has long been the subject of community calls to improve safety and signage at the intersection.

As with most level crossings, the state is responsible for the trains that run through the level crossing and the council has responsibility for the roads around the station, so two levels of government are involved in the issue and two levels of government are required for any improvements. Last year I announced—thanks to the transport and main roads minister, Mark Bailey, and thanks to our government—that the state would fund a joint study presenting options for improving traffic flows and safety around the level crossing, contingent on matched funds from Brisbane City Council. The study we are proposing would look not just at the actual crossing but at the precinct around Banyo station. It would present options for improving access, safety and traffic movements around the level crossing and surrounding roads, and it would also consider upgrades to make the station more accessible and more pedestrian and bike friendly for our growing community. All of these elements interact to make the crossing challenging. All must be looked at to improve it.

That study could start this year. With the support of the Brisbane City Council, it could have started last year, but there is the issue. There is the rub. The Brisbane City Council continue to refuse to support a joint approach. As a long-term resident of the Banyo and Nudgee community, I am keenly aware of the long history regarding community advocacy for improvements to the crossing. In 2004 the then Brisbane City Council lord mayor, Campbell Newman, committed to fix the intersection. In 2007 the Brisbane City Council proposed construction of an overpass, similar to the one located at Robinson Road, Geebung, and forwarded advance notice of potential resumptions to residents in St Vincents Road. The proposal was overwhelmingly rejected by locals as it would require the resumption of nearby homes, destroy the shopping village and lead to an increase in the number of trucks travelling through our suburb.

I do not expect any fix to be easy. We know an overpass is not suited to our village, but it does not mean the community should not be consulted on practical safety improvements at the crossing. I want to see everyone working together to find a solution that locals are comfortable with—a solution that improves safety at the crossing and gets hardworking locals home to their families faster. Since being elected in 2015, I have advocated for a joint approach between the state government and Brisbane City Council to address this community concern. As I have said, so far the council has refused to support a joint approach. It is time to take the politics out of this and it is time for both levels of government to work together in the interests of our community. It is what they expect and it is what they deserve.

### Health System

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.36 pm): Labor are losing control of Queensland Health—no ifs, no buts. They are losing control of Queensland Health. Our health system is sick, and the prevailing symptom is ambulance ramping. It is at 41 per cent across the state. In Victoria it is 33 per cent. In

New South Wales it is 21 per cent. Let that sink in. Ambulance ramping in Queensland is nearly double what it is in New South Wales. What is going wrong at Queensland Health? Well, it is bereft of leadership under this minister.

It is not just ramping. These are the facts. In the last two months, there have been two reviews initiated following alleged malpractice. They are happening in Caboolture and Mackay. The review at Caboolture has been wrapped up, and it was given to the Metro North Hospital and Health Service Board on Monday. Unbelievably, people known to the HHS were never offered a meeting to air their concerns.

Take Jody Heywood. Typical of this government, Jody got a call this morning. Only after the glare of the media and opposition scrutiny does this government act. Under this minister's tenure, not only is Queensland Health bereft of leadership; it is bereft of compassion and bereft of decency. There are honest Queenslanders out there who want to know what is wrong at the Caboolture Hospital. They are honest Queenslanders like Jody, like Janelle, like Olivia. If mistakes have been made, they want to know. If other people have suffered from similar complications, they want to know. The people of Caboolture want to know that they can trust the hospital. At the moment, they cannot.

In Mackay, despite it being weeks since a review was announced, we know nothing about the terms of reference. What is going wrong at the Mackay Hospital? What we do know is that the accreditation to train obstetricians and gynaecologists was suspended weeks before the review was announced. The minister did not know about the accreditation suspension or the review. The minister did not know that other clinicians at the hospital had reprimands on their registration. With blind defiance, the minister crowed after question time on Tuesday that there were no doctors with reprimands working at the Mackay Base Hospital after I asked the question. We now know that statement made by the minister was false. There are two, yet the minister could not even bring herself to correct the record without being asked by the opposition. She read out a prepared statement winding back what she said. That is unconscionable.

If the minister cannot even get simple details like this right, how can she be the one to lead Queensland Health out of the crisis which has beset it? The minister is losing control of Queensland Health and honest Queenslanders are paying with their own health.

*(Time expired)*

### **Growing Queensland Business Roadshow; Buy Queensland**



**Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (2.39 pm): I want to talk today about the Buy Queensland approach of the Queensland government and the Growing Queensland Business Roadshow. The Palaszczuk government's Buy Queensland approach is unashamedly pro Queensland. The Palaszczuk government promotes Queensland businesses by buying local every time it can. By doing that, we are supporting jobs for Queenslanders every time we invest taxpayers' money. A total of 60,000 businesses in Queensland have supplied the government since 2017, and that is a \$39 billion boost to our economy.

In the Moreton Bay region, \$1.47 billion has been spent by the government through 3,610 local businesses. The Palaszczuk government also recently reached a significant Buy Queensland milestone. It exceeded our target of ensuring 25 per cent of the procurement budget was invested with small to medium businesses. That has hit 28.5 per cent and will soon be at 30 per cent. That is an incredible record of success for the Palaszczuk government under Buy Queensland. I am proud of how this initiative is boosting local businesses.


At the roadshow at Morayfield last week—and I acknowledge the member for Morayfield is in the chamber—I was able to explain the benefits of the Buy Queensland policy to local businesses, and I thank the Minister for Public Works for allowing me to represent the government at this event. A total of 150 business owners and representatives from northern Brisbane all the way through to the Sunshine Coast attended this event which had to be expanded because of demand. So far the roadshows have been to Rockhampton, Bundaberg, Beenleigh, Toowoomba and Cairns, and further sessions are planned for Ipswich and Townsville.

At the roadshow I said to local businesses that we are now an Olympic city and the Olympic opportunities opening up before us are significant and unknown, limited only by our imagination. We talked about the Queensland government's early plans for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games and we talked about how they could be part of that journey and boost their business along the way. I am pleased to let the House know that 2,031 supply representatives have now registered their interest in receiving updates on Olympic procurement. That is a mighty outcome as well.



At the roadshow I also talked about the opportunities associated with some recent initiatives announced by the government. I mentioned how we are partnering with Fortescue Future Industries, which is building the electrolyser factory at Gladstone, and we talked about our commitment to building 64 trains at Maryborough, a \$7.1 billion investment. These offer significant supply chain opportunities to all the innovative businesses in our area. I commend the government for Buy Queensland.

### **South Brisbane Electorate, 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games**

 **Dr MacMAHON** (South Brisbane—Grn) (2.42 pm): My community of South Brisbane will be the epicentre for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. There are huge benefits in terms of infrastructure, public transport, jobs and culture, but I am worried that the government is completely overlooking the social impacts. This week local residents have started fighting back against the Palaszczuk government's Olympics juggernaut. East Brisbane and Kangaroo Point locals have launched a petition to save Raymond Park, a key piece of green space on the south side, from becoming an Olympics warm-up track. It is not just green space that the Olympics are threatening; locals risk losing their amenity, the right to enjoy their suburb and even their housing security. The petition sets out how fast the neighbourhood is growing and what this density means for people to access green space near their homes. After the COVID lockdown we know how crucial this is.

For so many locals, Raymond Park is effectively their backyard and it is vital to people's mental health and wellbeing. Off the back of zero consultation, the government has proposed replacing Raymond Park with a warm-up track, cutting off locals' access to the dog off-leash park, the community gardens, the soccer club, the basketball, cricket and skateboard facilities, and spaces to hold children's basketball parties and barbecues. It is naive to think that this will only last two weeks for a major bit of infrastructure.

What is the government's plan to ensure that locals have decent, accessible green space? It is not just the lack of green space; it is noise and dust from construction and traffic. Again, off the back of zero consultation, East Brisbane State School is facing the tearing down and rebuilding of the Gabba stadium right next door. What is the government's plan to support the East Brisbane State School community? It seems that the government would prefer the school community drifts away to surrounding schools which, for a growing neighbourhood, is unacceptable. I am pushing for the school to get the upgrades they need to thrive over the next decade and beyond and for the school community to have a seat at the decision-making table.

Wow, where do I even start when it comes to housing affordability? The ABC recently reported that the median house price in Brisbane will tip a million dollars well before 2032. We saw this with Expo 88 when house prices rose over 238 per cent 11 years before the event.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Honourable members** interjected.


**Dr MacMAHON:** I seem to have touched a nerve. Housing affordability and rental vacancies in Brisbane are already putting people in my electorate in an unprecedented hard position, forcing people out of the neighbourhood. I am concerned about people who are already facing housing insecurity and people who are homeless. What is the government's plan to ensure that no Queenslanders are homeless by the time the Olympics roll around and people are not being forced out of their neighbourhoods because of the games? The South Brisbane community deserve the government to be up-front about how—

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member for McConnel, you are on a warning.

**Dr MacMAHON:** What are the government's plans to ensure we truly have an Olympics for everyone, not just the fat cats calling the shots?

### **Townsville, Federal Members of Parliament**

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (2.45 pm): The state MPs in Townsville are out there promoting COVID vaccines with our school pop-up clinics, our big hub and the GPs and the pharmacies. It is always good when all levels of government work together. However, there is a federal member in my area—much like the member for Mackay—George Christensen, who does not promote vaccination. He is not doing his job in helping lift the vaccination rate. In fact, he is completely silent on it.

Why is he doing that? It is because he is far more interested in attacking the Labor government. He has gone and put a flyer out—the hypocrisy of this one is incredible—saying that we have not delivered funding for the Haughton pipeline, the Haughton pipeline that we delivered at a cost of \$225 million; it has been built. Then we have had to fund \$195 million for stage 2 when the same man promised the people of Townsville, as quoted in the *Townsville Bulletin*, 'I'll deliver \$195 million,' and he failed to deliver.

I say to federal member Mr Thompson that he should pay attention because I am going to tell him how to deliver projects. He then went on and said that I have not delivered the \$30 million for the Kirwan Police Station. I am glad the police minister is in the chamber because we are going to deliver something that will blow his socks off. Clearly this federal member has achieved zero funding for anything for Townsville in the federal budget. I can list over \$240 million worth of projects that I have delivered in Thuringowa. Why is he doing that? He has a severe case of short arms and very deep pockets because he cannot deliver anything. He should stand up and fight for Townsville and deliver something.


I will start with housing. I have delivered \$20 million in Thuringowa on housing projects. I will take him through a list: Riverway Drive stage 1, delivered, \$43 million and \$20 million for stage 2; \$60 million for Townsville Ring Road; \$8 million for Hervey Range Road; \$40 million for the Kirwan health precinct; \$30 million for the Kirwan Police Station; \$5 million for the Kirwan ambulance station; \$8 million for Thuringowa hall; \$10 million for Kirwan State High School hall; \$8 million for Works for Queensland at Heatley Park and Charles Moroney Park; \$12 million for Heatley State High School; \$5 million between Weir, Heatley, Kirwan, Rasmussen and The Willows—all of our primary schools all got projects—and \$10 million for Drivelt. A billion dollars worth of infrastructure has been delivered in our city under Labor and the useless federal member has not delivered a thing. He needs to stand up and be honest. I am going to back John Ring, the Labor candidate. I hope he hoses him down.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order, members! I am taking some advice.

**Dr Robinson** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, I just called the House to order. I place you on a warning. Clearly the hour-and-a-half lunchbreak has re-fired everybody. I am not sure we should do that again in the future!

### **Local Government Association of Queensland; Office of the Independent Assessor**


 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (2.49 pm): Earlier this week I had the privilege of joining mayors and councillors at the 125th LGAQ conference, held in Mackay. This conference marks the retirement of CEO Greg Hallam. Greg's career has spanned four decades of service to local government in various capacities in Brisbane City, Canberra, Esk shire, Townsville City and at the LGAQ. I sincerely thank Greg for his service and wish him well in retirement. I welcome Alison Smith as the first female appointed to the role of LGAQ CEO and congratulate her on the appointment.

It is disappointing that this Labor government only cares about how things look, not how they are. This government will only respond to something under the glare of the media. Again, this has happened with the overreach of the Office of the Independent Assessor. I have held reservations about how the OIA is functioning and I have raised these issues in estimates hearings. However, the issue was brought to the fore when the OIA pursued journalists at the *Fassifern Guardian & Tribune* newspaper regarding a complaint against a Scenic Rim councillor. The paper challenged the OIA in the Supreme Court. It was then that things began to unravel. There was also the front page regarding the mayor of Barcaldine, Sean Dillon, who is under investigation for potential misconduct for expressing his concerns regarding the rollout of vaccinations in the Central West, concerns which reflect a matter of great interest to his community. If upheld, the right to freedom of political communication for all elected local government representatives would be impacted. This is overreach on steroids. It has no place in a democratic society.

There is a laundry list of cases that then were articulated by the *Courier-Mail*. I have been advised by elected members that they have been reprimanded for talking too loudly in a council meeting, blocking someone on Facebook or looking disinterested in a council meeting—and some have been subjected to politically weaponised investigations spanning 2½ years to then only result in one hour's training. Imagine if members here were reprimanded for talking too loudly in the parliament! It would be disastrous.

I encourage all mayors and councillors to consider submitting to the parliamentary committee inquiry into the Office of the Independent Assessor. Many raised concerns with me at the LGAQ conference about reprisal against them. I can assure submitters that, in terms of the inquiry to be held by the committee, the parliament will provide them with the protection of parliamentary privilege.

### Railways, Manufacturing

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (2.52 pm): 20 October was a great day in Maryborough city. 20 October will go down in history—like yesterday has, as the day Billy Demaine, another great Maryboroughite, led the ‘suicide squad’ that got rid of the upper house in Queensland. On 20 October 2021, Maryborough came alive again. That was the day we had the Premier, the Treasurer and the transport minister in town to announce 65 sets of trains. Once again, the Palaszczuk government is delivering on its promises.

**Mr Harper:** Hear, hear!

**Mr SAUNDERS:** I take that interjection from the member for Thuringowa. During the 2020 election campaign, those opposite said that they did not want Cross River Rail, that there was nothing in Cross River Rail. The LNP candidate was running around. I felt sorry for him on the Thursday night before the election because when their costings came out, sure enough, they showed that trains were to be built overseas. It was like letting the air out of a balloon. He is a big man, but he disappeared. Now we are getting 65 sets of trains at a town called Torbanlea. Torbanlea is a great community in my electorate. The Torbanlea-Howard-Burrum district used to be home to the Burgowan coalmine and is a fantastic area. I have a great number of friends out there. I visit the Torbanlea Hotel quite a bit and hold ‘politics in the pub’ with the owner, John Grabbe, who is a very good mate of mine.


We will see this area blossom because of the Palaszczuk Labor government. This is the largest investment in rail infrastructure in Queensland, and it has been delivered by the Palaszczuk Labor government. As I said to people in the Maryborough electorate, if those opposite had been elected in 2020 we would have been like the locomotives for the Adani mine coming off the ship in Townsville. These trains were to be built overseas. We will have 800 jobs. I will repeat that for those opposite, because they are not good at mathematics: there will be 800 jobs in the Maryborough electorate, building trains for Cross River Rail. Members opposite are very quiet. They say that it is a white elephant.

I invite members opposite up to Torbanlea to do ‘politics in the pub’ and to talk to the people at Torbanlea. They should tell them that the 800 jobs are not needed in their community. It is a great investment from a great Labor government—a Labor government that is reinvesting in regional Queensland and reinvesting in manufacturing, keeping the manufacture of trains alive in Maryborough city in the Maryborough electorate.

Under the Palaszczuk government, the Maryborough electorate has come alive. It has gone back to its traditional base: manufacturing and timber. This could not have been done without the Palaszczuk Labor government. That is why those opposite will never win Maryborough again.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, members! I remind members to put their comments through the chair.

### Coronavirus, Border Restrictions

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (2.55 pm): In the months following the Premier’s most recent decision to slam shut the Queensland border, not a day has gone by without hearing desperate pleas from local business owners regarding the hardships they face and from Queenslanders and soon-to-be Queenslanders living in limbo, trying to return home or enter our state.

It is heartening that the Palaszczuk government is undertaking a trial of home quarantine and has cemented its viability within Queensland’s border reopening plan. Whilst it is a welcome fix, it is not a cure-all. Only a handful of Queenslanders have been selected to participate in the home quarantine trial and many more are still waiting for their border applications or exemptions to be processed and approved.

The government must take more responsibility for its border pass and exemptions system, which are both under-resourced and bound by excessive red tape. I offer as an example the case of two soon-to-be Broadbeach residents who have lodged three applications in their endeavour to travel to Queensland to take possession of their new home. Based on their initially approved entry passes, which were subsequently suspended, they would have completed their 14 days quarantine in time to inspect

their property prior to settlement. When their second application was cancelled, the email received stated that the application process would reopen on 5 September and that this was 'fair, consistent and transparent'. They followed all necessary rules and requirements yet waited daily for no communication whatsoever from the Palaszczuk government. How can such conduct by Labor reflect the principles that they claim to espouse? I table that correspondence.

*Tabled paper:* Email (redacted), dated 11 September 2021, to the member for Surfers Paradise, Mr John-Paul Langbroek MP, titled 'Re-approval of cancelled border passes' [1843].

A second case is of two soon-to-be Clear Island Waters residents attempting to relocate from Kingscliff who have 'been homeless and living in temporary accommodation since August 20'. Queensland Health advised that they would be able to cross the border for a pre-settlement inspection; however, the Queensland Police Service rejected them at the border, instead advising that they would be able to cross two days later to move into their new home. The subsequent attempt two days later was also rejected by the Queensland Police Service. I table that correspondence.

*Tabled paper:* Email (redacted), dated 13 September 2021, to the member for Surfers Paradise, Mr John-Paul Langbroek MP, titled 'QLD border Advocacy Assistance' [1844].

A third and final case is of a Bundall resident who has been working in Orange and who lodged an application two months ago to return home to Queensland. This constituent recently asked for an update on his lodged application and, seven days later, was met with an email from the health directions portal advising that should he not respond to their email within seven days his application request would be closed. This man's frustration is completely understandable. Labor has set up such a deficient system that within weeks of someone having lodged a border entry application it might be withdrawn. I table that correspondence.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of emails (redacted), dated 16 and 20 September 2021, to the member for Surfers Paradise, Mr John-Paul Langbroek MP, and screenshot of messages, regarding health directions exemptions [1845].

At the same time, Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach businesses continue to struggle against the border closures and snap lockdowns. The tourism industry is on its knees, having suffered billion dollar losses. When asked last week about struggling Gold Coast businesses, the Premier referred to the fact that she saw crowded tables on a Sunday morning in Burleigh as a sign that all is fine. What a facile response.

*(Time expired)*

### Bundaberg Electorate, Events




**Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (2.58 pm): On Saturday night I was honoured to attend the Rotary Club of Bundaberg Central's Brian Prince Awards night. It is the eighth annual Brian Prince Awards night. It started through the Rotary Club of Bundaberg East and it has been carried on for the last two years with the merger of Bundy east and Bundy west. The Brian Prince Awards night recognises emergency service workers and volunteers in the region. On the night Brian Prince was represented by his family. Brian was a long-time paramedic and always contributed to the community no matter what part of Australia he lived in. It was fantastic to see that night go ahead.

I read into *Hansard* the winners of the night: auxiliary firefighter Lieutenant Darren Lawrence from the Queensland Fire and Emergency Service; Senior Constable David May from the Queensland Police Service; advanced care paramedic Stephen Smith from the Queensland Ambulance Service; and Dr Susan Rattenbury from the Bundaberg Hospital emergency department. We also had volunteer finalists: from the Rural Fire Service Robert Coghlan; from the State Emergency Service Sharyn Kilby; and John Bedford from the Bundaberg Volunteer Marine Rescue. John also won the Volunteer of the Year award. Well done to all of those who work in the emergency response field. It is fantastic to recognise them. Well done to the Rotary Club of Bundaberg Central. I should declare that I am a proud member of that club.

On Friday we had a great media conference. One cannot always say that, but this one was fantastic because we had Jorja Logan and Cristian Zandona from Shalom College attend. Both Cristian and Jorja are the school captains for 2022 at Shalom College. They did their first ever press conference and spoke about the need to get the vaccine. They stood in front of the camera and said we have to roll up our sleeves and get the vaccine. It was wonderful because they spoke from the heart. They have never stood in front of a camera before. They spoke for themselves, their friends, their family, for their school and for the wider Bundaberg region and, in fact, the Wide Bay region. I was very proud of the way they spoke and so were their teachers. That night they made the Wide Bay bulletin on Channel 7 and they even made the state bulletin as well. They put Bundaberg on the map.

From that Friday press conference we saw fantastic results. Throughout the Wide Bay over 2,000 people rolled up their sleeves to get the vaccine. Well done to Cristian and Jorja—you absolutely made that difference. Well done to their teachers. Tomorrow is World Teachers' Day. I am still a proud registered teacher. Each and every day teachers are so proud of their students. Good luck to our year 12s as they finish their final exams.

### **Burdekin Electorate, Vaccination**

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (3.01 pm): Yesterday afternoon and again this morning we heard members on that side of the House pointing the finger of blame at everyone except themselves when it comes to vaccination rates in some areas of rural and regional Queensland. Make no mistake, this government has failed when it comes to those areas. There is no other way to put it. The reason is simple: this government either does not understand or does not care about the regions. That is nothing new. We have seen it with our roads. We have seen this government stand idly by while towns in my electorate have been left without doctors. When it comes to one of the biggest challenges the world has seen in the last 100 years, again we see failure.

The Burdekin electorate paid a huge price for this government's failures when it came to the Pacific island workers. Despite the thousands of tonnes of produce that went to waste this year, not to mention the huge economic impact on the Burdekin, it took 18 months to set up a dedicated quarantine facility. Bowen continues to wait.

We can talk about pop-up vaccination clinics at Bunnings, at schools and surf clubs all we like, but the facts are that there are no Bunnings in the Burdekin electorate, no surf clubs in the Burdekin electorate were chosen to host vaccinations and not one school in the Burdekin electorate was chosen to be a vaccination centre. Yesterday when I mentioned the low vaccination rate in rural and regional Queensland the member for Thuringowa asked what I was doing about it. I am pleased to say that in the last 18 months my staff and I have answered hundreds if not thousands of phone calls, emails and messages about vaccination locations because constituents are unable to find a vaccination location. If the member for Thuringowa had any decency he would apologise to my staff for those comments.

**Mr HARPER:** Madam Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and I ask him to withdraw.

**Mr LAST:** I withdraw. I have called on this government to use the same SMS system that is used for natural disasters to advise when pop-up clinics are being operated. That would give people incentive and time to prepare for what may well be a four-hour round trip to receive their vaccine. The bush is different to the cities. Regional areas, including Indigenous communities, need a different plan to the city. Instead of criticising and trying to blame people in regional areas, this government needs to treat those same people with the respect that they deserve. Otherwise the blame for any outbreak lays at the feet of this government.


**Mr Harper** interjected.

**Mr LAST:** The member for Thuringowa talks the big game down here in Brisbane, but where is he when he is back in his own community of Thuringowa? Not a peep!

**Mr HARPER:** Madam Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and I ask him to withdraw.

**Mr LAST:** I withdraw. We are about to move into a phase of booster shots and yet we have areas in my electorate, in particular the Isaac region, where we are still trying to get people to receive their first and second vaccinations. It underlines just how important this issue is. In the time remaining I also highlight my concerns for our Indigenous communities around this state.

### **Jordan Electorate, Weather Event**

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (3.04 pm): This Sunday is the one-year anniversary of the appropriately dubbed Halloween hailstorms that struck on 31 October last year, directly impacting the suburbs of Springfield Lakes, Springfield, Rosewood, Greenbank and Boronia Heights. The Insurance Council of Australia classed the 31 October 2020 event as catastrophic, logging 44,000 claims totalling more than \$1 billion. This anniversary will be a difficult one for many in our community. It has been a very challenging year for so many and I wish to acknowledge this.

The Queensland government, via the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, has been monitoring the progress of reconstruction and recovery through regular three-monthly visits. The QRA conducted door-to-door assessments of reconstruction in February, May and most recently in September 2021. QBCC officers accompanied QRA officers to undertake licensing audits and provide general information

on building works to the community. The QRA reports that the operations across Logan and Ipswich have shown improved recovery, with the vast majority of damaged properties either fully repaired or works well underway 12 months after the event. The results of the third assessment identified a total of 292 properties with some degree of damage. This is down from the 2,216 properties the QRA has visited over the three operations. Of the 292 properties that remain damaged, 71 are uninhabitable and 28 remain with tarpaulins on their roofs. Of those 71, work appears underway on 67, or 94 per cent.

In the immediate aftermath of the storm, QRA moved swiftly to activate the joint state and Commonwealth Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements to support community recovery and provide assistance for impacted residents. To date more than \$1.5 million in personal hardship assistance payments have been distributed to more than 5,800 residents in the Ipswich and Logan areas. Residents who are not insured or underinsured could also access a number of government grants, and many of these remain open for residents to apply for assistance.

Some residents are still suffering hardship, with repairs to damaged properties being hindered by a shortage of trades and materials. In response we have a working group through the Department of Energy and Public Works continuing to develop solutions to the supply chain issues. Ipswich City Council has also established a Halloween Hailstorm Special Recovery and Reconstruction Taskforce to centralise and coordinate services and community support. I sit on this task force along with the QRA.

There are too many individuals and organisations to thank for not only the initial emergency response but also their support of the ongoing recovery of our communities. Instead, this Saturday I, along with federal member Milton Dick MP, Ipswich City Council, YMCA, IGA Springfield Lakes and radio station River 94.9, will be hosting a free breakfast for our community. This is about acknowledging the day, recognising all of the amazing community champions who played a role in our recovery and to offer continued support to those in need.

### **World Teachers' Day; Day for Daniel**




**Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (3.07 pm): I take this opportunity to acknowledge my wife, not only for being an amazing wife and a fantastic mother but also for being an awesome teacher. Tomorrow is World Teachers' Day and I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge her and her teaching cohort who teach grade 1 and all teachers in the 14 schools in my electorate—probably over 100 teachers—who teach around 10,000 students.

The World Teachers' Day website is promoting the #brightfuture. That is what our amazing teachers across the electorate, across the coast, across the state and across the world do every day. I thank them for that. I have seen firsthand how hard they work. I must admit a long time ago I was a bit naive and thought teachers, having a relatively short day and some extra holidays, maybe had it pretty cruisy, but I can tell members that they do not. Every night my wife is planning, marking or on OneSchool making entries. That is not even talking about leading up to Book Week. Book Week at our house is like preparing for the Olympics opening ceremony: there is glue, materials and sewing machines. I have seen firsthand how hard teachers work.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge all of the teachers who work in the 14 schools in my electorate for the hard work that they do to give all of our kids a bright future. In the past 18 months in particular we saw our teachers really answer the call. They were asked to stand up in the peak of COVID in March, April and May of last year when we were all working from home. I was on a forced isolation order and my wife was re-imagining teaching her grade 1s. She was recording things to try to keep them engaged online and overseeing our two girls with their online learning while trying to keep me in line at home, which was painful for two weeks. If you get online, they are calling for people to upload a photo to #worldteachersday, which takes me to my second point.

While talking about education, I want to acknowledge Denise and Bruce Morcombe. As we know, tomorrow is Day for Daniel. I think this is the 17th Day for Daniel. On the Sunshine Coast we remember vividly the reasons behind Day for Daniel, but more broadly across Queensland and the country the Morcombe family and the Morcombe Foundation have brought the important topic of child safety into every home. Tomorrow is a day to acknowledge and recognise that and maybe have those conversations with your kids. Day for Daniel is also a day to wear red and dig deep if you are in a position to do so. Please take the time to donate. I know members from this side and, I have no doubt, members and ministers from the other side will be participating in the Walk for Daniel tomorrow. I thank them for doing that. In closing, I acknowledge all of our teachers, the Morcombe family and the Morcombe Foundation.

### The Gap State High School

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (3.10 pm): I do not need to convince anyone here about the value of investing in our public school system. Queensland's state schools are world class and I am thrilled to put on the record the achievements of one of the state schools in my electorate, The Gap State High School. As the only public high school located directly in my electorate, the school experiences incredible demand. In the past five years alone enrolments have soared. The school is now sitting at over 1,700 enrolments for 2022. That demand has required the school administration and community to respond with agility, thoughtfulness and care. The school really is an exemplar of how to do that. I will take members through just a few of its accomplishments in recent years.

The Gap State High School produces outstanding academic outcomes, continually scoring over the national average on their NAPLAN results. As we all know, despite being an important measure, academic results really are just one measure and it is the school's culture that I would especially like to celebrate. The Gap State High School's four pillars are: think big, step up, pay it forward and be kind. Every day I open my social media to see a post from The Gap State High School promoting one of those principles. They are embedded in the school's programs and recognition systems. The result of that is young people who are capable and confident and really are our future leaders.


The Gap State High School runs a number of programs, including the specialist Applied Positive Psychology program that works with students to improve and reflect on their leadership capabilities, their wellbeing and their resilience. Students are coached towards developing a growth mindset, which is a skill that will set them up for life. The school has an outstanding hospitality program. Every time I encounter a young person in a cafe in my electorate, they are either a former or current student of The Gap State High School.

The school focuses on year 13, ensuring all students have a pathway either into tertiary education or employment beyond their school career. That is so important. Many of us can relate to the challenges with managing the transition from high school. Most recently The Gap State High School was selected for the Queensland government's GPs in Schools Pilot program. It is a wonderful program that connects students with clinical support and guidance, conveniently located in the school system. Last weekend they were involved in the vaccine rollout.

I am proud that the Queensland government has played an active role in The Gap State High School's success. Just in the 12 months I have been elected, our government has funded a complete overhaul of the school's tuckshop, the refurbishment of their basketball court and we are still watching the construction of the J block with 10 general learning areas, two visual arts classrooms, a staffroom, an open learning area, additional car parks and solar panels to be installed on five blocks.

I want to recognise everyone who has had a role in the development of the school, particularly Principal Anne McLauchlan and her executive team as well as the teachers, teacher aides, gardeners and cleaners. The whole team is exemplary. I acknowledge the P&C President, Leigh Passfield, who I know is watching—hi, Leigh—and the entire P&C. They do a brilliant job. I also acknowledge our 2021 student leaders: Joshua Ho, Ella Passfield, Peta Kiopelis and Douglas Kirkland. I wholeheartedly congratulate the school.

### Burleigh Pavilion; World Teachers' Day

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (3.14 pm): I have said this in the House previously but let me say it again in case members have not heard it: I am opposed to any changes to the state government lease for the Burleigh Pavilion in Burleigh Heads that would allow it to become a hotel. In recent weeks the proponent of the site has made a rather clumsy attempt to influence my opposition to this change. I have taken advice from the Clerk of the Parliament and the Integrity Commissioner on this matter. Following that advice, I will be writing to the Crime and Corruption Commission in coming days. I disclose this today because it has come to my attention that the minister for natural resources is considering his department's advice on changing the state lease on the site to allow a hotel—

**Mr RYAN:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There has been a fair bit of commentary in recent times around the public airing of matters that are being referred to the Crime and Corruption Commission. I seek your ruling on whether the member is straying into areas that he should not be approaching given that he has just acknowledged in his remarks that he is referring this matter to the Crime and Corruption Commission.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In response to that point of order, there is nothing in the standing orders—not an ounce—that prevents a member of this House from raising an issue that he or she may want to refer or that is even the subject of a Crime and Corruption

Commission investigation. That has been confirmed at estimate hearing after estimate hearing on the budgets. There is nothing in the standing orders that prevents a member from speaking about what they may wish to do with the Crime and Corruption Commission.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Lui): There is no point of order. I ask the member on his feet to proceed.

**Mr HART:** As I was saying, I disclose this today because it has come to my attention that the minister for natural resources is considering his department's advice on changing the state lease on the site to allow for a hotel. The site has always been meant for public amenity space in the form of a swimming pool and very limited commercial activities allowed to fund that public amenity. As it stands, the lease is very clear. It states—


The lessee must use the leased land for commercial/business purposes, namely for swimming pool, kiosk, restaurant and associated health facility purpose and for no other purpose whatsoever

The proponent bought the site knowing that full well.

For the government to even consider such a change to the leased conditions leads me to believe that somebody has unduly influenced this decision. I shall be passing that conclusion on to the Crime and Corruption Commission next week, hence my previous statement to put this into context. I am also led to believe that others have lodged similar complaints regarding the development process to the Crime and Corruption Commission. I will be making no further public comments on either of these matters in the future.

I also join the member for Ninderry in thanking our teachers. As he said, tomorrow is World Teachers' Day. My daughter is a teacher. I may be a bit biased but she does a wonderful job. Tomorrow morning, my staff and I will be doing what we have done for a number of years—that is, we will be delivering cakes and sweets to our teachers to have in the staffroom during morning tea. I apologise in advance for any stomach issues that may cause later in the day, but I am sure they will thoroughly enjoy their morning tea. I buy those things locally so it helps local businesses and it helps our teachers.

### Lytton Electorate

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (3.18 pm): Baysiders always stand together, even more so during COVID. We have taken care of each other and our frontline workers. The police, health workers, teachers, truckies and wharfies have all turned up to work. So far, 65.5 per cent of baysiders are fully vaccinated, including my family and I. However, time is running out. We need to make sure that we push up those numbers. Some age groups, such as the 60s and over, again including myself, are sitting at around 80 per cent fully vaccinated while our 20- to 29-year-olds are sitting at 43 per cent, which is a bit low. If you have not had your first dose or need your second dose, I encourage you to drop into one of the many pharmacies, GPs, vaccination hubs or Wynnum State High School on 13 November.

Last weekend at Wynnum State High School, 213 baysiders rolled up their sleeves for the vaccine. Today from 4 pm to 7 pm Yulu-Burri-Ba in Edith Street are encouraging our First Nations people to step up for the jab. There will be music, haircuts and lots of giveaways.

Tomorrow is World Teachers' Day. My son, Callum, and my sister, Maureen, are teachers, and I acknowledge the great work of all teachers. I thank teachers and school staff for stepping forward to continue to educate our young people during COVID.

On behalf of baysiders, I would also like to thank Dr Jeannette Young and the Hon. Paul de Jersey. Both have served our state well. Last week we also farewelled another Wynnum great—Wynnum North stationmaster Cheryl Hughes. Last week we surprised her with a send-off after 40 years with Queensland Rail, 29 of them at Wynnum North station. Thanks, Cheryl.


I pride myself on my connection to my community. I listen to and work with them to ensure we have the services and infrastructure required to support our vibrant community. That is why I am really thrilled that Queensland Rail have installed a new boom gate at Lindum level crossing. Whilst it may not sound very exciting to everyone, it is to us baysiders. This is all part of the ongoing works to improve safety at the Lindum station precinct. The collaboration between all levels of government includes immediate road network upgrades and the installation of traffic lights at the intersection in 2022. I am really proud of my ongoing advocacy since 2015 to get something done at Lindum. This, combined with the station accessibility upgrade, will result in significant safety and traffic flow improvements at the precinct.



The ongoing beautification of Wynnum Central station has seen the opening of the flower gardens at the station. Working in collaboration with the Port of Brisbane, Wynnum Commerce Inc and Darling Point Special School, these gardens will provide a work experience opportunity for the students of Darling Point Special School who will be growing and maintaining the flowerbeds. There is also a wonderful mural with artwork by our local photographers on one of the walls of the building.

Manly train station is also undergoing pedestrian safety upgrades with a new pedestrian crossing, footpaths and a fabulous new bike cage which will provide secure housing for up to 40 bicycles, which is really great. It is improving active transport. This is all part of our community working together. Come on, baysiders—stay safe, don't wait, vaccinate.

### **Sexual Violence Awareness Month; Health Services; Coronavirus, Vaccination**

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (3.21 pm): October marks Sexual Violence Awareness Month. I draw the attention of the House to the statistics that increase every single year, with one in five women experiencing sexual assault since the age of 15 and one in two experiencing sexual harassment. This number only increases for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The majority know their offenders, and it is estimated that 75 per cent of sexual assaults are never reported. This certainly is the case in North Queensland, as evidenced on recent visits I have had and stakeholder meetings I have undertaken on the Tablelands, in particular with the Atherton sexual assault counselling service. The hours of travel they undertake in order to meet with their constituents, particularly children, who require counselling in the broader areas of Etheridge, Croydon and Mareeba are not covered under their funding and service arrangements. I stand here to advocate on behalf of all the sexual assault services in Queensland. The Attorney-General needs to look at this. The government needs to look at increasing the core funding and acknowledge that regional and rural areas are not adequately funded. I would also like to acknowledge the Queensland Sexual Assault Network and their continued advocacy, and I congratulate them on the \$150,000 that has been committed to them by the government.

I would also like to draw the attention of the House to the Health Crisis Town Hall that was hosted in Mackay which over 60 people attended. I would like to acknowledge Amy for the courage she showed when she came forward to share the complications she suffered after her C-section which has traumatised her and is making her question whether she will have children in the future.


I would also like to acknowledge the brave family of Warren McCarthy from Mackay. In May 2021 Warren was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. The treatment and options he received from the local health service were nothing short of unsatisfactory. In fact, I draw the attention of the House and the Minister for Health to the inaction that Ryan's Rule is actually delivering for people in my community across Mackay and the Whitsundays. They are invoking Ryan's Rule but ending up with the same specialist giving another opinion. It is ludicrous that this is the only option we have. I see the member for Mackay, the assistant health minister, in the chamber. I hope she advocates on behalf of families in Mackay that are experiencing this from the health service, because it is simply not good enough.

I also draw to the attention of the House and the tourism minister that, when ministers and the Premier threaten to shut down my community based upon our vaccination rates, we do not have a Queensland Health walk-in vaccination hub in the Whitsunday electorate.

**Mr Harper:** Is George helping them?

**Ms CAMM:** We do not have a walk-in hub in the electorate! There is a two-week wait for Pfizer vaccines in my electorate, so we will not meet the deadline because there are no hubs.

### **Mental Health Week**

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (3.24 pm): Having celebrated Mental Health Week earlier this month, it is important we acknowledge the great work our local mental health services are doing to support vulnerable people in the Ipswich community. On 17 October, I attended Neami National's Wellbeing Fair at their Living and Learning Centre in my electorate. The wellbeing fair provided an opportunity for local people to take time out to consider their mental health and wellbeing. Neami National believes that community based support helps people to flourish and build meaningful lives. I commend Neami National's commitment to our local community and the good work they are doing to help people improve their wellbeing.

Other community mental health services in Ipswich like Stride Hub, Headspace and Open Minds are also doing a great job connecting people with counselling and social services and giving them skills to live independent and fulfilling lives. The Palaszczuk government is a great supporter of community

mental health services because we know that they make a difference to people's lives and to our communities. Late last year our government delivered just over \$418,000 over a two-year period to Stride's early and emotional wellbeing service. I know that the Stride Kids hub does a fantastic job in Ipswich, helping children up to 11 years of age experiencing mental health concerns. It is never too early to help kids struggling with mental health issues. Services like Stride provide specialist support to these kids so they can improve their wellbeing and grow up to be happier and healthier adults.

The Palaszczuk government understands that more Queenslanders are needing specialist mental health support and are turning to our public hospital system in time of acute distress. At Ipswich Hospital, for instance, just over a thousand people were admitted during 2019-20 for mental health related episodes. To respond to this demand our government is delivering a new \$91 million, 50-bed acute mental health unit at Ipswich Hospital and an \$11 million expansion for Ipswich Hospital's emergency department, which will include a new dedicated mental health area. For those struggling with addiction, we are delivering a new \$24½ million alcohol and other drug withdrawal management and rehabilitation service for the Ipswich region.

Supporting our community's mental health requires an holistic response, with our public hospital and health service working together with community based services like Neami National and Stride so we can help people live healthier and more fulfilling lives.

I would like to thank all of the Ipswich people who have made an effort to get their COVID-19 vaccinations. This week the Ipswich LGA hit a double-dose rate of 57 per cent and a first-dose rate of 73 per cent, but that still leaves 27 per cent of the Ipswich population 15 years and over, or 45,685 people, who have not had a single dose of the vaccine yet. To those people I say: you have three days to get your first dose so you can be ready for when Queensland opens its borders on 17 December. Please, do not hesitate or wait any longer. Get vaccinated today!

### Scenic Rim, Tourism



**Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (3.27 pm): Today there is great news for the Scenic Rim tourism industry with news that the Lonely Planet is naming the Scenic Rim as one of the world's hottest holiday spots for next year, confirming something that we have all known for a long time—that it is a great place to live, to work and to raise a family and a great place to go to for a short holiday as well.

I want to congratulate everyone who works in tourism in the Scenic Rim—those hardworking, many of them small, businesses who have done so much over the years to put the Scenic Rim on the map, to raise its tourism profile and to establish their tourism businesses. It is great recognition from the Lonely Planet. I table the newspaper references about that today.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 28 October 2021, titled 'Ready for Take-Off' [\[1846\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Courier-Mail*, undated, titled 'Scenic Rim in World's top destinations' [\[1847\]](#).

Unfortunately, the tourism sector in Scenic Rim is proceeding without having at least one operator being able to get underway with their business in Scenic Rim. That is due to the Palaszczuk government's shambolic home quarantine and border closure policies. I refer in particular to a situation that has been brought to the attention of my office relating to a family that purchased a tourism business called Barney Creek Vineyard Cottages in May 2021. That transaction was due for settlement on 25 October, just a few days ago. They applied for border passes in New South Wales on 26 September—over a month ago. They were hoping to get into Queensland by 11 October, but there is still no word from the government's exemption unit about allowing them to come into the Queensland where they have invested their hard-earned money. They are uprooting their family and putting their money on the line to progress the Scenic Rim tourism industry and yet there has been no response from the government.

I call on the government to sort this out. People are trying to invest in our state and especially in the Scenic Rim. We have 4,000 people who are stranded across the border who want to come home. I have said that it is ridiculous that the Scenic Rim is not included in the home quarantine trial. It should be. It is closer to Brisbane Airport than many places that are included in the trial. Aspen Forgan and her family have invested in the Scenic Rim. They want to come here and look after their property. They want to open their tourism business. This situation needs to be fixed as soon as possible.


In the time I have remaining, I table a nonconforming petition in relation to the Scenic Rim Regional Council signed by over 2,800 people.

*Tabled paper:* Nonconforming petition regarding the Scenic Rim Regional Council [\[1848\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Nonconforming petition regarding the Scenic Rim Regional Council secret meetings [\[1849\]](#).

While I realise it is a nonconforming petition, it has been signed by many people. I would ask that the Premier consider responding to this petition given the nature of the petition and the number of people who have signed it. It raises some issues in relation to the council. It is not for me to enter into a debate about those council issues, but it is a serious issue given that it has been signed by so many people. The government should respond and give those people the answer they deserve.

### **Pumicestone Electorate, Coronavirus Vaccination**

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (3.30 pm): The COVID clock is ticking. People are booking their tickets to come to Queensland to see their loved ones for Christmas, and sadly we know that some of them will bring COVID-19 with them. This is a race, it has always been a race and people in Pumicestone, I am proud to say, were some of the first out of the blocks.

I am so proud of our community and how we have worked together to get people vaccinated. Our GPs and pharmacists have worked together. We recently had a pop-up clinic at the Bribie Combined Emergency Services Expo where 300 doses were administered. Our local First Nations people are leading the way with the leader of the Pumicestone Indigenous Education and Employment Council, Michelle Watson, taking her mob in to be vaccinated. I also acknowledge Connie Whyte who runs the Queensland Health vaccination program across Northern Moreton Bay with her team at the Caboolture Square vaccination hub, including new grad nurses like Kate who are all doing an amazing job.

Vaccination rates in Pumicestone are absolutely a tale of two cities or perhaps a tale of two regions. On 25 October the Bribie-Beachmere area was 12 per cent above the Queensland average at over 87 per cent first dose—an extraordinary achievement, particularly given our GP crisis. On the other side of Pumicestone, Caboolture lags behind the Queensland average on 72 per cent first dose. The Elimbah postcode, which I share with the member for Glass House, is trailing well behind on 69 per cent first dose, while the Caboolture hinterland region has reached only 64.5 per cent first dose.

Every single day I am advocating vaccination for the Northern Moreton Bay in every way I know how to save lives when COVID comes. I have phoned, I have advertised on social media, I have letterboxed, I have direct mailed and I visit clinics, GPs and pharmacies. My Labor colleagues across Moreton Bay are all loud and proud champions of vaccination, whether that is the member for Kurwongbah, the member for Bancroft, the member for Morayfield or the member for Murrumbidgee.

What are local LNP members saying about vaccination? With the COVID-19 emergency on our doorstep, the member for Glass House has mentioned vaccination just once on his Facebook page in the last three months. In that three months he has mentioned sports, the NRL, food and coffee dozens of times. Are food, coffee, sports and NRL more important than urging local people to get vaccinated and save their lives?

The federal member for Longman is another LNP politician who is barely mentioning vaccination and when he does he is wishy-washy. He talks about choice and choosing to be vaccinated and whether people wish to be vaccinated. We do not talk about people choosing to wear a seatbelt. We do not talk about whether they wish to get ready for a cyclone or a bushfire.


COVID is coming and I am pleading with local LNP members to get serious about encouraging our communities to get vaccinated in these crucial days and weeks. Some 27 people died of COVID yesterday and I do not want to see that happening in Northern Moreton Bay. Please everybody get vaccinated.

## **STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE**

### **Report, Motion to Take Note**

Resumed from 14 October (see p. 3127), on motion of Mr Whiting—

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.

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (3.35 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the State Development and Regional Industries Committee report No. 10 of the 57th Parliament entitled *Examination of Auditor-General Report 14: 2019-20—Evaluating major infrastructure projects*, tabled on 21 June 2021. I begin by discussing what the review found with regard to Building Queensland before it was integrated into the department of state development. The review found that Building Queensland provided government with robust analysis to support investment decisions. At the end of

day, that is important. Building Queensland came about because there was recognition that we needed to change the ways we did some things when it comes to infrastructure, especially off the back of the government prior to 2015. The Auditor-General's report noted that some changes needed to be made to make sure there were better processes moving forward.

The Auditor-General also found that the integration of Building Queensland into the department of state development was positive. Ultimately what we are getting is a combination of highly skilled staff who can share their skills and collaborate. Ultimately, better infrastructure is built through better and more refined systems. It makes sure that we are investing in Queensland.

When we build infrastructure in Queensland we build for Queenslanders. The Palaszczuk Labor government has a track record of building infrastructure for Queenslanders by Queenslanders. That is fantastic. We have seen a \$50 billion commitment to infrastructure over the next four years. This will create 46,000 jobs. Some 46,000 jobs will be created in Queensland as a result of this \$50 billion commitment over the next four years. By 2024-25 there will have been \$110 billion invested in Queensland infrastructure over the 10 years of the Palaszczuk Labor government, which is fantastic.

We can look at some of the great projects that have come about as a result of this investment. Cross River Rail is a city project and not a regional project, but the benefits flow to the regions. We can see that in a couple of ways. Firstly, it was pivotal in us securing the Olympics for Queensland. Cross River Rail will play a key part in ensuring we can deliver the Olympics. That will have ongoing benefits that will flow to regional Queensland.


I know that the member for Maryborough is one of our champions. He backs the Olympics and Cross River Rail and the fantastic announcements that have been made. It is not enough to have one train-manufacturing factory. We need to have two, as the member tells me. No doubt he will look to have a third one. He is an absolute champion for infrastructure and an absolute champion for regional Queensland. I am biased because I was one of his constituents once and helped get him across the line in 2017. I think he owes me a can of Coke. I have been waiting four years and it has not come yet. We will see how we go.

It is great that we have Building Queensland in the department of state development. It is helping to build the Bundaberg region. We have seen that with investment in Oreco through the Jobs and Regional Jobs Fund. We have seen it with Farm Fresh Fine Foods and the work they are doing there to make sure they are using local product, innovating, processing and getting it out to retail markets across Australia. That is absolutely fantastic. Bundaberg is the food bowl of this great country. State development backing our local processors is fantastic. We are also seeing it through Marquis Macadamias and the great work they are doing there. This is iconic Bundy produce and these are iconic Bundy businesses. With the support of state development we are seeing infrastructure growth throughout regional Queensland.

I yesterday heard the member for Nanango make a comment about Paradise Dam. I do not like to play political games so I am not going to yell and scream about Paradise Dam. It is far too serious. For a year and half, since being a candidate and being elected, I have made the same pledge. I see that there is only one option. That is to restore the spillway of Paradise Dam if it is safe to do so. I have been an advocate for that for the growers in my community. I advocate that to the Premier. I advocate that to Minister Butcher. I note that the member for Nanango said that I have been silent on this. That is not true. On 23 September, Tom Marland, who represents a lot of growers and is a good fellow, said to media—

We're grateful that the local member Tom Smith has come out and said that he supports restoring the dam.

When we talk about infrastructure, it is the Palaszczuk Labor government that is leading the way. It is the local Labor Party members who are leading the way in making sure we are there for growers. We do not just play political games. We make sure we talk to the minister because we want to see that dam go up if it is safe to do so.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (3.39 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the *Examination of Auditor-General Report 14: 2019-20—Evaluating major infrastructure projects*. It is a topic of great interest to me with the electorate of Traeger being such a fertile region for development. It is still so much in its virgin state that there is so much opportunity there for development.

I have always found it very curious the way that metrics are applied to building a business case. From my observations from a regional perspective, Cross River Rail is painted as having this wonderful economic benefit, but for projects like the HIPC dam at Hughenden or Big Rocks Weir or Hells Gate

every financial metric is used to apply the brakes. They do not take into account the tax benefit generated when you build a dam. One of the greatest benefits of building a dam is that you create economic activity and that generates a greater tax base. That is intrinsically linked to the business case, in my view, yet those things are not considered. Admittedly, this occurs for all of the other projects as well. I do not see how you can make a good judgement call on those projects, especially for dams, when you are not taking that into consideration.

As has always been said to me, compare Emerald pre Fairbairn Dam to post Fairbairn Dam and look at the tax base from that region or look at another region with similar industrial activity and look at the tax revenue that comes from it. There is your argument for a dam itself. That is never quantified when they make those adjustments.

I know that this body was set up to look at projects on their merit but, if we are being honest with ourselves in this parliament, projects are politically driven. If the government of the day wants something to go through like Cross River Rail or the Olympics, they are going to build up a business case for it and all of the financial stimulus that I would love to see applied to dams is built into it. It comes down to a judgement call of the government of the day. Because they are going to have 20 reports sitting in front of them, there still needs to be a judgement call at the back end of it somewhere.


I recall a story my father told me about when he was still in cabinet many years ago in this place. He took a proposal to cabinet for the transmission line to be extended to Karumba. It was going to take something like 50 years to pay itself off, which he said was quite embarrassing to take to cabinet. The government of the day knew that there were resources there, that there was a developing fishing industry in Karumba, that there was potential for mining up there—which eventuated in Century mine—that there was a mango farm starting up near Croydon and Georgetown, and they accepted it. They adopted it. They made a judgement call saying, 'Well, the business case is not great but we can see the potential. We are mature enough to write over that. Thanks very much to the public servants for giving us that advice, but we can see the benefit of it. Bang, we are backing it.'

**Mr Minnikin:** It's called vision.

**Mr KATTER:** That vision and leadership came from the government of the day. In fact, that powerline took under 10 years to pay off, so it exceeded expectations. They made a judgement call. There is no funding for Ootann Road, but what a magnificent piece of infrastructure. It is outside my electorate, but that piece of bitumen could pull all the produce from Cape York into the gulf and the tablelands and expand the cattle industry up there immensely. It does not get funding, but we can find billions of dollars to put into the Olympics or Cross River Rail, which is blowing out. I do question the validity of the metrics that are used.

We need to broaden the scope of these inquiries to look at established infrastructure as well. If we look at the way that accounting standards are applied to the Great Northern Railway line to Mount Isa now, the Queensland Competition Authority guidelines are rubbish. They need to be thrown in the bin. They make it enormously difficult for Queensland Rail to make a business along that line. It is completely irrelevant to market conditions.

It is the same with our dams, with the DORC valuations—the depreciated optimised replacement cost. They do their pricing on water that way. It is just ridiculous. It is just a money-grabbing exercise. That does play a role in planning infrastructure because a lot of politicians will say, 'Look at that rail line. It doesn't make us any money. It is a handbrake on the economy,' when in fact, if the accounting standards were more closely related to the actual business activity, we would not be saying that.

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (3.44 pm): I would like to make a brief contribution to the *Examination of Auditor-General Report 14: 2019-20—Evaluating major infrastructure projects*. At the outset I want to say that this is not a committee I am familiar with—normally it is the Transport and Resources Committee—but I thank the members of that relevant committee. I have read the report with interest. It might be only a fairly thin document but it contains a lot. I will go to the very first page and quote the chair's foreword—it is very important. It states—

With billions spent each year on state infrastructure projects it is vital that the government has access to rigorous and comprehensive infrastructure advice. It is therefore important that lessons learned from this audit continue to be taken into consideration with the transition of Building Queensland to government.

We all know that the government did that very recently. The other part of the report that I found interesting is contained on page 4. It is the third bullet point in section 2.2.1.1, which states—

- Business cases reviewed by the QAO varied in the adequacy of their analysis and did not always align with scale, complexities, and risks associated with each project.

This is fundamentally important. It is a moot point now that the government has disbanded Building Queensland, but it is very important when it comes to the efficacy of project delivery in this state. I want to refer to some of the latest issues that I certainly have come across as the shadow minister for transport and main roads. If we are looking at major infrastructure projects, I want to refer to Minister Bailey's budget blowouts including Gold Coast Light Rail stage 3A.

In terms of the efficacy of the actual reporting of this, there is one problem. Despite the scrutiny from an infrastructure perspective, this project has blown out now by \$334 million. We all know that the feds have had to swoop in and provide extra funding to keep this project going. The government announced that the project was due to start construction before Christmas—that was Christmas last year. The fact of the matter is that the main works package still has not been signed off. When you are trying to evaluate major infrastructure projects, there are no key milestones that are even being remotely adhered to and reported on. This is an absolute failure yet again on the transport minister's watch.

I will keep going because I had hoped the Auditor-General would look at another project as it relates to major infrastructure. It is another one of Minister Bailey's budget blowouts, and that is the Coomera Connector. This project has blown out by a whopping \$600 million. In fact, I have written to the Auditor-General about the land resumption costs as part of this project which surely must have been taken on board as part of the cost-benefit analysis of this particular project years ago. How can you have a project of major strategic infrastructure importance and you are building on a thing called 'land', but they did not even acquire the necessary parcels? Something is sadly rotten in the state of Denmark, in the state of Queensland, when it comes to projects on Minister Bailey's watch.

I want to pick up on something the member for Traeger mentioned. It is probably the mothership of all infrastructure projects—the self-proclaimed biggest project under this government's watch—and that is, of course, Cross River Rail. If we are talking about business case analysis, Infrastructure Australia said back in 2017—

The benefits of the proposed project, as set out in the business case, are significantly overstated, and that the costs of the project as currently presented are likely to exceed its benefits.

Boy, were they spot on. This so-called \$5.4 billion project, according to the minister in release after release, is now going to cost probably closer to \$7.4 billion. In fact, only a couple of days ago the Minister for Transport and Main Roads referred to Mayne Yard stabling. A couple of months ago in a Channel 7 interview it was said that it was outside the scope of Cross River Rail. Now we know that it is included. This is another example of Minister Bailey's budget blowouts.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMITTEE

### Report, Motion to Take Note



**Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (3.50 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee Report No. 106, 57th Parliament, *Review of the Crime and Corruption Commission's activities*, tabled on 30 June 2021.

Queensland needs an efficient, effective, impartial and independent watchdog against corruption and major crime. That was the aim of our committee in handing down this report to the parliament on 30 June this year. I want to thank members of the committee for their diligent work in undertaking this review. That also includes members of the committee in the 56th Parliament. It kicked off then when most submissions were received, and it was our job in the new parliament to 'bring it home'.

The report makes 30 recommendations. A lot of them are about the composition and powers of the CCC and the oversight mechanisms of the CCC. Obviously, the committee is the key oversight body for the CCC, and we have been exercising those oversight powers quite extensively in the last few months with the inquiry into the CCC's conduct in relation to the charging of former Logan City councillors and other matters.

In relation to this report I will start with the issue of oversight. Recommendation 2 recommends that the concept of bipartisan support in the act be amended to make it truly bipartisan. This was supported by the Clerk of the Parliament and the Crime and Corruption Commissioner because the


definition as it stands right now—although it looks bipartisan—has the capacity to be exercised in a distinctly partisan way. We have seen that occur in the last few years where crossbenchers have been utilised by the government to work that definition to the government's favour, so the key recommendation is that that be amended to make it truly bipartisan.

Recommendation 27 recommends that the non-government chair of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee be not just a matter of convention but also legislated through the Crime and Corruption Act. The fact that the committee, as a bipartisan group of members, was able to come to that conclusion gives it significant weight, and I hope that the government will act on that recommendation in due course.

The Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner also recommended that there be attempts made to sustain the continuity of membership of the committee so that we do not have members coming and going from the committee all the time. That is a vital recommendation from the commissioner because, as members who have been on the PCCC will know, it is quite an involved job to read all of the documents that come to us, and it takes some time to get up to speed with how things work and to know exactly how to exercise your oversight role. It would be a good idea if members could stay on that committee for a period of time rather than coming and going all of the time. Even during this term there has been quite a bit of turnover. This is a matter for this House to fix. Another matter that was raised in some submissions is that perhaps it would assist if members of the PCCC were also not obliged to serve on other parliamentary committees at the same time, given the workloads in our electorates and the extensive workload that can come from the PCCC.

We made recommendations around issues to do with the resources for the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner. They have a part-time commissioner who works maybe three days a week at most and one full-time employee, and that is the extent of the commissioner's oversight capacity along with the parliamentary committee. That is very light on. We do our best, but inevitably, as the parliamentary commissioner says, there are things that are not investigated or not investigated as thoroughly as they could be, not because we do not want to and not because the commissioner does not want to, but because they simply do not have the resources to do it. When it comes to oversight, that is an issue that needs to be addressed in due course, particularly when the legal officer who works for the commissioner has been there for the best part of two decades—perhaps even more—and there is a significant risk that when that person leaves there will be a huge knowledge gap in that office.

There were also recommendations made for a single non-renewable term for the chairperson and commissioners and that the money-laundering definitions be fixed and modernised. We also overturned some of the recommendations of the 2016 review, which goes to show that ongoing review is an important factor in our committee's role.

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—ALP) (3.55 pm): I rise to endorse the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee report tabled in this House on 30 June this year. Can I start by thanking all of those who made submissions to the committee, both organisations and individuals, from a range of experiences in the law and public policy fields. The five-year review process is an important one in the ongoing oversight of the Crime and Corruption Committee.

Our PCCC fulfils a unique role in this parliament, being the core oversight body of a statutory body that is given—with good reason—extraordinary powers in our criminal justice system. I note that the government, through the Attorney-General, is considering the recommendations contained in the report. I thank the Attorney for her initial response confirming the ongoing consideration of what are complex and content-heavy issues centred on an important institution in this state: an independent crime and corruption committee. Considering the substantive inquiry currently on foot with the PCCC I will not go into detail recommendation by recommendation; rather, I await the government's further consideration and response in the future.

In relation to the role of the parliamentary commissioner, can I take this opportunity to thank the quite recently former Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner, Ms Carmody, for the five years of service and expertise she brought to the role. In doing so, I welcome incoming commissioner Mr Michael Woodford. I look forward to continuing to work with him through the committee into the future.


Can I take this opportunity to give a big thankyou to the secretariat of the PCCC. As the chair said, it is an extraordinary workload. They are very hardworking staff of the parliament. The work is demanding, often complex, and I thank them for the support they give to committee members to enable

us to do our job on behalf of this parliament. Can I extend that thank you to the parliamentary staff who were seconded to the PCCC for the purpose of our extensive inquiry. It was extensive work, certainly document heavy, and again I thank them for the support they provided to me personally and the committee collectively.

Finally, can I quickly thank some members of the parliament who played an important role in the work of the PCCC but who have since left the committee for other parliamentary work. Thanks to the member for Rockhampton not only for his contribution to committee meetings and the five-year review but also to recognise the additional travel and time away from his electorate and what that meant for him. I will note that at the time I think he was the only member of the committee on either side who was not based in South-East Queensland, which is a particular contribution from that member, so thank you.

Likewise, can I thank the member for Hervey Bay, who stepped up when we had the vacancy caused by the sad resignation of Duncan Pegg, the former member for Stretton. The member for Hervey Bay came onto the committee at a time when we had an extraordinarily heavy workload, and I thank him for his contribution. With his background in local government administration and policy, he really brought something to the committee. He also spent an extensive amount of time away from his regional electorate, so I thank him for giving that up as well.

As the chair mentioned, I thank those MPs who contributed to the five-year review process in the previous parliament. I appreciate the work that was already underway when we took over. I look forward to continuing to work with all members of the committee, including the new members. I look forward to the government's response to the report in due course. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (3.58 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee report No. 106—*Review of the Crime and Corruption Commission's activities*. A five-year review of the Crime and Corruption Commission by the PCCC is a requirement of the Crime and Corruption Act 2001. Given that the last report was tabled on 30 June 2016, five years brings us to this year and the 57th Parliament. It should be noted that the review process commenced during the 56th Parliament when I was a member of the PCCC, and for my sins I find myself here again.

The PCCC called for submissions in June 2020 and received 32. At the time this review commenced last term, the PCCC was also conducting an inquiry into the CCC's assessment and reporting processes. The committee resolved to incorporate that inquiry into this review. Public hearings for this review were held in March and May this year. I can advise the House that the terms of reference for the review are outlined in the committee report and that the committee has made 30 recommendations as part of this review. Due to the significant number of recommendations made in this report, I will not go into them in great detail, but I urge all members of the House to have a look at the scope of the recommendations for some light reading.

Today I will draw members' attention to some of the more salient recommendations that may be of interest to them. The first is recommendation 1. This recommendation surrounded the criteria for the appointment of ordinary commissioners to the CCC. The 2019-20 annual report of the CCC showed that four of the five commissioners were qualified lawyers, and it was commented that the CCC is dominated by lawyers. The original formation of this vital oversight body envisaged that at least three of the commissioners would have demonstrated interest and ability in community affairs. Given that the CCC has oversight of units of public administration, an understanding and interest in public and community administration is a valuable skill set for the organisation. Therefore, the review recommends that at least two of the three ordinary commissioners have a demonstrated interest and ability in community affairs, public administration or organisational leadership.


The second recommendation revolves around the appointment of commissioners to the CCC, including the chairperson, deputy chairperson and ordinary commissioners. Currently, the CCC Act requires bipartisan support of the commissioner appointments. Bipartisan support is defined within the act and I believe was subject to some scrutiny during a previous appointment when substitutions were made to fit within the bipartisan definition. It was submitters' concerns that that definition be amended to specifically address the issue of submissions, and it is a recommendation of the review that the definition in schedule 2 be amended.

Recommendation 4 addresses the tenure of senior officers of the CCC. The original recommendation of the Fitzgerald report required that the chairperson's appointment be not less than two years or more than five years. In 2014 it was amended to put a limit of no more than 10 years. Currently, the limit for all commissioners, the CEO and senior officers is that they may not be appointed or employed for more than 10 years. The CCC's submission recommended that this 10-year limit be lifted, whilst others expressed concern about the decade-long tenure.



I note the CCC's concern about long-term planning and corporate knowledge and the lack of tenure limits in other public sector agencies, and I do note the progression pathways within the organisation, specifically from SES level 2 to level 4, but the committee makes its recommendation of the appointment of chairperson and ordinary commissioners of not more than seven years. I note that the CCC is not like other public sector agencies and the need to manage corruption risk and issues of culture in this organisation trump corporate knowledge in this instance.

Recommendation 6 relates to public notification of investigations undertaken by the CCC, particularly those involving police officers. The concerns raised by submitters were twofold: firstly, that anonymity is generally sought when these investigations are announced—however, due to the small number of officers seconded to the CCC, particularly of certain ranks, much of that anonymity is lost by merely stating the rank of the subject officer; and, secondly, that the public reporting of the commencement of an investigation is not matched by the reporting of the outcome of that investigation, particularly when the officer or subject person is cleared. There are many other recommendations that I recommend members avail themselves of. Other than that, I commend this report to the House.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (4.04 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to my very first committee report as a member of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee. As members have heard, we are in the midst of a very substantive review. I will not pre-empt the outcome of the Attorney-General's work in that space, but I want to take this opportunity as a very new member of the committee to thank the recently departed members of the committee—the members for Hervey Bay and Rockhampton—for basically making way for me and the member for Cooper. We are very much enjoying our time on the committee.

I would also like to thank not only our hardworking secretariat but our counsel assisting. As a new member of the committee, this is a new experience for me, having counsel assisting as part of the inquiry that we are currently undertaking. I am enjoying my work on the committee so far and working with all members of the committee across both sides of the House in a collegiate way. I thank the member for Scenic Rim for his stewardship in chairing the committee.


Together with my colleagues on the committee, I am looking forward to completing our report in the coming months. I have appreciated the help of the members for Stafford and Macalister in answering my many questions. As the member for Scenic Rim mentioned, it is a committee that does require a vast amount of reading and then a vast amount of critical thinking, analysis and appreciation of the amount of work that has gone into that from so many people.

I can say as a member of parliament that I hold the institution and the concept of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee in high regard. It was formed in response to the systemic corruption that had infiltrated Queensland politics, and together with the committee system it plays a key role in moderating the body politic here in Queensland. I think it is very timely to reflect on that around the anniversary of the suicide squad we are celebrating early next year.

As a new committee member, I will leave my contribution there. If I could be very cheeky, I want to congratulate the member for Southern Downs who later this year will join the club of those with adorable baby girls born in 2021. I am very excited for you and your family.

**Mr Lister:** And the member for Traeger too.

**Ms PUGH:** I know, and the member for Traeger as well. I wanted to say that now because babies are born when they are born and you might not be here next sitting. I wanted to do that while you are still here, so congratulations.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (4.06 pm): I rise to make a contribution in relation to the report of the five-year review of the Crime and Corruption Commission which was undertaken by the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee. The committee is required under section 292(f) of the Crime and Corruption Act to review, report and make recommendations on the CCC's activities every five years. The most recent report, No. 106, which was published in June this year, is the report that I will speak to today.

As a recent addition to this committee, I have been impressed by the volume and the nature of the work that the PCCC undertakes. I would like to commend my colleagues, particularly our chair, the member for Scenic Rim, and deputy chair, the member for Stafford, for their collegiality, their professionalism and their advice guiding us through this very new and interesting territory. I would also like to acknowledge the work of the secretariat and, as others have said, the former and current parliamentary commissioners for their guidance.

As it has been noted, the need for an effective, impartial and independent watchdog on public sector corruption and major crime is significant. People ought to have trust in our public sector, in our government and in its officers, and some elements of trust building include oversight, monitoring and transparency. In undertaking the review, the committee examined the CCC's overall performance over the past five years and considered its jurisdiction, responsibilities, functions and powers.

In particular, the committee examined: the CCC's corporate governance and organisational structure; major crime function, including the investigation and prevention of major crime; investigative powers and hearings; corruption function; civil confiscation function; telecommunication interception powers; research and intelligence functions; witness protection function; the commission's broader role in the criminal justice system; its role in overseeing the Police Service, including the management of police discipline and misconduct matters; and oversight arrangements, including the role of the responsible minister, committee, Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner and Public Interest Monitor.

This five-year review received a number of submissions. I would like to thank those who did make written submissions, particularly those who made themselves available to appear before the committee at public hearings to expand on their submissions—we appreciate that is never a simple task—and to provide further information so the committee might understand the nature of their experiences, their ideas and their concerns. The report made 30 recommendations in total which are currently being considered by the government. I commend the report to the House.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

### Report, Motion to Take Note



**Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (4.09 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the Transport and Resources Committee Report No. 8, 57th Parliament, *Examination of Auditor-General Report 16: 2019-20: Licensing builders and building trades*, tabled on 28 July 2021.

This particular Auditor-General's report was referred to the former transport and public works committee in July last year during the last parliament. That committee, which I also chaired, held a public briefing with the Queensland Audit Office, the QBCC and the former department of housing and public works in September 2020. However, then we had an election. After the election the transport and public works committee ceased to exist and the new Transport and Resources Committee was formed. We resolved as a committee to continue the inquiry and sought written updates from the QBCC regarding the Auditor-General's report and progress on the implementation of the audit recommendations.


We identified that the QBCC is part way through the transition from a complaints driven authority to a risk focused, insights driven regulator. The committee considered that finalisation of this process as soon as practically possible is essential. Whilst the committee agreed to report on the Auditor-General's report now, it also agreed that we would continue to monitor progress on the finalisation of the audit recommendations and will report again if necessary.

I digress briefly here to acknowledge residents of the Kurwongbah electorate who have contacted me about QBCC matters—people who for the most part have contacted the QBCC after bad experiences with home-building and renovations work, including some who have been ripped off financially. I want to send out a thankyou to the workers at the QBCC who are often the proverbial messengers to complainants at very stressful times in their life. It is not an easy job. I think the QBCC's transition to a risk focused, insights driven model will deliver better outcomes across the board, especially to consumers.

I also want to point out that in recent years we have been tightening up regulations right across the building industry from accountability in the chain of supply to the standard of materials permitted for use in and on Queensland buildings to bank guarantees. We have taken action designed to reduce complaints escalating to the QBCC by stopping the issues before they start. I want to acknowledge and thank Minister de Brenni, his staff and his department for their work in that space.

On behalf of the Transport and Resources Committee, I want to thank the Queensland Audit Office, the QBCC and the former department of housing and public works for their assistance with our committee's examination of this report. I also want to thank the former members of the transport and public works committee as well as the current members of the Transport and Resources Committee for their contribution to the committee's inquiry. I also want to thank our hardworking secretariat, who back us up all the time. It is a large volume of work they get through and we do really appreciate it.

It really is important for the transparency of government, government departments and statutory authorities like the QBCC to have this system of checks and balances in place. That is why we tabled this report in July with a recommendation that the Legislative Assembly note its contents, which I echo today. I will say there has been a lot of talk about the QBCC this week. I know certain members will get up and bash the QBCC. When we conducted this inquiry on that Auditor-General's report, everything was pretty good. I think that we should be looking at that report and not what we have been looking at this week. Others will use it as an opportunity to bash the QBCC and I do not endorse what they say.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (4.13 pm): Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker, for allowing me to have a couple of moments to speak on report No. 8, the examination of the Auditor-General's report No. 16 of 2019-20 titled *Licensing builders and building trades*. I do take note of the chairman, Shane King, the member for Kurwongbah. He does a very good job as the chairman and I enjoy working with him. He has just made an observation that we might be a little bit critical of the QBCC. There are some highlights that we certainly need to express some concern about. I would like to thank the member for Callide; we sat down today and yesterday and went through the report. The member for Callide has a keen eye for detail and we were able to pick up some issues that need to be raised.

The committee report states—

- QBCC has the building blocks needed to transform the organisation as required but implementing and embedding these into the organisation is taking time. Progress is hindered by a lack of data, resources, skills, and capability.
- Managing licences needs a more targeted compliance program to be fully effective with the current program being too operational.
- QBCC has effective processes and probity checks in place to assess whether licence applicants meet requirements.

The committee queried whether the QBCC has sufficient resources and skills to achieve its intention to transition from complaints driven to an insights driven organisation. The Queensland Audit Office responded—

We have certainly observed that over the last 18 months they have increased their level of resources, but the issue is not so much only the sufficiency of the resources; it is also the adequacy of the resources, making sure they have the resources with the right skills. In their response to our recommendations QBCC did commit to doing a workforce plan that will help them identify what those core capabilities are.

When the same question was asked of the QBCC they responded—

We certainly have sufficient resources in respect of being a regulator by its very nature. We have lifted our capability in respect of the technical part of the organisation. As the QAO audit specifically calls out, the insights driven piece, or the ability to actually crunch the data and make it information that we can then use to become a more risk focused regulator, is where we need to lift our capability and capacity.

We have seen this week the member for Everton, the shadow minister, highlight some of these issues with the QBCC. There are issues that need to be raised and they are starting to become obvious in this Auditor-General's report. I think the Auditor-General has done a great job in highlighting some of the deficiencies in the QBCC, and they need to be fixed. This is an important regulator and it is an important part of an industry—our building industry—that is going to be very important to us when we come out of COVID-19 to avoid a recession.

With regard to complaints management and feedback, the Queensland Audit Office found—

QBCC's Customer Contact Centre has not met key performance indicators since 2017, such as average speed to answer a call and percentage of abandoned calls. The recently redesigned integrated voice recognition system is expected to address this, but it is too early to assess its success. The current lack of status reporting for other education and support programs makes it difficult to accurately assess their timeliness.


In terms of the Queensland Audit Office monitoring how QBCC manages and reports performances, the Audit Office advised—

Most of QBCC's performance measures are based on activity and output, rather than on outcomes. Its operational and management reporting are currently not sufficient to understand performance and enable informed decision-making. QBCC has not evaluated any of its core regulatory functions due to a lack of evaluation skills and ability.

The Queensland Audit Office advised the committee that—

We certainly plan to do a follow-up to determine how well and what response they have made to our recommendations; however, in our strategic audit plan, which is our pipeline of work for the next three to five years, at the moment there are no further topics on the QBCC.

I would suggest that we need to be looking at this very soon, not in three to five years time. With the member for Everton, the shadow minister, raising issue after issue with regard to the QBCC, we need to keep a very good eye on this regulator, this organisation. I think it needs a lot of improvement. It needs to win the confidence of the Queensland public and it needs fixing.

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (4.18 pm): I rise to speak on the Transport and Resources Committee's report examining the Auditor-General's Report 16: 2019-20, *Licensing builders and building trades*. The report was tabled in parliament on 28 July 2021. I thank the committee secretariat, the Queensland Audit Office, the QBCC and the former department of housing and public works for their assistance with the committee's examination. I also acknowledge the work of the members of the former transport and public works committee, which commenced this inquiry during the previous parliament. I am quite new to the committee myself, so it was well before my time. Making this statement today encouraged me to read through all the papers, and it is really interesting.

The committee was tasked with considering the Auditor-General's finding in relation to the Auditor-General's report. The Auditor-General assessed whether QBCC effectively regulates the building industry by issuing and managing licences in a fair and balanced way. The Auditor-General made 11 recommendations, including: strengthening controls and improving planning and reporting, as well as highlighting a critical need for the QBCC to commit resources and build capability in its transition to becoming a risk focused, insights driven regulator. This transition has shifted QBCC's attention to areas that pose the greatest risk or threaten community safety and economic confidence in the building sector. The committee is satisfied that the QBCC is taking appropriate action to address the Auditor-General's recommendations.

A strong construction industry plays an important part in the Palaszczuk government's economic recovery plan. The QBCC plays an integral role by promoting confidence in the building and construction industry through its work regulating our building standards, remedying defective building work and providing advice and support to builders and consumers.

Building and construction in Queensland is a \$46 billion industry which employs 10 per cent of our population. Since the Palaszczuk government's election in 2015, we have been working hard to boost confidence in the industry after the Newman LNP government gutted building industry regulation. This was a terrible decision by the LNP that had horrendous repercussions for consumers and the Queensland building industry alike. After a number of high-profile building and construction industry collapses in 2015-16, we committed to reviewing security of payments for subcontractors and tradies. Our Building Industry Fairness Act, introduced in August 2017, has improved confidence in the industry by making sure Queensland's subcontractors and tradies are paid in full and on time, every time.

We have stimulated confidence in the industry in response to COVID-19 with the \$100 million Works for Tradies social housing construction program. We have invested \$106 million in the building market for new homes. We have provided further support through \$100 million in small business grants to help small businesses respond and adapt to COVID-19 impacts.

Through strong investment and strengthened regulation, our building and construction industry has boomed. New housing approvals in Queensland are up 41 per cent compared with the period before the pandemic. I can certainly attest to it in my electorate, where Ripley is one of the fastest growing suburbs in South-East Queensland. To this end, QBCC's oversight of our building and construction industry has never been more important.

However, the Auditor-General has identified significant changes to the industry which prompted its audit. It notes that over the past 20 years the industry has become increasingly complex, with a growth in high-rise and medium-density housing and events in other jurisdictions and overseas which have highlighted building standard issues.


There have been changes in legislation that have impacted QBCC's role as a regulator and changes to licensing requirements for people working in the building and construction industry. The Auditor-General's report looked at how QBCC was faring in relation to licensing building, monitoring and enforcing compliance, providing education and support, and managing the reporting performance. Pleasingly, QBCC accepted all findings and 11 recommendations made by the Auditor-General. The

QBCC has informed the committee that it is committed to delivering all 11 recommendations. Six of the 11 recommendations have been delivered already, and work is continuing on delivering the remaining five recommendations.

The Transport and Resources Committee has noted the Auditor-General's concerns that QBCC's transition to a risk focused, insights driven regulator has been hindered by a lack of resources, skills and capability. The committee notes that it is essential that QBCC completes this transition as soon as possible and considers that there is a need to ensure the QBCC has sufficient resources—both human and financial—to make this transition. I commend the report to the House.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Lui): Before I call the next speaker, member for Ipswich, I note the use of unparliamentary language. I ask you to withdraw.

**Ms HOWARD:** I withdraw.

 **Mr BOYCE** (Callide—LNP) (4.24 pm): I rise this afternoon to make a contribution to the debate of report No. 8 of the Transport and Resources Committee, the examination of Auditor-General's report No. 16. All week we have heard about anomalies in the performance of the QBCC. I have heard a lot of great debate from my colleagues the members for Everton and Burleigh and many others as to what is happening with the QBCC. We have heard a lot of backwards chatter from those opposite. It is quite obvious from this report from the QAO that the QBCC is a basket case. The report says it quite clearly.

My colleague the member for Gregory has stated already that most of the QBCC's performance measures are based on activity and output rather than outcomes. That basically says that they are producing a whole lot of paperwork and do not care where it goes. The QAO stated—

Its operational and management reporting are currently not sufficient to understand performance or enable informed decision-making.


That basically says they do not know what they are doing. That is what it says quite clearly in the report. The audit conclusions from the QAO state quite clearly—

Progress is hindered by a lack of data, resources, skills, and capabilities.

That shows again that the QBCC is not doing what it was designed to do. On page 5 of the report, it says quite clearly—

QBCC's Customer Contact Centre has not met key performance indicators since 2017...

That is absolutely appalling. We have heard the member for Burleigh go on continually about the hundreds and thousands of complaints that simply are not dealt with. It should be done. The minister should address this problem. Having said that, the QAO advises that it currently plans to do a follow-up to determine how well that response will happen. It goes on to say that this may happen in the next three- to five-year period. I suggest that that needs to happen immediately. It is quite obvious that the QBCC is not doing its job.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (4.26 pm): I, too, rise to speak to the Auditor-General's report on the building industry. It is quite clear from the discussions we have had this week that the QBCC is a mess. That can only be slated back to the minister who is responsible for that and to the board. The Auditor-General's report says that the QBCC does not have the technical ability to carry out some of the work it is charged with doing. This report is months old. Since then, the QBCC has lost about 20 key staff. Things have just got worse and worse for the QBCC. I do not see it getting any better under this minister.

In the past couple of days we have had a debate about the minister's possible interference in the running of the QBCC and about the board's interference. It is pretty clear that this government has destroyed the capabilities of the QBCC since it was put in place by the Newman government—

**Mr King:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Is this relevant to the report the Auditor-General produced?

**Mr HART:** I am talking to the report.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Lui): I will get some advice. Member, it is relevant but I remind you to come back closer to the report.


**Mr HART:** Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. It is quite clear that this government has destroyed the capability of the QBCC over its years in government after it was put in place by the Newman government under the capable minister at the time, the member for Everton.

We made a number of changes to the way that the old BSA worked as the QBCC. We made some changes to the minimum financial requirements. This government tries to reinvent history when its argument does not suit the facts. In the past members have told this House that minimum financial requirements were withdrawn. They were not withdrawn. This was a red-tape issue. The building industry no longer had to report to the QBCC about their minimum financial requirements, but they still had to have them. They still had to have them audited. They still had to be financially viable, but they did not have to report it. There was no reason whatsoever under the rules that we changed that the QBCC could not ask any builder at any time for their financial statements.

Debate, on motion of Mr Hart, adjourned.


## COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

### Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.30 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 Legal Affairs and Safety Committee report on the Inspector of Detention Services Bill by 21 January 2022 and the Community Support and Services Committee report on the Public Trustee (Advisory and Monitoring Board) Amendment Bill by 21 January 2022.

## MOTION

### Order of Business

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.31 pm): I move—

That government business order of the day No. 1 be postponed.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.


Motion agreed to.

## QUEENSLAND VETERANS' COUNCIL BILL

### Consideration in Detail

Resumed from 27 October (see p. 3356).

Resumed on clause 35, to which Mr Lister had moved an amendment—

 **Mr LISTER** (4.32 pm): I take the opportunity to speak on clause 35. I do not have any further amendments to move, but this particular clause is of interest to me because it deals with the functions of the veterans reference group which would be appointed by the minister. I would like to know how members of this group can be certain that they will be able to offer their advice confident that they will not be upsetting the government and putting their tenure at risk. As I said in the debate last night, in local government, for instance, councillors appear not to be able to speak their minds against the government. I would ask the minister to assure the House and all veterans that those who are appointed under her hand or by the Governor in Council for the veterans reference group will be free to speak their minds and offer the kind of advice that the government needs to hear but may not want to hear.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I can advise the member for Southern Downs and the House that the purpose of the reference group is, of course, to hear from veterans about what matters to them and their families and to improve the services that we can offer to veterans. Clause 35 is about the functions of the veterans reference group to advise the council on veterans matters that are referred to the group, to help the council identify and consult with the veterans community, veterans organisations and other community organisations when preparing advice to the minister. Unlike those opposite when they were in government, we actually want to hear from organisations. We do not want to gag them. We are a government that prides itself on consultation. That is why we are setting up a group to consult with them. I can absolutely assure the member and this House that the purpose of this wonderful reference group is to work with the council so that we can consult even more broadly with veterans and their families.

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

**AYES, 30:**

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

**NOES, 51:**

**ALP, 51—**Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Madden, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendment (Mr Lister) negatived.

Clause 35, as read, agreed to.

Clause 36—



**Mr LISTER** (4.39 pm): This clause regarding the membership of the proposed veterans reference group is also of concern to the LNP and to veterans. The concern is how will the minister, how will the government, make the decision on who is going to be on this body, considering that there are many thousands of veterans—100,000 or so—plus the members of many ex-service organisations—1,000 in Queensland alone—who may be vying for these positions.

I detect mirth on the minister's face. We received a rather dusty response last night when these questions were asked about how the government works, but I think it is a serious matter. This is a government that was prepared to present to parliament at the first reading a bill which had a guarantee of two veterans on a veterans statutory body with eight members.

I do not think it is unreasonable that the House and the people of Queensland, particularly veterans, be satisfied that the government will use a process that will ensure that those veterans who are selected are representative of the veterans groups across Queensland and are not being selected because of extraneous considerations. I refer again to the Labor government's proclivity for appointing Labor mates, friends and pets, to make sure that the statutory authorities that they appoint people to are tame and do not provide the government with difficulties.

When she has a chance to reply, can the minister tell us, given the world of veterans and considering that the minister making the decision is unlikely to be a veteran themselves, how will the minister choose from among the many applicants for membership of this body? What mechanisms will be employed to make sure that this is a genuinely representative body for veterans?

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I have a slightly different inquiry to that of the member for Southern Downs. Last night in the debate the Attorney-General said that the veterans reference group would be made up of veterans. I note that the Attorney-General, the assistant minister for veterans and others criticised the member for Southern Downs's drafting of one of our amendments that referenced the veterans community. I note that clause 36 refers to members of the veterans reference group being drawn from members of the veterans community but not strictly veterans as defined by the bill. To be clear, I do not have a problem with drawing from members of the veterans community. However, I would like clarity given that the Attorney-General said that all members would be veterans and not strictly drawn from the veterans community.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** In fact, in the debate we made it very clear that they would be members of the veterans community. It was in fact the LNP speaking to their amendments, which also referenced the veterans community using the word 'veteran'. Let us be very clear: we are talking about members of the veterans community sitting on the reference group.

The member for Southern Downs asked how we would select veterans or members from the veterans community for the veterans reference group. Clause 36 explicitly says how those members will be appointed. Clause 36(2) states—

... the Minister must ensure the group consists of—


- (a) the appointed members under section 13(2)(a); and
- (b) not more than 8 other members of the veterans' community having knowledge of, or skills and experience in, 1 or more of the following—
  - (i) veterans' welfare;
  - (ii) veterans' health;
  - (iii) military service;

- (iv) veterans' transition from military service;
- (v) veterans' employment;
- (vi) veterans' aged care;
- (vii) matters that affect veterans' partners, widows and dependants;
- (viii) other matters that affect the wellbeing of the veterans' community.

It is there in black and white. That is how the minister will determine who sits on the veterans reference group. We have absolutely made sure that the veterans reference group has the skills and knowledge it needs to work with the council to provide the best advice to government on the needs of veterans.

Clause 36, as read, agreed to.

Clause 37—

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (4.44 pm): I contend that the drafting of this bill highlights why we should be doing consideration in detail more often. The government's amendment No. 3 amends clause 13(2)(a). They changed that clause to ensure that four individuals would be appointed underneath that clause. Clause 37(1) states—

The appointed members under section 13(2)(a) are the co-chairpersons of the veterans' reference group.

My question is: how will four individuals co-chair a veterans reference group of 12? It seems to me that that needs to be amended to reflect the fact that an individual is chair or two people are co-chairs. I have never been in a meeting that has had four co-chairs. I would have thought that would be somewhat unwieldy.

I note that on Tuesday the Leader of the House said that the quality of legislation coming through the parliament was the issue. I would contend that these sorts of issues are not being captured because we do not do consideration in detail more regularly. I ask the government if they intend to amend the bill, which I propose would be the appropriate course of action, or will they ignore this problem and come back in a year's time, having buried this in another bill, to rectify the problem after it becomes clear that the veterans reference group is unworkable?

The other aspect I raise is that members of the veterans reference group, as detailed in part 4, are not entitled to remuneration. We have heard a considerable amount of criticism of LNP members, including the member for Southern Downs, for raising the fact that it is the LNP's view and certainly that of the committee members that members of the Veterans' Council should not be paid remuneration. It was suggested that that was a ridiculous position and that people should be paid for their work.

My question is this: how is it any different for the veterans reference group? Why are individuals within the Veterans' Council to be paid but individuals on the veterans reference group are not to be paid? That seems to me to be an inconsistent position. To be clear, I do not have a problem with them not being paid. I think most would happily volunteer to do it. However, I think there is a problem with respect to the consistency of the argument of those opposite when they criticise the LNP for raising this exact issue with respect to the Queensland veterans group.

My principal concern is that, as it stands, the drafting will mean that we will have four co-chairs for a group of 12 people. The government should be amending this clause here and now so that that is rectified. I ask the Attorney-General to give that consideration.


**Ms FENTIMAN:** Under our amendments there are two co-chairs from veterans organisations. The amendments do fix that up. I thank the member for Buderim for raising that point. Our amendments cover that.

Clause 37, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 38 to 86, as read, agreed to.

Schedule 1, as read, agreed to.

### Third 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) (4.47 pm): I move—

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


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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.



## Long Title

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (4.48 pm): I move—


That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

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

Motion agreed to.

## MOTION

### Order of Business

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.48 pm): I move—


That government business order of the day No. 3 be postponed.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from p. 3404.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (4.48 pm): I reconfirm my allegiance to our Queen, Elizabeth II, by the grace of God, Queen of Australia and her other realms and territories, head of the Commonwealth. I also acknowledge His Excellency the Governor in the opening of this 57th Parliament of Queensland. I want to place on record my thanks to His Excellency for his service to the state of Queensland, particularly in his role as Governor for the past seven years. I am particularly pleased to say that I had a little to do with his appointment to that high office when he was first appointed Governor. It has been an honour to see his extension by a government of the other political persuasion. That just shows the regard in which His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey is held within this parliament and the state of Queensland. I wish him and Kaye all the very best for what they plan to do in the future.

I am very humbled to have been elected for the fifth time as the member for Kawana. I have enjoyed representing the good people of Kawana since 2009. Although I have changed a little bit, the corflutes have not!

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I know. They are all the same. Everyone is thinking, 'We know what he's talking about.' I want to thank my family: my wife, Sally; my elder daughter, Taylor; my younger daughter, Madison; and my young boy, Jasper. They have grown up over the time I have been in this role, for nearly 13 years now. For Madison and Jasper it is all they have known their father to do, and Taylor has now graduated and is off to university. I want to thank them for the constant support and love they give. I know that all honourable members feel the same way about the contribution their families make to the role we all have in this place.

I want to thank my mum and dad, who are always there. I want to thank my mother-in-law and father-in-law for the support they give to Sally and me and to the family. When Sally and I are at functions and events all around the electorate, Mum and Dad and Sally's mum and dad are always there to lend a hand, as are other family members.

I thank 'Team Kawana'—a great team in Kawana, whether it be the LNP volunteers, the campaign workers, the corflute wavers or the brochure and letterbox delivery people. Everyone in my campaign team I want to thank. They, like me, always put Kawana and the people of Kawana first. Every day we wake up we wonder how we can make Kawana a better place—how we can make Kawana a better place for people to grow up and to learn, live and earn locally.

I thank my office staff who, for the last couple of years particularly during COVID, have borne the brunt of many inquiries into my electorate office—the emails, the constant phone calls, the changing landscape and the dynamic. I place on record my thanks to Aaron, Lelia, Cheryl and Nick in the office, over the past two years particularly.

As I said, I was pleased to be re-elected at the last election, which was nearly 12 months ago. It is disappointing, though, that what I warned the parliament would happen in fact will happen. That is, we will have members in this parliament giving an address to a governor who is no longer in office.

When we adjourn the House at six o'clock this evening, there will be many members in this House who have not delivered their remarks to the Governor. He will not be in office; we will have a new Governor. I cannot recall a time in 13 years that that has happened. That is disrespectful to His Excellency the Governor, who made the speech in the red chamber nearly 12 months ago. It will have taken the government over 12 months to complete the address-in-reply. I think it is completely discourteous to His Excellency, who leaves office on Monday.

I thank the leader at the time of the election campaign, Deb Frecklington, the member for Nanango, and her deputy, Tim Mander—a stellar leadership team that went up against the odds in the election we had just 12 months ago. I want to thank them for the support they gave me through my campaign. I also want to thank Deb for allowing me to serve in her shadow cabinet as shadow education minister and also as Manager of Opposition Business, a role that I really do enjoy.

I want to thank our leader, David Crisafulli, and our deputy leader, David Janetzki. I want to thank David for the role he has given me in his shadow cabinet—shadow minister for finance and shadow minister for industrial relations. I continue in the role of Manager of Opposition Business, a role I still enjoy in this parliament. I also thank our entire team for the support they constantly give.

Kawana is a beautiful place. I have lived on the Sunshine Coast most of my 39 years of life. In fact, for 32 out of 39 years I have lived on the Sunshine Coast. Having three children who are living, earning and learning on the Sunshine Coast shows that you can do anything you want to do on the Sunshine Coast. You can be whatever or whoever you want to be and still live on the Sunshine Coast. There is no better place to live than on the Sunshine Coast.

I want to pay tribute to some of the great community organisations in the Kawana electorate. Particularly in the last 12 months with businesses, I thank the Kawana Chamber of Commerce as well as the Caloundra Chamber of Commerce, which also services many businesses in the Kawana electorate. I acknowledge the leadership teams of those groups. The health checks they have been doing on businesses have been outstanding. I thank our wonderful chambers of commerce—the Caloundra and Kawana chambers—for the work they are doing to ensure that business is heard. When business needs support and certainty, it is our chambers of commerce that are at the forefront to make sure parliamentarians are listening to concerns.

I also acknowledge our local environment groups—the Currimundi Catchment Care Group, the Kawana Forest Residents' Association, Friends of Currimundi Lake. I thank them for the work they are doing to fight for a better environment in our local area. I still regularly attend the Currimundi Catchment Care Group meetings, although most of the meetings are on Zoom these days. They care so much about our Currimundi catchment. Of course, the Friends of Currimundi Lake do as well.

I also mention the Kawana Island Residents Association, our Neighbourhood Watch, our other environment groups, Kawana Scouts, Kawana Girl Guides, Buddina Community Garden, Kawana Surf Life Saving Club, Kawana Waters RSL Sub Branch, all our amazing sporting groups, the Lake Currimundi-Kawana Lions Club and Rotary Club of Mooloolaba, which services the Kawana electorate—thousands of volunteers doing wonderful work around our local area. Particularly in the last two years it has been tough for many people, and they support people out in our communities.

I reflect on the Kawana Surf Life Saving Club, which delivered meals during lockdowns to veterans in the Kawana Waters RSL Sub Branch. They are our local lifesavers. It is quite a unique situation with the Kawana Surf Life Saving Club, because the clubhouse is also home to our RSL subbranch. It works so well. Everyone gets along. It is great when they have their reunion lunches: the surf lifesavers and the veterans from the RSL all come together and are in the same home. The community support that groups like that provide is just amazing. It gets better and better. The membership of many of these organisations is growing. Some still find it challenging. A lot of the Neighbourhood Watch groups still struggle to find people until there is an issue in the community. I encourage anyone who wants to partake to get involved in these organisations because it makes our community all the better.

I turn to our wonderful schools. I note that tomorrow is World Teachers' Day. I place on record my thanks for the wonderful support our teachers provide right around the Kawana electorate. I acknowledge Meridan State College, Talara Primary College, Currimundi State School, Kawana Waters State College, Pacific Lutheran College and Buddina State School. I also give a little shout-out—it is not entirely in my electorate, but it is across the road—to the Currimundi Special School, which is in the Caloundra electorate. I recently was there with the Lake Currimundi-Kawana Lions Club where we held the Children of Courage Awards. The principal hosted us. There are some amazing young kids at those schools. I want to give a shout-out to them for the amazing work they do.

I pay particular tribute to Talara Primary College. They had a big fundraising event last week—Bogan Bingo.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Yes, there are photos. There was a mullet. I was at one of the schools the day before Bogan Bingo and talking to a bunch of year 8s about democracy and politics in action. They said, 'What is a day in the life of a politician?' I said, 'We go from here to here, helping people. Tomorrow night, for instance, I am going to Bogan Bingo. I've already bought one of these awful wigs so I can have a mullet.' As I am saying it, I look across the crowd and see that half the boys have mullets! I don't know: Kawana is a diverse place!

We had Bogan Bingo. Literally, before I got up to speak I was tagged in an Instagram post from the company Bogan Bingo that organised that event. They have a video of me singing.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I would encourage members to watch it. There are plenty of videos out there of me singing and dancing. The host of the night, Rebel Lyons, came up to me and said, 'Were you the parliamentarian who sang in parliament in 2012?' I said, 'Yes, that was me—Shannon Noll's *What about me*.' So I did a rendition of Shannon Noll's *What about me* at Bogan Bingo last week. For members' entertainment pleasure it is now on Instagram. I would encourage members to go and have a look at Bogan Bingo.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I have done that one too. During the election we looked at some issues. The Liberal National Party promised some sporting groups money, including \$20 million for the Sunshine Coast stadium. We promised money for the Mooloolah River interchange. It is great to see the Labor Party finally coming to the table for the Mooloolah River interchange. It has taken years and years. The only reason they are doing it is the federal government, which has no responsibility for Kawana Way, has chipped in half the money. The federal government and the federal members, Andrew Wallace and Ted O'Brien, recognise that if they do not chip in half the money this road will never get built by a state Labor government. That is the reason we are finally getting the Mooloolah River interchange. The reason we are now getting reviews done to upgrade the Kawana Motorway and Kawana Way link road is the federal government has thrown in money. It is not all state government money. It was only because the federal government has thrown in the money.

I would like to see the state government throw in some more money while they are at it. Let us look at the Meridan connector road connecting the Parklands side of the road to the Kawana Way link road. We need that road to ease congestion around Meridan State College. We need them to look at other infrastructure.

When I talk about infrastructure, what I do not want the state government to invest in and want them to run a hundred miles away from is the light rail proposal being put forward by the Sunshine Coast Council. I was with the 5,000 people who protested against light rail that will rip up our coastal vegetation and our lifestyle on the Sunshine Coast. It is proposed to go down Nicklin Way and into Caloundra. I was there at that protest. LNP members were well represented there. I cannot recall seeing any state Labor MPs at the protest march.

We do not want light rail on the Sunshine Coast. We might as well put the Mary Valley steam rattler down Nicklin Way if we are going to go down the path of the light rail fantasy of the Sunshine Coast Council. It will destroy our community's lifestyle. It will destroy our lifestyle on the Sunshine Coast. We do not want those squeaky light rail things that they have on the Gold Coast, with due respect to the Gold Coast member sitting behind me. We do not want it.

We want electric buses. We want bigger bus services like the Metro that will go into Brisbane. That is how we will get people around. Let us have buses that go where people want them to go. Let us get more reliable buses. Let us get Kawana Forest a bus service before we start looking at light rail which will not service their community anyway. I call on Minister Mark Bailey to give us the bus service to Kawana Forest. We met months ago with Minister Bailey and we have not heard whether we are getting a bus service into the Kawana Forest area. I call on the government to immediately provide that.

Some 5,000 people protested against mass transit. I thank the Beach Matters Group, and particularly Rach Bermingham, for organising that protest with the Mass Transit Action Group. The last protest on the Sunshine Coast which saw thousands of people protesting was when the Labor Party delayed the Sunshine Coast Public University Hospital. The next biggest protest on the Sunshine Coast is against the Sunshine Coast Council's light rail fantasy.

I am very disappointed in the Sunshine Coast Council. They voted last week to proceed with having light rail in the options to be presented to the state government. Congratulations to Councillor Christian Dickson in the member for Buderim's patch, my local councillor Councillor Joe Natoli and Councillor Jason O'Pray who voted against light rail. The council consulted with the community. The community said that light rail is the least preferred option for mass transport. The council is still putting it forward despite the Sunshine Coast saying no way to light rail.

The other thing that I want the state government to completely stop—and it is good that we have the Minister for Youth Justice in the chamber—is the Caloundra youth detention centre. It is rubbish. Crime is going to increase. Now the environmental assessment consultation is out there is a big sign out the front of the jail. The watch house sign was taken down but now it has been put back up to show there is a watch house still in existence. There is a big sign out the front now saying that they are consulting with the community. Guess what, Minister? The roller door of the watch house was left up the other day and skip bins were in there. They are cleaning it out. They are proceeding with it. The big sign out the front saying that the government is consulting with the community is a furphy because the skip bins have been moved in. The place is already being made into a youth detention centre.

People can go online on see the documentation the minister released. Some 6,000 Caloundra residents have signed a petition against the jail.

**Ms Linard** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I will send you the details. I absolutely will.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Direct your comments through the chair, member for Kawana.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** There are 6,000 signatures against this Caloundra youth jail. At page 16 of the government's documentation it says, 'If the young people get bail, they will be released into the community.' That is what is going to happen. Caloundra will become their community. That is the problem. They are not here at the moment. They are going to be put in jail in Caloundra.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take that interjection. They are not in their community at the moment, but when the jail is built in Caloundra it will become their community and they will be. It is so disappointing that the member for Caloundra is not standing up for his constituents. Over 6,000 people have signed a petition about this. I read a comment of the member for Caloundra in the paper the other day where he said, 'I have only been inundated with positive feedback about the youth jail.' That is absolute rubbish. No-one is supporting the Caloundra youth jail. I cannot find a person in Bulcock Street who supports this. I cannot find a person on the Sunshine Coast who supports this youth jail.

This is what is going to happen. The youth jail in Caloundra will be built despite the community not wanting it. Crime will go up. People not from the Sunshine Coast community will be let out in our community. There is already a rise in youth crime and youth offences—cars being stolen and break and enters. That is what is going to happen.

I am calling on the minister, who, I understand, will be in town tomorrow on her birthday at the Daniel Morcombe walk—we look forward to greeting her there—to consult with the people who will walk with her about what they think about the Caloundra youth jail. Minister, when you are walking with the hundreds of Sunshine Coast residents, ask them, 'How do you feel about a Caloundra youth jail being built on the Sunshine Coast?'


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Direct your comments through the chair, member for Kawana.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I know the feedback that the minister is going to get from the Sunshine Coast community. It is going to be a big no way. I say to the minister: please quit the jail idea, get it out of our community because the Sunshine Coast does not want it.

We have a huge housing crisis on the Sunshine Coast. There is no answer from the government. I am getting emails daily from people who cannot afford rents on the Sunshine Coast. They are not in homes. They are living in their cars. This is not just the people who are stuck across the border, I might add. This is people who are homeless on the Sunshine Coast. We need to urgently look for innovative ways to help these people, whether it is allowing tiny houses to be put on vacant farm land which, under the current planning scheme, we are not allowed to do, or something else. I call on the government to get creative and innovative and look at ways that we can help these people who are homeless and living in cars around Kawana at the moment.

In terms of the Kawana electorate, I call on the sports minister to look at the Currimundi United Football Club which needs new lights on their sports field. Minister, please give us some new lights on the sports fields for the soccer club. Kawana Rugby League needs upgrades to its tuckshop facilities. I do not want them to be impacted by the Olympics because the mayor has put out a big design and their field would be gone because there would be a big basketball centre going there. The minister needs to consult with our community to ensure that Kawana Rugby League can stay at their home ground.

I am going to be holding the government to account for their failures over the last three terms. This is a third-term arrogant Labor government. We will ensure the people of the Sunshine Coast are heard in this place despite the Labor government not wanting to do that, despite the Labor members on the Sunshine Coast not being worth their salt, not standing up for the community and not standing up and saying no to a Caloundra youth jail. If they are not going to do it, we will.

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (5.08 pm): Before I begin, I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we gather here in parliament and also the traditional owners and custodians of the land of my electorate—the Wulgurukaba and Bindal people. The Wulgurukaba people were the 'canoe people' who had travelled across to Yunbenun. About 250 years ago an English sailor called it Magnetic Island because the compass went nuts as he sailed past it. Other people call it Cowboys' country. I call it God's country.

I would also like to congratulate the Speaker of the House, the Hon. Curtis Pitt, on his reappointment to the position of Speaker. I know he will continue to do a superb job of keeping this House in order each and every single sitting.

I would also like to thank the people of Townsville for the faith and trust that they have again afforded me. Representing my community is truly an honour and I pay tribute to the people of Townsville who have elected me in my third term as their representative in the Queensland parliament.

Winning the seat of Townsville last October was a collective effort, and I would like to thank my support network for all the tireless work they did during the campaign. If time permits, I will mention specific people a little later at the risk of excluding one by sheer chance of course. Labor is the party of the people, and achieving success is always through the planning and commitment of grassroots volunteers throughout my electorate.

A big part of my election campaign was outlining the plans of the Palaszczuk government for a stronger and brighter future for Townsville, North Queensland and, indeed, the entire state. Townsville has been through some ups and downs in the last six years, but we are blessed with a community of both kind-hearted and resilient people who rally together to help each other during really tough times.

In 2019, we dealt with the devastating floods which ruined hundreds of homes and caused millions of dollars in damage. Before that, the city was still reeling from the closure of Queensland Nickel and the hundreds of jobs that were lost basically overnight from that decision. Townsville, like everywhere around the world, has had to deal with this destructive global pandemic as well.

The way forward is through job creation. The Palaszczuk government is committed to creating jobs and building infrastructure for North Queensland, and we have wasted no time delivering on those commitments. This year we are investing in Townsville Ring Road stage 5 and Riverway Drive stage 2—

**Ms Farmer** interjected.

**Mr STEWART:** Yes, who has heard of Riverway Drive! We are also continuing work on the Haughton River flood plain road project. This equates to jobs, jobs and more jobs, which Townsville, North Queensland and the entire state need.

As a proud North Queenslander, I know how much my community loves their motorsport. We see that every year when thousands of people turn out for the Townsville 500. That is why I am very excited by the Palaszczuk government's commitment to the Drivelt NQ facility. By backing this long-awaited project, not only are jobs being created during construction but secure jobs are being created to run the facility. The benefits for North Queensland tourism are very clear. Stage 2 of construction is now underway and, when finished, this facility will create 147 jobs for Townsville and inject \$1.4 billion into the Townsville economy over its 40-year lifespan. I was incredibly proud to work with the member for Thuringowa to advocate for this world-class project and secure its funding.

This is a government that backs Townsville and backs North Queensland with real investment and vital infrastructure. We have a laser focus on creating jobs for people in Townsville in many different ways. We are continuing to invest in the Townsville Hospital and Health Service. Townsville has world-class health facilities, and we are backing in the Townsville Hospital and Health Service with millions of dollars of investment for construction projects.

The Palaszczuk government has a clear vision for Townsville, and we are backing it with real investment into vital services like health. In the budget we announced \$17.8 million will be spent in the 2021-22 financial year out of a total \$54.4 million spend for construction projects to improve facilities at the Townsville University Hospital site. This includes the expansion of the outpatients department. This is about making sure North Queenslanders continue to have access to the best health services. With these construction projects comes construction jobs, and there will be ongoing jobs too as these new state-of-the-art facilities continue to grow.

As we know, the resources sector played a key role in keeping the Queensland economy running throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and it will continue to lead the way as we embark on our road to recovery. The Palaszczuk government understands the critical role industry will play throughout the recovery process—from the \$34 billion it brings to the Queensland economy to the 80,000 Queenslanders it employs, particularly in regional Queensland.

Our government is backing mining exploration with more than \$29 million invested in exploration grants, initiatives and COVID-19 support for explorers and miners. We are backing the hunt for in-demand new economy minerals. These are the minerals that power our batteries, phones, electric vehicles and renewable energy technology. We cannot have a renewable energy revolution without a strong resources sector.

To help get into the new economy global supply chain faster, we have already fast-tracked a \$2 million investment to understand the potential of rare earth minerals. Furthermore, we have invested another \$11.7 million to keep explorers on the hunt for new economy minerals for the next three years and to deliver jobs and prosperity for the future.

Already we are starting to see the benefits of investment in exploration which will lead to jobs and investment for Queenslanders. This is seen in the latest ABS data, which reveals Queensland's exploration sector has continued to grow by an impressive 22.5 per cent to \$705 million in 12 months. Queensland's boost in exploration expenditure has come from strong growth in exploration for minerals—up 14.5 per cent—and exploration for oil and gas—up 53.1 per cent compared to the previous 12 months. Exploration investment is critical for finding new deposits and developing new projects—which means more royalties, more exports and more jobs for Queenslanders.

This year we approved Multicom's mining lease for the first vanadium mine in Queensland. This demonstrates the success of the Palaszczuk government's approach to enabling a prosperous resources sector that is ready for the future. Through our Strategic Resources Exploration Program, we have invested another \$3.3 million to help boost gas and mineral exploration. Another \$845,000 investment has also made data collected from exploration projects freely available via the government's geological database. Everything learned from exploration projects will be shared with the whole sector, helping to stimulate more mines, more exports and, most importantly, more jobs for Queensland.

One area that will play a big role in mining new economy minerals is the North West Minerals Province. That is why the Palaszczuk government is backing this sector with real investment. We have developed a strategic blueprint for Queensland's North West Minerals Province and we are implementing it right now. This blueprint is backed by our \$13 million New Economy Minerals Initiative, which was launched in late 2019. The works under this initiative include a strong focus on assessing the potential of former mine sites to test their potential for new supply. We also provided a \$10 million boost to collaborative exploration grants over four years, which will help explorers discover new economy minerals and support future jobs in Queensland's resources sector.

There are real jobs in the resources sector and the North West Minerals Province. When this part of North Queensland is strong, the rest of the state is strong. There are thousands of people already directly employed in the area, and it creates jobs in other parts of Queensland as well.

Through the Townsville Regional Recovery Action Plan the Palaszczuk government has supported the continued operation of the Mount Isa Mines copper smelter. This financial support underpins more than 1,000 manufacturing jobs in North Queensland including at the smelter itself, the Townsville copper refinery and at Incitec Pivot's sulphuric acid plant in Mount Isa.

In Townsville, the port is going through a \$193 million upgrade, which will help our resources sector to grow. We are also backing the Mount Isa to Townsville rail line, with major upgrades helping to get our valuable resources from the North West Minerals Province to market. This government is also supporting CopperString 2.0, a project that I and my colleagues are very passionate about. Not only will it create hundreds of jobs during construction, but it will provide cheaper and reliable power for miners in the North West Minerals Province. This will help new and smaller mines open in the future, along with those already operating, ensuring Queensland is getting the best out of the region.

The Palaszczuk government is backing regional Queensland and the resources sector, just as we always have. Our \$70 billion gas industry also continues to go from strength to strength. In this state we are doing the heavy lifting with gas production both domestically and for export.

We have always backed the LNG sector and we will continue to invest in the industry. The Palaszczuk government is also committed to ensuring there is adequate supply of affordable gas for the domestic market, which is critical for energy supply and advanced manufacturing. We have announced a concept study into new gas transmission pipelines which may assist in unlocking gas reserves in the Bowen Basin, examine the collection of fugitive emissions from coalmines, and bring new gas to domestic and export markets. The Palaszczuk government has invested \$5 million into this study. If the study finds the project stacks up, there are potentially 1,000 construction jobs available and countless opportunities for other industries. Not only would it boost development of new gas production in the Bowen Basin; it would make more gas available for Queensland and Australian manufacturers.

Despite the challenges of dealing with the global COVID pandemic, our gas industry has continued to perform. To support the development of future gas projects the Palaszczuk government has continued to make land available for gas exploration through competitive tendering. That is why since 2019 the Palaszczuk government has released 80,000 square kilometres of land for gas exploration and development, with 20,000 for the domestic market only under our innovative domestic gas policy. These land releases create new opportunities for more gas projects to come online and aid our economic recovery, supporting jobs in regional communities.

This government is committed to the resource sector. That is very clear, because we back all parts of it. We know the resource industry has played a key role in keeping people in work during the global pandemic. Now because of our health response we are also able to focus on our economic recovery, and the resource sector and gas have a major role to play in that. It is an honour to continue to be the member for Townsville in this parliament and a minister in the Palaszczuk Labor government as we work together to Advance Queensland.

If I had time left I would acknowledge a swag of people who have helped me, and of course I apologise in advance for those whom I may miss. It is completely unintentional. Firstly can I acknowledge Col Hegarty, who has been with me right from day one when I joined the Hermit Park branch. He tucked me under his wing. He has now seen me through three elections, and his guidance and support have been absolutely fantastic. Nikki Burnett and Gwen Casey are the rock stars in my electorate office. They continue to make sure that everything in my office continues to run and they look after me.

**Ms Fentiman:** They make you look good.

**Mr STEWART:** They make me look sensational, let me tell you. They are brilliant ladies, and I cannot say enough about how much I really appreciate their work.

During the campaign I had a raft of people who came and helped me. They are: David, Jane and Nelson, who just worked tirelessly. That young energy was infectious. Jonte, Alfred, Ulian, Tori and Will came from other parts of the state and interstate to work on my campaign and those young guys were just absolutely brilliant. Emma ran my campaign; she is an outstanding woman with huge potential. It was her first campaign, so she is saying she is one from one. I would also like to thank all of the ALP branch volunteers right across Townsville who came out and helped us in droves. To Ben, who joined me on my mobile offices, to all those who doorknocked, those who phone banked and those who letterbox dropped, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

From the ALP team I would like to thank Jules Campbell and Zac Beers for their great support during the campaign and of course Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk, who did a sensational job. She came to Townsville on a regular basis and supported me. Being the most marginal seat, it certainly was very focused in the last election—

**Mr Healy:** A wonderful experience.

**Mr STEWART:** There was a lot of experience gained. I thank her for her support and guidance and my new team, Brett Murphy, and particularly Talbot Speechley. It is Talbot's last day today. He has been with me for 11 months. He leaves to go on to greener fields, but thank you to him.

I would also like to acknowledge my mum. I am going to reveal her age, and she is going to hate me for this, but mum is 85. She could not come up and hand out how-to-vote cards for me this time. She was suffering from a few health issues, but she was certainly there with me in spirit. More

importantly—and this is a rarity—I agree with the member for Kawana when he talked about the importance of family. I would like to acknowledge my three kids, who have been with me through every one of my—

**Mrs Frecklington:** Hear, hear!

**Mr STEWART:** Thank you. I take the interjection from the member for Nanango. Our families are so important to us all. Quite often it comes at their expense, so I would certainly like to acknowledge my three kids, Lachlan, Jordan and Tyler, who were there for me day in, day out. They gave me phone calls of support and text messages the entire time.


I have an amazing wife in my life. This amazing woman would turn up to pre-poll with me each and every morning at six o'clock. She would hand out how-to-vote cards until four o'clock in the afternoon in that blazing hot Townsville sun, the heat bouncing off the concrete. I think the member for Nanango understands that; she was up there at one stage. It was terrible. My wife was there every single minute of those two weeks. She stood right beside me. There were times where we did not think that I would be here today, but because of her strong support and her commitment to me, here I am. I can never repay what I owe my wonderful wife; she is an amazing woman.

Having said that, I would like to dedicate this speech to my brother Peter, who passed away tragically only three months ago.

**Honourable members:** Oh!

**Mr STEWART:** I am not looking for sympathy. He was an amazing man. He supported me. He certainly did not vote our colour, and he told me that many times, but he was such a great man. We would ring each other every week and talk about how the campaign was going. Particularly in the lead-up he wanted to know how things were going. Then when I got this job I would ring him and we would talk. He worked in the resource industry for around 20 years, so I relied on him to give me information, just some guidance. It was an absolute tragedy to lose him very unexpectedly three months ago so, as I said, this speech is for him. I want to record him in Queensland's history because he just means so much to me and I will never get that time back with him ever again.

It also reminds me of how fortunate I am—how fortunate we are—to be here in this role. We are blessed and we should never take it for granted. I thank each and every member in this House for the role that you do keeping us honest or keeping me supported. We do an outstanding job. This is an amazing job that we should never take for granted.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (5.27 pm): I will begin by conveying my heartfelt congratulations to His Excellency not only for his contribution in the neighbouring chamber but also for his contribution to Queensland. He has been a fine Governor. To see the way that he has made people feel special and connected in that role is a great tribute to him and his wife, Kaye. We will dearly miss him, as will those small communities in our great state. He was never afraid to roll up his sleeves, so I pay tribute to him. I particularly did want to speak today because I did want to give this speech whilst he is still in office.

I welcome the new Governor. I had the chance to congratulate Dr Young just a couple of hours ago in person as we prepare for her swearing in. I wish her all the best in her upcoming role and thank her for her many years of service.

I congratulate the Speaker on being returned to that high role. Mr Deputy Speaker, I wish both of you all the best in what is an important role in this parliament.

I want to thank my colleagues for the great honour of being elected Leader of the Opposition. I particularly want to thank the two parliamentarians beside me, both the deputy leader David Janetzki, one of parliament's most decent and intelligent operators, and the Manager of Opposition Business, the formidable Jarrod Bleijie. Jarrod, thank you for the fire that you bring to this place and your true spirit of the contest.

As this is also a reflection on the last term, it is wonderful that the member for Nanango is in the chamber so that I can commend her for the way she conducted herself in this role. She is a formidable parliamentarian. She is an extremely decent human being. Above all, I was honoured to serve in her shadow ministry. In fact, part of my shadow ministerial responsibilities in tourism only came about because of the opportunity the member for Nanango gave me. It was in that role I realised just how important tourism is for this state and how important it is that we develop new product, that we find a way to use our natural environment in a respectful way and that we develop new opportunities for the



next wave. As part of the Olympic Games, we have a 20-year window to get this right—a 10-year window to build up, that spotlight when it is on there in the middle, and the 10 years after. I thank the member for Nanango for broadening my understanding of how important tourism is.

I also thank the members for Surfers Paradise and Clayfield. They are also former leaders who are willing to serve in the shadow cabinet and serve in such a strong way. I also thank the former deputy leader, who is a very competent minister and a very competent shadow minister, and someone who once refereed—2005 was not your greatest day. I thank you, Tim, for your energy during the campaign and for the way you are performing in this parliament.

It is my electorate that I want to focus my contribution on today because without an electorate no-one in this place gets the chance to do anything for the state. Those who wish to serve on front benches on both sides do not get the opportunity unless they have an electorate. I want to talk a bit about my electorate and the mixture of offerings that are there. I will talk a bit about some of the sporting, schooling and hospitality opportunities there.

I think of Paradise Point as an amazing village. I will continue to advocate for my electorate office to be domiciled there. At the moment it is right on the edge of my electorate and I will continue to agitate to the Clerk for that to be the home of the electorate office because it is geographically magnificently centred. It is a place where those who do not have access to their own transport can get to. It is a wonderful little village.

Coombabah and Biggera Waters are two great suburbs with a mixture of housing offerings and two wonderful state schools, which I will comment on shortly. Hollywell has a dynamic marina which provides job opportunities, relaxing opportunities and dining opportunities. It is a wonderful precinct. Runaway Bay is a suburb where the largest employer is, which is the shopping centre. Both Hope Island and Helensvale have some magnificent estates. I am proud to represent those people.

I only have three schools in my electorate. I will start with the Biggera Waters State School because the principal, Val Faulks, will finish this year after 42 years in education and 12 years at that school. She has done a mighty job. The sense of pride that she has generated in that school has been amazing. The kids who go there are proud to go to that school, as are the children of Coombabah State School. Murray Gleadhill has turned that school around in a short time in attendance and academic achievement. I am very proud to sponsor an attendance award at the school. Under Murray's stewardship, he has driven a culture of kids wanting to go to school and it is heartening to see those improvements. They have a bush tucker garden. They are proud to pitch in. I am proud to represent them.

Finally, I mention St Francis, whose principal, Kathy Fuller, is currently on secondment. To Paul Rees, who is acting in the role, thanks for always welcoming me to the school. Father Marty, who is our leader in the church and our priest who we value and respect, has joined us from the Sunshine Coast. I was very lucky to be blessed by Father Marty before the election. Father Marty informs me that he has done that on many occasions across the state and he has never had an aspiring politician he has blessed not win an election. So I booked him in for 93 locations, although that is going to take a little while. I want to thank him for the energy that he brings to church services there.

I mention the sporting clubs in my electorate—cricket, football, netball, baseball. Today I want to talk about the soccer club, the Runaway Bay Bayhawks, because at the moment there is a young lady who is doing it really tough—young Ava Azzopardi. Not so long ago, she ran onto the field as a substitute as a perfectly healthy young girl and collapsed. I want to thank everybody at the club and I want to thank our health professionals for the care they have given her. She was in a very bad way and I want to thank Al Mucci from the club who has been keeping us updated. She looks to be on the improve, and we did not think we were going to be that fortunate for some time.

I turn to the investment that is going on in our area. There is a brand new shopping complex at Hope Island which was a vacant block of land for a long time and is now home to a first-class offering, including a Woolworths. It has been a great development for the area. The Runaway Bay Centre is currently undergoing a massive renovation and face lift. Unfortunately, tonight is its grand opening, so I have recorded a video message to wish them all the best from this chamber. They are a wonderful place in the electorate.

I turn to the new restaurant offerings that are popping up. I mention my mate Jack from Mecca Bah. We have institutions like loesco with Max Alfieri who has always given us the opportunity to go to a wonderful establishment. I am very proud of the quality of restaurants and hospitality in my area.

Before I get on to reflecting on those who assisted me in the election, I want to talk about the loss of a local legend in recent times—Tommy Raudonikis. Tommy was an icon in Paradise Point. Everybody remembers the sight of Tommy and Artie Beetson, two giants on the football field from different states who were the best of mates. To lose Artie many years ago and now to lose Tommy has left a big hole in the area. I thank his wife, Trish, for her friendship and I let her know that she is in our thoughts as we embrace the years ahead.

I turn to those who assisted in my election, and I will start with my family. I made a promise to my kids on my second journey in politics that I would not put them through the rough and tumble of politics, so I will ensure that my contribution will be short and sharp and I will not embarrass them. I do love my girls very much and I thank them for being wonderful young women I am very proud of. To my wife, Tegan, who does an amazing job looking after those children in my absence in many cases, I want to thank you for everything you have done for those kids.

On the election campaign, I want to thank John Clarke, Sam Domani and Gary, my branch chairs in the area. They do a heck of a lot of work to me. Pat and Brett, who were magnificent in that election campaign, were both juggling their own work and were prepared to do so many hours. I am so grateful for your friendship and hard work. I thank Alex, Prue, Fran and many others.

To my staff, in particular to Gen, who is doing an amazing job in an electorate office that increasingly is getting a massive workload of people who are calling about other issues; I want to thank her for what she does in keeping our local area connected. Newsletters are going out next week and I can tell honourable members that, without her, that show would not have gotten on the road, so thank you.

To Lisa, I am most grateful to have you in the office. To Prue and Kirsten who have made wonderful contributions, I am thankful to you. The young member of parliament, Zoe Platt, is someone who came to us and we found she was an engaged young woman. We have been delighted to engage her. For example, she is covering the Remembrance Day service for me on Runaway Bay. I am most grateful to her and to young Brandon, who has done some work experience. I am keen to nurture the future young talent in our area for people who want to make a contribution to service clubs, sporting clubs et cetera.

I want to talk about the priorities for my electorate. I have to start on the Broadwater and I have to once again say that I lament the fact that the things that matter the most to the people I represent are not being addressed in the Broadwater. Let me go again and place on record that people want to see a more regular dredging schedule in the Broadwater. People live there because they love the lifestyle, they want to have good boating facilities and they want a good lifestyle that involves connecting those people who live on the water and those people who do not live on the water. We want boat ramps for people who do not live on the water and we want access from people's patios who do. They want the depth of the canal to facilitate that. I am not sure why there is an aversion to conducting the scale of dredging that people want to see. It can be done in an environmentally sensible way, but it is vital for the lifestyle.

I would love to see the waterways authority and the government act on the houseboats in the area, many of which are unseaworthy and many of which do not collect their effluent, which is an environmental issue and an aesthetics issue. They would not cop it in Sydney and I do not cop it on the Broadwater. It should be to the Gold Coast what the harbour is to Sydney. To look out and see disregarded houseboats is wrong.

I want to acknowledge the member for Bonney, who I know has a very active interest in the area. His constituents would be telling him a similar story. I want to see a better balance in enforcing speeds, and I have welcomed the opportunity to work with the waterways authority on that. I also place on record my thanks to Hal Morris, who is departing after many years in the role of CEO. He has always been incredibly decent to deal with.

I again talk about the duplication of the bridges over Jabiru Island. In an area where there is development on both sides and there is a corridor in place it makes no sense to me why that should not be on the forward works list of projects at the very least. Every day we see the traffic increase a little bit more. It is such an important connection to be at the mercy of only two lanes; it desperately needs an upgrade.

The schools also need an upgrade. I mentioned previously how proud I am to represent those great state schools in my electorate, but the facilities there just do not cut the mustard. I particularly talk about the demountables at Biggera Waters. There is a need for upgrades and there is a need for a new classroom at Coombabah as well. The member for Bonney has the state high school in his electorate,

and many of the students in that school come from the Broadwater electorate. Again, they were buildings that came on the back of a truck many decades ago. I would like to think that a schedule to upgrade them should be first and foremost on the list.


I turn now to the Runaway Bay police station, and law and order is a big issue on the coast. Whilst it is only a small station of 24, it is vital that that be properly resourced. I again place on record my strong desire to see the suburb of Hope Island included in the Runaway Bay police district. I will continue to advocate for that. At the moment it falls in Coomera, and the Coomera district is exploding; it is under immense pressure. I would like to see the suburb of Hope Island as well as the resources attached to it domiciled at Runaway Bay. It makes immense sense for that to occur.

At present the train station that will be built on Hope Island Road is grossly under-resourced in terms of the car parking schedule. We will advocate, as will the member for Theodore, for an adequate amount of car parking, otherwise people will simply not use it. We see it at our neighbouring stations. Commuters drive there and go around in circles looking for a park. It just does not make sense. If you are building something like that, put in adequate parking. There is an opportunity there. There is more than enough land for car parking, which was proven during the games. There is more than enough opportunity for car parking. Get on with it and please build it.

It is a similar situation with the M1; the building of the Coomera Connector is vital. However, to already have a \$600 million cost blowout before a sod is turned is absolutely ridiculous. I know that hundreds of millions of dollars might not mean something to the government, but it means a lot to me and I will tell honourable members why. The \$600 million blowout could build that bridge crossing over Jabiru Island many, many times. In fact, you could build a bridge, you could fix the schools, you could dredge the Broadwater and you could still have enough money to get on and do other projects as well.

I am increasingly frustrated that the government is unable to build things on time and on budget. We saw it with the next stage of the light rail when \$700 million became a billion dollars and now we are seeing it with this: \$1.5 billion becomes \$2.1 billion. When that sort of culture is allowed to permeate in the end you are unable to build infrastructure because it will never stack up on a benefit-cost ratio, so you will never be funded by other levels of government and you will not have the capacity to build the things that need to be built. I am deeply concerned about that.

I finish my contribution by talking about the state. I do not want 2022 to define us by disease, as has 2021. I choose hope over fear. I believe that you can be safe and you can still be compassionate. To all of my constituents who are stuck on the other side of the border who want to come home and home quarantine safely, I say that we will continue to fight for you and all of Queensland. In a post-COVID era Queensland will do very, very well. We have everything that is needed and more. We have agriculture, we have tourism, we have mining, we have a south-east corner that is attractive where people want to live and we have the regions that are proud, strong and diverse. We will fight for them every day of the week.

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (5.46 pm): I begin by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which we meet, the Turrbal and Jagera people, and pay my respect to elders past and present. I also acknowledge the traditional owners of the land which I represent in this place, the Darumbal people and also the Woppaburra people. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures are the two longest ongoing cultures in the entire world and that is something of which I think we as Queenslanders and indeed Australians can be very, very proud.

I start by congratulating you, Deputy Speaker Kelly, on being elected as Deputy Speaker in this place and can I congratulate Mr Speaker Pitt on being elected for a second term to the high office of Speaker. It is wonderful to again have a North Queenslander as Speaker of the Queensland parliament.

It is a great honour and privilege to rise in this place for the third time, now in the 57th Parliament, as the member for Keppel after the 2020 state election. Since I was first elected in January 2015, the good people of Keppel and I have endured a lot together. Category 5 Tropical Cyclone Marcia crossed the Capricorn Coast only 10 days after the 2015 election results were declared. We have had one major flood, two major bushfires, the most severe drought in recorded history, a severe hailstorm and now a global pandemic.

The trail of destruction from each of the natural disasters has been significant. Each time our community experiences the stages of grief: shock at first, anger, anxiety, frustration, irritation, depression, hopelessness, then vocalising, sharing stories and finally acceptance and recovery. We have been beaten down, homes demolished, powerlines down, tourism impacted, roads torn apart,

huge trees ripped from the soil, animals and livestock perished, crops which take years to grow were destroyed, businesses devastated and livelihoods shattered. The physical, financial and emotional toll of these disasters has been significant.

Only a matter of weeks after the Cobraball, Lake Mary and Woodbury communities were devastated by a ferocious bushfire in 2019, when 16 homes and sheds were destroyed, the Queensland government activated a state of emergency as COVID-19 hit our shores. After years of tragic natural disasters, a global pandemic was beyond belief. How much more can we take? We were exhausted. When do we get a break? How can we recover if we keep being beaten down? We know that the human spirit is stronger than anything that can happen to it. If whatever does not kill you makes you stronger, then Central Queensland certainly is a tower of strength. We are strong, resilient, brave and fearless. We are selfless and caring, community minded people.

When first elected to this place in 2015, I was the youngest member of the Queensland parliament at the time, at just 28 years of age. I was a young, passionate, energetic and hardworking local member. Almost seven years on, I have fought and won three elections, become a mother and become a single mum. I am now also a volunteer rural firefighter, an avid member of the Rockhampton Mountain Biking Club, a proud patron of the Emu Park Surf Lifesaving Club and a Legacy legatee. I also have a few more wrinkles.

Over the past seven years I am proud to have fought for and delivered the iconic Yeppoon Lagoon and important road upgrades like the Rockhampton Northern Access Upgrade and the ring road and secured important funding for upgrades on Rockhampton-Yeppoon Road and Rockhampton-Emu Park Road. We have built more classrooms, halls, amenities and training centres at our schools. There is Parkhurst State School's \$9 million new classrooms, which are opening soon; over \$20 million in improvements at Yeppoon State High School; upgrades at Byfield and Mount Archer national parks; and new health facilities like the cancer care ward and car park at the Rockhampton Hospital and a new 42-bed detox and rehab centre. I have fought against multinational corporations like Glencore that have jammed workers. I have proudly stood side by side with my community through thick and thin.

Keppel and I have grown together over the past seven years. We have become stronger together. We have learned from our weaknesses, seized on opportunities, sharpened our skills, connected with each other, learned from one another, laughed together and cried together. We have developed our local knowledge, collaborated better, built infrastructure back better and fought against the forces of nature together. We have opened our hearts and our minds to each other. We have rolled with the punches. As Elizabeth Edwards said—

She stood in the storm and when the wind did not blow her away, she adjusted her sails.

In Keppel we have adjusted our sails and we are soaring. I am proud that over the past seven years my community and I have grown together. We have developed a thick skin together—an unshakeable sense of self and a commitment to compassion. We have become more resilient and stronger together. I am proud as punch to represent the best electorate in Australia, my home of Keppel.

At the 2015 election Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk promised to stop the cuts, stop the privatisations and begin building Queensland jobs again. We made steady progress over the following 2½ years. When we came to government, confidence in the Queensland economy began to recover from the cuts of Campbell Newman. Many of those opposite sat around that cabinet table—in fact 40 per cent of the Crisafulli front bench were Newman ministers—and they cut 14,000 public servants' jobs.

In my first term I fought against the LNP's compulsory acquisition of prime grazing land near Shoalwater Bay, stood up to Aurizon against job cuts, stood up for better Buy Local policies, stood side by side in solidarity with mine workers who had been locked out by multinational company Glencore and have continued fighting hard against the casualisation of workers.

In my second term the Palaszczuk government grew tourism with a new Yeppoon foreshore, Rockhampton Riverbank precinct and revitalised Mount Archer and Kershaw Gardens. We started building a detox and rehab centre so that local people can get the treatment they need close to home. We built new classrooms and training facilities; employed more teachers, doctors and nurses; opened a manufacturing hub to drive growth in this important sector; and built new roads and more sport and recreation facilities.

At the beginning of 2020, no-one could have imagined the challenges we would be facing. 2020 brought hardship, loss and tough days for so many of us: our healthcare workers who kept us safe; the retail workers, truck drivers, cleaners and construction workers who kept our economy going; and the

small businesses who worked around the clock to keep their head above water and found new ways to do business. Being part of a Labor government, being part of an Anastacia Palaszczuk and Steven Miles team, is an extraordinary privilege—never more so than now.

Our Premier's inspiring ability to listen to everyday Queenslanders, to carefully consider the stories they tell her, to put herself in their shoes, to empathise and make tough decisions is why our Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk is admired by many Queenslanders. Deputy Premier Steven Miles is exactly the person Queensland needed as health minister in a global pandemic. His intellect and his ability to understand epidemiology, science, medicine and clinical practice and then turn that complex knowledge into everyday language which was clear, concise and accurate was a welcome relief for many Queenslanders each day as we navigated the health response together.

I also acknowledge and thank Dr Jeannette Young as our Chief Health Officer for her professionalism and determination to act early. I look forward to attending the swearing-in of Dr Young as Queensland's next Governor next week. Dr Young, our Premier and the Minister for Health made for a formidable trio.

It is true that in moments of crisis you do not get a dress rehearsal. You do not get the luxury of making the wrong decision once, let alone 64 times. The story of the past 20 months has been a collective effort across our great state. We made it through the worst of the pandemic, not because of any one person but because five million Queenslanders did the right thing. Queenslanders have looked after each other. We put the health of our community first. We made sacrifices for the long-term good of our state.

In the 10 months prior to the election, the Queensland COVID attack was in full swing. The political doubters were also in full swing. Sportsbet had the LNP as favourites in Keppel, as it has in the last three elections. Every poll that came out said that I would lose Keppel. James Ashby, Pauline Hanson, One Nation and the media fuelled the rumours that Labor would lose Keppel. Even some within our party thought I was done and dusted. Trucks with my face on it calling me a murderer were driven around my local neighbourhood. Nasty and defamatory One Nation billboards were posted around town which caused distress in the community—so much so that I had children write to me and ask if I was okay. One young man wrote to me—

Adults are constantly telling us that bullying is not acceptable and yet adults are putting up the bullying signs. It's hypocritical of them to put those signs up.

He was right. The Keppel One Nation candidate was very bold to say at the Peter Gleeson Sky News debate that he would hold the balance of power in the Queensland parliament! I reminded him that there was only a very slim chance of that happening, only for him to spit back at me that there was a better chance of him holding the balance of power than me being re-elected. Well, winners are grinners. I am proud that in Keppel Labor's primary vote increased to 46.22 per cent, up from 43 per cent at the 2017 state election. One Nation's primary vote absolutely plummeted in Keppel, from a height of 25 per cent in 2017 down to just 15 per cent. The LNP's primary vote mellowed at just 29 per cent.

There have been many reflections on the state election results since October. Those opposite such as the member for Mermaid Beach have claimed in this place that it was an election based on 'unusual emotional health parameters'. I know, having called and doorknocked four times as many people in Keppel than in the last two elections combined, that people in my community voted Labor because they wanted a safe economy amidst a global pandemic, a clear recovery plan and a safe Queensland. We know that the best form of economic security as the globe battles COVID-19 is keeping our people safe. A healthy community is best for our economy. In a healthy and safe economy, our shops have remained open, tourism has skyrocketed, construction is booming and manufacturing is reviving.

Labor's plan is to come out the other side of this global pandemic stronger and fairer by rebuilding our economy, training our people, growing our regions and reinvesting in schools, hospitals and services. The last election was a choice between the stability of a Labor government that has made the tough decisions and the right calls in hard times and the chaos of an unproven, untrustworthy opposition which has been wrong every time it has mattered. Queenslanders had a choice between jobs or cuts; a choice to build and grow or slash and burn; stability or chaos; strong leadership from our Premier, Anastacia Palaszczuk, or reckless behaviour from those opposite. The people of Queensland had a choice between Labor's economic recovery plan or the LNP's plan for cuts; a majority Palaszczuk Labor government or a One Nation-Palmer-LNP rabble; Anastacia Palaszczuk or Deb Frecklington as our state's Premier. That is what was at stake at this election. That is what was on the line for Queensland.


On the same day I was sworn in by the Governor His Excellency Paul de Jersey as Assistant Minister for Education for a second time, my mum, Sharon McKee, was awarded a certificate of service for 30 years service as a Queensland state schoolteacher, signed by Minister for Education Grace Grace. My whole life I have been taught by my mother about the importance of education—to individuals, to our community and our economy. One of my first memories is living at the house next door to the primary school at Thangool when I was about two years old. I was jumping on the trampoline and teasing all the students playing in the schoolyard on their lunchbreak. I remember seeing my mum, then a young 23-year-old teacher only two years into her teaching career, on playground duty.

My mum is a great teacher. When I see her in the classroom in practice, I see a different side to her. She is a change maker, passionate about making a difference to the lives of young people using the power and magic of education. Mum says that every day she gets to touch 50 little lives using creativity and learning. Her work is tiring, but every day she has her fast shoes on.

Debate, on motion of Ms Lauga, adjourned.

## ADJOURNMENT

### Carina Leagues Club, 50-Year Anniversary


 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (6.00 pm): Fifty years is a great milestone for any organisation. I want to acknowledge the Carina Leagues Club which celebrated its 50th anniversary last Friday night at a gala event on the footy field. This great Chatsworth club, which I am also very proud to be the club patron of, started trading in October 1970, operating under a sporting licence before becoming the first club to be granted a liquor licence with trading hours of 10 am to 11 pm on 22 October 1971—50 years ago.

In the early days the club operated with three staff, including the general manager—or in those days he was called the secretary manager. Nowadays they are a major employer with around 130 staff. The club thought they were in the big time when their membership base hit 3,000. Well, it has now peaked to approximately 60,000 members. In December 1991 the Carina Leagues Club board was faced with a pivotal moment in its history: the question of whether to get poker machines or not—the one-armed bandits. The board voted by the slimmest of margins to get pokies—14 of them at first—and they were on their way. The rest, as they say, is history.

Fifty years ago the goals of the Carina Leagues Club were to provide facilities for its members and guests, foster the aims and objectives of the Carina Rugby League Club and Camp Hill Carina Welfare Association and assist by financial or other means local sporting groups, schools and charities. These goals remain the same today and, amazingly, the Carina Leagues Club has contributed around \$25 million of support to these groups over the last five decades.

Every local sporting club has its legends. I want to pay tribute to the legendary Arthur Hingst who was the manager of the club for an incredible 28 years. I also acknowledge the current team headed by Doug Wakefield who has been the club manager for the last 11 years. To life members, past chairmen and women, both current and previous board members, financial life members and long-term members, I say thank you on behalf of the Chatsworth community. The Carina Leagues Club is truly the heart and soul of the Chatsworth community. When I grew up in Carina in the 1970s I was very lucky. I had a loving mum and dad. Not everyone in my community was as fortunate. Like many clubs in the seventies, the leagues club was symbolic of pastoral care for young guys and girls who came from, in some cases, challenged social conditions. It is for that reason that I place on record a happy 50th, Carina Leagues Club.

### Coronavirus, Vaccination

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (6.03 pm): Queensland continues to do a mighty job when it comes to getting vaccinated against COVID-19. With adequate supply finally secured from the federal government, our state now finds itself moving past 76 per cent first dose and 62 per cent double dose. However, good can always be great and best can always be better. Even though our vaccination numbers are travelling well, we need to keep pushing them higher to ensure our population is protected when the dangerous COVID-19 delta variant inevitably arrives in Queensland.


This message is especially prevalent in our regions, our Indigenous communities and in the city of Logan. All these areas continue to have vaccination rates lower than the state average, which is why I am again urging residents of the Woodridge electorate and the city of Logan to get vaxed before it is

too late. The COVID vaccine is our lifeboat to escape this pandemic and we need every Queenslander safe on board. There are only three days left to get your first shot if you want to guarantee you are fully vaccinated by the time our borders are fully open.

To boost this drive the Palaszczuk Labor government is once again running pop-up vax hubs at Logan schools this weekend. Woodridge State High School, Kingston State College and Browns Plains State High School will all be accepting walk-ins on both Saturday and Sunday. We have had great success this past couple of weekends with our vaccination hubs at select Bunnings locations and local schools. This includes Marsden State High School for our recent super vax Saturday, a statewide initiative I was proud to promote in Logan City alongside the Premier, the Attorney-General and member for Waterford, Shannon Fentiman, the Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young, Logan Mayor Darren Power and Deputy Mayor Jon Raven.

Marsden State High School was recognised last year as Australia's best secondary school. It is easy to understand why. The positive tone is set from the top with Australia's best school principal, Andrew Peach. Care for our community is at the core of all that the school does. That is why Marsden's school leaders were only too happy to volunteer their time to help us get more vaccines into the arms of local residents. I want to take this opportunity to thank all the students who took part and met with the Premier and I—current year 12 school leaders and the school leaders for 2022: Abbey Muaimalee, Tyler Parkin, Daniel Tekopi, Jonathon Stone, Elahi Elahi, Elenoa Tuihalangingie, Leen El Moussa, Losa Niumata, Charlotte Peach, Mikala Grunbauer, Marylynne Slade, Jasmine Molnar, Chantelle Finlay, Brooke Bird, Kai Brown and Peter Newland. We only have to look at the current delta outbreak in Europe to appreciate the urgency of getting vaccinated. The COVID-19 vaccine is safe, effective and saving lives every day and is available in our local neighbourhood.

### **Mooloolaba Spit; Sunshine Coast, Infrastructure**


 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (6.07 pm): I am delighted to talk about a beautiful part of my electorate. It really is a gem. There is a special area at the very end of Parkyn Parade that we call the Mooloolaba Spit where people can buy their Mooloolaba prawns and access the beach. Many people will know it if they love recreational boating.

I want to talk about the Mooloolaba spit master plan. It is time for the state government to release the plan, to invest in upgrading this area, but to protect what is precious about it. A couple of years ago a government document that was leaked showed that the state Labor government was looking at commercial opportunities, potentially allowing accommodation or increasing the density in this precious area. I strongly fought against this. It was not the right solution. There is a need to ensure this area is beautified, that some of the near derelict buildings are removed, but that what we love about this precious area is protected. The maritime services that are operating in this area need to be able to do so without the impediment of conflicting uses. Commercial accommodation in this area could potentially be a conflict. That is why we have fought to ensure that this area is protected.

The area does need upgrading. I call on the state government to release the Mooloolaba Spit master plan and to come clean and remove the secrecy. It is time that the derelict buildings are removed. It is time that the maritime services in that area are upgraded. There is also a need to ensure that in accordance with the original intention of the master plan that more public space where it is available is included in the public parklands of that area. A number of years ago I successfully fought for the Water Police to be located in this area. They do a marvellous job. It is important that those services are maintained and enhanced and that the public area is protected. It is time for the secrecy to end. It is time for the plans to be released. The right plan needs to ensure that those uses are respected and put in place in a way that enhances that beautiful area.

I also wish to talk about a Sunshine Coast entertainment, exhibition and convention centre. The Sunshine Coast does not have a convention centre as do many other regions. Cairns is getting a \$176 million upgrade and expansion of its convention centre, but still we have not got to the first stage with ours. It is vital that work is started and those facilities are available for the Olympics, as was envisaged in the IOC feasibility report.

### **Mansfield Electorate, Rotary; Harvard Club of Australia; World Teachers' Day**

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (6.10 pm): The Mansfield electorate is fortunate to have two Rotary clubs that serve our community. The Rotary Club of Wishart is well known for their book fairs and they have raised over \$19,000 this year. Thanks to the Palaszczuk government's Gambling and Community Benefit Fund, the club received \$30,000 to buy a brand new vehicle. The vehicle will be

used to support members of our community who require transport assistance and will also be used to support community events that are organised and supported by Rotary. I acknowledge President Debra Baxter and the immediate past president, Sue Ellis, for their wonderful stewardship.

Last year the Rotary Club of Mount Gravatt celebrated its 50th anniversary and will hold belated celebrations next month. The club also recently received a Gambling and Community Benefit Fund grant of \$17,380 to install binoculars at the wonderful Mount Gravatt Outlook Reserve. Earlier this year I partnered with the club to host a domestic and family violence community vigil event in Broadwater Park to raise vital funds for the Red Rose Foundation. The club is hosting the upcoming Christmas Fair at the Mount Gravatt Showgrounds, which includes kids' activities, market stalls, food trucks, carols, a movie and, of course, Santa will be dropping by. Special thanks go to the Mount Gravatt Rotary President, Jim Cosgrove, and the immediate past president, Heather Irvine, for their tireless work in our community.

Last night I had the wonderful pleasure of hosting 20 Harvard University colleague graduates for dinner. The Harvard Club of Australia, Queensland branch, is a tremendous group of doctors, academics, principals, scientists and engineers who have had the opportunity to study at one of the most prestigious universities in the world. Learning from world leaders in educational leadership, including Howard Gardner, Professor of Cognition and Education and the author of *Multiple Intelligences* and *Creating Minds*, has assisted me to further develop my own and others' knowledge in the area of principal preparation, leadership and performance, which is imperative for school and system improvement.

The experience at Harvard University afforded me the opportunity to reflect on my understandings of leadership and further develop my leadership capabilities. It afforded me the time and space to challenge my assumptions and unconscious bias. It is true that the more we know, the more we realise we do not know. Perhaps most important is developing the self-awareness, humility and recognition of knowing that we do not know.

I take this opportunity to wish my colleagues in both the private and public sector schools a very happy World Teachers' Day for tomorrow. I thank you for being you.

### **Early Childhood Education; World Teachers' Day**



**Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (6.12 pm): Every child in Queensland deserves the best possible start in life, including to grow up healthy, confident and resilient with equitable access to educational opportunity and associated developmental potential. Thanks to countless studies and empirical evidence, it is well known that the early years of a child's education are the absolute foundation for childhood development, including fundamental social, emotional and physical skills. In essence, early childhood education provides the building blocks for a child's future. Therefore, it is critically important that the provision of early childhood education is as robust and comprehensive as possible.

However, the Palaszczuk state Labor government is failing to listen to those on the front line and respond to the needs of early childhood education providers and ensure quality outcomes for our youngest Queenslanders. Nowhere is this more evident than with the Palaszczuk state Labor government's recently announced Kindy Uplift pilot program. As the Liberal National Party shadow minister for education, I have been inundated by stakeholders and early childhood education service providers who have been perplexed and shocked by the haphazard way that this program has been developed and announced by Labor. What is more, the lack of meaningful consultation and Labor's failure to be open and transparent with service providers on the pilot program is only further compounding the view that the Palaszczuk state Labor government is yet again favouring spin over substance. What Queenslanders do know is that this pilot program is being rolled out in 400 kindergartens and long-day-care services. Beyond that, the Palaszczuk state Labor government has been less than forthcoming with how such services have been selected, other than 'on characteristics predictive of educational need', as per the Department of Education's website.


Early childhood educators make a significant contribution to the education and lifelong learning of Queensland's children. Right now, early childhood educators are in high demand with a national shortage being predicted to take place by next year. To meet that demand, if a person is enrolled in an approved early childhood teaching qualification under current regulations that person can be employed while actively working towards the qualification. However, from 31 December this year that will no longer be the case in Queensland, meaning that those intending to become early childhood educators will have to complete their qualification prior to employment. This decision will result in Queensland being out of step with every other state and territory in the country. Other state jurisdictions are keeping the



current regulation in effect until at least the end of December 2023. The Labor Minister for Education must take immediate responsibility and outline how the Queensland state Labor government intends to urgently address critical workforce shortages and what the state Labor government's long-term plan is for the early childhood sector in Queensland.

Finally, whilst I have had to outline the aforementioned issue, I join with the Minister for Education and all other members in the House in wishing all teachers and educators a happy World Teachers' Day, which is being celebrated tomorrow. I certainly know how all teachers and educators across the 11 schools in the electorate of Moggill work hard each and every day. I commend them for their professionalism and dedication.

### **Runcorn State School, 120-year Anniversary; World Teachers' Day**


 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (6.15 pm): I rise to talk about the Runcorn State School, which celebrated its 120th anniversary on 15 October. I was pleased to be able to share in their celebrations. The community was very excited and proud to be a part of the ongoing history of the school. The event program noted some of the highlights of the growth of the school over the past 120 years. The school is very different now to when it first commenced.

The school was opened on 8 July 1901 at the request of the citrus, pineapple and poultry farmers of the Runcorn and Sunnybank area. The school was located where two bush tracks crossed and the 25 students walked to and from school, some from as far away as eight kilometres. There were no cars, no electricity, no sewerage and no water supply in the area. A train went to Brisbane city once a day. In 1920 swimming lessons were held in the lagoons at the end of Dunedin Street as well as at the quarry near Archerfield. Students had to run to the quarry and the teachers rode their push bikes.

In 1932, the school got electricity and during 1942 an air-raid shelter was dug in the school grounds. At the sound of the siren the kids would have to rush out and hide in the air-raid shelter. The history program noted that there was never a need for the air-raid shelter to be used. In 1960 town water and sewerage were connected to the area and the school.

Currently the school has 458 students, 19 classes from prep to year 6 and over 50 staff. I acknowledge Michelle D'Netto, the principal of Runcorn State School, her hardworking staff and the students and parents of the school. It is fitting that I get this opportunity to talk about the Runcorn State School's celebrations with tomorrow being World Teachers' Day. I take this opportunity to wish all the teachers in my electorate a wonderful World Teachers' Day. The celebrations held at the school showcased the diversity of the school, with many multicultural groups performing. It was a great event.

### **World Teachers' Day; Traeger Electorate, Withdrawal of Services**

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (6.18 pm): I also give a shout-out to the teachers. It has been a pleasure to meet so many teachers throughout my life. I acknowledge the wonderful things that they have achieved by dedicating their lives to informing students in the Traeger electorate. I give a shout-out to them tonight.


What I really want to talk about tonight is the decision by Goodman Fielder to stop sending bread throughout the Traeger electorate on the western line. They have done that without giving any notice at all to the independent grocers. They will still supply Coles and Woolworths but not the independent grocers. Basically that means that all the way out to Mount Isa, only Coles and Woolworths will be supplied. They have just stopped. They did not give any notice and had no consultation. One of the independent stores in Mount Isa said, 'I would've done a deal and maybe paid extra for the freight if I knew I was going to lose it, but no-one even consulted.' When we contacted Goodman Fielder, they did not engage at all. They said, 'Oh, yeah, well, it's happened. Tough luck.' That is what you get with multinationals that have no social responsibility to those areas and get to dominate the markets now. There are laissez-faire attitudes and no regulations on anything. In these remote areas, we feel the pinch.

Newspapers do not get delivered out there anymore. That results in disconnection. Particularly for the older people who love going to the newsagent, it is a really big deal. There are not many people out there who do it—that is why they stopped delivering the newspapers—but it is a really big deal to those people. They now do not know about funerals and so on. It has a massive impact. I probably cannot convey the impact of that on all the towns in my electorate. It is really hurting people. Again, a big corporation said, 'There's no money in it for us. Why would we do it?' I really want to come back to talking about these big corporations.

I have to mention the Minister for Rural Communities. We sent a letter to him, but all we got back was a hopeless reply saying, 'It's a federal issue. Go and talk to them.' I mention the Treasurer's office, because they reached out and at least made some attempt to help. However, when we reached out for help to the Minister for Rural Communities, the response was very disappointing.

These are big problems. You have to look back at the genesis of some of these issues. Seven-day trading is coming in. Julia Creek Hospital will remain downgraded as a level 1 hospital. Privatisation of the rail network by the Labor government throughout the 1990s saw the loss of 800 rail jobs. That had an impact. Before that, we got rail deliveries of newspapers, groceries and so on. Once you lose that ability, you lose your bargaining power with big corporations. Now we are talking about more deregulation and seven-day trading. In those areas where Coles and Woolworths dominate the market, you have less choice so they do not have to deliver on social responsibility. It is degrading our quality of life.

### Diwali Festival

 **Mr HUNT** (Caloundra—ALP) (6.21 pm): I rise this evening to thank the Sunshine Coast Indian community for an amazing Diwali festival, held at Kings Beach in my electorate on Saturday, 23 October. If you do not have your health, you do not have anything. Because this government got our health response so very right, festivals like Diwali are able to go ahead in all of their glory—and what a genuinely glorious event it was.

Diwali is a festival of light, celebrated by the great majority of our Indian communities. It is a celebration of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance. Make no mistake: cultural celebrations like Diwali are a triumph of knowledge over ignorance, and the more festivals of this type we have, the more we push back the encroachment of ignorance and bigotry.


The Sunshine Coast Indian Association festival brought together people from a multitude of cultural backgrounds to ensure that understanding and tolerance were strengthened and that a good time was had by all. The festival also ensures that gods and goddesses like Lakshmi, Ganesh, Vishnu, Krishna and a whole host of others are respected and revered with due deference.

The Sunshine Coast Indian Association executive members have done their community proud—Dr Vas Srinivasan, Arvind Pandit and Anamika Singh. The association's first Diwali was held in a community hall and was attended by barely 15 people. Most recently, the association held a highly successful holy festival, which I also attended. This attracted almost 200 people and was a riot of colour, good cheer and white T-shirts—although they did not remain white for too long. To add to the entertainment value, the association decided to sell very large, monstrously effective water pistols to children and, when coupled with fistfuls of coloured flour, the results were nothing if not vivid. Then on the Saturday just gone well over 1,000 people attended the Diwali festival in the Kings Beach outdoor theatre. The music, the food and the dazzling bright colours all added to the enjoyment.

I take this opportunity to also acknowledge my own very personal connection to the Hindu faith. My son Liam's godmother, Tamil-Selvi Chakrapani, and indeed her entire Chakrapani family have provided a richness to the life of my family that is beyond value. To the entire Chakrapani family here and in Singapore, I say thank you. Thank you for your boundless friendship, your warmth and your hospitality and for expanding the cultural and spiritual understanding of my son, Liam.

To the Sunshine Coast Indian Association, I say bravo on a magnificent Diwali. I look forward to supporting an even bigger festival in 2022.

### Upper Coomera War Memorial

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (6.24 pm): For over 100 years, the Upper Coomera cenotaph has stood proudly to remind all those who pass of the sacrifice local diggers have made in World War I and World War II and more recent conflicts. The cenotaph was first unveiled on 18 May 1918 under the watchful gaze of William A Foxwell and Sir Edward Henry Macartney MLA. This cenotaph is a testament to a grieving community desperately wanting to honour their loved ones who are buried in faraway lands. This sandstone memorial stands on granite blocks at the entrance of the former Bonnie Brae property, now known as the corner of Tamborine Oxenford Road and Charlies Crossing Road North.

In recent years we have seen a massive increase in development in the area, and this has placed enormous pressures on our local road network, especially on Tamborine Oxenford Road. The recent development of a new fuel station on Tamborine Oxenford Road near the cenotaph has made the

situation for motorists leaving Charles Crossing Road North even more precarious. The department of main roads recently informed my office that they wish to work with the community to upgrade this intersection and that, as part of this upgrade, the cenotaph will need to be moved.

I am very hesitant to move a cenotaph that has stood for over 100 years, and many residents have expressed this view. I also understand that making this intersection safer and limiting the chance of a fatality is critically important. Residents have suggested placing the cenotaph at the centre of a roundabout near its current location at this upgraded intersection to allow free-flowing traffic. Others have suggested moving it to John Siganto Park or Highland Reserve Park. The local RSL has suggested it should be relocated to the Upper Coomera Community Centre. The Rotary Club of Coomera Valley has asked it to be moved to parkland between the two lakes. As you can hear, there are many opinions on this matter. Therefore, I ask the department and the minister to remember these words on the cenotaph—

They gave their all.

Let you who pass, saluting here their names,


See that through you no slur, nor stain, nor shame

Falls on the land for which they gave their lives—

Australia

It was the original intent for the cenotaph to be located in a place clearly visible to all who pass and to be a continual reminder of those who gave their lives for Australia. I would like to thank the local Rotary club for all their work over the years in hosting the Anzac Day ceremony there. Their input is valuable. We do need to make sure that the cenotaph is in a position that can be well recognised for generations to come. As it is World Teachers' Day tomorrow, I wish to thank all my local teachers.

### Capalaba Electorate, Basketball

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (6.27pm): It is with great pleasure that tonight I rise to talk about basketball in the Redlands—a sport that I love and was quite handy at. I had the pleasure of being the First V basketball captain at high school. Well before that I learnt the foundations of basketball at Capalaba Magic which played out of—

**Mr Mellish** interjected.

**Mr BROWN:** I was not big enough to be centre. I learnt the foundations of basketball at Capalaba Magic which played out of the Redlands PCYC at Capalaba. That was 30-odd years ago.

Council infrastructure, when it comes to basketball, I am sad to say, has not changed much in the Redlands since then. Public and private schools have come on board and built facilities. Redlands College lends their facility to the local basketball association, RedCity Roar. The \$6 million hall that we built at Cleveland District State High School is the home of RedCity Roar. I met with CEO of RedCity Roar, Peter Pollock, last week to talk about infrastructure needs. It is a great problem to have, but the sport is exploding in the Redlands with the new club. I am lucky to have two out of the four clubs in my local area—the Alexandra Hills Raiders and the Capalaba Wildcats. They are two fantastic clubs. They have growth pressures as well.

The state government is building more infrastructure in this regard with the construction of the Capalaba State College hall. That will mean there are two more indoor courts for the association. But they need a home desperately. They need a six-court home to ensure that they can keep up with the growth of juniors in the local area. At the moment they are turning kids away from sport. It is hard to hear those stories because it is a great sport that I grew up playing in our local area.

There is block of land available. We transferred some land at MacArthur Street, Alexandra Hills to the council in 2017. Council had slated that for an RV park. There was no private sector enthusiasm for that and the land has sat there for close to five years doing nothing. I call on the council to use this land. It is perfect for this. It is away from the residential area. There is plenty of land and space at MacArthur Street, Alexandra Hills. It will be the perfect home for basketball in the area.

They can use the COVID grants from local government. Other local government grants could help with the building of this home stadium. Basketball in the Redlands does need a home. We need to ensure that the pleasure I experienced in learning the game in the Redlands is there for every kid in the Redlands now. We need to get together and start working on this. There is a perfect home and a perfect block in Alexandra Hills at MacArthur Street that should be the new home of basketball in the Redlands.

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, Lauga, 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, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Skelton, Smith, Stevens, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Watts, Weir, Whiting